



MOVE ON

Locals call time on 'squatters camp'

SLEEPING rough and homelessness is a serious problem across the community, often the result of mental health issues, drug abuse, family violence or difficult financial circumstances.

It has been made worse by the dire shortage of affordable rental accommodation.

And, as we have seen recently, with the criticism levelled at the City of Port Phillip by the Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan no less, taking action to stop people from sleeping rough on council land, beside roads, or on footpaths, even for their own safety, can be fraught for authorities.

Such is the situation with a group of squatters who have taken up a long-term camping position within

the government road reserve, beside Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road, little more than one kilometre south of the RACV Inverloch resort.

Nearby residents have reluctantly put up with "the squatters", who have taken up residence on state-owned land opposite the entrance to The Caves Carpark, since November last year, despite concerns about rubbish, toileting, and the dangers posed by the often-busy tourist road for those using and accessing the site.

But four months later, they say enough is enough!

One local resident, Glenn Morris, has written to the Sentinel-Times to highlight his concerns, mindful that his comments about what has become an untenable situation might impact

his involvement in several community organisations in the town, including the Inverloch Tourism Association of which he is the president.

He has offered to stand down from the groups if voicing his concerns is seen as a conflict of interest.

"Approximately 100 metres south of my property, a couple have taken over public land (road reserve) opposite The Caves Beach Carpark. As you can see from the photos (provided), it is being allowed to be occupied in a disgusting manner given that there is no sewerage, water or power facilities available," said Mr Morris in an email to the Sentinel-Times.

"It is not a campsite and yet this has been going on since November last year."

Continued page 3

Show trial, the unwanted glare of world media returns

AS SUCCESSFUL as the 129th annual Korumburra Show was last month, there was a sinister side to the event that's likely to be the portent of things to come for the local community when Erin Patterson goes to trial on April 28 this year, and after.

At least two film crews, preparing documentary series and other productions of the case that has attracted worldwide attention, were circulating through the crowd on show day gathering 'community' footage for their projects.

One of them went through the proper channels and received approval from the Korumburra District Agricultural and Pastoral Society which runs the show, with the strict undertaking not to interview local people.

The filmmaker, Gil Marsden, whose project has received special access and investment support from Screen Australia and VicScreen to make his documentary series for Australian subscription-based streaming service Stan, owned by Nine Entertainment, fully complied.

Another filmmaker, who was not authorised to film on what is essentially private land at the Korumburra Showgrounds, not only filmed the proceedings but also attempted to conduct interviews with local people.

He also allegedly followed around one of the alleged victims, and another young family member, although it is not known if he took video footage of the two local residents or attempted to speak with them.

Alerted to the situation, it has been reported that show society officials intervened and asked the man to stop filming, and to specifically stop attempting to interview local people on camera.

The man said he would comply but when he was observed continuing to do just that, he was ejected from the showgrounds.

Police were not called to the incident.

The Korumburra A & P Society has been contacted about the reports and while the spokesman declined to be interviewed, he did confirm the incident had occurred.

Continued page 3

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Baby boom at Wonthaggi Hospital nears all-time record

BASS Coast Health's Maternity team wrapped up an extremely busy year in 2024, with 219 babies born at Wonthaggi Hospital – just four babies shy of the all-time record number of babies born in a single year.

That record of 223 was set in 2013 during the construction of the desalination plant at Wonthaggi, no doubt due to the influx of young families to the Bass Coast to help with the major construction project.

Bass Coast Health (BCH), the public health service that operates Wonthaggi Hospital, expanded its Midwifery service last year to cater for a rising demand by building two extra post-natal beds.

BCH's Midwifery Unit Manager Relle McMillin said her team was proud to be helping young families enjoy a special time in their lives – the birth of their child – and welcomed the large number of babies born at Wonthaggi.

"I think the team's dedication and commitment to providing safe, woman-centred care is showing through in women's experiences and the stories they are sharing with friends and family," she said.

"We are also working really hard with external providers, GPs, private midwives and allied



The busy bout of births at Wonthaggi has continued into February with the arrival of babies Tahli Lillian Jones and Xena Van Swol.



health professionals to have excellent communication."

The increasing number of young families moving to the Bass Coast due to the attractive lifestyle was also a factor contributing to the rise in babies born.

While most women who give birth at Wonthaggi Hospital are from Bass Coast Shire, more women are now travelling from further afield, such as Lang Lang

and Koo Wee Rup.

Catering to the growing demand, BCH has expanded its midwifery team significantly over the last two years, now employing 23 midwives, post-graduate student midwives and 11 casual midwives who pick-up shifts when required. There are also plans for expansion into the future.

The team of midwives' care for

families during the ante-natal, birth, post-natal and early years periods, in the Maternity Ward at Wonthaggi Hospital and also in the community as Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nurses.

With 28 born already this year, it could be another big one for Wonthaggi. Gippsland Southern Health Service's Leongatha Hospital isn't far behind with 26 babies born this year so far.

Locals call time on Inverloch 'squatters camp'

from page 1

Mr Morris said he has raised his concerns with various authorities including the Bass Coast Shire Council, police, Parks Victoria and VicRoads.

"The police acknowledge that they are occupying the site illegally but don't feel that they can move them on. Why not? They claim that if they arrest them and it goes to a court then the courts will take sympathy on the squatters and therefore, not much point them trying to move them on.

"The police suggested I talk to council. Bass Coast Council have apparently no powers to act in this case as the public land is a VicRoads' road reserve. A council officer did, to their credit, contact the Salvation Army to seek their involvement in trying to persuade the squatters to accept a safer and better placement," he said, noting that they apparently turned down the offer.

Mr Morris says there has been no response from VicRoads.

"I have also paid a visit to Parks

Victoria. They say they know the couple and have visited them on a number of occasions to ask them to clean up the site. They say there's no point fining them for a breach of the law because they simply won't pay it.

"But the place remains a mess, the squatters remain in place and no public authority seems to want to deal with it."

Mr Morris said what the squatters had been doing since November was clearly illegal and the onus was on the authorities to do something about it.

"In my mind, it would be far better for the squatters, and all concerned, to allow them to relocate in public land near public toilet facilities at least," said Mr Morris, urging Parks Victoria to then "rehabilitate the site including new vegetation to replace what the squatters have removed".

Another local property owner, with land that adjoins the squatters' camp, says she has found debris in her paddock and is

particularly concerned about people from the camp walking and riding on the narrow road.

"I feel sorry for people, through no fault of their own, forced to sleep rough or in their cars but this isn't the case here," said Kate McDonald.

"They're much more organised than that with quite an elaborate setup including a pop-up caravan. If it's against the law for them to be living there, the law needs to be enforced."

Ms McDonald said visitors had already accessed the site and she was concerned about her security.

Ed Thexton of the South Gippsland Conservation Society expressed concern about the impact on the environment, especially in an area of world heritage significance following the ground-breaking dinosaur discoveries at The Caves and other nearby locations.

"Any contamination would make its way directly into the creek which flows out onto the

beach there. People could be walking through that water as they make their way onto the beach or go exploring the important scientific discoveries that have been made there.

"If people are allowed to continue to camp there, maybe others will be attracted and where would that stop."

If you are in urgent need of somewhere to stay, you should call the Victorian Statewide Homelessness Line to get help on 1800 825 955, a 24-hour statewide toll-free number.

This number will direct your call to a service closest to you, or if the call is outside business hours, it will be directed to Salvation Army Crisis Services.

Locally you can contact:

- Leongatha SalvoCare Eastern Gippsland 2 Long Street, Leongatha 5662 6400, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.
- Morwell Community Housing Ltd, 12-14 Church Street, Morwell 5120 4800, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Show trial, the unwanted glare of world media returns

From page 1

After a series of preliminary hearings, the most recent being a short, directions hearing in the Supreme Court in Melbourne on Friday, February 21, the matter of DPP v Erin Patterson is due to return to the Supreme Court of Victoria for trial in Morwell on Monday, April 28.

The proceedings are expected to attract wide attention for the duration of the six to 10-week trial however while the matters before the jury may be reported throughout the trial, subject to any Suppression Orders, the documentaries, podcasts and other productions which are expected to probe the evidence cannot be aired until after the trial.

Of course, many 'true crime' productions focussing on the 'mushroom murders' have already been posted online.

Forty-nine-year-old Erin Patterson faces three counts of murder over the deaths of her father-in-law Don Patterson, mother-in-law Gail Patterson and Gail's sister Heather Wilkinson, after inviting the trio to a lunch at her Leongatha home on Saturday, July 29, 2023.

She has also been charged with five counts of attempted murder, one of them involving Ian Wilkinson, Heather's husband, who was also invited to the lunch but survived after a long fight for life in hospital.

The other four relate to her estranged husband Simon, three of them involving earlier alleged incidents in November 2021 at Korumburra, May 2022 at Howqua and September 2022 at Wilsons Promontory.

Ms Patterson has maintained her innocence.

Fire destroys home in Wonthaggi

FLAMES may not have engulfed a home externally in Toorak Street, North Wonthaggi on Tuesday morning, but smoke could be seen billowing from the eaves as firefighters from Wonthaggi, Dalyston and Inverloch brigades fought to bring the blaze to a halt.

A passerby raised the alert at approximately 8.30am with CFA and police quickly on scene.

The fire is being investigated by fire investigators with extensive damage caused to the home.

Melina BATH MP

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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

 WED Mar 12 Shower or two. Wind AM: E 20-30km/h Wind PM: W-SW 15-20km/h 18° 30°	 THUR Mar 13 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h 16° 24°	 FRI Mar 14 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: W 15-20km/h 14° 28°	 SAT Mar 15 Possible shower. Wind AM: N-NW 15-20km/h Wind PM: W-SW 15-25km/h 16° 31°	 SUN Mar 16 Showers. Wind AM: W-NW 15-20km/h Wind PM: SW 20-30km/h 20° 30°	 MON Mar 17 Possible shower. Wind AM: SW 20-25km/h Wind PM: S 15-25km/h 12° 21°
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IN BRIEF

No such luck, you will be caught

A SMALL rescue mission Monday, March 3, quickly turned into an arrest, with a 48-year-old woman charged with three counts of Handle Stolen Goods, two counts of Unlicensed Driving, two counts of Theft, one count of Possess Identification Documents, one count of Use Unregistered Motor Vehicle and two counts of Use Vehicle with Incorrect Registration Plate.

On March 2, at an unknown time, a 48-year-old female wearing waders entered the water at Foster Beach to go fishing for garfish. Located approximately 200 metres off the shore, the female became stuck in the mud with a rising tide.

The woman, who was unable to move in the mud, was yelling for help for over an hour before she was luckily spotted by two passersby who had arrived at the beach to gaze at the stars. A male from New South Wales entered the water and pulled the cold, but thankful female to shore.

Emergency services attended and assessed the woman, who was cold but otherwise uninjured.

Upon police arrival, officers noticed her vehicle was not registered. The female was arrested and interviewed. Police allege she was unlicensed to drive, the car she was driving was unregistered and had a stolen registration plate on the front, and a cancelled registration plate (from another vehicle) on the rear. She also did not possess a fishing licence.

The female of no fixed address was bailed to appear at the Korumburra Magistrates Court in August 2025.

The vehicle was impounded for 30 days at a cost of \$1275.

Protect your car

BASS Coast Police through their Eyewatch social media page, have jumped on board the statewide Victoria Police initiative, alerting vehicle owners to

the fact that tech savvy thieves are behind a surge in car thefts across the state.

“Increasing numbers of cars are being stolen – more than 70 per cent from residential streets, driveways, and other community locations – with no associated burglary, robbery or carjacking.

“This trend has coincided with third-party electronic devices, which are capable of programming or mimicking keys, becoming increasingly available for purchase. Once inside a vehicle, this device can be plugged into the car’s onboard diagnostic port to override the security system and start the engine.”

Police are urging those with keyless cars not to leave the fob-key near external doors and windows where they can be read by would-be thieves, instead stored well inside the house, preferably in a metal container or safe.

Police have also encouraged the use of ‘the Club’ style anti-theft devices in cars to ward off the attention of thieves.

Read more information about additional vehicle security measures on the Victoria Police website.

Observant passerby limits damage to shop

A MINOR electrical fire in a shop on Marine Parade at San Remo last night, Tuesday, March 4, might have been worse but for the intervention of a passerby.

Police reported that a member of the public, walking past the building shortly after 9pm, has seen smoke issuing from the building and called triple zero.

“In the end, there’s only been minor damage to one room in the building,” said a police spokesperson.

“It was an electrical fire, nothing suspicious, confined to a small area.”

A San Remo Fire Brigade spokesman ruled out battery recharges as being involved.

Several fire brigade units from San Remo, Phillip Island and Wonthaggi responded to

the “structure fire at the Pilates studio at 107 Marine Parade”, police also attended.

Elevate your business resilience

IS your business prepared to weather any storm?

South Gippsland Shire Council and Small Business Mentoring Service have created an exclusive three-part masterclass series on Building Business Resilience. Equip your organisation with the tools and strategies to adapt to disruptions and challenges. Perfect for business owners, managers, and leaders looking to strengthen their resilience toolkit!

Session 1: Understanding Resilience - Identifying Risks

Date: Tuesday, April 29
Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Location: Meeting Room 1, Council Chambers, 1 Michael Place, Leongatha

Session 2: Strengthening Financial Resilience - Develop an Immediate Action Plan

Date: Tuesday, May 20
Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Location: Korumburra Community Hub, 15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra

Session 3: Building Networks and Long-Term Sustainability - Create a Resilience Action Plan

Date: Tuesday, June 17
Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Location: Foster War Memorial Arts Centre, 79 Main Street, Foster

Don’t miss this opportunity to future-proof your business and connect with other local businesses. A light supper will be provided!

Urgent call for people to donate blood in wake of ex-Cyclone Alfred

AUSTRALIAN Red Cross Lifeblood urgently needs an additional 6000 people to donate blood this week to replenish supplies depleted by ex-Cyclone Alfred.

An unprecedented number of donor centre closures and a surge in hospital orders preceding the

Queensland emergency has drastically reduced the organisation’s blood stocks this week.

A major boost in donations is urgently needed now to ensure blood and platelets continue to be available for patients in need.

Lifeblood was forced to cancel 3500 appointments with the closure of 22 donor centres in Queensland and northern New South Wales from Thursday to Sunday. A further 330 appointments had to be cancelled yesterday.

To make a donation call 13 14 95, visit lifeblood.com.au or download the Donate Blood App.

Diver lucky to be alive

A 67-YEAR-OLD male from Bentleigh East is lucky to be alive after suffering from an unknown medical episode whilst diving on Saturday, March 8 at 2pm.

Local paramedics and police from Highway Patrol and Wonthaggi Police Station were called to Inverloch where the male was brought to shore and transported to The Alfred.

The male was diving approximately two kilometres offshore, 1.5 kilometres west of Inverloch Boat Ramp when he surfaced after approximately 15 minutes underwater. After passing his equipment to a friend on a boat the Bentleigh East man fell unconscious.

The 57-year-old male from Mt Martha on board the vessel performed CPR before a passerby from Tarwin on a boat and two males from Inverloch assisted with CPR.

It’s understood the male has since returned home.

School and students set for 2025 NAPLAN Tests

THE annual NAPLAN assessments begin tomorrow March 12, 2025, with almost 1.3 million students expected to take the tests in more than 9400 schools and campuses across Australia.

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Infrastructure Victoria recommends expansion of idle desalination plant

LAST Monday, March 3, evening Infrastructure Victoria released their draft 30-year infrastructure strategy, with recommendations for the expansion of the desalination plant in Wonthaggi, which has operated sporadically over the past 13 years.

With climate change expected to create warmer and drier conditions leading to less available fresh water, Infrastructure Victoria (IV) have reported that up to 65 per cent of Melbourne's water might need to be from manufactured sources by 2050.

This is an increase from 2020, when 25 per cent of Melbourne's water was desalinated and 10 per cent was recycled.

"Manufactured water facilities can take up to 10 years to plan and build. Preparing now means that more water will be available when Victorians need it," the report states.

"This can come from a new desalination plant or recycled drinking water facility."

The Victorian Desalination Plant was built in 2012 following 13 consecutive years of drought, at a cost of \$3.5 billion, which was said to have blown out to \$6 billion.

It is the largest desalination plant in Australia, and in nominal terms over its 30-year contract – which is set to expire in 2039, the estimated cost to repay, maintain and operate the plant is nearly \$24 billion, approximately \$700 million annually.

This cost is paid by the state and Melbourne Water users – whether or not the plant operates – adding roughly \$421 to a



Infrastructure Victoria has reported that up to 65 per cent of Melbourne's water might need to be from manufactured sources by 2050, and an expansion of the desalination plant in Wonthaggi has been recommended.

Melbourne family's water bill (each year for 30 years).

The plant has been designed so that it can be expanded when Melbourne needs more drinking water and can deliver up to 150 gigalitres (GL) annually.

However, by the time the plant was finished in 2012, the drought was over, and Victoria experienced floods, seeing water reserves fill to overflowing across the state.

The first water order from the plant wasn't made until 2016. There were then orders for subsequent years, up to 2022, however often only for minimal amounts, of 15GL to be delivered.

The plant has operated for only seven of the 13 years it's been available and delivered only

455GL of water from a possible 1950GL, well below its capacity.

"The Victorian Government should plan for and invest in other manufactured water sources before Victoria needs more drinking water," state IV in their draft strategy.

"The Victorian Government should develop a business case that considers expanding the plant."

Given the intermittent and minimal usage of the current desalination plant, together with the staggering cost to repay, maintain and operate it, these recommendations to the Victorian Government from Infrastructure Victoria are questionable.

The estimated cost of feasibility

studies and developing business cases alone, to allow for further water projects to start construction by 2035, is estimated to cost between \$1 million to \$5 million.

IV states simply that the general government revenue and user costs collected by water authorities can fund this future option.

The report does make it clear that the millions for planning does not include the cost of actually going ahead with any of their recommended projects.

"We estimate that building manufactured water projects will cost in the billions of dollars."

IV states on page two of their strategy: Infrastructure Victoria does not directly oversee or fund infrastructure projects.

Drowning tragedy averted at Williamsons

ON MONDAY morning, March 10, at about 10.45am, Wonthaggi Police Station responded to multiple calls to assist a 25-year-old male from Churchill who was drowning at Williamsons Beach.

It is believed that the male was swimming when the surf conditions caused him to be swept about 200 metres from shore, and down about 400 metres from his family and friends.

According to a report on Bass Coast Police Eyewatch, after more than 30 minutes struggling to survive, the man made it back to shore, into the waiting arms of very relieved police and emotional family.

"The Life Saving Victoria helicopter was deployed from Melbourne and arrived just as the male was exiting the water."

"The male had inhaled a considerable amount of water and was exhausted. Paramedics from Ambulance Victoria provided treatment."

- A few lessons from today: Swim at a patrolled beach. Whilst the water may look nice, it can be treacherous. Volunteer surf lifesavers can keep you safe, but only if you are swimming where you should.
- Always know where you are. The quick response from emergency services today was helped by the callers to 000 knowing where they were because of the yellow triangle emergency markers. These markers saved time and save lives.
- And also, please use the Beachsafe App, which provides detailed information from patrol status, facilities and hazards to weather, swell and tide. The app can be downloaded from the following site: beachsafe.org.au/apps.



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Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



LAST week, I hosted a celebration for International Women's Day to honour the remarkable women in our community.

While we have come a long way, there is still more to do in breaking down barriers and ensuring that all women have access to opportunities, particularly in male-dominated industries like trades.

Here in Bass Coast, we placed a strong focus on women in trades, highlighting the incredible work being done to create pathways and support for women entering these essential industries. We were fortunate to hear from Hacia Atherton, a trailblazer in the construction sector, who shared her inspiring journey and insights into how we can attract, support, and retain women in trade-based careers.

We also celebrated the talented female apprentices and tradespeople working right here in our community. From horticulture to roadworks, these women are not only participating in the industry—they are excelling and paving the way for the next generation.

Programs like Girls on Tools, run by the Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre, and initiatives led by the Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre, Coldon Homes, and Capeview Building Products are playing a crucial role in providing hands-on training and employment opportunities. Already, these efforts are making a tangible impact, proving that when education and industry collaborate, real change happens.

Our second celebration of International Women's Day '100 Women, 100 Stories' will be held this Sunday. Hosted by singer Clare Bowditch, this event will bring together the voices and experiences of women in our community through a powerful performance. 100 women of all ages and backgrounds across Bass Coast will perform songs written by bringing together 100 stories from women. Just a few tickets are still available, please go to basscoastculturalvenues.com to secure your seat!

Let's continue to support and uplift the women who are forging new paths in every field, particularly in trades, where their presence is crucial to building a more diverse and inclusive workforce. Let's continue to challenge norms, removing barriers, and ensuring that every woman, no matter her background, can thrive.

Footpaths, streetlights and laneways, have your say

NOT usually one to complain John Walsh has grown impatient with Bass Coast Shire over the lack of street lighting and a footpath outside his home in Gordon Street, Wonthaggi.

"It's been seven years since I first wrote to Bass Coast Council about the footpath," said Mr Walsh.

John Walsh is not the only Wonthaggi resident growing tired of Bass Coast's neglect of local footpaths, street-lighting and laneways.

Residents and neighbours of Merrin Crescent and Reed Crescent in Wonthaggi claim weeds and overhanging trees in their back laneway are 'out of control'.

Conscious of the concerns of ratepayers Bass Coast Shire has selected 45 residents to have their say and list their priorities for local roads, rates, laneways, footpaths and street lighting.

John Walsh is one of those chosen to be part of the consultation group.

Top of the list of priorities for John is the lack of a continuous footpath in Gordon Street and poor street lighting particularly at the entrance to laneways.

Gordon Street is a busy bus route according to Mr



John Walsh wants better footpaths and street lighting in Gordon Street, Wonthaggi. B01_1025

Walsh and with a kindergarten nearby extra busy during school hours at 8.30am in the morning and 3.30pm in the afternoon.

Mr Walsh has been campaigning for a footpath in Gordon Street since 2023.

"The nature strips are very uneven in Gordon Street and people are forced to walk on the road."

Asked when local residents could expect a footpath and better street lighting the Sustainable Transport and Move-

ment Team from Bass Coast Council responded to Mr Walsh that Gordon Street had been put on the long-term footpath gaps program.

"What is that?" asked John.

In 2023 Mr Walsh was advised Bass Coast had outstanding footpath and bike path projects estimated to cost \$40 million but only \$300,000 to \$400,000 had been allocated in each year's council budget.

"That will take 100 years to complete," said Mr Walsh.

Inconsistent speed limits in the vicinity of Gordon Street are also a concern for Mr Walsh.

"The speed limits vary from 40, 50 and 60km/hr with very little signage."

Local residents are also concerned about security at night with poor street lighting.

The safety of pedestrians and motor vehicles is at risk according to Mr Walsh, particularly in winter.

Mr Walsh wrote to AUSNET about the street lighting only to be told that AUSNET was not responsible for new lights only for the maintenance of existing streetlights.

Last month Bass Coast Shire wrote to Mr Walsh saying they were happy to advise his application for additional street lighting had been successfully closed.

John Walsh is still waiting. "No feedback, no result. I've been kept in the dark," said Mr Walsh.

Listing his priorities for when the newly selected Bass Coast resident's consultation team meets at San Remo in April Mr Walsh said a footpath for Gordon Street and better street lighting were number one and two priorities on his list.

Inverloch boat ramp closed briefly for safety upgrade

AN UPGRADE of the Inverloch boat ramp has resulted in a major boost to safety at the Inverloch jetty and boat ramp without major disruption for boat users.

Bridgewater Marine Pty Ltd undertook safety improvement works for the boat ramp and new multi-million dollar jetty from March 3 to 7, completing the works by the busy Labour Day weekend.

The safety works involved the installation of anti-slip grating on the boat ramp to improve gripping on the ramp as well as safety improvements identified by Council on the recently completed jetty.

Upgrades and running repairs to the jetty included wave screens to reduce the impact of strong currents and improved safety when launching and retrieving vessels.

Estimated to have cost \$2 million the project involved reinstatement of the existing rock wall and was fully funded by the State Government through Better Boating Victoria (BBV).

Bass Coast Council provided project management services to provide Inverloch boat users with better berthing facilities, improved functionality, capacity, access and safety.

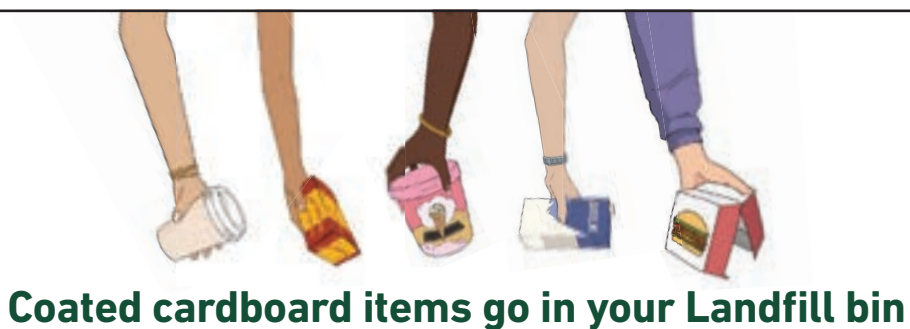
A safety alert remains for the entrance to Anderson's Inlet.

Gippsland Ports and Harbour have advised boat users and operators of personal watercraft that bar crossings at Inverloch are still regarded as extremely dangerous and can cause serious personal injury or death when unfavourable conditions exist.

If in doubt, don't go out is the warning from Gippsland Ports.



Eddie, Tommy and Travis from Bridgewater Marine completing a safety upgrade for the Inverloch boat ramp. B09_1025



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



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

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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria



Wrong turn on to rocks at The Nobbies

IT WAS all hands-on-deck on Sunday afternoon, March 9, at about 4.30pm when a visitor to Phillip Island landmark, The Nobbies, went missing.

According to police, a woman reportedly aged in her 30s, was seen walking down the old Nobbies' access track, below The Nobbies' boardwalk, towards the rocks where she was seen by a member of the Phillip Island Nature Parks staff.

The staff member signalled to the her to return, she reportedly waved back at the staff member, but kept on walking.

She was last seen disappearing around the escarpment, walking in a northerly direction, away from The Nobbies. It was sometime later that the alarm was raised.

A big turnout of police, CFA and SES personnel responded to calls of "a high angle rescue" at The Nobbies, with information about one, possibly two people missing, including the police helicopter which arrived and did several sweeps of the coast around The Nobbies.

A Police boat also arrived.

The visitor was described as aged 30, with shorts and a pink t-shirt but remained unsighted until the search was called off at about 6.10pm.

Officer in charge of the scene Sergeant Kade Murphy of the Wonthaggi Police reported that the return to safety by the missing woman had been confirmed by photograph.

"She has come back to the carpark under her own steam and we've been sent a photo to confirm her location and the fact that she is safe."

All's well that ends well, as they say, but not before around 50 first responders arrived at the scene, many of them volunteers from as far away as Wonthaggi, including the Phillip Island and San Remo SES Units with all the necessary equipment to affect a cliff rescue.

It is not known whether the visitor will be charged with any offences for leaving The Nobbies boardwalk and making her way down to the rocks below, ultimately sparking a large-scale rescue response.



The famous Phillip Island coastal landmark, known as The Nobbies, was the centre of a rescue effort last Sunday.



A large number of emergency service personnel arrived at The Nobbies on Sunday afternoon in response to reports of a "high-angle rescue" around 4.30pm.

Water safety framework launched

LIFE Saving Victoria celebrated local councils joining forces with lifesaving clubs, sports clubs, multicultural groups, passionate locals and tourism operators as part of a Victoria-first initiative to address alarmingly high drowning rates on Mornington Peninsula and Bass Coast.

Local councils in the region have engaged Life Saving Victoria (LSV) to create the Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula Cross Council Working Group Water Safety Framework.

This new water safety framework is the product of a partnership between the Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast Shire, City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey and Belgrave Leisure, which operates pools in Melbourne's southeast.

The framework provides an insight into drownings that have occurred in the region over the past decade, factors that led to these incidents and recommendations to prevent future drownings.

A total of 100 fatal drownings occurred in the region over the past decade, nearly a quarter (21 per cent) of all incidents across Victoria. Half of all drownings (51 per cent) involved people who lived in the combined cross-council region.

Of those who drowned, nearly half (45 per cent) were from a culturally or linguistically diverse community.

Most common activities that led to drowning incidents were swimming, paddling, wading and fishing.

LSV Manager – Research and Evaluation Dr Hannah Calverley said the framework was an important tool to help the local community reduce drowning.

"This brings everyone in the community to the table so we can tackle the issue of drownings on the Mornington Peninsula and Bass Coast," Dr Calverley said. "Water safety is everyone's responsibility, and this framework provides policymakers, community leaders and relevant industries with options and solutions so we can work together to keep visitors and locals safe in the water."

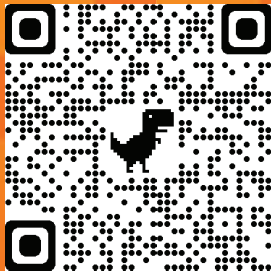


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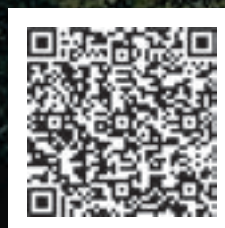


**Under 5 hours sleep?
4 times more likely
to crash.**

Fatigue is a contributing factor in 16-20% of all road crashes in Victoria.

If you're feeling tired, arrange an alternative mode of transport, postpone your trip, or get more sleep before driving. Because when you drive on less than 5 hours sleep, you're 4 times more likely to crash.

Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.



Winding road, rising crash total as safety concerns grow

A NOTORIOUS section of Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road has once again proven hazardous, with yet another accident adding to its troubling history. On Sunday, March 2, a woman veered off the road and crashed into a tree between Jumbunna and Kongwak – an area well known for previous collisions.

Jenny Taylor, a local resident, was among the first to respond. “We came out shortly after the crash. The driver had gone into a tree, and the windscreen was caved in, but we couldn’t understand the woman’s speech,” she said.

Despite having lived in the area for only five years, Jenny and her partner, Vic Nanut, have witnessed multiple accidents along this stretch of road. “I’ve personally called emergency services on four separate occasions, and my partner has also had to call,” she said.

“We hear the bang, go out, and start looking for the car.”

The most recent crash follows another incident in October 2024, when a vehicle similarly left the road and struck a tree. Ms Taylor said it was incredibly fortunate that no lives had been lost given the frequency of accidents in the area.

Residents may recall a particularly severe crash in August 2012, involving a 30-year-old man from Sunshine on the same stretch of road. He was trapped in the cabin of his truck for more than seven hours before emergency crews could free him. Due to the severity of the situation,



A vehicle crashed into a tree along Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road in October 2024, one of several accidents on this notorious stretch of road.

doctors from The Alfred Hospital were flown in to amputate his left foot at the scene.

Emergency responders described the extraction as one of the most challenging they had faced. Unlike the recent crashes, the 2012 accident occurred on the opposite side of the road, where a steep 10 to 20-metre embankment complicated rescue efforts with most of the work being done overhead on a wet and uneven surface. The operation required assistance from multiple CFA and SES units.

Yellow arrow signs have since been installed to indicate the sharpness of the turn.

Taylor and Nanut acknowledged that these measures initially seemed effective, with

accidents decreasing for a time. However, the recent resurgence of crashes has raised concerns among residents, who are calling for further safety improvements.

“Definitely some better signage would be good, and maybe the road surface needs to be looked at,” Ms Taylor said.

“It doesn’t necessarily look dangerous, yet cars keep coming off at the same point.

“They need to examine the road itself. You can’t attribute all these accidents to driver behaviour – it may play a role, but this is too much of a coincidence.”

Member for Gippsland South, Danny O’Brien, echoed these concerns, highlighting broader issues with regional roads.

“This and many other roads in the vicinity are quite narrow,



The most recent crash along Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road, occurred on Sunday, March 2.

winding and hilly which can be a danger, especially for people not familiar with the road,” Mr O’Brien said.

He also questioned the government’s allocation of funding, arguing that road safety and maintenance in regional areas have been somewhat neglected.

“We need more effort from the government in fixing local roads and less cost over-runs on the mega projects in the city that Labor is obsessed with. Ongoing budget cuts to road maintenance and road safety programs have left our roads in a parlous state.”

With mounting concerns from both residents and local representatives, calls for improved safety measures along the road are growing louder by the day.

Vline buses to continue to Southern Cross

THE State Government is still expected to continue with a plan to review public transport services to Bass Coast and South Gippsland in June this year, for possible changes and improvements in 2026.

But, according to Bass MP Jordan Crugnale, she has received the assurances of the Minister for Public and Active Transport, Gabrielle Williams, that the VLine service from Koo Wee Rup to Southern Cross, which also impacts travel from Cowes, Inverloch, Leon-gatha and Yarram, will not be removed.

“In May 2024, the Victorian Government announced a \$30 million package for better bus and ferry services. This included service uplifts for buses travelling to Melbourne through Koo Wee Rup,” Ms Crugnale said last week.

“The Minister for Public and Active Transport has confirmed with me that she will not consider any service proposals that remove services between Koo Wee Rup and Southern Cross Station.

“The community will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the final service proposal in June ahead of delivery early next year.”

While Ms Crugnale has not supported the option to have Bass Coast and South Gippsland buses terminating at the new Pakenham East Railway Station, she has favoured a local bus service between KWR and Pakenham and increased and improved services to Cranbourne and Dandenong stations, while retaining bus termination at Southern Cross.

Many people from Bass Coast in particular drive to Koo Wee Rup to get the bus to Melbourne, avoiding the whistle-stop tour past the Waterline towns but still enjoying the cheap travel option to the city.

NO ONE’S UNSINKABLE

To all those Unsinkable Guys out there –

You might think it’s safe to have a few drinks around water, skip the life jacket when you’re out on the boat or go for a swim without checking the conditions.

But statistics prove that 4 out of 5 drownings are men.

Just remember that no one’s unsinkable.

Q UNSINKABLE GUY

RETHINK
TAKING RISKS
AROUND
WATER





South Gippsland Shire Council News

Grant Funding for Community Resilience

Build resilience in your community with a Community Resilience Grant!

South Gippsland in partnership with Emergency Recovery Victoria are offering grant funding of up to \$3,000 to support an event, activity or training session. The funding aims to support community led activities while promoting resilience, community connectedness, and emergency preparedness.

It's hoped that this funding program will empower communities to better cope with disruptions and bounce back stronger from potential disasters and challenges like natural hazards, economic downturns and social issues.

Project examples include:

- Establishing a community emergency response team.
- Developing a community evacuation plan.
- Installing flood protection measures.
- Providing mental health support following a natural disaster.
- Creating a community food bank to address food insecurity.

The opportunities are endless!

For more information and to apply for your town, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Hurry, applications close Monday 31 March.

Community Grants

Applications Closing Soon!



South Gippsland Shire Council's second round of Community Grants are now open. Community Grants are an opportunity for Council to give back to local clubs and community groups who give so much to others.

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

For more information and to apply, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Details will be available on Council's website:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

IMPOUNDED VEHICLE

South Gippsland Shire Council impounded the following vehicle in accordance with Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

2007 Silver Holden Station Wagon

Impounded on: 29 January 2025.

Impounded from: Commercial Street, Korumburra.

Registration Number: UYV307

Unless the vehicle is collected and relevant fees paid within 14 days 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 (8.30am to 5.00pm)

SOUTH GIPPSLAND JOBS EXPO

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

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

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

CONTACT US

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

Tell'em the shire dug a hole, Dale!

OUT at the Koonwarra Tip (officially the Koonwarra Landfill and Transfer Station), they've dug a hole.

'Go on tell'em Dale, they've dug a hole!'

While Dale and Darryl Kerrigan had no trouble getting excited about digging a hole on the Australian film classic 'The Castle', it's not something that usually makes the pages of the local newspaper.

Only this one, well, it's a pretty big hole at 250,000 cubic metres.

And it's not just big, it's a very sophisticated undertaking costing around \$4 million and expected to take all of our hard rubbish waste, and the contributions of licensed commercial waste contractors, for the next 11 years.

Then it's game over!

'Cell Number 5', as it is known in the business, will be the last of the Mohicans.

After this one is full, the South Gippsland Shire Council will not have its own hard waste landfill tip anymore, and to date, they have no plans to establish a new one. It's just too hard and too costly.

Number one, no one wants a landfill tip as a neighbour, as much as they've been able to reduce the smells, dust, smoke and flying rubbish these days.

And number two, the cost and compliance issues involved with establishing a new landfill tip are not for the faint hearted.

Will South Gippsland ultimately grasp the stinging nettle and look for a greenfield site or form an alliance with other Gippsland councils to find one? Who knows but it's not on their radar.

Which is another reason why we're all being asked to redouble our efforts to keep as much waste as possible out of the red bin, and distributed properly into the recycle and green waste bins.

It's money well spent though. When completed, as a piece of infrastructure it will be worth in the order of \$55 million.

Last week, the Sentinel-Times was offered the opportunity to tour the new



Checking on the progress of construction of the new \$4 million 'Cell Number 5' at the Koonwarra Landfill and Transfer Station last week are the South Gippsland Shire Council's Director of Sustainable Infrastructure and acting CEO Tony Peterson and the council's Waste Management Supervisor, Peter Roberts. The new cell is expected to be ready to take the shire's hard waste by June-July this year.

facility, to help explain where a fair slab of the \$300 kerbside garbage and recycling collection service charge goes.

And why the charge is likely to rise on this year's rates notice, as much for the significant increase in Waste Levy charges paid to the EPA, as much as the increasing cost of dealing with waste generally.

It's big business. "We literally had to move a mountain to build this one," said the council's Director of Sustainable Infrastructure and acting CEO Tony Peterson.

"We've kept the fill and it will be used to cover the material over time," said the council's Waste Management Supervisor, Peter Roberts.

Establishing a new hard rubbish cell is a complicated process from drilling test bores to identify underground water courses and reserves, to having your choice of clay liner tested for extremely low

permeability rates, allowing virtually no flow of water and other fluids.

Once the pit is dug and given approval, pipes are laid to give any ground water the opportunity to get away, and a one metre layer of approved clay is laid over the whole area to protect the ground underneath from contamination.

Next a layer of thick layer of high density polyethylene sheet is rolled out across the whole pit, followed by the geotextile carpet, the rock and pipes layer with another layer of geotextile carpet on top.

At every stage, water samples and other samples are taken and tested rigorously for their performance under normal conditions and under pressure.

A complicating factor is the weather.

If it rains at any stage during this delicate process, remedial works must be carried out,

further adding to the cost.

One such event has already added \$657,000 to the cost of the project.

It's a job and a half but a necessary one with a tight timeframe.

With the Foster tip closed in 2001, the old Koonwarra tip site closed in 2007, the latest Koonwarra landfill and transfer station is the last and Cell 4 is nearing its use by date.

The new cell is due to be finished by the end of April then its over to the EPA for final approval, hoped to be achieved by June-July for the change-over from the existing cell.

Even when various tips sites around the shire are full and closed, the compliance and testing work continues to ensure there's no contamination.

That too is part of the cost of waste management.

So, yes, the shire has dug a hole, Dale, and it's a pretty big deal.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



HELLO South Gippsland.

This week, Councillors began the process of formulating our new Council Plan. This work would not be possible without the feedback we received during the Shaping South Gippsland engagement, which saw us visit 17 townships, hear from 688 people and receive more than 1,200 ideas for the new Plan.

I look forward to the next stages of this process and continuing to work with our community to achieve more terrific things for our region.

International Women's Day

Every year on March 8, International Women's Day is held to shine a light on our women and girls.

I was pleased to see our female Councillors – Deputy Mayor Cr Sarah Gilligan, Cr Bron Beach and Cr Clare Williams attend an event organised by the Southern Business Women's Network to celebrate this day. This Network creates amazing opportunities for females in our region and I thank everyone involved.

It would be remiss of me not to do a bit of a shout-out to the wonderful women in my life to celebrate International Women's Day. To my wife and daughters, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting me with everything I do in life. You have all shaped me into the man I am today, and without you all, I would simply be lost. You even supported me to once again stand for Council and encourage me to become Mayor for the first time.

I hope you managed to thank a special woman in your life this International Women's Day.

Community Resilience Grants

In partnership with Emergency Recovery Victoria, Council is offering grants of up to \$3,000 to support events, activities or training sessions. These activities will help promote resilience, community connectedness and emergency preparedness.

Some examples of what you could do with the grant include establishing a community emergency response team, developing a community evacuation plan, installing flood protection measures, providing mental health support following a natural disaster, and creating a community food bank to address food insecurity.

To find out more about these, and the other grant streams available through Council, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Applications close Monday, March 31, 2025.

50 Years of SES

Thank you to Matt Saario for inviting Cr Clare Williams and myself along to an evening of celebration last Wednesday evening.

The State Emergency Service (SES) celebrated its 50th year yesterday, and provided the perfect opportunity to reflect on the impact this service has had on our communities. With many in the SES volunteers, we were more than happy to toast to their terrific work and thank them for keeping us all safe.

Hospital Merger

The Victorian Government recently announced that our local health services will be merging to create a new Bayside Health group, linking us with hospitals such as the Alfred.

While there has been some speculation regarding the impact this merger will have on local health care, I remain hopeful that the changes will be beneficial to our community. I hope that the connections will provide an opportunity for Council to advocate for additional services in our area.

Mirboo North resilience hub making progress

A NEW Resilience Hub for Mirboo North is one step closer following the installation of a Starlink connection at the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation's Co-Space.

The Resilience Hub is being funded by the Victorian Government via a \$180,000 Tiny Towns Fund grant and delivered by Council in partnership with the Mirboo Country Development Inc and the Community Foundation.

When finished, the Hub will provide emergency communication, power and refrigeration services to support the town during future emergencies.

"After the storm event earlier this year, it is great to see projects taking place in Mirboo North to help them become more resilient. The Starlink connection proved extremely helpful during the event with other communications out, so this will be warmly received by the community," said South Gippsland Shire Council

Mayor, John Schelling.

"Should we experience more of these emergencies in the future, it is important that our towns plan as much as possible."

The Resilience Hub project will be completed in three separate stages, with the first stage already completed.

The first stage has ensured the hub can function during emergencies through upgrading the communication systems and enhancing connectivity with the Fibre to the Premises upgrade and mobile Starlink now in place at the Co-Space.

The second stage will see the installation of a generator to provide immediate power during emergencies and the third stage will see the installation of a solar power and battery system to deliver long-term energy after critical systems are operational.

Other stages of the project are progressing and will take place over time.



South Gippsland Mayor Cr John Schelling, Ruth Rogan – Executive Officer at the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation, and Cr Brad Snell celebrate the completion of the first stage of the Resilience Hub Project.

Victorian electricity prices to surge over five years

SQUIRRELLED away in the appendices of last week's Infrastructure Victoria report is chilling news for Victorian families and businesses.

Eight scenarios of potential decarbonisation pathways for Victoria were modelled by Infrastructure Victoria. All see a massive increase in Victorian time-weighted average electricity prices.

These are rising from, in some cases, under \$50 per megawatt hour in 2030 to between \$110 and almost \$140 per megawatt hour – an increase in wholesale electricity prices in the order of 120 per cent.

This will see a similar surge in household bills and costs for businesses.

The Aurora Infrastructure Victoria Energy Transition Analysis November 2024 states:

The complete exit of coal-fired power is expected to create a significant demand-supply imbalance in Victoria, which will likely lead to even higher short-term wholesale power prices unless renewable and storage alternatives are deployed rapidly and at scale.

The closure of coal plants in Victoria, beginning with Yallourn, is expected to significantly increase prices due to a reduced supply of reliable electricity, forcing a greater reliance on more expensive generation sources; this is exacerbated by the market's increased volatility as VRE generation is more susceptible to fluctuations due to variations in weather.

Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources, David Davis MP said: "The Aurora analysis blows the whistle on the ongoing increase in energy costs Victorians have faced under state Labor. After 10 years in power, they have failed to provide secure supplies and a cost-effective way forward.

"These massive increases will hit Victorian families for a six and smash the competitiveness of Victorian businesses.

"Families are doing it tough during this cost-of-living crisis and they can ill-afford to have further costs slapped on them."

Closure of underused prisons amid a crime surge

VICTORIA'S draft 30-year infrastructure strategy, prepared by Infrastructure Victoria, could generate discussion after proposing the closure of underused prisons, despite rising crime rates across the state. The strategy aims to re-direct resources toward rehabilitative services, including healthcare and post-release transition housing, which experts argue are essential for reducing reoffending.

In the face of escalating crime statistics by the Crime Statistics Agency –criminal incidents in Victoria surged by 15 per cent in the year to September 2024 – the report suggests that current prison infrastructure is inefficient and costly.

"Prisons are costly to build, run, and keep," the draft report states, adding that "Victoria's prisons are underused," with 21 per cent of male prison beds and 38 per cent of female beds vacant in 2022-23.

These empty beds come amid a 15 per cent increase in recorded criminal offences statewide, suggesting a disconnect between the rising crime rate and the state's prison capacity.

The highest criminal incident rates in Local Government Areas in the year ending September 30, 2024, were:

1. Melbourne (16,250.9 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 9.8 per cent)

2. Yarra (11,829.5 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 17.7 per cent)



Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy, prepared by Infrastructure Victoria reports that Victoria's prisons are costly to operate and underused.

3. Latrobe (11,742.9 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 6.8 per cent)

Bass Coast criminal incident rates compared to Victoria per 100,000 population is up by 17.1 per cent. Notably reporting on 2077 criminal incidents in 2023, to 2433 criminal incidents in 2024. Of these, charges were laid on 41.3 per cent, 24.2 per cent had no charges laid and 34.4 per cent remain unsolved.

In South Gippsland crime has also increased 8.8 per cent, with 1455 criminal incidents in 2023, rising to 1583 in 2024. These statistics are anything from thefts, breaching of bail conditions, criminal damage and breach of family violence orders.

As part of the draft plan, Infrastructure Victoria recommends the closure of older, underperforming prisons.

"The Victorian Government should review capacity needs and close other prisons that are unsuitable and expensive," the report urges. This would not only reduce operational costs but also allow for the repurposing of prison sites for community-focused services. Notably, the closure of Dhurringile Prison in 2024 and the planned closure of Port Phillip Prison in 2025 exemplify this shift."

However, the government built extra prison infrastructure to meet expected demand, after prison numbers peaked in 2018-19, rising to 8044 prisoners – therefore completing the new Western Plains Correctional Centre in Lara, which the government will start using in 2025.

Although, since 2019-20 prisons have been less than 90 per cent full therefore a significant aspect of the

strategy is the expansion of post-release housing for former prisoners and the report suggests that the Victorian Government should review capacity needs and close other prisons that are unsuitable and expensive. Closed prisons can be repurposed for other justice services.

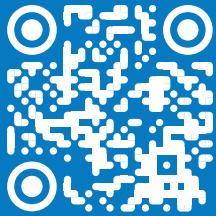
Research shows that stable housing significantly lowers the likelihood of reoffending, yet available facilities remain limited.

"Research shows that putting people in prison can cost 23 times more than providing them with housing support," the report reads. The draft suggests investing \$150 million to \$230 million over the next decade to create additional housing facilities and enhance prison healthcare services.

Critics argue that these changes may overlook the growing need for more custodial facilities amid the current crime surge, including the rise in youth crime. However, advocates for the reforms stress that rehabilitation and post-release support offer a more sustainable path to reducing crime. The government is expected to finalise the plan by 2030, with funding primarily drawn from general revenue and savings from prison closures.

The proposal provides a focus on the future of criminal justice in Victoria, with the attention shifting from punitive measures to more rehabilitative approaches aimed at breaking the cycle of reoffending.

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA



CHECK YOUR ADDRESS

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Stronger protections for Victorian homebuyers

THE Victorian Government will introduce a new building watchdog toward the end of 2025 aimed at strengthening consumer protections and improving building quality across the state.

The Building and Plumbing Commission, established under the Building Legislation Amendment (Buyer Protections) Bill 2025, will have the power to oversee building regulations, insurance, and dispute resolution.

Local businesses in Bass Coast and South Gippsland are assessing the impact that these changes may have. The reforms will include stricter enforcement measures, new developer bonds, and a shift to first-resort domestic building insurance, ensuring homebuyers have better safeguards against defects.

One new protection will come in the form of a developer bond scheme for defective building work in buildings that are four storeys and above.

Fiona McMahon-Hughes, Principal at Ray White Inverloch, believes the impact of this on the local property market will be minimal.

“Towns like Inverloch specifically have height restrictions, so we’re unlikely to see four-storey buildings here. You would need to apply for a permit,” she said.

Also, with new builds being less common in the region, McMahon-Hughes does not anticipate significant changes in buyer-seller interactions.

Ross Lovett, Director and Building Designer at DB Design, sees potential for quality improvements but does not expect major disruptions to design processes.

“You’d like to think so, probably yes,” he said when asked if the reforms would improve building quality and safety.

Regarding compliance and inspections, he noted, “Not really. Once our plans are approved, then its handed over to builders and building surveyors. If further inspections are required, surveyors will need to allow for more.”

Local builder Brad McCormack, from Brad McCormack Homes, also weighed in on the reforms, highlighting the potential benefits for the industry.

When asked if the new watchdog’s increased enforcement powers would make it easier or harder



A new building watchdog may change the way many local businesses operate regarding new builds.

to operate his business, McCormack was very optimistic.

“It should make things easier because it will ensure that some of the dodgy builders will have their licenses removed. It should make more work for good builders, and it’ll be a good thing to weed out builders who are doing the wrong thing.”

He also shared his thoughts on the potential impact of increased mandatory inspections during construction, which are currently under consideration.

“So many houses are poorly waterproofed, so I can see why this is being implemented. If it’s just a matter of calling up the building surveyor, there won’t be much impact at all. If you’re doing the right thing, it’s not going to delay you.”

On whether the changes would improve overall construction quality in the area, McCormack believes they could have a positive effect.

“It should help with education – builders who might be unsure will learn the new ways they should be doing things, and builders that are blatantly not trying to follow procedures will be punished for it.”

One of the biggest changes is the regulator’s authority to rectify defective work up to ten years after an occupancy permit is issued. Builders failing to comply may face disciplinary action, including suspension of registration.

The developer bond scheme will require developers to pay a two per cent bond, held by the regulator for approximately two

years to fund any necessary rectifications.

The introduction of a first-resort insurance scheme aims to provide homeowners with more immediate financial protection. Currently, consumers can only access Domestic Building Insurance under limited circumstances, such as when a builder goes bankrupt, disappears, or dies.

From 2026, the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority will deliver the First Resort Domestic Building Warranty for projects over \$20,000 in buildings three storeys and below.

Premier Jacinta Allan emphasised the importance of consumer confidence in the housing market.

“Building or buying a new home will be the biggest investment most of us ever make, and Victorians rightly expect to get what they pay for,” she said.

Minister for Housing and Building Harriet Shing reiterated the need to balance consumer protections with industry co-operation, ensuring high-quality homes.

“It’s essential that consumers are protected and supported when buying or building their home, and we’ll continue to work with industry to get the balance right and deliver quality homes of a consistently high standard.”

While the reforms are expected to have a more significant impact on metropolitan developments, local builders, architects, and real estate agents will continue to monitor any potential ripple effects in regional Victoria.



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Korumburra Working Horse and Tractor Rally celebrates 35 years this weekend

Time to enter business awards

ENTRIES are now open for 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards, the annual event celebrating the exceptional achievements of businesses within the Bass Coast community and providing a platform for recognition and networking.

The Bass Coast Business Awards continue to showcase the diverse talents and contributions of local businesses.

Awards are divided into two categories:

- **Judged Categories:** These categories recognise businesses that excel in various aspects, including innovation, customer service, sustainability, and community involvement, with a panel of judges evaluating entries and selecting winners.

- **People's Choice Awards:** These awards allow the community to participate by voting for their favourite businesses.

Last year's Bass Coast Business Awards were a huge success with 54 businesses entering across diverse industries, from tourism and hospitality to construction and professional services.

Ocean Sounds took home Business of the Year, impressing judges with its detailed submission, strong sustainability focus, and clear vision.

The event also celebrated two Hall of Fame winners, Wildlife Coast Cruises and TerraLab.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead encourages businesses to get involved in this year's awards.

"The Bass Coast Business Awards celebrate the dedication and innovation of our local businesses; entering is not just about recognition, it's a chance to reflect, grow, and set new benchmarks for success in your industry," Cr Halstead said.

"There are real economic and promotional benefits for businesses that take part, and we want to see our local businesses thrive."

Finalists will be announced in July and the Gala dinner will be held in August.

Visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/businessawards to apply.

Show 'N' Shine & Swap Meet set for big day

THERE'S been a slight rejig of vehicle judging categories for this year's Leongatha Rotary Show 'N' Shine & Swap Meet, with the Leongatha Velodrome and surrounds expected to be at near capacity for the Sunday, March 16 event.

Attendees will be well catered for, with more food vendors this year, offering a variety of sweet and savoury options.

There'll be 17 vehicle judging categories this time, 'Best Japanese Car' being a new section, while truck categories have been reduced from three to one.

The event is renowned for its high-quality judging, Chairman of the Show 'N' Shine committee Jim McNiven one of eight officials determining the winners.

He stressed the judges are all experienced in the type of vehicles they will be adjudicating on and it's not just a matter of deciding which vehicle looks nice.

"That attracts people to want to get their cars judged," Jim said.

"They want you to put the effort in and they let you know they appreciate it."

People will be queuing well in advance of the gates opening to pick up a Swap Meet bargain, with that section of the event expected to be double the size it was last year.

Organisers have been busy handing out brochures at Swap Meets in the region, receiving positive feedback, many people declaring they're keen to be part of the Leongatha selling action.



Members of the South Gippsland branch of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club and Leongatha Rotary Club's Jim McNiven are ready for the Leongatha Rotary Show 'N' Shine & Swap Meet. A36_1025

"If half of them that said, 'Yeah I'll be there' actually come, we won't have room for everybody," Jim said, noting he expects the Swap Meet to be bigger than Ben Hur and for the show cars component of the day to be just as popular.

There is capacity for approximately 400 cars.

Anyone intending to leave before 1pm will be required to park in a separate area, with organisers ensuring vehicles on the oval are not moved during the event in order to keep attendees safe.

Emergency service representatives will add their vehicles to the day's display, with the possibility the SES, ambulance, police and fire brigade will all be present, that dependent on operational requirements that arise.

Jim made it clear why the event won't change too much this time, declaring "The formula has worked pretty well in the last few years."

As well as being a great family occasion, the event is a major fundraiser for Leongatha Rotary Club, contributing to its local projects and other Rotary initiatives further afield, Jim stressing that the beauty of the organisation is that funds go where they are most needed.

"All profits raised end up where they're meant to be," he said, with Rotary's volunteer structure enabling that to happen.

So, come and have a ball at an affordable price while you contribute to the cause.

Entry details:

Express entry is available for

Swap Meet traders and show car exhibitors by visiting leongatharotary.org.au/show-n-shine and clicking on the express entry link.

Costs are just \$20 for a swap meet trader, \$10 for a show car and driver and \$10 for each additional adult passenger.

It costs \$5 to enter a show car for judging.

General admission is \$10 for adults and free for children.

Swap Meet traders and food vendors enter via gate 1 only from 6am, show cars enter via gate 3 only from 7am, with general entry on foot via gate 2 from 7.30am.

For further information or inquiries please contact organisers via the Leongatha Rotary Club's Facebook page or call Jim McNiven on 0418 559 119.



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Rotary Club of Leongatha

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Sunday 16th March 2025

Leongatha Recreation Reserve Roughead Street, Leongatha

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Show Cars Gate 3 Opens 7am

Car & Driver \$10 ~ Adults \$10 ~ Family \$20

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Fairy Tern Chick. Photo: Harriet Fallaw.

Threatened species report marks major milestones

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks is celebrating 65 critically endangered fairy tern chicks fledging at a newly extended breeding site on the island for the first time since 2020.

The incredible conservation achievement marks a monumental year for the fairy terns, after the Nature Parks improved the breeding habitat for the seabirds.

Since 2016, the only successful breeding in the Western Port and Port Phillip was on Phillip Island in 2019/20 when 31 fairy tern pairs fledged 49 chicks. Since then, there has been no successful breeding of fairy terns due to pests, weed infestation and human disturbance. The site – twice the size of the Melbourne Cricket Ground stadium – expanded the breeding habitat of the seabirds away from the shoreline after high tides inundated nests in 2023.

The project is one of the success stories outlined in the 2024 Threatened Species Report, released last week, which recognised the collaborative conservation efforts by the Nature Parks, researchers and the community to protect threatened flora and fauna on Phillip Island.

As well as the positive breeding season for fairy terns, highlights of the past year include:

- The historic reintroduction of 12 critically endangered bush stone-curlews to Phillip Island.
- A successful 2023-24 breeding season for hooded plovers, resulting in 12 pairs successfully raising 10 fledglings, achieving a fledging rate of 0.83 per pair – well above BirdLife Australia's benchmark of 0.5 fledglings per pair.
- Maintaining the island's fox-free status, while intensifying measures to control feral cats that pose a threat to native wildlife.
- The Endangered Eastern barred bandicoot continues to thrive with the population spreading across the island.

Jessica McKelson, General Manager of Conservation, said the year's efforts had been rewarded with some big strides in the protection of threatened species on Phillip Island.

"Most importantly, these successes would not be possible without collaboration. We cannot do this important work alone, and the community has been central to our many achievements over the past year," Ms McKelson said. "The contribution of 10,977 hours from student interns, volunteers and community groups has been integral to supporting our threatened species targets and making a real difference to the impact we make."

"Together, these results demonstrate what can be achieved when we work together for a shared thriving and biodiverse future."

Newhaven College camp program

THE benefits of school camps for students of all ages cannot be underestimated. Connection with nature, developing resilience, greater independence and building relationships are just some of the many advantages of a school camp experience. At their best camps can be transformative experiences that leave a lasting impact on students' lives.

Newhaven College Principal Tony Corr appreciates the benefits of camps provided by the College.

"Camps remain a central part of the school experience. Whilst other educational sectors have had to compromise or remove camp programs, Newhaven continues to offer valuable overnight and camp experiences tailored for each year level," he says.

A true test of character was on display last week when 86 Newhaven College Year 10 students embraced the challenge of the outdoors alongside nine College staff. The Year 10 Camp to Mount Stirling is developing into a rite of passage of sorts. The weather was perfect for young people to challenge themselves in the Victorian high country.

Head of Senior School Brett Torstonson said, "Being away from home and away from their creature comforts is a profound challenge for many young people these days. Nevertheless, most of our Year 10 cohort embraced the outdoors last week, challenged themselves both physically and mentally, and returned to school the following week wiser and better for the experience, and hopefully with a greater



2025 Year 10 students celebrate reaching elevation at Mt Stirling National Park in February.

appreciation for all that exists in the great outdoors."

Camps at Newhaven College begin in Year 2 when the students enjoy a sleepover on campus. After a display by the CFA, pizza and a movie, they snuggle in together in the Junior School Assembly area. The Year 5 camp to Sovereign Hill is always a highlight of the school calendar, and of course, Year 9 have the opportunity to experience Melbourne with the City Cite camp and the memorable Wollangarra hike and camp.

All camp experiences are included in the College tuition fees.

For more information about Newhaven College's curriculum and extra-curricular activities, visit the website, or visit the school at the Open Day (Saturday, March 15) for a College tour.



Year 5 students Amelia Russo, Rylee Dunk, Grace Bailey, Sienna Ellery and Abigail Coulthurst enjoyed the opportunity to dress up at Sovereign Hill in 2024.

Newhaven College takes part in Clean Up Australia Day



Newhaven College Year 2 students enjoyed the opportunity to run around campus collecting rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day.



Newhaven College Year 1 students Andie Evans, Rhys Wolfenden, Huntley Underwood and Savannah Mol got into the spirit of the day.

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Meet Gippsland’s offshore wind developers

Offshore wind energy is a new opportunity to continue electricity generation in Gippsland, bringing jobs and investment to the region.

Come and meet the developers behind Gippsland’s proposed offshore wind projects. Meet locals already working in the industry, hear about project plans, view maps and share your ideas and feedback.

Government agencies VicGrid and Offshore Wind Energy Victoria will also be there to answer questions about Victoria’s transmission and energy plans.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Proposed Gippsland offshore wind projects

- **Star of the South** (Southerly Ten)
- **Kut-Wut Brataualung** (Southerly Ten)
- **Great Eastern Offshore Wind** (Corio Generation)
- **Gippsland Dawn** (BlueFloat Energy)
- **Navigator North** (Origin and RES)
- **Gippsland 01** (Orsted)
- **Gippsland 02** (Orsted)
- **Gippsland Skies** (AGL, Direct Infrastructure, Mainstream Renewable Power, Reventus Power)
- **Aurora Green** (Iberdrola Australia)
- **Blue Mackerel** (JERA Nex/Parkwind)
- **Kent Offshore Wind** (RWE)
- **High Sea Wind** (Ocean Winds)

Port Albert	Wednesday 12 March, 4 pm – 6 pm <i>Free BBQ provided</i>	Port Albert Mechanics Institute
Golden Beach	Thursday 13 March, 4 pm – 6 pm <i>Free BBQ provided</i>	Golden Beach Community Centre
Sale	Saturday 22 March, 10 am – 2 pm <i>Part of the Wellington Sustainability Festival inc. food trucks</i>	Nakunbalook Sale Botanic Gardens
Leongatha	Thursday 27 March, 4 pm – 6 pm <i>Free BBQ provided</i>	Leongatha Memorial Hall





Federal Member for Monash Russell Broadbent MP is running as an Independent for the seat of Monash in the upcoming 2025 federal election.
Photo: APP

Team Broadbent calling for volunteers

IN CASE you missed it, Russell Broadbent is running as an Independent for the seat of Monash in the upcoming 2025 federal election.

Mr Broadbent said, “Over the past 12 months or so, I have spoken to many people across this beautiful electorate who have called on me to stand for Monash in 2025.

“As I said in my announcement speech – we are in uncertain, unprecedented and unexpected times. The campaign ahead will be tough, but as the saying goes – there is strength in numbers.

“Whilst I am not canvassing or accepting any financial donations, I do need your help on the ground. If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the form (russell-broadbent.com.au/volunteer-here), and my campaign team will be in contact with you shortly.”

Mr Broadbent said Monash needs a representative who has the experience, tenacity and influence to advocate for what is best for the region.

“As a true Independent, not beholden to any party, group or individual, I can achieve more for the people of Monash.”

Aldred election commitments to support Reserve and Fish Creek clubrooms

LIBERAL Senator for Victoria, the Hon Jane Hume, and Local Liberal candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred have made two announcements this week, one showing the support of a rebuild of the Fish Creek Football Netball Club rooms through a \$1.5 million commitment, and two, the upgrade of Walter Tuck Reserve in Mirboo North, with a \$5 million contribution to replace outdated facilities.

Ms Hume, said this announcement for Walter Tuck Reserve will support a community who have said loud and clear that existing facilities are failing to meet local needs. The funding will include replacing the inadequate change rooms, strengthening the facility’s role as a community and emergency hub.

“As a designated emergency relief centre for Mirboo North and surrounds, it is vital that this facility be fit for purpose, but yet its current infrastructure is failing to meet community needs.

“The project will boost female sports participation, disaster preparedness, and local engagement, ensuring the reserve remains a vital community asset.

“This facility has historically played a key role in disaster recovery, and only Mary Aldred and the Coalition will be able to deliver this important upgrade for the community who relies on it.”

Local Liberal candidate for



Victorian Liberal Senator, the Hon Jane Hume and Mary Aldred, Liberal candidate for Monash, announce the support of an upgrade of Walter Tuck Reserve in Mirboo North.

Monash, Mary Aldred, welcomed the announcements, as projects she has been fighting for.

“Walter Tuck Reserve is more than just a sporting facility, it is the heart of Mirboo North, bringing people together for sports, community events, and emergency response efforts.

Mirboo North Football Netball Club President, Andy McCarthy, said this was a well needed investment that will benefit the whole community, especially women.

“Mirboo North Football Netball Club is extremely grateful for this commitment to upgrade our changeroom and facilities.

“Our town is still reeling from the devastating storm cell event last February, and

this upgrade will provide a safe place for our community to gather if another event should happen in the future.

“The addition of women’s changerooms will also benefit our female sportspeople, umpires and volunteers, and encourage them to participate in our various sporting clubs in greater numbers,” Mr McCarthy said.

This followed the announcement of the Fish Creek FNC so that the club can return to normal club operations, with fully functioning facilities; a key priority of this tight-knit community.

Ms Aldred said, “I’ve heard from countless members of the local community and the Fish Creek FNC about the need for this rebuild after the rooms were destroyed by fire

in November 2023.

“This investment in Fish Creek will restore a vital community asset. Including men’s and women’s changing rooms, and social spaces for the Club.

“This project demonstrates that only the Liberal Party can deliver for our local communities.”

Fish Creek Football Netball Club Rebuild Committee member, Megan Vuillermin, was thankful for the funding commitment.

“We are so very grateful for the commitment from Mary Aldred and Shadow Finance Minister, Senator Jane Hume.

These commitments are part of the Coalition’s plan to strengthen local communities and get Australia back on track.



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Blue Mackerel Project Director Dave Ghaly, Minister for Climate Action and for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio and Country Manager of JERA Nex Anil Chanana after the tour of Fugro Mariner. A23_1025

Wind energy research project launches from Barry Beach

WITH the State Government fiercely advocating the importance of renewable energy, Minister for Climate Action and for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio was an interested visitor at Barry Beach marine terminal on Friday aboard a vessel that will be at the centre of an impending research project.

The Fugro Mariner is expected to spend three weeks at sea drilling for core samples that will be used to assess what support will be needed for offshore wind generation equipment.

Samples collected will be refrigerated and sent to a specialist laboratory in Perth, Western Australia for analysis.

Clive Bray, the Australian Mariner aboard the ship explained dynamic positioning will be used to ensure the Fugro Mariner is precisely located when drilling for samples, a previously conducted survey determining the exact spots it needs to be.

At the time of the ship tour, the vessel was expected to depart on March 9 or 10 to conduct the required geotechnical studies.

The research is being conducted on behalf of a wind energy generation proponent that hopes to establish

an offshore wind project off the coast of Gippsland, approximately 10 kilometres from Seaspray.

While that intended project comes under the name Blue Mackerel, Japanese company JERA Nex is behind it, through its wholly owned subsidiary Parkwind.

JERA Nex invests in, owns and operates a global portfolio of offshore wind, onshore wind, solar and battery storage projects.

Blue Mackerel Project Director Dave Ghaly explained the importance of the information gathered through the upcoming sampling project.

"We'll be using that to design our foundations to put the turbines on," he said.

Geotechnical Engineer Iwan Setiawan said detailed information will be recorded for each sample that will be linked to the precise location and depth from which it was obtained, with supporting photos to be taken.

Everything will be recorded electronically in a paperless environment.

Iwan will work alongside a Laboratory Technician who is responsible for conducting soil testing, with Iwan in charge of soil descriptions and

ensuring testing is done appropriately.

Those on the tour then ventured outside to where the ship's drilling infrastructure is located, hearing from Fugro's Business Manager – Marine Geotechnical Pacific, Luka Vrdoljak.

The tour helped reveal the extensive research required before it is determined which offshore wind energy projects will get the green light to proceed.

A commercial licence would be needed for each proposed project and research must support its viability.

"Only when the project is proven to be environmentally, technically and commercially viable will construction proceed," it is stated on the Blue Mackerel website.

The Australian Government granted 12 feasibility licences for offshore wind projects off Gippsland's coast, with the feasibility licence process highly competitive.

A feasibility licence lasts for up to seven years, allowing time for licence holders to explore the feasibility of their proposed offshore wind energy projects, seek environmental approvals and prepare a management plan.

Minister Lily D'Ambrosio pleased with project progress

STATE Government Minister for Climate Action and for Energy and Resources, Lily D'Ambrosio was delighted to inspect the Fugro Mariner on Friday while it was docked at South Gippsland's Barry Beach marine terminal.

"Today's a great day; effectively we're launching the vessel to go out and do the geotechnical work for the Blue Mackerel project, and that's its next significant step forward to creating the country's first offshore wind energy precinct," she said.

Ms D'Ambrosio reflected on the significance of the ship's mission.

"It's going to spend up to three weeks out in the ocean doing that geotechnical work that is so important to ensure that if the project were to proceed it would be built well and in a timely fashion, so it is a very exciting day," she declared.

The increasingly busy nature of Barry Beach and its potential role in the offshore wind energy sector will lead to great opportunities for the region in terms of jobs created, the Minister stressed.

"We're looking at Hastings in terms of the main assembly port but there will be the need for many ports," she said of the future offshore wind energy industry requirements, labelling Barry Beach as a great example.

"About 18 months or two years ago, Star of the South project was out here sending off a vessel to do some of the assessments out in the ocean and now we've got Blue Mackerel project out there too, so things are ramping up and it's exciting to see."

Ms D'Ambrosio noted the need for lots of skills

and trades to be involved in the complex offshore wind energy sector, acknowledging the importance of training and skills development but observing there is a great skills set in Victoria and particularly in Gippsland.

She highlighted local expertise in engineering and energy production.

"We're going to make sure those skills are transferrable to offshore wind," the Minister said.

The Victorian Government declared last August that it is paving the way for Gippsland's existing and future energy workforce to retool and upskill so they can take advantage of new opportunities that arise through the transition to renewables.

It launched a guide titled, 'Transition Opportunities: Coal to Offshore Wind', showing how workers in Gippsland's coal power industry can play a significant role in Victoria's new offshore wind energy generation sector.

That report follows on from an earlier one launched by TAFE Gippsland and titled 'Clean Economy Workforce Transition Framework for Gippsland'.

The report argues more than half of the workers at Yallourn power station can transfer to working in the offshore wind energy sector due to similar skills and qualifications.

It is also stated that of the training pathways required many are available through TAFE Gippsland.

"A mechanical fitter could train to be a wind turbine technician, marine fitter, deck mechanic or cable technician," it is noted by way of example.

Visit energyaustralia.com.au/offshorewindjobs for further information.

BlueMACKEREL

Notice of activity commencement

The proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project has commenced its Metocean and Geotechnical investigations.

These are being undertaken within Survey Area 1 – the 163km² feasibility licence area, approximately 6 nautical miles off Ninety Mile Beach between Woodside Beach and Seaspray, Victoria. Activities will also be undertaken in Survey Area 2 (under Marine and Coastal Act 2018 consent).

We have deployed flotational equipment to measure wind, waves, and currents, where they will remain for 1-2 years. As of 10 March, a specialised vessel will carry out detailed seabed investigations for up to 5 weeks (subject to weather conditions). This will provide essential data for our design, engineering, and environmental assessments.

No exclusion zones apply, but please maintain at least 500m clearance for safe maneuverability.

Connect

To register for updates, learn about future activities or more information, visit www.bluemackerel.com.au or email info@bluemackerel.com.au

We are working in partnership with the Gunaikurnai people, custodians of the Land and Sea Country on which Blue Mackerel is planned.



Where do they go?

- Glass Crockery and Window Glass

It is common knowledge that glass goes in your Recycle Bin, however, that is not always correct.

Glass crockery and window glass aren't supposed to go in your Recycle Bin. Why? Let us explain.

Different types of glass have different melting points, so when they get to the recycling facility and go through the process of being turned into something new, some of the glass will have melted and some won't. Only glass bottles and jars from food, drink, medicine and toiletries should be put in your Recycling Bin.

So, what types of glass need to go in your Rubbish Bin?

- **Drinking glasses (e.g. wine glasses and tumblers).**
- **Windows.**
- **Mirrors.**
- **Vases.**
- **Crystal.**
- **Glass cooking dishes**
- **Perfume bottles.**

To find out more about what can go in your Recycle (yellow-lidded) Bin, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling or scan the QR code.



Top Tip

Crockery & Window Glass should go in your **Rubbish (red-lidded) Bin.**



Small acts make a big impact.

These items cannot be put in your mixed recycling bin: glass crockery and window glass, shredded paper, tissues and paper towels, recycling in plastic bags and soft plastics.

These items can make it harder to sort the recyclable material and turn them into new things.

Find out more: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling





Leongatha RSL's Kate Gourlay was named the Loyalty Champion of the Year at the recent RSL Victoria Hall of Fame awards night.

Loyalty royalty, Kate Gourlay reigns

ON FEBRUARY 15, ten members of the Leongatha RSL team headed to Frankston RSL for the prestigious RSL Victoria Hall of Fame awards night. Held annually, the Hall of Fame Awards Night celebrates and recognises the hard work and dedication of those who work and volunteer for the organisation. This year Leongatha RSL's very own Kate Gourlay took out the Loyalty Champion of the Year Award.

Kate was nominated for a program that included a three-day conference in Brisbane and monthly Zoom training on loyalty, promotions, and rewards before implementing a successful promotion at their own sub-branch. Kate, along with other team members of the Leongatha RSL successfully organised Leongatha's Monster Membership Month, Fuel Fairy and Community Raffles Nights as her project. After presenting the project including the data and learnings that came from it, the winner of the award was announced. Leongatha team members who went along had a great night and congratulated Kate in style.

• FAITH FACTOR

Making a Difference

By Father Darren Howie, Parish Priest, St Joseph's Parish, Wonthaggi

WE HAVE just had Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Why? Jesus himself summarised the commandments as, "You shall love the Lord your God, with your whole soul, mind, body and strength, and your neighbour as yourself."

God will always love us, but we can lose sight of the love of God by the worries of life, and the apparent cruelty of people who claim to be believers. Prayerful reflection on Christ's life helps us to see that we are not the only ones who have had these struggles as we journey towards Easter.

Prayer, in spite of the fact it can't be scientifically verified, gives me and countless others a visceral sense of the love and presence of God.

Fasting, in a nutshell, is learning to be able to say no. The reality is we are not always successful with our good resolutions in spite of our best intentions.

Let's be honest now, how many times have you had the extra biscuit or ice cream? Reflecting on our failings can help us to be charitable-minded towards people we may find challenging. Almsgiving, in summary, is the charitable works and actions Christians carry out during Lent. It may be prayer, acts of kindness, or contributions in money or in kind to those in need. Almsgiving helps people to look outwards and upon reflection to be grateful for the many good things they have in their lives, for example, many Australians find volunteering to be rewarding and life-giving. When Christians carry out prayer, fasting and almsgiving it helps them realise that they are meant to be the salt of the earth, that they can make a difference, and countless Christians have made a difference.



Lynn Mizen acting President Warragul RSL, Keith Wolahan MP, veteran and Federal Liberal Member for Menzies, Mary Aldred Liberal Candidate for Monash and Lindsay Guerin Inverloch RSL and member of the Victorian RSL State Executive. B30_1025

Hands off Department of Veterans Affairs Liberals told

LIBERAL MPs and Liberal Federal candidate for Monash Mary Aldred have been told to keep their hands off the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

With Liberal Leader Peter Dutton threatening to cut 36,000 public servant jobs if elected local RSL sub-branches in Inverloch and Warragul fear DVA jobs and services for veterans will be axed under a coalition government.

Gathered at the Warragul RSL to hear the concerns of RSL members, Keith Wolahan MP Federal Liberal Member for Menzies and veteran of Timor-Leste and Afghanistan, Mary Aldred Liberal Candidate for Monash, Wayne Farnham State Liberal MP for Narracan and online Tim Bull MP Nationals State Member for Gippsland East and Shadow Minister for Veterans listened compassionately to the RSL's demands.

Inverloch RSL member and member of the RSL State Executive Lindsay Guerin said when the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide concluded there was a backlog of 40,000 claims with DVA.

"The backlog has barely been cleared," said Mr Guerin.

Veterans are committing suicide at the rate of three a week according to the RSL.

"Many are veterans from Afghanistan in their 40s."

Lynn Mizen Acting President

of the Warragul RSL and a member of the RSL State Executive said the problem is not going away.

"It is hard when the RSL is run by volunteers.

"Dealing with the problems of veterans puts a strain on RSL members when many are ageing themselves."

Mr Guerin stated the system is broken.

"Veterans deserve better than what is on offer.

"The RSL has a role to play in picking up the baton and running with it. We cannot ignore veterans."

Veteran Bill Westhead representing six generations of his family serving with the Australian defence forces said he was alarmed when he heard 36,000 public service jobs would be cut.

"The RSL says no cuts, we can't let it happen again."

Mr Westhead said not everyone is a success story.

"Many veterans experience illness," said Mr Westhead.

"Any cuts would be deleterious to veterans now and in the future."

Mr Westhead said he felt guilty as an officer to see veterans in pain.

The reality of service, according to Mr Westhead, is a better than 100 per cent chance of being injured, perhaps a number of times.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is the first port of call,

not the RSL.

Mr Westhead acknowledged veterans can be difficult people, stating, "We don't take no for an answer."

Australia needs more service personnel for national security, but the ADF is not considered a preferred employer because it does not look after its people.

Most of the recommendations of the Royal Commission remain unfunded and unstaffed according to the RSL.

"There is no face-to-face case management with DVA," said Mr Westhead.

"The behaviour of some stakeholders has been callous, dismissive and uncaring, leading to suicide or suicidal behaviour. Make cuts at your own peril," he warned.

"DVA needs more staff not less."

Keith Wolahan MP Federal Liberal Member for Menzies and a veteran of Timor-Leste and Afghanistan told the RSL there needed to be dialogue with veterans.

"This is a country worth fighting for," said Mr Wolahan.

"Zero cuts to frontline services."

Mr Wolahan said he wanted to increase frontline services, particularly for veterans.

"We're here to listen and take notes," he said.

"Mary will never be shy about knocking on doors."

Mr Wolahan remarked that

he personally had struggled with his identity as a veteran.

State Liberal MP for Narracan Wayne Farnham asking what could be done at a state level was told veterans needed a range of support services from the State Government including medical.

A number of support services are available over the phone or online.

Open Arms is a free 24/7 counselling service for veterans, call any time on 1800 011 046 or go to openarms.gov.au.

StandBy National is 24/7 program dedicated to assisting people and communities impacted by suicide, call any time on 1300 727 247 or go to standbysupport.com.au.

Lifeline is a 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention service, call 13 11 14, text 0477 13 11 14 or chat online 7pm to midnight, 7 nights a week at lifeline.org.au.

Kids Helpline provides support for kids, teens, young adults, parents and teachers, call 1800 55 1800 or go to kidshelpline.com.au.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has an all-hours support line on 1800 628 036 or online at dva.gov.au.

Suicide Call Back Service is a 24/7 phone and online counselling service for people affected by suicide, call 1300 659 467 or go to suicidecallbackservice.org.au.



LIFE Moments

80th birthday celebrations for Laurie

IT WAS already busy in Cowes, ahead of the long weekend, last Wednesday night at the Phillip Island RSL as early arrivals for the classic cars event and participants in 2025 Austin Healey National Rally mixed with locals for dinner.

And the guest of honour was Laurie Bale of Rhyll with his partner Anne and friends celebrating his 80th birthday, for Thursday, March 6, with dinner and a birthday cake provided by the RSL.

Wonthaggi Toyota

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19,990 DRIVE AWAY

69,997kms, 6 speed auto SUV
SN: W102024



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V8

2020 Ford Mustang GT FN

65,990 DRIVE AWAY

40,637kms, 6 speed manual coupe
SN: W102022



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2017 Mazda CX-3 Maxx DK

19,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2017 Toyota RAV4 GX

26,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2019 Mazda CX-5 Maxx Sport KF

30,990 DRIVE AWAY

45,172kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV
SN: W102021



TOP OF
THE RANGE

2018 Holden Calais V ZB

22,990 DRIVE AWAY

118,058kms, 9 speed sports auto
hatch SN: W102006



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2012 Toyota RAV4 CV

16,990 DRIVE AWAY

155,652kms, 4 speed auto 4x4 SUV
SN: W101984



PRICE
DROP

2016 Holden
Commodore Evoke VF Series II

17,990 DRIVE AWAY

165,520kms, 6 speed sports auto
wagon SN: W101645

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2023 Mitsubishi
Outlander Aspire ZM

47,990 DRIVE AWAY

105kms, 8 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV
DHM 269



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2016 Mitsubishi ASX LS XB

15,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Toyota
Landcruiser Prado GXL

51,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



HYBRID

2019 Toyota Camry Ascent

30,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Ford Ranger XLT PX MkIII

44,990 DRIVE AWAY

62,673kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab SN: L101273



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Toyota Hiace LWB

33,490 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Ford Ranger
Wildtrak PX MkIII

37,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Toyota
Landcruiser Prado GXL

63,990 DRIVE AWAY

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

Wonthaggi Toyota

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

Leongatha Toyota

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OH WHAT A FEELING

* Disclaimer: If the price does not contain the notation that it is "Driveaway*", the price may not include additional costs, such as stamp duty and other government charges.

Inverloch Equinox Festival 21-23 March



Mr Marvel will delight young audiences from 4pm on Saturday at The Glade.

Exciting adventures await

FAMILIES heading to the Inverloch Equinox Festival are in for a weekend packed with fun, adventure, and hands-on experiences for kids of all ages!

From wildlife encounters and circus tricks to dinosaurs, pony rides, face painting, and rock pool rambles, there's something for every young explorer.

Friday – Wildlife of the night

Kick off the festival with a magical nocturnal walk led by the South Gippsland Conservation Society. Discover the creatures that come to life after dark in this fascinating guided experience.

Saturday morning – Ponies, dinosaurs and shells (ticketed events, costs apply)

Start the morning with a pony ride at Wattle Bank Farm from 9am or join a Dinosaur Discovery Adventure at 9.30am – perfect for budding paleontologists! Prefer the ocean? The Inverloch Shell Museum opens at 10am (until 7pm) for a gold coin donation kids can explore the wonders of the deep.

Saturday afternoon – Festival fun at The Glade (from 4pm)

The festival's main event kicks off in The Glade when Mr Marvel arrives with his circus tricks and giant bubbles! Kids can also:

- Tie knots and explore the SES boat
- Build and create with the Men's Shed
- Hunt for treasures in the scavenger hunt
- Test their agility on the rock-climbing wall (donation to Inverloch Scouts)
- Get their faces painted! A face painting station will be available for a small fee, adding a splash of colour and fun to the day.

Saturday Night – Didgeridoo and Fire Show

After an action-packed day (and maybe a twisty potato or two!), settle in for a mesmerising Didgeridoo & Fire Show at the Sound Shell.

Sunday Morning – Rock Pool Ramble (10.30am)

The festival isn't over yet! Bright and early on Sunday, kids can sign up for a guided Rock Pool Ramble to discover the hidden marine life of Inverloch's stunning coastline.

With a huge variety of activities, interactive experiences, and hands-on learning, the Inverloch Equinox Festival is set to be a memorable weekend for families. Mark your calendars and get ready for a celebration of nature, creativity, and community fun!

To find out more about the kids activities and make bookings for the ticketed events head to the Festival Website and scroll to Kids Activities inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au.

Glade Gala Night – Free live music & entertainment!

THE Inverloch Equinox Festival is bringing the town to life with a huge, free community celebration at Glade Gala Night, happening Saturday, March 22 from 4pm to 9.30pm at The Glade.

This must-attend event is all about live music, connection, and unforgettable entertainment, featuring an epic lineup of local talent, plus family-friendly activities and plenty of festival magic.

New additions to the lineup

Zennith Paradox, 4pm – Representing FReeZA, this amazingly talented local youth band will open the Glade Gala Night with a high-energy set. Known for their confidence, talent, and musical experience beyond their years, Zennith Paradox delivers a polished, dynamic sound that's guaranteed to get the festival started in style.

Mr Marvel's Circus Show, 4pm to 5.15pm – Free family fun with circus tricks, giant bubbles, and interactive performances that will wow kids and adults alike!

Main Stage highlights:

- Ganga Giri – 5.30pm

Kick off the evening with the electrifying beats of Ganga Giri,



Surfy-blues outfit Ozone Street Band will take to the stage on Saturday evening at 6.45pm.

whose powerful didgeridoo rhythms and contemporary fusion sounds will set the tone for an incredible night.

- Ozone Street – 6.45pm

Bass Coast's own four-piece surfy-blues outfit takes to the stage with their signature swampy blues, rock, and funk-infused grooves. Fresh from performances at Apocalypse Festival 2024 and Echuca Winter Bluesfest 2024, their gritty vocals, soulful guitar, and tight rhythm section will shake you to your bones.

- Fire Twirling Performance – 8pm

Prepare to be mesmerised as fire performers take the stage for a breathtaking, high-energy

show that will light up the night sky.

- Hot Tub Cover Band – 8.45pm

Local Inverloch legends Hot Tub Cover Band bring non-stop party vibes, delivering all your favourite hits with energy, enthusiasm, and a whole lot of fun. These crowd-favourites know how to get the dancefloor pumping, so "Get in the Tub!" and sing along to classics from every decade.

Food trucks, market stalls & kids' activities

Enjoy delicious food, browse market stalls, and keep the little ones entertained with a variety of family-friendly

activities happening throughout the evening.

More to explore after dark

When the music winds down, the adventure continues! Join an after-dark town tour to uncover Inverloch's secrets.

Explore the coastline by moonlight

Stargaze at the 'Inverloch Under The Stars' event hosted by the Victorian Astronomical Society.

For the full festival lineup, visit inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au. Don't miss this incredible night of free entertainment – bring your friends, family, and dancing shoes!

Discover the magic of the new Screw Creek Interpretive Trail

NATURE lovers, history buffs, and adventure seekers – this one's for you!

The newly opened Screw Creek Interpretive Trail is a must-visit, offering a stunning blend of natural beauty, history, and wildlife. As part of the Inverloch Equinox Festival, you're invited to join guided walks on Saturday and Sunday mornings, where you'll uncover the hidden wonders of this breathtaking coastal reserve.

The Screw Creek Interpretive Trail extends the existing Screw Creek Nature Walk,

offering an even richer experience of this stunning coastal reserve. After exploring the new trail, you will link back to the original Screw Creek Nature Walk taking in spectacular old-growth trees where you'll be rewarded with remarkable views over Anderson Inlet, Venus Bay, and Point Smythe as far as Eagle's Nest and, if the tide allows, take the scenic return journey along the sand, watching tiny mud crabs dance in perfect synchrony.

This two-hour guided session is an immersive experience. With directional bollards and

QR codes revealing the area's rich Indigenous, environmental, and historical significance, every step tells a story.

The Screw Creek Trail was saved from development thanks to an incredible community effort and now stands as Bass Coast's newest wildlife refuge. Special thanks to Project Coordinator John Cuttriss and all those who made this vision a reality.

Whether you're a local or visiting for the festival, don't miss this opportunity to connect with nature, soak in the scenery, and celebrate the

equinox in one of Inverloch's most serene landscapes. Please note the new trail is in a conservation zone so dogs are not permitted on this guided tour.

Saturday and Sunday morning

Screw Creek Trail – Inverloch.

Tickets to join the two-hour guided walk are just \$22. More info at inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au.

Step into the wild, breathe in the fresh air, and celebrate the season of balance and renewal in nature's embrace!

Immerse yourself in renewal

ON SATURDAY, March 22, the Wellbeing Expo will transform The Hub in Inverloch into a holistic sanctuary of relaxation, renewal, and self-care. As a feature event of the Inverloch Equinox Festival, this dedicated Holistic Wellbeing Hub is inspired by the balance of the Autumn Equinox, offering a space to reconnect with mind, body and spirit.

Experience modern and ancient healing practices

Step into a world of wellbeing including remedial massage, Mizan abdominal therapy, iridology, Zenthai Shiatsu, sound healing, kinesiology, tarot readings, and interactive workshops. With the soothing aroma of essential oils, vibrant wellness stalls, and a welcoming atmosphere, the expo provides new knowledge, insights and healing opportunities. It allows community and visitors the chance to connect with practitioners and experience new ways to

enhance their wellbeing, explore holistic practices and discover tools for a healthier, more balanced life.

For just a \$5 entry fee, attendees gain access to over 10 free workshops led by exceptional practitioners, guiding guests through transformative healing modalities such as holotropic breathwork, mindful fascial maneuvers, sound healing, Zenthai massage techniques, and more.

A Deeply Transformative Evening Experience

As the day draws to a close, the Wellbeing Expo will culminate in an extraordinary ticketed event: Sound, Movement & Meditation – A Deeply Transformative Experience. This immersive evening of drumming, movement, elemental embodiment, self-massage, and sound healing invites attendees to embrace the themes of balance, release and renewal.

Led by Jess, Kerryn,



Ashleigh and Samantha will join Jess and Kerryn through a deeply transformative guided session on Saturday evening.

Ashleigh, and Samantha, each a master in their field, this guided session will realign your energy and deepen your connection to self. You must purchase a separate ticket to participate.

The Evening Flow includes: Guided movement and drumming – Release and cleanse

Sound and breathwork – Flow with elemental energy

Self-massage and stillness – Sink into relaxation

Meditation and sound bath – A deeply intuitive journey

Limited spaces available for the Evening Experience – secure your ticket now to complete your Wellbeing Expo experience.

Inverloch Equinox Festival 21-23 March

Reconnect at the Inverloch Equinox Festival

THE Inverloch Equinox Festival is more than just an event – it's a celebration of balance, renewal, and our deep connection with nature. Across the weekend, festivalgoers will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the outdoors, experience the magic of the changing seasons, and engage in activities that restore the mind, body, and spirit.

From sunset beach bootcamps to stargazing, guided nature trails, bush poetry by the fire, this year's festival offers countless ways to reconnect with the natural world. Here are some highlights to help plan your weekend.

Friday – Sunset, movement and nature at night

- 6pm – Kickstart the festival with a free Beach Bootcamp on the Inverloch Foreshore – move, breathe, and take in the stunning sunset.
- 7pm – Head to Wattle Bank Farm to enjoy bush poetry by the fire, sip on warming soup, and soak in the serenity.
- 7 pm – Ease into the night with a Flow Stretch Class on the Foreshore led by Sophie Jo from Body and Flow – a unique blend of movement, breathwork, and relaxation.
- 7.15pm – Feel the fresh grass beneath your feet with Barefoot Bowling under the lights at The Inverloch Bowling Club.
- After Dark – Grab a torch for Nocturnal Walks, After-Dark Tours, and Stargazing – a chance to experience Inverloch's

hidden nightlife in the company of experts.

Saturday – Sunrise movement and a guided nature experience

- Early Morning Flow Class – Start your day with a gentle flow session on the shore – stretch, move, and welcome the morning light.
- Guided Tour of the newly opened Screw Creek Interpretive Trail – Explore this stunning coastal and bushland trail with experts from the South Gippsland Conservation Society. Learn about the local ecosystem, birdlife, and tidal wetlands in this exclusive festival highlight.

Sunday – Meditation and horses

- 9am at Wattle Bank Farm – Start the day in the most peaceful way possible – meditate with horses and experience a profound sense of connection with these majestic animals and the natural world around you.

And so much more!

Whether it's breathing in the ocean air, stretching under the open sky, exploring local trails, or simply sitting around a fire with good company, the Inverloch Equinox Festival offers endless ways to slow down, tune in, and embrace the beauty of nature.

Join us for a weekend of connection, renewal, and natural wonder!
Head to the website to find out more inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au.



Ashleigh Urry from Aligned by Nature leads an Equine Energetics Workshop at the Inverloch Wellbeing Expo, exploring the healing bond between humans and horses.



For a small donation, take to the Scouts climbing wall during the festival.

Connect with nature

THE Inverloch Equinox Festival celebrates our deep connection to nature – and for many, this bond is found through relationships with animals. Throughout the festival weekend, Wattle Bank Farm will host three special events where you can experience this connection firsthand:

- Friday night – Enjoy an evening of bush poetry with horses, a unique and soulful experience.
- Saturday morning – Delight the little ones with pony rides at the farm gate.
- Sunday morning – Immerse yourself in Walk, Journal & Meditate with Horses, a reflective and calming session.

As part of the Inverloch Wellbeing Expo, Ashleigh Urry from Aligned by Nature will lead an Equine Energetics Workshop, exploring how horses create a healing space for humans.

This session delves into the energetic connection between humans and horses, the science behind co-regulation, and the ancient wisdom of human-horse partnerships. Learn how these magnificent animals can teach us grounding techniques, emotional regulation, and life skills through their intuitive nature.

Book tickets for the workshop by purchasing a ticket to the Wellbeing Expo.

Book Wattle Bank Farm experiences directly or via the Equinox website.

Author talk

AS PART of the Inverloch Equinox Festival, don't miss this extraordinary free author talk at the Inverloch Library!

Renowned writers Anne Buist (Locked Ward) and Graeme Simsion (The Rosie Project) will discuss their latest book, The Oasis, along with insights on writing, mental health, and what's next for them.

The duo will also be interviewed by well-known literature podcaster Remi Pearson and signed copies of their books will be available for purchase.

Inverloch is privileged to welcome these acclaimed authors in support of the festival's focus on wellbeing and connection, come along, be inspired, and be part of the conversation!

Inverloch EQUINOX FESTIVAL 21-23 March

- WELLBEING EXPO
- FREE GALA EVENT THE GLADE
- LIVE LOCAL MUSIC & DIDGERIDOO BEATS
- TASTY FOOD TRUCKS & MARKET STALLS
- ADULT CHILL ZONE, KIDS ACTIVITIES
- FIRE SHOW TO LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

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- GUIDED NATURE WALKS
- SUNDAY MARKET
- PLUS SO MUCH MORE

inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au





International Women's Day

Saturday, March 8, 2025



Helen, Jackie, and Rochelle are working to end period poverty, and are welcoming the community to donate sanitary items to keep up with the rise in demand.

Donate to help those facing period poverty

THIS March, Share the Dignity is celebrating 10 years of working to end period poverty in Australia, however after a decade working to ensure dignified access to period products, Share the Dignity continues to see the demand rise to new heights.

Share the Dignity founder and managing director, Rochelle Courtney said despite all the incredible support the charity receives, the cost-of-living crisis in Australia continues to impact those experiencing period poverty.

"We've accomplished so much over the last 10 years and I'm so proud of the work that we've done, but there is still so much more to do," Ms Courtenay said.

Share the Dignity is collecting period products and incontinence aids this March, which can be donated in the pink collection boxes at all Woolworths Supermarkets Australia-wide.

Woolworths will also donate five cents from the sale of every period product purchased throughout March, adding to the \$3,157,033 already donated since the partnership started in 2019. Thanks to these Woolworths donations, Share the Dignity has been able to install and maintain 107 Dignity Vending Machines which dispense free period packs to those in need in the community.

This support helps to ensure those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, domestic violence or poverty don't have to risk their health and go through the indignity of using other items in place of period products.

All period products and incontinence aids collected through the Dignity Drive will be distributed to Share the Dignity's 3000+ charity partners, including community groups, domestic violence refugees, homeless shelters and other organisations supporting our most vulnerable community members.

Trailblazing women celebrated with new artworks

ADVOCATES, artists and agitators will be celebrated in six new public artworks across the state as part of the Victorian Women's Public Art Program.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale today celebrated International Women's Day by announcing that Bass Coast Shire Council was successful in their application for funding through the Victorian Women's Public Art program to develop a public artwork titled "Pennies in the Petties".

The Wonthaggi Miners Women's Auxiliary (WMWA) founding members were a group of striking miners' wives, led by Secretary Agnes Chambers and Agnes Doig.

The Auxiliary was a trailblazing collective that delivered an amazing legacy for the district but also played a nationally significant role in the union and strike movements. They advocated for women's rights, and in doing so, they demonstrated the political clout and influence women could have on public opinion and changing government policy.

Started in Wonthaggi in 1934 during a five-month coal miners' strike, the WMWA was the first women's auxiliary of a mining union. Its initial purpose was to raise funds and provide support for the miners who went on strike over decreased pay and poor working conditions.

There are many glorious stories of how the women hid the monies from the authorities during this time.

After the strike, the women continued to fundraise and fought for women's amenities in the area. They educated women on mining and political issues. They



It was a day for celebration as Bass Coast Shire celebrated alongside Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale. From left, Jordan Crugnale MP, General Manager Community & Culture Jodi Kennedy, Mayor Rochelle Halstead, CEO Greg Box and Cultural Program Coordinator David Burrows. C01_1025

lobbied for a maternity wing at the Miners' Hospital, a restroom for mothers and a kindergarten and public library.

"With our much-loved Union Theatre, steeped in extraordinary collectivism and nation-building history, celebrating its centenary this year, how magnificent that the determination, grit, persistence and legacy of the Miner's Auxiliary Women comes further to life in the form of a public artwork," Member for Bass Coast Jordan Crugnale said.

"A very heartfelt thank you to everyone that voted for this, Bass Coast Shire for driving the submission and their arts team for the vision, now to become a reality. We have a story to tell in Wonthaggi – and celebrating these women and their movement accentuates it even more."

This public artwork will be located at the entrance of the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre affectionately and originally known as The Union.

"Women's achievements have always been there, they've just never been seen – we're changing this in Victoria, recognising another six trailblazing Victorian women through our nation-leading Women's Public Art program," Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins added.

The Labor Government's Women's Public Art Program is investing \$1.2 million to deliver the six new pieces of art across the state, adding to the six delivered last year.

The 2025 Victorian Women's Public Art Program will recognise six inspirational stories including Aunt Margaret (Lillardia) Tucker MBE for her

work as an Aboriginal activist, working to found the Australian Aborigines League and becoming the first woman to sit on the Victorian Aboriginal Welfare Board in 1964.

Other stories selected in the 2025 Victorian Women's Public Art Program include:

- Montsalvat Artist Community – Eltham
- Louisa Briggs – St Kilda Foreshore
- Barbara Rae – Bendigo
- Aunt Dorothy Peters AM – Knox

Recognising women's achievements and contributions in public spaces is an important part of the government's work towards a more equal Victoria.

For more information on the 2025 Victorian Women's Public Art Program visit vic.gov.au/victorian-womens-public-art-program.



It was all smiles for the ladies from the Office of Jordan Crugnale MP, pictured Nanette and Claire. C16_1025



Bass Coast Shire Council Coordinator Communications Nicola Glassey and founder of Green Wave Consulting Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs enjoying a fantastic afternoon at RACV Inverloch, celebrating the incredible women of Bass Coast. C17_1025

Celebrating the inspirational women in our modern world

MUSIC filled the air, delicious food was served and powerful words were spoken on stage at Bass Coast Shire Council's 2025 International Women's Day lunch; a spectacular sold-out event celebrating the many girls and women around the community.

Chair and founder of Empowered Women in Trades, and CEO of Reed Plumbing and Drainage Solutions Hacia Atherton spoke of her journey from trauma to triumph. Celebrating the little moments, which in her case included walking after a horse-riding accident, when she

had been told she would never be able to walk again.

"Positive psychology allows me to thrive, clinical psychology allows me to live," Hacia stated on stage.

"Gender doesn't dictate if I'm a good leader or not, and just because my gender is the only one in a lot of the rooms that I am in, doesn't mean I cannot add value."

Using the water bottle and cost in different circumstances analogy, Hacia noted "It's about finding the opportunities."

Hacia spoke of the small

percentage of women in trades and the challenges they often face, but instead of dwelling on the statistics, she highlighted the incredible opportunity Australia has to be world leaders in women in trade.

"We've got it to one per cent. When I started Empowered Women in Trades in 2020 it was 0.6 per cent. That's what we have to focus on, and that's what we have to celebrate as a country."

"We have a chance with our innovative thinking, the way that we're so courageous, the

way that we challenge the status quo, and we have done for many, many years, we have a chance to lead the world stage."

A very special table also sat with the future of women in trades with those currently undertaking traineeships and apprenticeships to those who have found their footing locally as a trades woman.

And whilst International Women's Day 2025 was March Forward, be a part of women joining the trades force and help unite and transform the industry with 30 per cent by 2030.

Crusin' down the Highway

IF YOU'RE casually crusin' around town, then this probably isn't for you, but if you are pushing the limits then it's time to read on.

Bass Coast Highway Patrol are taking no holds this March, with multiple operations in effect.

From March 21 to June 21, Operation Expeditiously will be targeting high speeds on rural roads across Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

Expeditiously comes as new figures released show the impact high-speed collisions are continuing to have on our roads.

Victorians on regional roads are more likely to be in a serious or fatal collision compared to drivers in the city.

Whilst many blame the poor state of our roads, which no-one is denying require upgrades, a majority of accidents occur due to driver error – whether that be speed, distraction, behaviour, fatigue or driving under the influence, or vehicle defects and weather.

Operation Outpost commenced back on February 28 and runs until April 12 with



Bass Coast Highway Patrol supported by police from across the region are out in force this March.

police targeting impaired driving in areas with licenced premises, both in marked and unmarked vehicles.

In other words, forget jumping in the car and driving after a drink or two. Call a mate, call a taxi, wake your folks up if you have to, and ensure you get home safely. It's not just about you getting home but also ensuring other road users make it to their

destination safely.

The Booze Bus will be on duty during this period, supporting deployments to ensure the safety of all motorists – a top priority for road policing.

Last, but not least, Operation Checkmate focuses on the two-wheels on our roads. Speed, licensing and behaviour take priority during this motorcycle driven operation

as police clamber down to understand the sudden increase in motorcycle collisions, particularly in Bass Coast.

And if nothing else is going to change your driving behaviour this Autumn, just remember it's not cheap if you get caught.

A 44-year-old male from Cowes found out about these operations the hard way on the evening of February 28, driving on a suspended licence, he was charged and his car has been impounded. He is one of many.

On March 8, at 5.40am another 44-year-old male was caught in Dalyston travelling at 130km/h in a 60km/h zone. His vehicle was impounded at a cost of \$1275 and will face Korumburra Magistrates Court.

On the same shift, police also nabbed a vehicle travelling at 128km/h in a 100km/h zone on the Bass Highway at Inverloch, a vehicle traveling at 114km/h in an 80 zone on the Bass Highway at Anderson and a vehicle travelling at 117km/h in a 60 zone on the Bass Highway at Grantville.



Sam Gatto recognised for the work of Victorian community history.

Local histories shortlisted for award

THE state government is celebrating the work of Victorian community historians with the shortlist of the 2024 Victorian Community History Awards revealed on March 4, 2025.

Minister for Government Services Natalie Hutchins announced 39 history publications and projects have been shortlisted across 11 prize categories including the Victorian Premier's History Award.

Each nominee has shared the history of Victoria, including maritime and war histories, women's histories, local stories and Indigenous history.

Among the shortlist are these fascinating local histories:

Wallace Avenue Community Park Inverloch A Short History by J. M. Anderson.

The history of the Wallace Avenue Park Inverloch was almost lost, the park under threat of residential development. But a handful of volunteers fought to save and develop the park, a legacy for future generations. An inspiring success story, this book takes us on a journey that began in 1987.

As well as, Aspects of Wonthaggi's History through Street and Place Names by Sebastian J. (Sam) Gatto.

A unique approach to telling the history of the State Coal Mining town of Wonthaggi, detailing the stories behind the people the town's streets are named after (1909-2020), while describing its establishment and development within the local and broader historical context.

Sam Gatto was surprised to learn that his book had been shortlisted for the award.

"This achievement is not only a personal honour but also a significant recognition for the town and society."

All shortlisted nominees are up for prizes ranging from \$500 to \$2000 – with one to be named the winner of the \$5000 Victorian Premier's History Award.

The Victorian Community History Awards are presented by the Public Record Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and supported by the State Government.

A full list of nominees is available at: prov.vic.gov.au.

Volunteers help patients access dialysis at Wonthaggi Hospital

BASS Coast Health (BCH) is easing the burden of accessing care for patients in need of haemodialysis in South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

BCH, together with Monash Health, provides a haemodialysis service for patients with end-stage kidney disease, and also offers a transport service to get patients to and from Wonthaggi Hospital for care.

Dialysis cleans toxins from the blood of patients, performing the blood cleansing function usually provided by the kidneys.

With World Kidney Day on Thursday, March 13, it's timely to note that in 2024, BCH delivered more than 3000 dialysis sessions to patients. Without this treatment, they would not survive.

Patients are typically treated for five hours, three times a week, while their blood is filtered by a machine that performs the function of a kidney.

Patient Alan Farrow of Coronet Bay appreciates the convenience of the service at Wonthaggi Hospital, as well as the service of BCH's Volunteer Transport Drivers who take



Dialysis patient Alan Farrow is driven home from dialysis at Wonthaggi Hospital by Volunteer Transport Driver Anne Marie.

him home after dialysis.

"When I haven't driven for eight months, I find the transport service very handy, very good. The drivers are so friendly," he said.

"I've been coming to Wonthaggi Hospital for dialysis for two-and-a-half years. They're fantastic. They make you special and they're so personable."

Haemodialysis Ward Nurse Unit Manager Christie McKellar said dialysis patients range in age.

"It's a rewarding service to be able to provide this vital care to our patients, and to be able to provide the emotional support and education they need," she said.

The Haemodialysis service at Wonthaggi Hospital operates

from Monday to Saturday. To book dialysis treatment at Wonthaggi Hospital, phone 5671 3309. To receive dialysis, patients need to be referred by their Nephrologist and come through a referral pathway via Monash Health.

Transport is arranged between the Haemodialysis and Volunteer Transport Service teams at BCH.

Donation helps to build schools and equip students overseas

SINCE 2003 the Hendry family have been raising money to build schools in Vietnam and Cambodia as well as providing bikes for the students to attend school.

This charitable act has made a measurable difference to the student's education as well as to the families and the community at large.

The Outtrim Masonic Lodge and the Duke of Connaught Lodge based in Korumburra, received a request from Tad Hendry, one of the organisers behind the scheme, for additional funds required for repairs and refurbishment of those schools.

The Master of the Duke of Connaught Brian Brown subsequently presented a cheque

to the value of \$1500 to Outtrim member Hugh Hendry to be passed on to his son Tad.

Education is one of the cornerstones of Freemasonry and members believe it is the key to unlocking the bonds of poverty and improving the community at large.

Although not a large sum in the Freemasons view, it will go a very long way when used at its destination.

RIGHT: The Master of the Duke of Connaught Brian Brown presents a cheque to the value of \$1500 to Outtrim member Hugh Hendry to be passed on to his son Tad to help build schools in Vietnam and Cambodia.



LIFE Moments

SONNIE Patrick Barac was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on February 22, 2025, weighing 3.8 kilograms. Sonnie is a son for Tim Barac and Paige Reese of Dalyston, and a brother for Millah, 4, and Archie, 2.

Send your photos to news@sgst.com.au



Water and wastewater trainee Harry at the Gippsland Water Factory.

Fulfilling careers flow at Gippsland Water

GIPPSLAND Water's first VCE Vocational Major work experience student has entered the next stage of their career in the water industry, as a water and wastewater trainee.

Former Kurnai College student Harry completed his VCE studies last year and has successfully secured a two-year traineeship.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said Harry was the first student to take the career pathway with Gippsland Water.

"It's fantastic to see the first of our vocational major work experience students transitioning into the next stage of their career with us," Ms Cumming said.

"As part his traineeship, Harry will complete rotations with our water and wastewater teams and gain a certificate in Water Industry Operations. To see a young person be so passionate about the water industry and take full advantage of the career pathways we offer is truly inspiring."

Harry said he was fortunate to secure three months of part-time work with Gippsland Water before starting his traineeship.

"I literally finished high school on the Friday and started at the Gippsland Water Factory on Monday," Harry said.

"Then I found out about the traineeship opportunities available and started the application process, which included submitting my resume and doing interviews. There hasn't been a dull day on the job so far, there's always something to do and new things to learn. When I finish my training, I'll have a qualification and lots of experience, which is great."

Ms Cumming said Gippsland Water offered several work experience opportunities each year.

"I'd encourage anyone looking to complete their VCE vocational major work experience with us to express interest early," Ms Cumming said. "We want to give each of our students as much hands-on experience possible, and by working alongside our experienced team, they get to learn new skills and build confidence in their abilities. We also offer work experience for Year 10 students and have university graduate and internship programs available."

Visit gippswater.com.au/careers.

Mirboo North to receive \$240k for maintenance

IT HAS been announced that Mirboo North Secondary College is one of the schools to receive funding from the State Government's Planned Maintenance Program.

The school has been allocated \$241,349.88 of funding through the program following an audit undertaken last year which seeks to address high priority items that have been identified. The program will enable the school to undertake essential work in classrooms and other school buildings such as fixing roofs and replacing windows, maintaining ramps, painting, and resurfacing floors, as well as some external works like improving pathways. Depending on the size and type of work to be undertaken, the State Government or the school manages the project.

Mirboo North Secondary College Principal Vaya Dauphin said the school had not been informed of the funding or planned works and consequently anticipate the Government will be managing the project and organising the maintenance work in this instance.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll said during the announcement, which was made in February.

"We are constantly reviewing our schools' buildings and facilities to make sure every single classroom is safe, engaging, and will complement the top-class education Victorian students deserve."



Bishop of Sale, Most Reverend Greg Bennet launches Project Compassion with student leaders from 11 local Catholic Schools across the Diocese of Sale.

Catholic Schools and Parishes spread hope through Project Compassion

CATHOLIC Bishop of Sale, Most Reverend Greg Bennet joined students, teachers, and guests from school and parish communities to mark the beginning of Lent and to officially launch the 2025 Project Compassion appeal in the Diocese of Sale.

This year's launch of the annual Caritas fundraiser was held at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Leongatha.

Each year during the season of Lent, Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australian schools and parishes to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities to help end poverty, promote justice, and uphold dignity.

The theme of Project Compassion 2025 is Unite Against

Poverty. As Catholic communities celebrate a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme Pilgrims of Hope, Caritas invites people to action the theme of Hope by coming together to Unite Against Poverty. Actions taken today can make a lasting difference for future generations.

During Lent, parishes and Catholic schools are encouraged to donate and host fundraisers in the name of Project Compassion. Funds raised will support Caritas' work in assisting vulnerable and needy communities both in Australia and overseas.

Student leaders from seven Catholic Secondary Colleges and four Catholic primary schools in the Diocese of Sale joined the launch. Secondary colleges included Mary

MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Leongatha; Marist Sion College, Warragul; St Peter's College, Cranbourne; St Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield; Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon; Catholic College Sale and Nagle College, Bairnsdale. Primary schools included St Laurence O'Toole Primary School, Leongatha; St Joseph's Primary School, Korumburra, St Joseph's School, Wonthaggi; and St John the Baptist Primary School, Koo Wee Rup.

Each school representative received a Caritas candle to take back to their schools, presented by Bishop Greg Bennet and Caritas Australia's Community Partnership Specialist Ms Sally Murphy.

Following the launch, Bishop Greg joined students,

staff, and guests for the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancakes. Students in schools across the Diocese also got into the spirit of Project Compassion holding pancake stalls in their schools to fundraise and mark Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday when the period of Lent begins.

Those wishing to support Project Compassion can download resources or join a Mission in Action Webinar to learn more about Caritas Australia's development programs at caritas.org.au/project-compassion.

To donate, look out for Project Compassion donation boxes in schools and parishes, visit the Caritas website, or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Local students earn mediation L and P plates for conflict resolution

"WHY won't my friends play with me?"

The big kid has just taken away a little kid's ball. The new student has been bullied. X keeps getting teased and called names. Y has been spreading rumours. And Z, you know, the story goes on!

These are a few of the unfortunate examples of poor behaviour among children. It happens occasionally, but it does happen.

For 22 years, three local schools have been doing something about it, with support from the Strzelecki Lions Club for 19 of those years. Lions' volunteers have been working with teachers and students from Poowong, Nyora and Loch schools to conduct Peer Mediation Training Workshops through on-ground assistance, dispensing little incentives to reward students and financial support for teacher back-up.

Over two days last week, some 44 students from Grade 5 became L-Platers and 34 Grade 6-ers earned their P-Plates. They'll go back to the schools to more confidently practice their skills and try their best to help out the younger kids.

"It's all about getting on



Local students have been learning conflict resolution skills thanks to support from Strzelecki Lions.

together in everyday life – learning some skills to enable peer support and help resolve some of the schoolyard and sporting conflicts," explained Strzelecki Lions member Russell Jones, who, with wife Allison, was helping out in two separate five-hour workshops last week.

Russell suggested that the workshops really showcase the highly skilled teachers at work, through role-playing; purposeful games; getting the best out of kids; noting individual behaviours; deflecting poor behaviour by encouraging good behaviour; inviting each to express themselves;

creating awareness; and building co-operation and confidence.

Allison Jones commented how exciting it was to watch the kids' demeanour change throughout the training day, as they learnt processes, developed skills, and became more confident and excited throughout the day.

"Of course, some problems must be resolved by the teachers, but most can be nipped in the bud and resolved early on by the children themselves," Loch teacher Mark Hunter said.

"The Mediation Training Workshop progresses through

understanding about and processes of active listening, peer support, learning about interaction issues, character traits and tools, building skills and the rules of mediation. Also knowing when to try to mediate and when not to! An issue may have to be referred to the teachers if the 'combatants' prefer. It's not surprising that many issues are resolved at this stage!"

Melissa MacQueen, from Poowong Consolidated School, observed how the impacts of the workshop and training were immediately obvious in the schoolyard through better school behaviour.

"But it also has an ongoing influence more broadly with the three schools backing the program up by announcements and further training through the entire school community. A nice indirect outcome is that students sometimes even take their knowledge home to be used in family disputes!"

The Mediation Training is funded via Strzelecki Lions initiatives such as the Loch Village Summer Markets.

Next market is April 13 at the Loch Railway Reserve, between 8am and 1pm-ish.



The February intake of Graduate Nurses and Midwives at Bass Coast Health includes, from left, Jo Johnston, Jessica Kaldvee, Kylie Walker, Will Brusamarello, Melissa Glasgow, Rachel Bott, Cathy Shea, Krista Campbell, Zoe Atkins, Tess Harland, Hayley Furnage and Orla Cummins.

BCH to welcome new nursing graduates

BASS Coast Health (BCH) has welcomed the first of two intakes of Graduate Nurses and Midwives for 2025.

A total of 20 Registered Nursing graduates, two Midwifery graduates and two Enrolled Nursing graduates will join BCH over two intakes, with the second intake to start in April.

The first intake of 12 nurses includes seven current staff members who have continued their education to become a Registered Nurse. The other five graduates are new to BCH, with one relocating from Queensland.

The February intake of

graduates have two, six-month rotations through Theatre, Emergency Department, District Nursing, Haemodialysis, Acute and Sub-Acute, and a 12-month rotation in Midwifery, as well as professional development days.

Kylie Walker has been with BCH since 2019, starting in Administration and then Medical Records, before becoming a Ward Clerk while studying to become an Enrolled Nurse. She was also part of BCH's COVID Testing Team and gained experience testing in BCH's testing tents, during community outbreaks.

Since graduating, Kylie has

been working on the Kodowlinun Acute Ward while studying to become a Registered Nurse.

"I enjoy supporting people when they can be at their most vulnerable, and I'm looking forward to my rotations in the Emergency Department and District Nursing," said Kylie.

Will Brusamarello returned to his hometown of Wonthaggi after studying a double degree in nursing and paramedicine at the Australian Catholic University, Ballarat.

"It's nice to be able to come home and care for my community," he said, ahead of his rotations in the Emergency

Department and Kodowlinun Acute Ward.

Zoe Atkins has returned to BCH after enjoying her placement in the L. Rigby Cancer Centre last year while studying at Federation University.

"I just like all the people and also the diversity of experiences that Bass Coast Health offers," she said.

Zoe will undertake placements in our Sub-Acute ward and Emergency Department.

"I love nursing because I love socialising, I love helping people and I love being on my feet," she said.

"I also love work that is fast-paced and hands-on."

Gippsland now home to 100 general practices

GIPPSLAND'S primary care sector continues to evolve and expand, with the region reaching a new milestone with 100 general practices open throughout the region (including 13 sub-sites).

Several new general practices that recently opened their doors include:

- ZMedical, Leongatha
- West Gippsland Medical, Warragul
- DTSR Pty Ltd, Wonthaggi (primarily servicing Residential Aged Care Homes)
- Gippsland Family Clinic, Traralgon

General practice plays a vital role in keeping communities healthy, managing chronic conditions, and providing preventative care.

In the face of widespread concerns about the future of general practice,

Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch recognised how important and meaningful this achievement is for Gippsland.

"This milestone underscores the resilience and dedication of general practitioners, allied health professionals, practice nurses, and practice managers who work tirelessly to provide high-quality care to the community. We wouldn't be able to achieve this without their hard work."

"Geographic location remains a key barrier to primary care access, with fewer services available in rural and remote areas. By supporting existing general practices and facilitating the establishment of new ones across our region, we can ensure more individuals receive the care they need without the burden of long-distance travel," said Amanda.

To continue to build capacity and access to care, investment in GP recruitment, retention, and support remains critical. The dedication of healthcare professionals must be matched by policies and initiatives that move the community towards more sustainable models, such as connected care. This includes optimising available technology and digital tools given Gippsland's vast size, and the health workforce challenges common in regional areas.

Smoking health harms "worse than we thought," they say

THE scale of harm caused by smoking is higher than previously thought, according to new research from The Australian National University (ANU).

Tragically, an estimated 66 Australians a day, or more than 24,000 people a year, will die from smoking. It is well-known that smoking increases mortality, however to date, estimates of the number of Australian deaths caused by smoking have been based on international studies, as local data have not been available.

In this study 178,000 Australians, aged 45-74 were interviewed between 2005 and 2009 and followed until 2017. Providing detailed local evidence for the first time, this new research shows the harm is worse than indicated by the previous estimates of smoking-caused death of around 15,000 to 21,000 deaths a year.

The research finds that smoking increases the risk of dying from 23 common causes – including health harms related to the lungs, the heart and even the brain. The results also show that even low-level smoking can kill. Smoking 14 or fewer cigarettes a day increases the risk of dying from chronic lung disease by 20-fold and raises risk of lung cancer death 10-fold.

Whether it's your very first attempt to quit, or it's been years since you tried, quitting becomes more do-able if you get the right kind of help and take it one step at a time.

Milly inspires mission to raise money for the RCH

MILLY Wagenaar was just four months old when she began having up to 70 seizures a day, which required her to have surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital at the tender age of just 10 months old.

In an effort to help control the seizures, surgeons removed a brain lesion, however, the lesion was connected to Milly's right side, which would potentially leave her with a permanent disability.

It's a year since Milly underwent the surgery, which was followed by six weeks of intensive rehabilitation at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

"We had to stay at the hospital and do intensive rehab every day, trying to pretty much teach her brain to use her right side and to teach her how to crawl, because essentially, she lost all that as part of the surgery," explained Amy Wagenaar, Milly's Mum. "Then we got her to the stage where she was independently going into the right positions to be able to crawl, so we were able to go home."

Weekly physiotherapy and occupational therapy sessions ensued, as well as daily activities which have continued to help Milly recover, and the two year old is coming along in leaps and bounds.

"We got her to the stage where she could crawl independently and then that turned into walking as well," explained Amy.

The family's only concern



A team of nine will participate in the Run for the Kids run as part of 'Milly's Mission' to raise money for the Good Friday Appeal. Rory, Brett, Milly and Amy Wagenaar are pictured here in their team t-shirts.

is that Milly is not yet talking and they're not yet sure whether the surgery has affected her speech or vocal chords, but she works with a speech pathologist weekly, understands everything and communicates in other ways.

"She's still a cheeky two-year-old. She's really changed in terms of she's got that independence about her and her personalities coming out and she's just doing really well," explained Amy.

Milly continues to go for three monthly check ups at the RCH and to say thank you, give back and make sure other kids get the treatment they need at the RCH, Amy has

formed a team – called Milly's Mission – of nine people who will raise money by participating in Run for the Kids.

Run for the Kids is sponsored by the Herald Sun and Transurban with 100 per cent of the money raised going to the Good Friday Appeal and the Royal Children's Hospital.

There is a five-kilometre course and a 14-kilometre course and while Amy declared that she is not a jogger, she will complete 14 kilometres drawing inspiration from her two-year-old when training gets challenging.

"That's why I called it Milly's Mission, because she



Milly was just 10 months old when she underwent brain surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital.

went through a lot worse. She still got up every day, she still did the rehab. Even today she might have a sore leg, or it might be a bit tight, but she still walks and she doesn't let it get her down," said Amy.

"There's a lot of sick kids and the hospital still needs to keep going. So, it's not about us either. It's about trying to find that funding and resources for the kids that need it as well."

Run for the Kids will be held on Sunday, April 6. The goal of Milly's Mission is to raise \$1000.

To donate go to Herald Sun/Transurban Run for the Kids 2025 | Milly's Mission.



Know the amount of water you need for the marathon

WITH this weekend's Inverloch Running Festival forecast to be run in warm weather, runners have been advised to drink the appropriate amount of water based on their gender and predicted finishing time.

World renowned sport and exercise physician Dr Peter Brukner says most runners will not be able to drink more than 750ml of water every hour while they are running.

"Trying to drink more than this may cause vomiting which will increase dehydration even further," warned Dr Brukner.

Dr Brukner has advised runners to try and drink at least one litre of water before the start of the race to reduce the need to take on water as you run and use as many water-stops as possible to keep consistent proportions of salt and water in your system to reduce muscle cramps, nausea and dizziness.

The following recommendations are based on the entire day of the marathon not just the marathon itself.

Women taking five and a half hours to finish the race should drink 5.38 litres of water.

Women with 4 hours 30 minute finish time 4.83 litres of water, 4 hours finish time 4.56 litres of water, 3 hours 30 minute finish time 4.28 litres of water, 3 hours finish time 4.01 litres of water and 2 hours 30 minute finish time 3.40 litres of water.

Men taking 5 hours and 30 minutes to finish should drink 5.75 litres of water.

Men with 4 hours 30 minute finish time 5.20 litres of water, 4 hours finish time 4.92 litres of water, 3 hours 30 minute finish time 4.65 litres of water, 3 hours finish time 4.37 litres of water and 2 hours 30 minute finish time 3.73 litres of water.

These recommendations are based on an average 30-year-old woman and man weighing between 65 kg and 75 kg, respectively.

For personalised recommendations go to the water intake calculator at waterinaday.com.

According to Dr Brukner the need to maintain a consistent proportion of salt and water in your system also means that you should resist the temptation to drink as much water as fast as you can, when you finish the race.

"Try to keep your water consumption slow and steady throughout the day," said Dr Brukner.

The Inverloch Running Festival offers an exhilarating half marathon, a fast-paced 14-kilometre distance, a family-friendly five-kilometre run and a kids dash.

The festival promises something for everyone with a weekend of fun, fitness, and sea-side vibes.

The Inverloch Running Festival starts at 7am on Sunday, March 16 at The Glade.

Search Facebook for Inverloch Running Festival or Inverloch Run on Instagram.

Register for the race at inverloch.run.

Agnes lends a hand to growing family

FOR Eilis and Mitch, the prospect of a second child filled them with the usual amount of excitement, anxiety and wonder.

Being parents to a toddler already there was also some degree of confidence that having been through the pregnancy, delivery and bonding with a newborn, they at least knew what was coming their way.

The reality was slightly different however with Eilis feeling anxious and having difficulty with breast feeding new baby Maisie leading to other issues.

"The baby wasn't settling; I was getting anxious. I wasn't eating properly. It was a bit of a revolving cycle, and my mental health was taking a toll," Eilis said.

Following a visit to her maternal health nurse, Eilis and Maisie were admitted to the Agnes Parent and Infant Mental Health Unit at Latrobe Regional Health (LRH).

"We were able to get a bed very quickly with the support of the maternal health nurse and my GP. The process was pretty smooth and immediately helped just calm things down a little bit."

Given the disruption and anxiety already present for Eilis, Mitch was able to spend the first night with her and Maisie in the Agnes Unit.

"I really wanted him here, just to see how things were going



Mitch, baby Maisie and Eilis who recently had an admission to the Agnes Parent and Infant Mental Health Unit at LRH.

and help me and Maisie settle in. To have Mitch here the first night was a great help," Eilis said.

Mitch also appreciated the opportunity to be involved with Eilis and Maisie while they were in hospital.

"I felt very welcome by all the staff and the other patients. It was a real community feeling on the unit. I was able to pretty much come and go. I got involved in a couple of the groups and it was a good experience."

Agnes Nurse Unit Manager, Emma Vivian says Eilis's

experience is not uncommon where a new mum might be focussing on one aspect of their new role but see a bigger picture once admitted.

"We see it a lot. Once the mum gets that one-on-one time with staff they'll often see that it's not just about the feeding or the sleeping, there is other stuff going on which is stopping her from bonding with the baby and enjoying that special period in her and her infant's life."

Both Eilis and Mitch appreciate the role that the brief stay on Agnes has played in their

becoming a bigger family with Maisie's arrival.

"I definitely feel that if I hadn't come here, I'd be sitting at home with the same issues, sitting in the feeding chair and thinking 'I can't do this!' and that really scares me as it was such a bad place to be. My bond with Maisie is much stronger that it would have been and we're both so grateful for what the Agnes Unit has allowed us to become," Eilis said.

Enquiries and referrals can be made by contacting Agnes Unit directly on 5173 8553.

Sheryl enters her 45th year at Wonthaggi Hospital



Sheryl Mark is excited to start her 45th year at Bass Coast Health.

FEBRUARY 18 was a special day for Bass Coast Health's famous Printing Administrative Assistant Sheryl Mark – it was the start of her 45th year at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Sheryl was treated to a surprise morning tea by her colleagues to celebrate the occasion.

"The hospital staff have supported me and my family throughout my years here. The hospital has given me much joy in my roles helping in the community," she said.

Since joining the hospital team in 1980, Sheryl has worked in the general office on the phone at Davey House and then transferred to the

hospital as an Outpatient Clerk and then an Inpatient Clerk.

When the new hospital opened in the early 1990s, she went into Main Reception, including Finance, and now she's enjoying being part of the Health Information team.

"I like being with people and helping them all the time, bringing a smile and a 'hello' into people's lives," she said.

"In my current role, I like the enjoyment of helping the public and my colleagues throughout the hospital and other locations. It's very rewarding work at BCH."

Sheryl was born at Wonthaggi Hospital, not far from where she works now.

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Supporting mothers on their breastfeeding journey

IN A growing community like Bass Coast, where breastfeeding support can sometimes feel out of reach, Sarah Long is bridging the gap.

As a Registered Midwife and Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), Sarah has been offering private lactation support for the past two years at Empowered Lactation Consulting, a mobile servicer responding to a clear need for more accessible, personalised care for mothers and babies in the comfort of their own home.

"I saw the need for it down here," said Sarah.

"Unfortunately there was a gap where women weren't able to get support locally. That's really what drew me to do this."

For Sarah, her work isn't just about providing a service; it's about offering a safe space for women to receive the guidance they need during one of the most vulnerable, yet beautiful, times in their lives.

While Sarah is still employed as a registered midwife, she runs her lactation consultancy privately.

"I'm using my private business to fill the gap," Sarah explained. "I travel to families' homes and offer in-person consultations. For next year, I'm even looking at building a space in my own home to facilitate in-person sessions, but for now, the mobile service is great for mothers who find it hard to leave the house with toddlers or for other reasons."

Sarah offers a range of services, supporting mothers from newborns all the way to toddlers and beyond.

"I provide services for women



Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and registered midwife, Sarah Long providing in home support to mother Carly, and her new baby during their fourth trimester. Photo: Karli Michelle Photography.

who are breastfeeding up to three or four years old. I also assist with weaning, and everything in between," she said.

"I support women with all aspects of infant feeding – from breastfeeding to bottle feeding and even help with things like flange fitting for expressing milk. If a mother is experiencing challenges with her baby's digestion or weight gain, I'm here to help."

For Sarah, it's all about creating personalised care that aligns with each family's unique needs.

"I take a very gentle, hands-off approach to breastfeeding support. It's about educating and empowering women and tailoring advice to each mother's goal and situation," she explained.

As a mother of two, the need

for individual support became even clearer during Sarah's own experience.

"I know that many women face their own struggles with breastfeeding, especially in those first few months when it doesn't seem to go as smoothly as you hoped," she shared.

"Whether it be your first or your third baby, all mothers need to feel supported during that fourth trimester. Many face concerns when the baby has reflux and wind issues, or poor weight gain – and there is a need for them to simply feel less alone."

"In my two years as an LC, I've seen so many mothers come to me for various challenges."

As part of her commitment to offering postpartum support, Sarah also provides breastfeeding education antenatally.

"It's really important to set women up for success from the beginning," she said. "I provide education that prepares them for breastfeeding, just like preparing for labour. The more knowledge a woman has before giving birth, the more empowered and confident she'll feel when it's time to breastfeed."

Sarah's services also include helping mothers with expressing milk, choosing the right breast pump, and providing breast shield sizing.

"Sometimes, women don't realise that the wrong breast shield size can make a big difference in their comfort and success with expressing," she said.

When it comes to supporting mothers, Sarah provides a supportive and non-judgmental approach.

"Breastfeeding is not always easy, and it doesn't always go as planned. If a mother chooses to stop breastfeeding or transition to formula feeding, I'm here to support them through that decision," she said. "The mental health and well-being of the mother are the most important aspects to focus on. If continuing breastfeeding is causing stress and affecting mental health, then it's okay to reassess and change the plan."

Sarah's goal is always to ensure that women feel supported through the entire feeding journey – wherever it takes them.

"It's about empowering women to make the best choice for themselves and their baby."

For those who need support, and to learn more or book a consultation, visit empoweredlc.com.au.

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Supporting you matters to us

Exciting neurological health developments in nutritional medicine

BEFORE we dive into the exciting new developments/approaches/supplements used to support improvements in a range of Neurological Conditions first a reminder that – Nutritional Medicine uses a Holistic Approach to Health and Wellbeing. It looks to address the deeper upstream causes of your health issues/concerns.

Outside of purely genetic causes, neurological diseases/conditions are generally caused by environmental impacts – whether that be by sudden high

By Adrian Ward – Nutritional Medicine Practitioner, Leongatha Health Hub

impacts or an accumulation of chronic lifetime environmental toxicities, assaults, or nutritional and/or physical activity overloads or deficits.

An accumulation of stressors, and an undersupply of resources/nutrients causes deficits in our bodies capacity to protect and detoxify itself from toxins – external toxins, or internal toxins produced by the body, that the body loses

capacity to process properly.

This external and internal impacts can reduce the effectiveness of the natural barriers that our body has that stop unwanted substances from getting into sensitive areas. One of these barriers is the Blood Brain Barrier. Damage to this barrier can lead to a build up of unwanted materials in the brain leading to neurological inflammation and degeneration.

The good news is that much can be done to heal and regenerate the affected areas/

tissues/cells.

One exciting development has been a new product that is a natural precursor to an important component of the cellular membranes of white (connective) and grey (cognitive) matter in the brain. This product is already demonstrating amazing journeys of rediscovering health – including for those dealing with ASD, Parkinsons, MS, Alzheimer's.

Used as a part of a holistic nutritional medicine framework, the potential for healing is incredible.



Adrian Ward

Nutritional Medicine Practitioner

Comprehensive Healing Programs

Special Interests in ASD (Autism), ADHD, Alzheimer's, Parkinsons, & MS.

For Booking Information -

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- Postnatal Lactation Support
- Breast Pump Hire
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Sentinel-Times COMMENT

Stability needed when the going gets tough

YOU can always be critical of government, especially in these days of higher scrutiny by the media and also across social media, alerting the community to any shortcomings.

But you don't get the impression that the State Government, in particular, has a well-thought-out plan for just about anything, certainly not one they have communicated to or consulted with the community about.

And that goes for just about everything.

It's like the government is fighting internally with itself at the moment about policies brought in or tolerated during the Dan Andrews and Tim Pallas years, and needing to be changed under Jacinta Allan, Jaclyn Symes and co.

You'd certainly hope to see some honesty about the state's financial situation in the coming State Budget and some clear direction on the big ticket items including health and education.

You'd also like some honesty about how our transition to 95 per cent renewable energy by 2035 is progressing.

At the weekend, for example, the Premier said the bail laws clearly weren't working to protect the community and that she would fix the problem the government itself introduced in May last year.

Among the changes that were made included mandating that magistrates should not focus on the risk of any reoffending but on the risk of offending that would endanger the safety and welfare of another person. So, in other words, you would get bail to go on offending just so long as it wasn't a danger to anyone else.

They also mandated a range of factors when making a decision about bail for young people putting many of the decisions needing to be made by magistrates on the merits of the case into the hard basket. The result being, they let them all out.

And don't get started on why machetes and illegal tobacco shops can't be outlawed immediately.

Driving through Kongwak at the weekend, and noticing a big wedding marquee set

up out the back of the old Kongwak Butter Factory reminds you of another misguided policy direction of the State Government, its "Development Facilitation Program" whereby any planning decisions can be taken out of the hands of local government and the local community.

Such a policy says more about the shortcomings within local government than it does about problems with a process that at least gave the community the opportunity to share its collective wisdom on a planning issue. That's been lost.

And with the cameras rolling at the Altona pier recently, where Fisheries officers pounced on a haul of abalone six times the legal limit, we were immediately reminded of what will not be happening if the State Government goes ahead and sacks all of its Fisheries enforcement officers in favour of better engagement and education. Come on!

The proposal includes closing existing stations at Cowes, Mornington, Braeside, and Altona and partly at Queenscliff, not because the existing arrangements weren't working but because they were working too well with levels of compliance up around 90 per cent.

But, read more deeply into the government's Fisheries' announcement and it's clear that "a different budgetary environment" is one of the key drivers.

The crazy decision to abandon the collection of camping fees at state-owned camping grounds was another thought-bubble that went horribly wrong, and there are others. The vacant residential land tax, from January 1, 2025, about which many people are still unaware, the massive hike in the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) formerly the fire services levy... there seems to be an endless stream of these new taxes and new policies coming at us all the time at the moment.

But what we need most in these times of uncertainty is honesty, stability, accountability and transparency, and confidence that our government officials know what the hell they are doing.

Vox Pop

What is your opinion on the Infrastructure Victoria proposal for 30km/h speed limits on local roads?



Tony Halstead

San Remo

"I don't think 40km/h zones are policed (to the full extent) at the moment, so I don't see how 30km/h zones will be policed."



Tony McKiernan

San Remo

"Around schools, during school times would be okay, but around normal suburban streets it is inappropriate."



Louise Cruickshank

Kongwak

"Obeying the speed signs and driving to the conditions is always important, not necessarily dropping the limit to 30km/h."



Suzanne Wright

Wonthaggi

"I'm quite happy with the 40km/h and I think 30 is going too far; it's also about ensuring visibility through measures such as cutting back vegetation."

Who Stole our Pools?

IT IS noted that more marginal electorates, areas such as Corangamite, managed to get funding for new pools in Torquay – Surf Coast Council and Drysdale – Geelong City Council, whereas the so far safe seat of Bass Coast Shire in the electorate of Monash missed out.

The Bass Shire Council had a structural review done on the Wonthaggi pool in 2013 which states that the current pool needs replacing and is not suitable for updating. The consultants, SGL Leisure, were employed by the council in 2015 to survey the needs of the community for their aquatic strategy. This plan gave council a very detailed plan of what was needed, which was a new facility for Wonthaggi to replace the existing pool that was nearing end-of-life over 10 years ago (in 2013) and also a new pool for Phillip Island.

Bass Coast Shire needs two new swimming pools to support their residents' activities including hydrotherapy, exercise classes, underwater hockey, swimming club practice, learn-to-swim lessons, school program swim lessons, disabled exercising and lap swimming.

Both pools, one on Phillip Island and one redeveloped in Wonthaggi have significantly larger nearby populations to support such facilities than, for comparison, the South Gippsland Shire Leongatha pool which is a larger and more modern pool than the Wonthaggi end-of-life pool.

Given Monash may become a more marginal seat in future elections, or even an independent seat then Bass Coast Council proposals may have more chance of more funding support at both Federal and State levels.

How much longer will we have to wait?

David Gibson, Inverloch

No social licence for transmission line

I REFER to the recent publicity regarding Gippsland Skies proposing to connect their offshore wind project via Waratah Bay and through South Gippsland.

I intend to attend the information session at Leongatha Memorial Hall on March 27 and would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information to assist with assessing your proposed power line.

(1.) Scale drawings of the proposed powerlines including height, number of lines, design of tower, spacing of towers. I appreciate your project is

still in development phase and specifics of the powerlines may not yet have been decided so would be grateful for a variety of options being prepared i.e. if a 500kv line is required it would look like this, etc. please also include a comparative in your drawings e.g. MCG light tower, to give scale.

(2.) Proposed route from Waratah Bay to connection with main power grid. I appreciate your project is still in development phase and specifics of the route may not have been decided however you must have some idea of where you want to go so a broad range of routes will suffice.

(3.) Federal, state and local government engagement. I understand the Federal Government has expressly stated that offshore wind development and associated infrastructure is not permitted west of Wilsons Promontory. I would be grateful if you could address your company's attitude towards this. I understand the local government has a view on your proposal that was not supportive and would be grateful for comments in this regard.

Of particular interest to me is the concept of 'social licence' when these developments are proposed for rural communities and landscapes and would welcome comments on how your company plans to address this with all stakeholders.

I look forward to meeting your representatives on March 27 and trust that they will be able to enlighten me further on your powerlines. I have taken the liberty of copying in a variety of stakeholders to this email.

Tim Le Roy, Walkerville

Beware of fake news

I WOULD like to reply to the article 'Choice between Trump and Deb Leonard' posted by Deborah O'Connor, Berrys Creek in last week's issue as it contained a lot of misinformation.

I was surprised that your piece was included in the Sentinel Times. I do not follow your, if any, logic in comparing Trump with Deb Leonard. Your article was flawed with fake facts.

The old Biden administration was funding the main commercial TV stations to the tune of \$80 million. This was uncovered in the USAID audit. They were paid to write nice things about Biden and the Democrats and mistruths about Trump. Hence the term, "fake news."

I have contact with an American citizen over in the States and when I would mention stuff I saw on our TV, the response was, "Who told you that rubbish?"

Our Australian TV channels get

their news from one of the very biased channels in America. I even heard misinformation being reported on some of our radio stations.

Whether you like or hate the man, do yourself a favour and research your information more carefully. You obviously have a very poor knowledge and opinion of Trump, but I assure you that the stuff being uncovered and linked to the Biden administration will amaze and disgust you.

I also refute your claim that independent candidates perform better than a candidate linked to a main party. Too many tend to do the bidding of their sponsors.

To pay for the amount of coverage on TV each night, the candidate you are promoting must have a very cashed-up sponsor. Far too many Teal sponsored candidates have proved this point.

She may well be a very good candidate and have her own views on many important issues. Unfortunately, your article read more like a paid political statement and endorsement.

As our outgoing MP informed us, she has a lot more money at her disposal than he was able to spend by the Federal Government.

Before you denigrate another political overseas figure, take time to research before you make incorrect and unfounded statements.

Geoff Moore, Wonthaggi North

Fix it already

AS YOU reported on the current lessee's complaint about the freehold owner not dealing with water compromising one of the fuel tanks, this has been a problem for at least six years that I know of.

It should be up to the owner to fix these issues not the lessee.

About five years ago water contamination caused five modern cars that had filled up at Tarwin to fail about one kilometre after driving off.

This grievance the new owners have with the freehold owners I think is fully justified and the impact on the local community is huge, from locals and tourists alike.

Dean Wright, Venus Bay

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.

Grazing pressure from feral deer damaging Cape Liptrap Coastal Park

By Bruce Wardley

GRAZING and browsing pressure from feral deer in the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park is competing with native wildlife according to the Cape Liptrap Community Deer Control Group.

The 4000 hectare Cape Liptrap Coastal Park stretching from Point Smythe to Waratah Bay is under serious threat from introduced species.

Jillian Staton, Chair of the South Gippsland Landcare Network and President of the Tarwin Landcare Group has called for a coordinated approach to deer management involving land holders, local residents and registered hunters.

“Cape Liptrap Coastal Park is a geographically distinct area,” said Ms Staton.

The South Gippsland Landcare Network has identified feral deer as a threat to the biodiversity of the coastal park.

The Landcare Network holds deer responsible for trashing the natural landscape and potentially spreading disease.

Ms Staton said it was unusual to see deer five years ago but from 2020 it feels like there has been a sudden explosion in deer numbers.

“People are starting to notice the deer.”

Local farmer Mr Bruce Whittaker has identified three main types of deer at Cape Liptrap: Fallow, Sambar and Hog deer.

Fallow deer can be spotted, chocolate or white with bucks weighing up to 100kg.



Bruce Whittaker and Jillian Staton, Chair South Gippsland Landcare Network. B12_1025

“They tend to move in groups of 10 to 20,” Mr Whittaker has observed.

Sambar deer are common in the Strzelecki Ranges and can weigh up to 300kg.

Smaller Hog deer are semi-protected with hunting limited to certain times of the year.

It is estimated feral deer will cost the Victorian economy up to \$2.1 billion over the next 30 years if the current population growth and spread of wild deer continues.

Deer can consume as much pasture as one or two sheep.

Native shelter belts and natural vegetation planted by the South Gippsland Landcare Network have often been destroyed by the feral deer.

“Deer eat pasture grass and also browse on native vegetation,” said Ms Staton.

Deer are hard-hoofed animals

that can damage fragile sandy coastal soil.

“They create erosion and do not allow small plants to regenerate.”

Samba deer wallow in wetland areas and scrape during the mating season.

“We had a community meeting to see if deer were an issue in the area.”

The answer was an overwhelming yes.

One of the concerns of landholders is deer can attract poachers.

The Cape Liptrap Community Deer Control Group supports recreational shooters that are licensed members of the Sporting Shooters Association and who are respectful of landholders and seek written permission to enter properties.

“Just to contain the number of Fallow deer we need to remove

at least 30 per cent of the deer population each year.”

Monitoring stations and trail cameras have been installed throughout the coastal park with the Cape Liptrap Community Deer Control Group recognised nationally as a model and template for creating and developing community-led control programs on public and private land.

“Deer don't respect boundaries,” said Ms Staton.

The Cape Liptrap Community Deer Control Group believes there is an opportunity to develop a market for wild-caught Gippsland venison for human consumption.

Venison is a low-fat meat highly valued in many other countries such as New Zealand.

“We call it Pest to Plate or venison sausage,” said Staton.

Venison will be served at the Deer Hunters Ball at the Tarwin Lower Memorial Hall Mechanics Institute on March 15.

The Deer Hunters Ball is an opportunity to develop a sense of community around deer and raise a significant amount of money towards feral deer control. Catering will be by Trulli of Meeniyan.

Limited tickets are available through Humanitix at events.humanitix.com/tarwin-landcare-group-deer-hunters-ball.

The Cape Liptrap Community Deer Control Group encourages anyone who observes feral deer on their property to record their sightings using the DeerScan app or via the Deer Scan website at feralscan.org.au/deerscan.

Too many country gardeners missing out, say the EPA

EPA Victoria says too many country gardeners are missing out on free soil screening from a government citizen science project that's mapping soil conditions across the state.

The state's environmental regulator says 2000 home gardeners have registered and sent in more than 5000 soil samples so far, but most have come from the metropolitan area.

Victoria's Chief Environmental Scientist Prof Mark Patrick Taylor says it's a free service for home gardeners that does science and the environment a favour.

“Register on the EPA Victoria website, send in three small samples and you'll receive a scientific assessment of your soil condition and the trace elements it contains,” Prof Taylor said.

“It's a free offer to home gardeners anywhere in Victoria, but we're not seeing many samples from country areas so far,” he said.

“EPA's scientists will add your soil data to a study that is mapping soil conditions across the state. You'll be helping scientific research and getting a detailed report on what's feeding your garden.”

So far, approximately 80 per cent of the 5800 individual samples screened have shown trace elements that are within recommended levels. EPA provides a scientific report, and if the soil is not up to scratch, EPA can give you some tips on ways to manage your garden.

“Any home gardener who sends in samples can have scientific results for the price of the postage and ensure your family is gardening in soil you can trust – we just need more country people to get involved,” Prof Taylor said.

Register or see more details on GardenSafe on the EPA Victoria website epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/get-involved/citizen-science-program/gardensafe.

Rabo Community Fund applications open

APPLICATIONS to apply for funding from the Rabo Community Fund in 2025 have opened to rural and regional community organisations and initiatives making a meaningful contribution to ‘the bush’.

Launched by agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank in 2021, the fund has to date invested more than \$3 million into initiatives designed to support the vitality and sustainability of rural and regional communities across Australia.

The Rabo Community Fund is calling for applications from organisations that aim to develop and implement meaningful national or local grassroots initiatives in these communities.

Funded by an annual contribution from Rabobank Australia and New Zealand and guided by the Rabo Client Council (comprising 60 of the bank's farming clients, who are passionate about contributing to their local communities), the fund is focused on helping address key agribusiness industry and community challenges. These relate to the six key themes of: long-term industry capacity and agricultural education; environmental sustainability; rural/urban connection; natural disaster resilience; rural wellbeing; and adaptation/disruption.

To be considered, eligible applicants must have an initiative that aligns with addressing one of the six key themes. The organisations applying must be Australian based with an Australian Business Number (ABN), and the minimum investment amount per initiative is \$5000.

2025 Victorian Landcare Grants open for West Gippsland

THE Victorian Government is helping volunteer groups and networks protect and restore West Gippsland's precious environments with Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos announcing last week that the 2025 Victorian Landcare Grants are now open.

There is \$3.55 million available to support volunteers in caring for the state's landscapes and biodiversity and \$337,250 available for the West Gippsland CMA region.

The grants are open to environmental volunteer groups and networks, including Landcare groups and networks, Friends groups, Conservation Management Networks, Committees of Management, Coastcare groups and Aboriginal groups.

Project grants of up to \$20,000 are available for on-ground works and community education projects focused on enhancing the natural environment, including native vegetation and wildlife, waterways and soils.

Support Grants of up to \$500 are available to assist with administrative and operational expenses of groups and networks.

“Landcare has a long and proud history in the region, right across the catchment. From Archies Creek in the west over to Munro in the east, passionate volunteers are delivering local and landscape-scale projects to protect our region's environment,” said CEO of West Gippsland CMA, Martin Fuller.

“In 2024, Landcare groups



Landcare volunteers in Yarram didn't have a native plant nursery nearby – so they built their own. Now the thriving community nursery is selling more plants and attracting more volunteers than they could have imagined.

across the region received funding of \$337,250 for 21 projects and 26 support grants for initiatives such as safeguarding remnant forests, restoring swampy woodland to protect threatened species, developing a community nursery and inspiring the next generation of Landcarers.

“The continued work of Landcare volunteers across the catchment is inspiring and vital to the CMA's goal of healthy and resilient catchments. I look forward to seeing

what projects will come out of the 2025 grant process.”

West Gippsland CMA is proud to be appointed by the Victorian Government as the Regional Landcare Coordinator for West Gippsland supporting the region's five vibrant Landcare Networks:

- Bass Coast Landcare Network
- Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
- Maffra and Districts Landcare Network
- South Gippsland Landcare

- Network
- Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

The grants will help achieve targets set in Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, the Victorian Government's 20-year plan to protect our environment and native species.

Applications for the Victorian Landcare Grants will close on April 16. For more information and to apply, visit environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-landcare-grants.



Shane O'Keefe of Chippin Estate Produce. A27_1025

Korumburra embraces Garlic Festival

SATURDAY'S South Gippsland Garlic Festival proved a success at its new Korumburra home, people flocking to the town's Show Grounds in summery conditions.

There was respite from the heat inside the Festival Kitchen and at the Garlic University, the former providing attendees with recipe ideas for garlic and interesting techniques such as blanching it in hot water to give it a sweeter flavour.

Those attending the university sessions learned everything from commercial garlic growing approaches through to growing and curing garlic for the home gardener.

Author, speaker, botanist, garlic guru and judge Penny Woodward delivered an enthralling talk on the varieties of garlic, growing techniques and how to cure it.

Attendees learned there are over 300 cultivars of garlic in Australia.

They were urged to never plant imported garlic due to the chemicals with which it has been sprayed.

Penny highlighted the opportunity to enjoy garlic scapes as a culinary treat, enhancing your garlic crop in the process, scapes being curly tendrils that come up from hardneck garlic plants.

Harvested when young and tender, scapes can be used in many recipes, their removal allowing more energy to go into the garlic crop.

"Plant your best cloves," Penny urged, speaking of someone she knows who sold his larger garlic cloves, planting the smaller ones, then queried why his crops delivered progressively smaller cloves.

Handy planting tips included ensuring the soil is moist and planting the garlic pointy end up.

Penny outlined the characteristics of various types

of garlic such as Turban, Artichoke, Silver Skin and Creole.

Garam Han, gold medalist in the National Apprentice Competition, is from South Korea.

"Koreans love to eat garlic, so you chose the right person," he declared.

As well as incorporating garlic stems into his linguini dish, Garam demonstrated how to blanch garlic, doing so in his pasta water and including that sweeter garlic in his dish.

Korumburra Japanese cafe operator Atsuko Tanaka-Morrison was another to demonstrate her culinary skills, ensuring garlic had a noteworthy presence as she prepared lotus burgers with miso sauce.

Former MasterChef contestant Simon Toohey kept the day's chefs on their toes plying them with questions as they cooked and distracting them with his jokes for the audience.

Alejandro Saravia, founder and executive chef at Farmer's Daughters, which showcases Gippsland produce, also took to the Festival Kitchen stage, making a vegetable broth that featured the star ingredient of the day.

Five Lions Clubs from the region played their part in the day's hospitality, with the Korumburra Lions organising a local butcher to prepare tasty garlic sausages for the occasion.

Attendees wandered from stall to stall, able to buy garlic directly from growers and checking out what was on offer from an array of other businesses.

People could also relax with a local beer or cider while listening to live music.

While the South Gippsland Garlic Festival owes its existence to Meenyan, it outgrew its original home and volunteer base but appears set for a long life in Korumburra.



Penny Woodward is a garlic expert, has written on the subject and spoke at the South Gippsland Garlic Festival. A29_1025



Ros McPherson is pleasantly surprised to be named a Life Member of the Welshpool & District Horticultural Society, sharing the moment with Prue Fleming and Ian Rasmussen. A16_1025

Horticultural delights in Welshpool

DAHLIAS featured prominently at the Welshpool & District Horticultural Society's latest Autumn Show, with Warragul's John Rowe overcoming a difficult growing season to claim 'Best in Show', that honour announced at Friday's official opening.

John has been growing dahlias for 33 years and entering shows for eight, and needed all his knowledge and attention to detail this time.

"So many blew their centres because of the hot weather, and keeping the water up to them this year has been a nightmare," he said, clearly glad to have persisted and declaring the honour of 'Best in Show' "very rewarding".

While unusually dry conditions led to lower entry numbers in this year's show, the quality remained high.

Numbers rose in the "Floral Art" section, entrants taking the opportunity to display their ingenuity, including tailoring their displays to this year's theme 'Autumn Reflections'.

"You can be as creative as you like," joint Show Secretary Fran Grylls said of that category, noting the cascades, underwater designs, table designs and large floor displays that demonstrated entrants' diverse ideas.

South Gippsland Shire Citizen of the Year Ian Rasmussen's passion for community and horticultural pursuits made him an ideal choice to open the show, something he did with his customary joy, acknowledging the hard work of the organisers.

As the guest of honour, Ian chose to direct this year's charitable funds raised to the South Gippsland Hospital, with the hosting Society matching public donations to the cause.

Leonore Giliberto was thrilled a prized orchid given to her by her late father seven years ago took out 'Best Exhibit for plants growing in pots or containers'.

She commented the orchids are normally housed by the kitchen window exposed to direct sunlight, in contrast to the belief of some that they fare better in shadier conditions.

"The timing was right to get a symmetrical double row," Leonore said of the stunning display.

Proving extravagance is not essential to achieve success, the gift that continues to thrive was originally purchased from Woolworths.

Those who won sections or received honourable mentions can feel proud given the expertise of the judges, with a separate official adjudicating each section.

Three trainee judges observed proceedings, boosting their knowledge, Fran stressing the importance of developing new judges.



Yarram's Leonore Giliberto is delighted her orchid won 'Best Exhibit for plants growing in pots or containers'. A17_1025



Vikki and John Rowe of Warragul celebrate John's 'Best in Show' exhibit. A13_1025

Jennifer Broughton is nearing graduation from trainee judge to fully fledged official, a process that requires two years of study and the completion of 14 modules.

A couple of practice judging sessions are also essential, during which an experienced judge casts a watchful eye over the trainee's performance.

Once all other hurdles are cleared, the Gippsland group of horticultural judges will decide whether to approve Jennifer as a new judge.

She explained that people skills are important in the role and that you've got to know what you are doing and be able to back up your decisions.

Long-serving Ros McPherson was pleasantly surprised to be named a Life Member of the Welshpool & District Horticultural Society.

After her brief speech, she wasted no time getting back on deck helping in the organisation's nursery at which show attendees picked up healthy and affordable plants grown

by members of the Society.

The glorious sunny conditions added to the enjoyment of those searching for bargains.

After all the preparation, the show wrapped up on Saturday after just two days of joy and colour but it's sure to have many returning next year.

Class Winners:

- A – 'Gladys Johns Memorial Championship Dahlias', and 'Best in Show' – John Rowe
- B – Cut Flowers, Shrubs and Trees – Jane Millard
- C – Cut Flowers, Shrubs and Trees in Containers – Fran Grylls
- D – Plants growing in pots or containers – Leonore Giliberto
- E – Floral Art – Gary Jackson
- F – Vegetables and Fruit – Jan Gyles
- G – Home Garden Produce (preserves) – Jan Gyles
- H – Snapshots / Visual Arts (photography) – Marg O'Donnell



Warwick Bull and David Lawrence travelled to Leongatha in David's 1959 Austin Healey 3000 BN7.
A01_1025

Austin Healey delight in Leongatha

A GLEAMING display of automotive heaven assembled at Leongatha Recreation Reserve on Wednesday as the Austin Healey National Rally hit town, with models dating from the earliest produced to the last.

While about 70 cars are part of this year's rally, others joined for the day.

Most of the vehicles on show at Leongatha are based in Victoria but some were driven from Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

Owners were happy to chat about their cars during the Leongatha lunch stop.

Rally and track racing cars were among those brought along for the day.

Austin Healey Owners Club of Victoria hosted this year's rally, one of its members Brian Aitken chatting to the Sentinel-Times about the event and his stunning red BN2 100-4, which dated to 1956, the model having only been produced for six months.

He explained that the 100 referred to the car's ability to break through the 100-mile-an-hour barrier, while the four denotes the number of cylinders, the earlier BN1 being the original Austin Healey.

Brian pointed out a streamlined white 100S, an aluminium-bodied racing car of which 55 were produced, the S standing for Sebring, a Florida racetrack.

He noted the model is valued at half a million dollars and upwards, the exact price influenced by the race history of each car.

Cute bug-eyed Sprites, also known as 'frogs' were on display, Sprites being smaller and lighter but zippy.

Those who visited Leongatha Recreation Reserve to check out the Austin Healeys were pleasantly surprised to find so many and such a diverse range.

Coral Jones of Wonthaggi was among Wednesday's admirers, declaring all the cars beautiful.

"I'd have any one of them, even the bug eyes," she declared.

Leongatha locals Andy Grayden and Kevin Allen were delighted to have come for a look, both being car enthusiasts.

"We didn't think there were so many around," Andy said of the Austin Healeys.

Leongatha's Eileen and Noel Johnson were also delighted to have come,



Phyl and Greg Howe with their Ferrari Red 1962 Austin Healey.
A02_1025



David and Brenda Lyons arrived in style in their 1959 Austin Healey 3000 BN7, painted in Ford GT Blue.
A03_1025

the sporty vehicles present bringing back memories for Noel of his 1945 MGTC.

David Lawrence has owned five Austin Healeys, one of those his first car when he was aged just 20.

He arrived at Leongatha in his 1959 3000 BN7, featuring a full alloy 4.4L Healey engine.

Greg and Phyl Howe happily posed alongside their Ferrari red 1962 Austin Healey that showed no sign of the "rusted hulk" Greg said it was prior to restoration.

David and Brenda Lyons of Geelong brought their 1959 3000 BN7, originally red but looking magnificent in Ford GT blue with a white racing stripe, the car originally sold in Oregon USA, later being raced by Steve Pike in Australia.

The current owners bought the car for touring purposes, with road-friendly alterations made such as replacing the stiff racing suspension that wouldn't handle Victorian roads well.

Rally participants stayed at the RACV Resort in Inverloch for four nights, offering plenty of opportunity to socialise and chat about the merits of their various vehicles.

On Thursday, most headed to Port Albert to check out the Maritime Museum, while a smaller group ventured to Lang Lang then Gurneys Cider in Foster.

Queensland has the good fortune to host the next Austin Healey National Rally, an event that will continue to attract admirers everywhere it goes.



Phillip Island Dave Neely's superbly turned-out HK GTS Monaro won the 'Best in Show' at the Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport car show in Cowes' main street on Friday night.

Classic cars supercharge Phillip Island crowds

THE holiday weekend crowd at Phillip Island was super-charged by the annual Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport with over 350 historic racing cars racing across 11 different Motorsport Australia-sanctioned categories at the world-famous GP circuit.

And with hundreds of classic car enthusiasts descending on the Island in their own precious cars, together with members of the Austin Healey Car Club of Victoria taking part in their 2025 Austin Healey National Rally, it was noticeable that a usually big weekend was even bigger.

Kicking the event off for car fans and interested locals was the Friday evening car show in Thompson Avenue, closed off for the night to allow everyone the opportunity to circulate through dozens of cars to find their favourite.

But the judges had already done their work for them, naming Dave and Kelly Neely's superbly turned-out HK GTS Monaro as the 'Phillip Classic Festival of Motorsport Best in Show', hardly surprising after the classic Aussie marque placed second at the biggest car show in Australia, Summernats 37

in Canberra, behind only John Fenech's mercurial LJ Torana for the Grand Champion title.

"Yeah, pretty happy with that. There's not much in it at that level," said Dave Neely of Bass Coast Mechanical in Cowes, of his success at Canberra.

"I built the car up from bare metal with Alfie's Panels of Cranbourne doing the spray. We added a 454 Chevy big block, 9" rear axle, mini tubbed the rear for bigger wheels and 295/50/15 tyres."

Dave also rolled out his 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air with work mate Tim Coombes in his 1997 Torana in distinctive green.

"You're right, you could eat your dinner out of that engine bay," agreed Tim Coombes of the clinically clean space under the bonnet dominated by a super clean-looking Chevy 350 V8.

There were lots of great cars besides including Danny Dela Bosca's Cadillac, and Mark Robinson's 1972 Detomasa Pantera. There was a Back to the Future gull-wing DeLorean, Porsches, Ferraris and more.

The action on the track was continuous across both Saturday and Sunday.



Tim Coombes of Cowes with the clinically clean engine bay of his 1978 Torana UC Hatch extensively reworked featuring 383 Chevy Stroker V8 engine.

REBECCA O'CONNOR AS

TINA



RIVERVIEW HOTEL
TARWIN LOWER



SATURDAY, APRIL 5



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

www.oztix.com.au

JAZZ921

Sounds of the Centuries

Guitar Concert by Tom Chalko

♥ **Mt Best Community Hall,**
Sunday 23 March 2025, 2pm ♥

followed by light refreshments

Some melodies in music history are so beautiful and memorable that their popularity does not fade with passing centuries. Tom will play many such melodies in his concert to celebrate the timeless beauty of music.



We begin in the **13th century**, about **500 years** before Bach, and conclude in the **21st century**.

The program will showcase some of the most iconic compositions that reshaped the course of music history and elevated guitar to a prominent place on concert stages around the world.

Among these masterpieces is **Concierto de Aranjuez (II Adagio)**, a symbol of the guitar's emotional depth and global appeal. Discover the full program at mtbest.net/concert23march2025/ and join us for an unforgettable afternoon of music.

Best wishes from Mount Best and welcome !

Tickets \$10. Please make a booking, the number of seats is limited and we need to plan catering.

RSVP: pnewby@bigpond.net.au

or text Trish Newby on 0402 893 475 . The Hall opens at 1:30



What's love got to do with it? **Everything!** Rebecca O'Connor delivers an electrifying tribute to the **Queen of Rock 'n' Roll**, proving she's **Simply the Best**.

It's on at the Riverview

THERE is a spectacular line up coming to the Riverview Hotel in Tarwin Lower over the next couple of months.

From Rebecca O'Connor as 'Simply the Best' Tina Turner on April 5 to the Pierce Brothers 10th anniversary tour on Saturday, May 31. Jump online and secure your tickets today.

Simply the Best

Get ready to shake a tail feather – because the ultimate Tina Turner experience is hitting the stage in 2025!

After a sold-out world tour in 2024, the unstoppable Rebecca O'Connor is back, channelling the raw energy, legendary vocals, and electrifying moves of the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll herself. And this isn't just a tribute – it's a full-throttle, high-octane celebration of Tina's greatest hits, from Proud Mary to Nutbush City Limits!

Tina Turner once said, "You want some action? I'll give you some action!" – and Rebecca delivers exactly that. Even Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac couldn't contain his awe, saying, "Rebecca is way beyond a tribute act... she is an amazing singer and performer in her own right. I was mesmerised... a night you'll never forget."

With powerhouse vocals and a stage presence that will have you believing you're in the presence of the legend herself, Rebecca O'Connor is Simply the Best – and Tina Turner herself agreed: "Rebecca is so good, it's scary!"

So, are you ready to dance in your seat, belt out the classics, and witness a show that will leave you breathless? Don't miss Simply the Best: The Rebecca O'Connor World Tour 2025 – because some legends never fade, and this one just keeps rolling!

For ticket information see the Riverview Hotel ad left.

The Night Tree 10th Anniversary Tour, Pierce Brothers

Get ready, South Gippsland folk fans – Melbourne's own Pierce Brothers are hitting the road to Tarwin to celebrate a decade of The Night Tree! The indie-folk duo has brought their signature energy to

stages across the country since January 4 as they mark 10 years since the breakthrough EP, *The Night Tree*, that skyrocketed them to international fame.

For the first time ever, *The Night Tree* will be available on limited edition vinyl, packed with fresh tracks and a live B-side, exclusively at the anniversary shows. And after sharing the stage with James Blunt on his sold-out 2024 Australian tour and officially kicking off in San Remo in January, this one is bound to sell out too – so don't sleep on tickets!

Reflecting on their journey with the *Sentinel-Times* ahead of their first show in Tarwin last year to launch *Everything Is Bigger Than Me* (their third studio album), Jack Pierce shared how their connection to the Australian landscape had shaped their music and excitement for Riverview Hotel.

"Wilson's Prom is our favourite place on earth, and the Bass Coast has always been so good to us. To play somewhere new down that way is so exciting!"

There's no denying Tarwin Lower must have won their hearts as they're back just over 12 months later.

Since busking their way through Melbourne's laneways as teenagers, Jack and Pat Pierce have evolved into one of the country's most beloved indie-folk acts. Their career has taken them across the world, sharing stages with the likes of Tash Sultana, The Teskey Brothers, and Mumford & Sons, while continuing to push their signature sound of harmonic vocals, intricate guitar work, and foot-stomping rhythms.

The brothers credit their unique dynamic to their musical beginnings, harmonising together since their early teens and refining their craft through non-stop touring.

A celebration of 10 years of music, memories, and massive singalongs. Whether you've been there since the busking days or you're just discovering their electrifying live performances, this is one anniversary tour you won't want to miss!

Tickets are on sale now for Saturday, May 31 at piercebrothers.com – grab yours before they're gone!



Acoustic harmonies and electric energy the Pierce Brothers will be bringing the house down with an unforgettable anniversary set, proving why they're one of Australia's most beloved folk acts. Photo: @emmajane.wood

A cinematic celebration of global storytelling

FRIDAY, March 21 kicks off the Opening Night for the Wonthaggi International Film Festival which in its 15th year will see seven films showcased at The Union (Wonthaggi) over two days.

The 2024 multi-award-winning drama by Miguel Gomes 'Grand Tour' which was nominated at Cannes Film Festival for the Palme d'Or and won the Best Director will start the festivities.

The 139-minute Portuguese film, by Gomes, the acclaimed director of Tabu and Arabian Nights, comes a globe-trotting tale of unrequited love.

Rangoon, Burma, 1917. Edward, a civil servant for the British Empire, runs away from his fiancée Molly the day she arrives to get married. During his travels, however, panic gives way to melancholy. Contemplating the emptiness of his existence, the cowardly Edward wonders what has become of Molly... Determined to get married and amused by Edward's move, Molly follows his trail on this Asian grand tour.

The film masterfully blends melodrama with screwball comedy in a thrilling cat-and-mouse chase between lovers.

Saturday, March 22, will see four films showcased, My Favourite Cake at 10.30am, Last Summer at 1.30pm, The Seed of the Sacred Fig at 4pm and Mickey 17 at 7.30pm.

These films will be followed on Sunday at 10.0am by The Brutalist and Mystify: Michael Hutchence at 3.30pm.

My Favourite Cake, 2024

My Favourite Cake is a 2024 film co-written and directed by Maryam Moghaddam and Behtash Sanaeieha. Blending elements of romance, drama, and gentle humour, the story follows Mahin, a 70-year-old widow who has spent decades living alone in Tehran while her children reside abroad.

One afternoon, she steps outside her usual routine to join friends for tea, setting off an unexpected journey of self-discovery. A newfound connection rekindles emotions she thought were long behind her, leading to an evening of surprises and reflection. The film



Miguel Gomes' award-winning Grand Tour opens the Wonthaggi International Film Festival with a captivating tale of love, loss, and adventure across 1917 Asia.

delicately explores themes of love, resilience, and the pursuit of joy in later life.

Last Summer, 2023

The 104-minute French erotic drama follows Anne, a highly accomplished lawyer who shares a home with her husband, Pierre, and their daughters. As she becomes entangled in an intense relationship with Théo – Pierre's son from a previous marriage – Anne finds herself on a precarious path, putting her career and family life in danger.

The film is a remake of the 2019 Danish film Queen of Hearts.

The Seed of the Sacred Fig, 2024

Family bonds unravel and generations clash in this extraordinary drama from acclaimed filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof. Winner of the Cannes Film Festival Fipresci Award, The Seed of the Sacred Fig was received with record-breaking ovation, voted top film in Screen International Critics Grid for Cannes 2024 and displays the true power of cinema to change us and the world we live in.

Shot in secret and resulting in the persecution of its director, who was eventually forced to flee Iran, the film combines gripping storytelling with real-life footage of recent protests in Iran, capturing a family's turmoil amid a society in

upheaval.

In Tehran, Iman and his family celebrate his recent promotion to an investigating judge. As public protests erupt against compulsory hijab, the dynamics within his family begin to shift. When his service weapon goes missing, Iman becomes increasingly paranoid, even suspecting his own wife Najmeh, and daughters Sana and Rezvan.

Renowned for his thought-provoking and politically charged cinema, The Seed of the Sacred Fig is being hailed as Rasoulof's most daring and important work yet. Born in 1972 in Shiraz, Iran, Rasoulof's works often critique the socio-political climate of his home country, resulting in frequent confrontations with Iranian authorities. His notable films, such as There Is No Evil and A Man of Integrity, have garnered international recognition at prestigious film festivals. In 2010, he fled Iran after being arrested and sentenced to prison for his politically charged films.

Mickey 17, 2025

He's dying to save mankind... From the Academy Award-winning writer/director of 'Parasite', Bong Joon Ho, comes the groundbreaking satirical sci-fi comedy, MICKEY 17. Robert Pattinson (The Batman, Tenet) is a blast in the titular role of 'Mickey', reaching for the stars with an

audacious and layered dual performance that showcases his exceptional range.

The unlikely hero, Mickey Barnes (Pattinson) has found himself in the extraordinary dystopian circumstance of working for an employer who demands the ultimate commitment to the job... to die, for a living.

Labelled an 'expendable', Mickey is a disposable clone worker tasked with the most dangerous missions on an intergalactic expedition – led by controversial politician turned maniacal space coloniser Kenneth Marshall (Mark Ruffalo) – that results in an unrelenting cycle of brutal deaths and regeneration.

The Brutalist, 2024

Escaping post-war Europe, visionary architect László Toth arrives in America to rebuild his life, his work, and his marriage to his wife Erzsébet after being forced apart during wartime by shifting borders and regimes.

On his own in a strange new country, László settles in Pennsylvania, where the wealthy and prominent industrialist Harrison Lee Van Buren recognises his talent for building. But power and legacy come at a heavy cost...

Starring Best Actor Golden Globe and Oscar award winner Adrien Brody and directed by Brady Corbet, The Brutalist has taken out an array of accolades including seven Golden Globes, three Academy Awards and five awards at the 81st Venice International Film Festival.

Mystify: Michael Hutchence, 2019

A powerfully intimate and insightful portrait of the internationally renowned INXS frontman, Michael Hutchence. Deftly woven from an extraordinary archive of rich imagery, Michael's private home movies and those of his lovers, friends, and family, the film delves beneath the public persona of the charismatic 'Rock God' A film by Richard Lowenstein, be transported back in time.

For tickets and more information visit trybooking.com/events/landing/1359329.

Needle felting for repairing holes

THE Mending Team at Fixit Café can help out with textiles needing small mending repairs, including clothes, toys, blankets and woollens.

We usually have a sewing machine onsite and other mending techniques include hand sewing and needle felting. Needle felting can be used to repair small holes in woollen items (except socks and merino clothing). Bookings for repairs can be made via Mitchell House on 5672 3731 during business hours.

Everyone is welcome to bring along their own mending project and join others to chat while you sew, (no need to book for this).

So come and mend with us. The Fixit Cafe is on the third Sunday of the month (March 16) from 10-12 midday.



Zucchini and prawns in harissa

By Meg Viney

ZUCCHINI has the propensity to absorb flavours beautifully as do prawns. Prawns could be omitted, or even replaced with fish or chicken, which you would cook appropriately

Ingredients

- 4 or 5 small zucchini
- 20 prawns

Method

Cut the zucchini in half lengthwise, and then cut into wedges.

Place in a baking tray and toss with a few tablespoon harissa (see recipe below) to marinate an hour or so.

Shell and devein prawns and do likewise (keep the shells to make a stock – cook in salted water for 20 minutes and keep form risotto or soup).

Cook the zucchini on a barbecue, or in a griddle pan or even in the oven grill, then do the same with the prawns.

Serve as a first course, or, if you want something more substantial, toss in steamed fettuccine which has a little cream to soften and moisten the dish.

Harissa

Usually a very hot dish, but this version is soft and aromatic.

Cook this when red capsicum are in season. The harissa keeps for a long time in a sealed jar.

Ingredients:

- 6 red capsicum, cut into strips
- 2 tsp sea salt
- 2 cups olive oil

Method:

Cook this over a low heat in a large pan, covered for two hours. Yes, two hours.

Add two tablespoons each brown sugar, fish sauce and lemon juice.

Roast two tablespoons each of ground fennel, cumin and coriander in a 150 oven for 10 minutes and add to pan.

Cook for five minutes, then puree in a food processor.

Spoon into sterile jars, seal and cool. Harissa is great on all sorts of foods.

WONTHAGGI BINGO

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★

THE DUMBALK COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES

8am - 1pm, March 15th

Come fossick at the Dumbalk Community Garage Sales

Collect the map listing the various sales for a gold coin donation from the Community Centre in Tarwin St Dumbalk.

The Dumbalk & District Progress Association



Locals Andy Grayden and Kevin Allen enjoy the stunning display of Austin Healeys in Leongatha. A09_1025



Wonthaggi's Coral Jones would be delighted to own any of the Austin Healeys that visited Leongatha on Wednesday. A10_1025



Eileen and Noel Johnson of Leongatha were drawn to the town's Recreation Reserve by visiting Austin Healeys. A11_1025



Pat and Adrian Harris from Dumbalk North at the Wattlewood Angus Autumn Bull Sale. B26_1025



Kathleen and Gordon Kendall of Berwick explore the Welshpool Horticultural Society's Autumn Show on Friday. A19_1025

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Austin Healey rally in Leongatha, Welshpool Autumn Show, Wattlewood Angus Autumn Bull Sale and the Bass Coast Shire Council's International Women's Day Lunch.



Damian Prendergast (Bass Coast Shire), Sally O'Neill (West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority - WGCMA) and Jess Deery (WGCMA). C06_1025



Dawn and Ian Rasmussen relax at the Welshpool Memorial Hall on Friday. A20_1025



Anne Duncan of Kernot and Ella Arnold of Woodleigh enjoyed a lunch out for IWD 2025. C07_1025



Trainee judge Jennifer Broughton and steward Janet Smythe dress the part for this year's Autumn Show in Welshpool. A21_1025

The IWD lunch was the perfect chance for friends new and old to catch up, as Hope Thomas (BCH), Kristy Grattan (BCSC) and Sandra Creaner (BCH) did. C09_1025



A vision in a pink jacket Jennifer Paproth and husband Don attended the IWD lunch, winning the beautiful bouquet from the table. C08_1025



Councillors Tracey Bell and Jon Temby were all smiles at the IWD lunch, showing their support for women across Bass Coast and beyond. C18_1025



Madisson Brzezowski and Rochelle Olarenschaw, both from the Office of Jordan Crugnale MP enjoyed a special lunch out celebrating women. C10_1025



Musicians Vinny Mancuso (Melbourne) and Cassie Crawford (Inverloch) entertained the sold-out crowd at Friday's IWD lunch. C14_1025



Guest speaker Hacia Atherton was inspirational to Amy Kent and Ruby McGillivray at Friday's IWD lunch. C13_1025



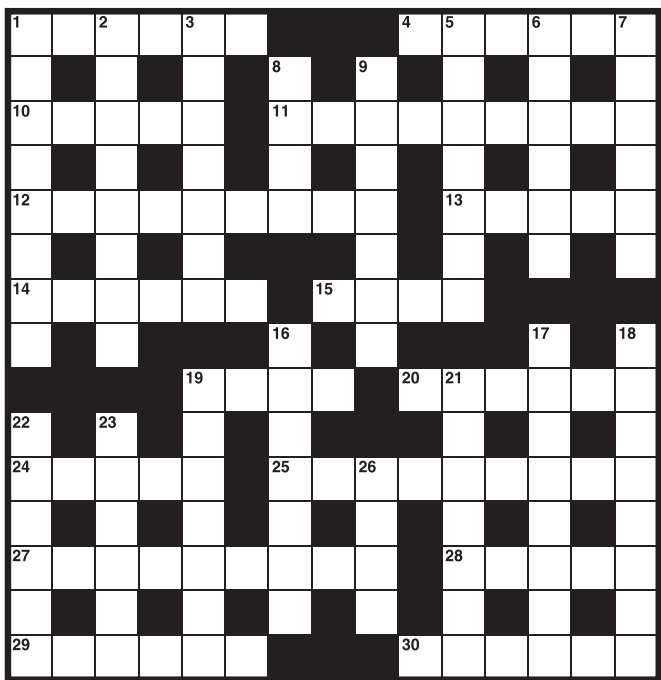
Robyn Temby and Tess Moore had a wonderful time at the IWD lunch at the RACV resort. C12_1025



Talia Newton (Leongatha) and Georgia Martin (Cape Paterson) thoroughly enjoyed Hacia Atherton's presentation, noting the relevance to the occasion. C11_1025

CROSSWORD

No. 271



- ACROSS
- 1

Formula (6)
- 4

Large rope (6)
- 10

Climb (5)
- 11

Light-headed (9)
- 12

Disadvantage, disservice (9)
- 13

Impugn (5)
- 14

A spice (6)
- 15

Plummet (4)
- 19

Require (4)
- 20

Source of wisdom (6)
- 24

Schnoz (5)
- 25

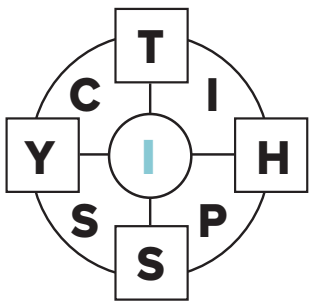
Incapable of being seen (9)

9-LETTER

No. 271

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

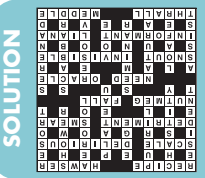
- Today's Aim:
- 14 words: Good
- 21 words: Very good
- 29 words: Excellent



- 27
- Provider of information (9)
- 28
- Tropical climbing plant (5)
- 29
- Slave (arch) (6)
- 30
- Interfere (6)

DOWN

- 1
- Inhabitant (8)
- 2
- Abstinence (8)
- 3
- Childish (7)
- 5
- Pressurised dispenser (7)
- 6
- Light rainfall (6)
- 7
- Holiday spot (6)
- 8
- Fringe (4)
- 9
- Tableland (7)
- 16
- Meeting for an exchange of ideas (7)
- 17
- Sheath (8)
- 18
- Sing to (8)
- 19
- Unaffected (4)
- 21
- Settle (7)
- 22
- Help (6)
- 23
- Slip-on shoe (6)
- 26
- Ballot choice (4)

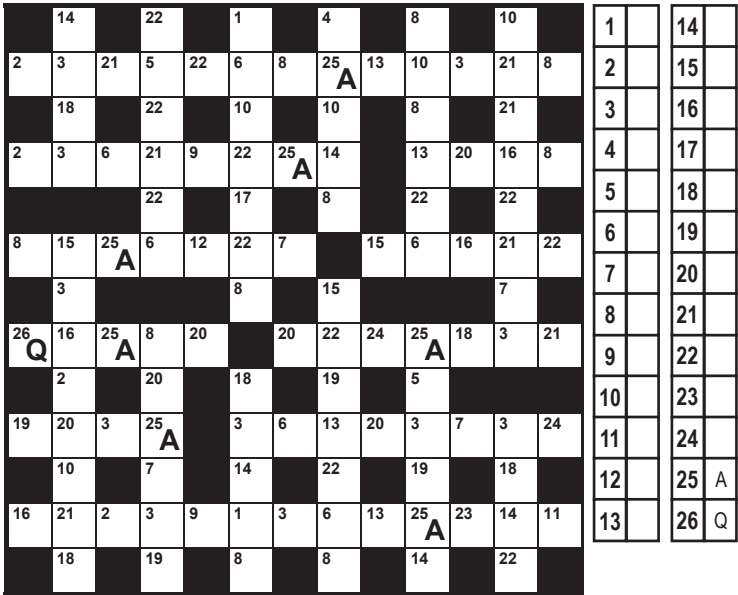


chip, chips, chit, city, hips, hits, itch, itchy, physic, PHYSICIST, physics, pitch, pith, pithy, pits, pity, schist, ship, ships, sips, sits, spicy, split, splits, tips, tipsy, yips

CODEWORD

No. 261

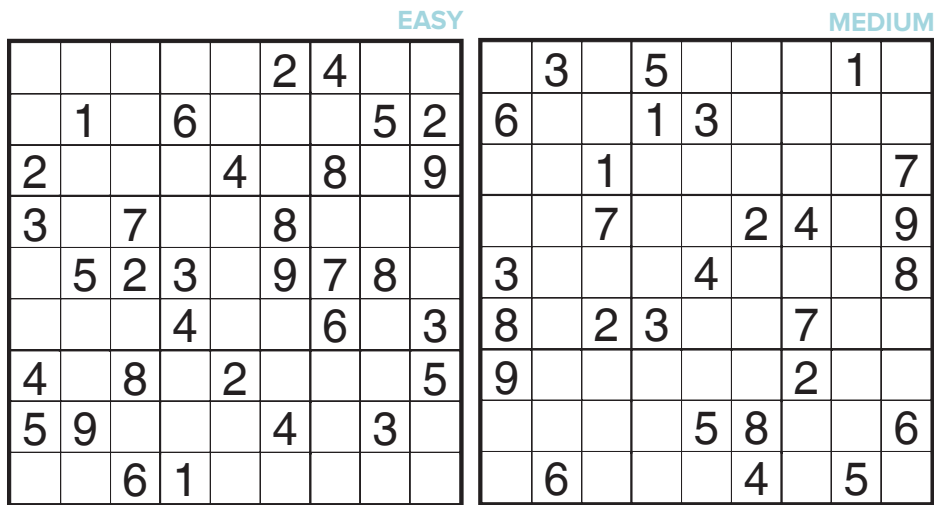
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

No. 270

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



0703 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

QUICK QUIZ

1.

What was the name of the yacht with Australian connections that won the America's Cup in 1983?
2.

The Cole Porter song *You're The Top* is from which 1934 musical?
3.

Which insects are the larval forms of members of the order Lepidoptera?
4.

From which region are the 12 astrological signs derived?
5.

Which 1996 film starring Tom Cruise (pictured) features the famous line, 'Show me the money'?
6.

Which actor played James Bond in *From Russia with Love*?
7.

Where was the Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara born?
8.

In which year was the Sydney Opera House opened?
9.

In which state is the city of Bunbury located?
10.

Which angel appeared to Mary during the Annunciation?



ANSWERS: 1. Australia 2. Anything Goes 3. Caterpillars 4. Zodiac 5. Jerry Maguire 6. Sean Connery 7. Argentina 8. 1973 9. Western Australia 10. Gabriel

WORD SEARCH

No. 181

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- ANISE

BASIL

CAPERS

CARAWAY

CAYENNE

CHILLI

CHIVES

CINNAMON

CUMIN

DILL

FENNEL

GARLIC

GINGER

JUNIPER

LAVENDER

MARIGOLD

MEDICINAL

HERB

MINT

MUSTARD

NUTMEG

OREGANO

PAPRIKA

PARSLEY

SAGE

SESAME

TARRAGON

THYME

VANILLA

WATERCRESS

SECRET MESSAGE: Variety is the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavour



Grazing Land 100 acres

580 Meeniyar-Mirboo North Rd,
Stony Creek
For Sale \$1,500,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
Irene Walker 0429 045 632

Central location

A PRODUCTIVE 40.50 HA/100 acres of livestock grazing in the highly renowned South Gippsland region, just six kilometres* to Meeniyar, under three kilometres* to Dumbalk and 20 kilometres* to Leon-gatha and the premiere livestock selling centre at Koonwarra.

Flat with a gentle slope in topography, and with excellent water, this property also fea-tures:

- Excellent standard of fencing throughout with eight paddocks and fenced lead-up/ paddock to yards.
- Heavy-duty timber stock yards with con-crete base, four pens, head bale and load-ing race.
- Secure water, with (three) dams with one dam gravity feeding to troughs for stock. In addition to 90,000 litres* of tank water available, providing water to a shed and troughs at stock yards.
- A seasonal creek running through the property provides excellent drainage in those highly productive South Gippsland winters, with an annual rainfall of 885mm/35 inches*.
- Excellent bands of natural bush provid-ing shelter belts for stock shelter and aes-thetic appeal.
- Beautiful home sites (STCA) on the gentle rise, providing views across the Dumbalk flats to the hills beyond.
- Shedding includes, a machinery shed open one side with power and water con-nected, and two haysheds.

Properties of this nature, flat to gently un-dulating, in a secure rainfall district, cen-trally located, with options to build in the future (STCA), an ideal livestock, turnout block, are hard to come by, making this property a real gem here in the heart of South Gippsland.

**Denotes approximately. For a Due Dili-gence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist*

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Real Estate &
Livestock Specialists
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ANDREA ADAMS
0429 822 801
aadams@sej.com.au

FOSTER
Ph 5682 2800

IRENE WALKER
0429 045 632
iwalker@sej.com.au

LEONGATHA
Ph 5662 4033

FOSTER



- Approx. 2.9 acres vacant land zoned rural living
- Quiet location 10 mins from town
- Established trees, flat paddock
- Building envelope on gentle rise

\$599,000
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

FOSTER



- Approx. 12.5 acres with flat paddocks, creek frontage
- 3 bed, 2 bath home, shedding
- 5 mins from town with rural views
- Town water, mains, solar power

\$1,180,000
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

MARDAN



- Highly Productive 52HA/130 acres
- Water security, Toomeys Ck
- Springs, Dams, troughs
- 14 paddocks, stock yards, sheds
- Updated lovely 2 bed cottage

\$1,720,000
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

KORUMBURRA



- Storage Unit Complex (58)
- Prime position, Exc. Occupancy
- Fully equipped services
- 2241 SQM with 5 titles
- Lucrative return & investment

\$1,350,000 - \$1,450,000
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

TOORA



- 510m² approx. fully fenced block, 3 bed home
- Wide verandah with rural outlook
- Spacious lounge with raked ceiling
- Walk to main street shops

\$465,000
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

TOORA



- Fully fenced block with LU garage, covered patio, BBQ area
- 3 bed, updated kitchen, RC/AC
- Solar and mains power, town water
- Walk to Primary School and shops

\$370,000
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

PORT WELSHPOOL



- 4 bed home on approx. 1007sqm
- Open plan, entertaining deck
- Double glazing, RC/AC, town water, LU shed, veggie garden
- Available fully furnished

\$665,000-\$685,000
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

MARDAN



- 'Bell's End' - charming & unique
- 2.18 acres plus river lease
- 3 bed, 1 bath, W/B farmhouse
- Est. garden, orchard, chook run
- Sundry shedding galore!

\$880,000
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



Former Fish Creek dairy

POSITIONED two kilometres* from the tourist town of Fish Creek, this former dairy farm at 86 Shields Road offers options for the new owner. The renowned Great Southern Rail Trail, an impressive 146 kilometres, runs directly past the entrance to the property, providing easy access for cycling, walking, or horse riding. The undulating land is ideal for

livestock grazing and fodder production. This property offers complete privacy, set well back from Fish Creek-Foster Road, ensuring a peaceful lifestyle. An older-style house includes four bedrooms, one bathroom and two separate living areas. Working improvements include a disused dairy with power, stockyards, and a concrete

holding yard. A two-bay machinery shed with power 12.3m x 9.3m, a dairy shed 9.1m x 6.8m, and a double-bay garage on concrete 7.4m x 6.7m. Cherokee Creek meanders through the back half of the farm, complemented by eight dams strategically positioned to provide water for cattle and includes 70,000* litres of rainwater storage. If you are

seeking land to make your own this exceptional property delivers both productivity and the ultimate location. For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487. **denotes approximately* For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist

4 1 4 189 acres

86 Shields Road, **Fish Creek**
For Sale \$2.45 Million
Agent Elders
Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487

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eldersrealestate.com.au

Mountain View 84 Acres
Mountain View Farm
• 3-bed, 1-bath home
• Stockyards, disused dairy, 12.5 x 8m shed
• 3 main paddocks & 4 dams
Web ID: 300P105885 **\$895,000**

Nyora 10 Acres
The Pine Forest with Views
• 10 Acres with water views

Foster 207 Acres
Affordable Grazing at Foster
• Ideal fattening, breeding or dairy turnout property

Korumburra 108m²
As New 3 Bedroom Townhouse
• 3-Bed, 2-Bath Townhouse

Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

BEN TOWNSEND
Licensed Estate Agent
0400 594 487

SHARON TURTON
Sales Consultant
0447 604 796

HELEN ARESTIA
Sales Support
03 5662 3523

NATALIE RES
Property Manager
0439 383 091

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523



DISCOVER this fantastic three-bedroom, two-bathroom family home offering both comfort and convenience.

With three bedrooms and two bathrooms, this home is perfect for families, offering plenty of room for everyone to unwind and grow. Whether you're starting a family or looking to upgrade, this home is designed with family living in mind.

The generous backyard is a standout feature, providing plenty of space for outdoor activities like kicking the footy, gardening, or enjoying a weekend BBQ with family and friends. The large, fully fenced yard offers privacy and safety, making it perfect for children and pets to play freely.

Conveniently located just a two-minute drive from Grantville's amenities.

Nestled in the booming Grantville area, this home is in an exciting location with Coles set to begin construction in 2025, promising even greater convenience. Perfectly situated, the home is just 20 minutes from Phillip Island, 45 minutes from Pakenham, and offers easy access to the M1 and Melbourne.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to secure a home in one of the fastest-growing areas in the region. Contact us today to schedule your viewing!

322 639m²

5 Brazier Street, **Grantville**
For Sale \$579,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Angus Hall 0466 326 487



Two homes on large allotment

A RARE opportunity to acquire two stunning homes on a spacious 1300m² (approx.) allotment, offering the perfect blend of comfort, privacy, and spectacular views, with a unique feeling of being nestled in the mountains yet minutes to the beach.

First Residence: This charming home features two generous living areas, providing ample space for both relaxation and entertaining. With four large bedrooms, timber flooring in the first living area and carpet in the second living area and a beautifully appointed hostess kitchen, it exudes warmth and style. The inviting wood fire adds a cosy touch, perfect for cooler evenings, while the country-style undercover decks offer a peaceful retreat to enjoy the surrounding natural beauty and the serene mountain-like atmosphere.

Second Residence: Positioned just a short stroll through a native garden offering complete privacy, this residence boasts breathtaking water views. Offering two comfortable bedrooms or two living areas and a large bedroom, a well-equipped kitchen, and a modern bathroom, it provides the ideal space for a smaller family or as a rental opportunity.

The property is located just a short walk from pristine beaches and scenic nature walks, making it the perfect coastal lifestyle with a tranquil, mountain-like feel. Situated in the peaceful location of Ventnor, this property is ideal for those seeking a spacious home with stunning views and a lifestyle close to nature. Whether you're after a relaxing retreat or a property with dual living potential, this is an opportunity not to be missed on Phillip Island.

Call Alex Scott & Staff Phillip Island on 5952 2633 to arrange your private inspection.



534 1308m²

51-53 Harris Road, **Ventnor**
For Sale \$1,125,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Cowes Office 5952 2633

ALLAMBEE RESERVE 	KORUMBURRA 	SAN REMO 	DALYSTON 
35 Clarkes Road <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birubi Homestead on approx. 112 acres• Shedding incl. shearing shed, stock yards• 3 bed, 1 bath, weatherboard home \$820,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	9 Mair Crescent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spacious family home• 4/5 bedroom, 2 bathroom• Under house workshop \$550,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	10/157-159 Marine Parade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stunning apartment with breathtaking views• Open plan living, secure access• 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 cars \$1,250,000 Contact: Cowes Office	12-18 Walker Street <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3045m² landscape block• 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom• More shedding than you will ever need \$990,000 - \$1,080,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
LEONGATHA 	KORUMBURRA 	VENTNOR 	KILCUNDA 
2/9 Ogilvy Street <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neat 2 bed unit with updates throughout• Convenient location, close to main street• Established vegetable and herb garden \$440,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	23 Bridge Street <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grand period home• Prime corner location• 3 bedroom, 3 living \$695,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	532 Ventnor Beach Road <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Situated on approx. 4000m2• Beautifully renovated with water views• 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, ample car parking \$1,595,000 Contact: Cowes Office	10 Bellevue Court <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.5 acres of land• 2 storey, 3 bedroom home• Unbelievable ocean views \$1,450,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
MARDAN 	KORUMBURRA 	VENTNOR 	WONTHAGGI 
155 Nicholls Road <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newly constructed residence on 114 acres• Machinery shed, hay shed, cattle yards• Dairy converted into studio and workshop \$2,300,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	24 Massimo Way <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elevated position• Easy to manage 763m² block• Modern 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom \$575,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	51-53 Harris Road <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two homes on 1300m2 (approx.)• Amazing water views from undercover deck• 5 bedroom, 3 bathroom, ample car parking \$1,125,000 Contact: Cowes Office	147a Reed Crescent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2016m² allotment• 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms• Tasteful renovations \$979,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
LEONGATHA 	LOCH 	COWES 	RYANSTON 
60 Chamberlain Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over half an acre in town with a family home• Mature plants and trees, variety of fruit trees• Desired location, short drive to town \$749,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	335 Henrys Road <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private country retreat• Architectural masterpiece• Endless possibilities \$1,385,000 - \$1,420,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	2/8 Vaughan Street <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sought after area, close to beach and town• Modern kitchen, ducted heating & cooling• 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom \$699,000 Contact: Cowes Office	1959 Loch Wonthaggi Road <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 beautiful acres• Modern 3 bedroom home• Unparalleled views \$1,475,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office

<p>LEONGATHA 5662 0922 41 Bair Street Andrew Newton 0402 940 320 Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299 Tony Giles 0407 528 192 Dan Huther 0418 334 801</p>	<p>KORUMBURRA 5655 1133 36 Bridge Street Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898</p>	<p>COWES 5952 2633 113a Thompson Avenue Greg Price 0419 337 441 Brian Silver 0407 347 509 Chase Waters 0423 272 819 Maree Malloy 0408 316 715</p>	<p>WONTHAGGI 5672 1911 Cnr Murray & Billson Streets Cal Nation 0439 334 163 Mick Chambers 0418 349 783 Phil Hanley 0417 140 508</p>
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More manufactured water for more river water

VICTORIA'S draft 30-year infrastructure strategy is looking to transition away from a reliance on river water to having a greater reliance on manufactured water, such as that from the desalination plant in Wonthaggi, to meet water needs.

The report states that climate change will reduce how much water flows down Victoria's rivers and that using manufactured water in Victorian cities and towns means that more water can stay in rivers.

Part of this plan is to ensure more river water will become available for other uses including returning water to Traditional Owners and the environment, without taking water from farmers or other water users.

According to a separate document, 'Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap: Progress Report September 2024,' DEECA is currently working with Traditional Owners and Southern Rural Water to progress a number of water returns in South Gippsland.

A large portion of South Gippsland currently has water which has been unallocated to a Traditional Owner – whether that be to Gunaikurnai or Bunurong.

This includes the Bass River which comprises of 300ML of unallocated



Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy recommends increasing manufactured water to make more water available in our rivers so they can be returned to Traditional Owners.

water, the Powlett River with 500 ML of unallocated water and 100 ML unallocated for the coastal catchment between Lang Lang River and Bass River, and 600 ML unallocated from the South Gippsland Coastal area and 'other'.

According to action 6-8 in the document DEECA are currently supporting and progressing applications for unallocated water, including the Powlett and Bass Rivers.

While action 6-9 in the same document states that: The Victorian Government will seek to return water to the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on Bunurong Country.

Aboriginal people owned less than 0.2 per cent of Victoria's water entitlements in 2022 and this exclusion of Traditional Owners in water

management has prevented them from Caring for Country, according to Infrastructure Victoria's report.

The Victorian Government has committed to working with Traditional Owners to increase access to water entitlements and return almost 100 billion litres of water to the environment in the Gippsland region.

The Victorian Government returned two billion litres of water to the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation in 2021, which was the first formal hand back of water rights to Traditional Owners in Victoria.

The hand back of water is said to help restore traditional practices, protect cultural values, heal Country and support the Gunaikurnai people to gain economic independence.



Wayne and Jenny Price Wooreen beef farmers. A114_1025

Praying for rain as farm dams start to run dry

By Bruce Wardley and Andrew Palocz

"WE'LL all be 'rooned," said Hanrahan.

Not quite ruined but farmers are looking to the sky more often these days as the big dry tightens its grip across Bass Coast and South Gippsland and farm dams start to dry up.

"Two of our dams have run dry and another dam is always dry," said Sam Dakin of Glen Forbes.

Megan Dakin estimates 60 per cent of their farm is now without water.

"It's a dry summer," said Sam. "We have 70 cows in calf and another 70 store stock waiting to be sold."

Beef farmers Jenny and Wayne Price of Wooreen are fortunate to have a reliable creek, but one of their farm dams is close to empty.

"We've got a dam that's never dried up and it's down to a puddle," said Jenny. "It's very strange for this area."

Although Jenny and Wayne can be thankful for the creek running through their property the big dry has sapped the life out of what should be good Gippsland summer pasture.

South Gippsland beef farmer Ross Svenson is not the only farmer hoping for an early Autumn break.

"The dams are drying, and the chatter is all about water."

Ross is fortunate to be in a better position than many others.

"I've invested a lot of money on reticulated systems and large dam storage because our climate is changing, and you've got to conserve the water if you want to get through."

Ross has heard of one farmer in Bass who is starting to cart water.

"There's no future in carting water for livestock," Mr Svenson said.

"Cattle drink a lot."

Livestock Manager for Alex Scott and Staff in Leongatha Dane Perczyk said water is definitely a concern.

"A lot of people have been commenting about their water situation."

Periods of low rainfall are common in

Australia often leading to algal blooms in farm dams with warm weather and low surface flows providing ideal conditions to stimulate excessive growth of algae both in water storages and in slow moving streams.

Livestock owners should look for signs of blue-green algae when inspecting farm dams, troughs and other water sources, particularly during the warmer months when algal blooms are more likely.

Excessive algal growth can cause unacceptable taste, odour and appearance of water used for the house and garden, clogging of filters, meters, valves and trickle irrigation lines and release of toxins by blue-green algae in particular which may poison livestock.

While blue-green algal blooms typically appear as green paint-like surface scum in water, they can also be reddish-purple or brown in colour.

It can be difficult to tell blue-green algae from other less toxic algal species.

If a suspicious bloom is found farmers should move their stock to an area on the property where there is a safe alternative source of water.

Algae can also hasten the corrosion of metal tanks and pipes and produce an unsightly slime on channels, tanks and troughs as well as an oily scum on the surface of dams.

Some blue-green algae produce toxins which can persist in the water long after treatment of the algae, these toxins can be poisonous to animals, humans and aquatic life.

There are registered chemicals to kill blue-green algae, but chemical treatment should not be attempted unless absolutely necessary and after seeking professional advice.

A range of useful information on blue-green algae, and options for livestock drinking water is available at agriculture.vic.gov.au/bga



Farmers warned of the possibility of algal blooms as dams run dry. B23_1025

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Practical tools to ensure you and your business are prepared to employ and manage staff effectively.

BAIRNSDALE
Monday 24th March 5:30pm-7:30pm
Gippsland Agricultural Centre, Bairnsdale Airport

FLYNN
Tuesday 25th March 10:30am-12:30pm
Flynn Community Hall- Waddis Way, Flynn

LEONGATHA
Tuesday 25th March 5:30pm-7:30pm
Space 47 - 47 McCartin St, Leongatha

No cost & meal provided

REGISTER

PHONE CHRIS
0487 291 197

LINK: <https://bit.ly/4hPNTkM>

QR SCAN:

This event received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund



Kilos of tomatoes harvested for community Passata Day

THE Cape Community Farm – located in Cape Paterson – was a hive of activity this past week as more than 100 kilograms of tomatoes were harvested from the farm’s Foodcube wicking beds in preparation for the much-anticipated community-led Passata Day.

Organised by Cape Paterson residents Sarina Newman, Anna Caleo and the Cape Community Farm committee, the event brought together more than 100 people from the local and surrounding areas, including families and children, to take part in the age-old tradition of passata making.

From washing and chopping tomatoes to bottling and labelling, the day was filled with hands-on learning, laughter

and community spirit.

By the end of the day, more than 200 bottles of passata were produced – perfect for pasta dishes, pizza sauces and delicious homemade meals.

“It’s fantastic to see so many people coming together at the farm, enjoying themselves, and celebrating the harvest,” said Cape Community Farm resident farmer Adrian.

“We’re incredibly proud of this season’s produce, with more than 100 kilograms of tomatoes grown just for this event. It’s been a hugely successful summer, and we’re looking forward to more workshops and community events, like our recent pickling and preserving workshop, and our upcoming sourdough workshop in the

coming months.”

The day wasn’t just about bottling passata.

Families, friends and neighbours enjoyed wood-fired pizza, shared a glass of wine, and embraced the job of working together in the sunshine.

Passata making has long been an Italian tradition that brings people together over a shared love of food and this event was no exception.

The Cape Community Farm continues to thrive as a place where people can grow fresh produce, learn new skills and be part of a vibrant, sustainable community.

For more information about upcoming events and how to get involved, visit <https://capecommunityfarm.org.au/> or follow the Cape Community Farm on Facebook.



The Cape Community Farm was a hive of activity recently for the Passata Day.

MLA launches Social Media Academy

MEAT & Livestock Australia (MLA) is launching a new Social Media Academy to create the next batch of influential red meat ambassadors to connect everyday Australians with the vital work of our producers.

MLA is calling for producers to sign up to the Social Media Academy. By participating, they can boost their profiles and benefit themselves, their community and the broader red meat industry.

MLA’s Managing Director Michael Crowley said the program will help metropolitan Australians see how their favourite red meat is produced on-farm.

“Australian livestock producers are highly trusted by the community to raise high quality, nutrient-dense food and its imperative that customers continue to have these high levels of trust,” said Mr Crowley.

“MLA’s Social Media Academy will assist producers show best practice in caring for livestock and the environment so customers can continue to feel good about eating red meat. We’ll be doing this on social media where Australians are highly engaged in receiving and sharing information.”

The Social Media Academy is an extension of MLA’s popular Ambassadors for the Red Meat Industry as part of the Australian Good Meat project, which harnesses the power of producers to engage with the community and reveal the facts about best practice red meat production.

Social Media Academy participants will attend workshops at TikTok’s head office and walk away with the skills they need to build a community and following, as well as insights into boosting positive community perceptions about Australian red meat production.

The first cohort of participants will be trained by TikTok in Sydney on April 23, 2025 and learn how to create best practice content. They will also connect with other Australian agriculture content creators to help build a community which is united in sharing the industry’s positive message.

The full selection criteria is available at Social Media Academy.

Applications close March 16, 2025.

Understanding farm carbon workshop in Leongatha

UNDERSTANDING and measuring greenhouse gas emissions (or carbon footprint) on dairy farms is vital and provides farmers with valuable information for improving productivity and sustainability and preparing for regulatory and market changes.

Dairy Australia will be holding a free workshop on farm carbon in Leongatha this Thursday, March 13, to support farmers to understand the drivers of greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce their carbon footprint.

From understanding industry requirements to assessing potential productivity and environmental benefits, the workshop will provide farmers with

essential information and practical steps.

“This workshop is for dairy farmers who want to better understand how reducing their farm’s greenhouse gas emissions can improve profitability and also help navigate current and evolving market requirements. Farmers will come away with practical strategies for managing their on-farm carbon,” said Robyn McLean, Carbon Farming Extension Advisor with Dairy Australia.

“All farmers who attend the workshop will also have the opportunity to schedule a one-to-one session for tailored support on using the Australian Dairy Carbon Calculator.”

Workshop outcomes include:

- Gain a solid understanding of the drivers of greenhouse gas emissions on dairy farms and the influencing factors.
- Learn about the industries’ emissions reduction targets, explore farm activities and technologies, and get clarity on common carbon terms such as inseting, offsetting and reduction.
- Calculate greenhouse gas emissions using online tools designed specifically for Australian dairy farming, the Australian Dairy Carbon Calculator and DairyBase.
- Explore practical steps for reducing greenhouse gas emissions on dairy farms to make informed choices that protect profitability and sustainability.

- Understand the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) scheme and the benefits and risks. Learn about the due diligence required before participating in a carbon farming project and how to leverage ACCUs for potential financial and environmental gains.
- This workshop is delivered with funding support from the Commonwealth of Australia under the Carbon Farming Outreach Program. Understanding Farm Carbon Workshop will be held on Thursday, March 13, from 10am to 2pm at the Leongatha Football Netball Club, 54A Roughhead Street Leongatha. To register go to: bit.ly/4kjjWxj.

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
		Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244		
WONTHAGGI				COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Maree Malloy	0408 316 715
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Brian Silver	0407 347 509	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
Angus Hall	0466 326 487			Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM			
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472		
BERWICK		LANG LANG		KOO WEE RUP	
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Angus Hall	0466 326 487

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Settlement reached
for farmers

THE Presidents of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF), United Dairy Farmers of Victoria (UDV) and Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) have announced a settlement in the legal dispute over VFF UDV's membership of ADF.

The settlement will see VFF UDV remaining a member of ADF working collaboratively for the benefit of Victoria's dairy farmers.

"The resolution of this dispute between the VFF UDV and ADF is both welcome and long-awaited," VFF UDV President Bernie Free said.

"During this period VFF UDV and ADF have continued to collaborate in good faith, serving farmers on ADF's National Council and Policy Advisory Groups.

"However, it will be reassuring for all in industry to have this settled in recognition of what dairy farmers really want, which is for us to get on with the business of dealing with the issues affecting dairy farmers."



Fiona Glover from Wattlewood with Angus heifer Acacia, Owen Cambridge from Kinlock Angus, Linda Jefferis Korumburra's Biggest Morning Tea and John Glover. B27_1025

Angus auctioned for
Biggest Morning Tea

ACACIA, a well-credentialed Angus heifer from Wattlewood Angus in Lang Lang fetched a very credible \$8000 at the cattle stud's Autumn bull sale in aid of the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea.

"I'm a little overwhelmed," said Fiona Glover from Wattlewood Angus.

With keen bidding defying the current dry conditions in South Gippsland and Bass Coast the top Wattlewood bull sold quickly for \$10,500.

A total of 35 lots were

for sale including the 'pick of the pair' a choice between two heifers offered at auction for charity.

Wattlewood Acacia was described as phenotypically correct with loads of functionality and natural muscle, while Wattlewood Barunah was listed as super feminine with terrific feet and leg structure in a classic wedge shape package.

Successful buyers Karen Carter and Owen Cambridge of Kinlock Angus Hedley were more than pleased with their purchase

knowing the proceeds would be donated to Korumburra's Biggest Morning Tea to aid cancer research.

The auction held in conjunction with Elders Delaney, SEJ agents and the Wattlewood team proved to be an outstanding success and was followed by a delicious beef roll lunch.

Wattlewood Angus can be found at 75 Heads Road, Lang Lang, search for Wattlewood ASH & Angus on Facebook and Instagram, or go to wattlewoodangus.com.au.

VLE – LEONGATHA

STORE SALE
2000 CATTLE 2000

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c DB & DM Fairbrother, Kings Flat (NUTRIEN)
75 Poll Hereford steers, 17-18 mths, Mountain Valley blood, 2x5in1, yard weaned, quiet, NE Accred, GF & ABF

A/c B & P Svenson, Berrys Creek (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus steers, 18 mths, Sired By Millah Murrah Bulls

A/c E Gloster, Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus Steers, 20 mths

A/c Stonewarra Rural, Koonwarra (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

A/c Ponderosa Herefords (NUTRIEN)
40 Hereford steers, 14-16 mths

A/c H & S Logan, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 20-24 mths

A/c Stackhouse Pastoral, Lackrana (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 12-18 mths, NE Accred

A/c Behmer Pastoral, Pound Creek (NUTRIEN)
25 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, By Black Spur & Kirribilli Angus Bulls

A/c B & I Gale, Waratah Bay (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 18 mths, GF, ABF & VB, By Caithness Angus Bulls

A/c R & C Donat, Wonthaggi (NUTRIEN)
15 Angus steers, 18 mths

A/c S & R Anderson, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
15 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths

A/c J & D Muldoon, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus steers, 18 mths, NE Accred

A/c K & L Holmes, Boolarra (NUTRIEN)
12 Hereford steers, 16-18 mths, Newcomen & Mawarra blood

A/c M & N Bracecamp, Berrys Creek (SEJ)
10 Angus & Angus Hereford X steers, 20 mths, Pinora blood, NE Accred, 3 X 7in1, Cydectin 2/2/25

A/c R & D Chisholm, Outtrim (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus steers, 17-18 mths, By Wattlewood Stud Bulls

A/c Malabar Farm, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
7 Angus & Angus Hereford & Poll Hereford steers, 16-18 mths, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred, By Weeran & Wirruna Bulls

A/c P & A Chisholm, Archies Creek (NUTRIEN)
7 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, By Merlewood Stud Bulls, NE Accred

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Malabar Farm, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
31 Angus & Angus Hereford x & Poll Hereford heifers, 16-18 mths, PTE, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred, By Weeran & Wirruna Bulls

A/c R & C Donat, Wonthaggi (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus heifers, 18 mths

A/c K & L Holmes, Boolarra (NUTRIEN)

10 Hereford hfrs, 16-18 mths, Newcomen & Mawarra blood

WEANERS

A/c P & J Boddy, Woodside (SEJ)

Annual Draft

240 Angus steers, 7-8 mths, By Pure Dunoon bulls, weaned 14 days, Drenched, 5in1, NE Accred, GF & ABF

A/c Kimray P/L, Romsey (NUTRIEN)

25 Angus mixed sex, 11-12 mths

30 Red Angus mixed sex, 11-12 mths

By Braeside blood bulls, 2x5in1, Cydectin Jan, weaned 8 wks, VB

A/c M & M Standfield, Fish Creek. (SEJ)

50 Angus steers, 10-11 mths, well weaned, NE Accred, Pure Dunoon blood

A/c Mrs C Jeffrey, Driffield (NUTRIEN)

20 Hereford steers

40 Hereford heifers

10 mths

A/c GM Kensley, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)

36 Angus steers

5 Angus heifers

10-12 mths, Sires Include Prophet, Quantum & New Ground, VQ, weaned, outstanding quality

A/c H & J Bland, Yarram (NUTRIEN)

11 Charo steers

28 Charo heifers

10-11 mths, weaned, By Mount William Bulls

A/c R & A Beamish, Boolarra (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus & Hereford mixed sex, 10-11 mths

A/c J O'Connell, Woodside (SEJ)

30 Angus mixed sex weaners, 6-7 mths, drenched, 5in1

A/c J & D Muldoon, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)

25 Angus steers, 9-10 mths, NE Accred

A/c MD Gordon, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus mixed sex calves, 6-7 mths, By Wattlewood Stud Bulls

A/c KRG Ross, Delburn (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus X steers, 14 mths

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c DP Pearce, Hallston (NUTRIEN)

100 Angus X & Friesian mixed sex, 16-18 mths

A/c KRG Ross, Delburn (NUTRIEN)

10 XB steers, 14 mths

Lower numbers but positive prices at Store Sale

JUST over 2500 head of cattle were available at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, Elders, Baw Baw Livestock, Alex Scott & Staff and Everitt Seeley & Bennetts having their turn to sell.

The latter sold a pen of 13 steers for Geoff Mathers of Anderson, weighing an average of 523 kilos and fetching \$2040 a head at \$3.90 a kilo.

"I'm happy with that; I would have got about \$1400 if I sold when I normally do, before Christmas or just after," Geoff said, after hanging on a bit longer to see how the market went, having enough feed and water to do so.

Merv Prossor ventured from Red Hill to watch Everitt Seeley & Bennetts sell cattle on behalf of his neighbour Peter Chandler and his Flinders-based cousin Tamara Prossor.

"Tamara will be rapt," Merv said of the \$2000 per head price her 10 steers achieved, weighing an average of 532 kilos at \$3.75 a kilo, noting she



Geoff Mathers of Anderson is pleased with the price he got for his steers at Leongatha VLE. A24_1025

paid \$660 per head when the cattle weighed about 300 kilos each.

The \$2050 a head that Peter's steers drew was only just shy of the \$2100 he anticipated, the price gained for the 10 steers equating to \$3.71 a kilo with the cattle weighing an average of 552 kilos.

It was Merv's first time at the Leongatha saleyards.

"You get an idea of the market," he said, having enjoyed the day's adventure.

Wayne and Jenny Price of Wooreen were delighted their 20 steers broke through the \$4 per kilo mark (\$4.04), with Elders achieving \$1480 per head for the cattle weighing an average of 366 kilos.

During Thursday's sale, Sentinel-Times heard there is lots of talk about water among local farmers with storage beginning to run low for some, everyone continuing to hope for an Autumn break soon.



SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS



MARKET REPORT

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Quality lines holding firm

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded 2600 cattle at Thursday's VLE Leongatha store sale in another good quality offering. A similar-sized field of feedlot buyers attended but there was slightly less demand from local graziers as the dry conditions continued.

Prices generally held firm for the better quality lines of heavy and mid weighted feeders and little easier for the plainer types which were mostly purchased by feedlot orders. Weaners followed in a similar trend for both steers and heifers with graziers prepared to pay the rate for the quality pens.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Mar. 6, 2025

Steers			
C Baratta 21 Hereford	604kg	\$3.65	\$2210
R & J Demby 20 Angus	575kg	\$3.89	\$2240
C Baratta 18 Hereford	572kg	\$3.95	\$2140
R Duke 12 Angus	566kg	\$3.53	\$2000
Craig & Szabo 15 Angus	543kg	\$3.59	\$1950
P & B Stammers 16 Angus	541kg	\$3.95	\$2140
K Borad 10 Angus	525kg	\$3.79	\$1990
Hoe Hoe Hoe P/L 12 Angus	520kg	\$4.01	\$2090
A & T Derham 13 Angus	503kg	\$3.77	\$1900
LJ Mccorey 20 Angus	485kg	\$4.05	\$1950
Hoe Hoe Hoe P/L 16 Angus	482kg	\$3.93	\$1900
Gibson Farm 15 Angus	476kg	\$3.61	\$1720
Walker Family Trust 21 Angus	462kg	\$4.16	\$1920
DH Collins 15 Angus	459kg	\$3.70	\$1700
H & M Mawhinney 10 Angus	449kg	\$3.69	\$1660
J.Howard 10 Angus	424kg	\$3.51	\$1490
C & S Taylor 19 Angus	423kg	\$3.53	\$1490
Heath Contracting 15 Angus	421kg	\$3.61	\$1520
N Korinsky 12 Angus	415kg	\$3.51	\$1460
L Bond 17 Angus	413kg	\$3.65	\$1510
Powlett River 12 Angus	374kg	\$3.87	\$1450
F & C Dortmans 11 Angus	374kg	\$3.71	\$1390
B & J Smith 11 Angus	373kg	\$3.47	\$1300
C Jeffrey 14 Hereford	372kg	\$3.57	\$1330
S McMahon 10 Hereford	372kg	\$3.22	\$1200
J Kay 13 Shtn	368kg	\$3.39	\$1250
Clouds Creek Rural 20 Angus	366kg	\$4.04	\$1480
DH Collins 11 Angus	365kg	\$3.69	\$1350
T & K Stubbs 10 Angus	361kg	\$4.07	\$1470
Kerrie Valley Beef 13 Char	361kg	\$3.54	\$1280
GS & J Tuckett 24 Angus	358kg	\$3.91	\$1400
M & P Williams 14 BB	355kg	\$4.05	\$1440
Wintersun 20 Hereford	355kg	\$3.49	\$1240
K Reinets 17 Angus	351kg	\$4.07	\$1430
G Sas 12 Angus	351kg	\$3.70	\$1300
F.Vella 13 Angus	349kg	\$4.06	\$1420
N Korinsky 12 Angus	343kg	\$3.79	\$1300
Powlett River 20 Angus	341kg	\$4.16	\$1420
B Lowther 21 Angus	340kg	\$3.82	\$1300
K.Breen 22 Angus	314kg	\$4.35	\$1370

Heifers			
Yellow Tail Ridge 10 Angus	467kg	\$3.16	\$1480
PJ & BJ Stammers 13 Angus	466kg	\$3.16	\$1480
GH & AJ Burstun 22 Angus	442kg	\$3.45	\$1530
GS & J Tuckett 14 Angus	438kg	\$3.54	\$1550
Aurora Racing 10 Angus	369kg	\$2.71	\$1000
N Korinsky 11 Angus	368kg	\$3.06	\$1130
Clouds Creek Rural 19 Angus	355kg	\$3.24	\$1150
Jones Farm 15 Angus	348kg	\$3.27	\$1140
FP & CD Dortmans 12 Angus	347kg	\$3.34	\$1160
Powlett River 12 Angus	325kg	\$3.23	\$1050
Oak P/L 13 Angus	320kg	\$2.96	\$950
Wintersun 14 Hereford	319kg	\$3.13	\$1000
Powlett River 14 Angus	309kg	\$3.26	\$1010
MS & SL Reedy 13 Angus	299kg	\$3.51	\$1050

Dairy Steers			
S Denholm 10 Friesian	555kg	\$2.77	\$1540
C & S Park 15 Friesian	455kg	\$2.72	\$1240



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale with Phillip Island Nature Parks Kevin Love, Board Chair and Jarvis Weston General Manager Infrastructure and Planning.

Record numbers flock to see penguins waddling home

THANKS to the state Government's \$5 million investment in a new accessible boardwalk and upgraded penguin viewing stands, the Phillip Island Penguin Parade has had a stellar summer season – selling out a record 47 nights between December and February.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale was at the Penguin Parade last week on behalf of the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major

Events Steve Dimopoulos to congratulate the team and experience the new boardwalk and upgraded viewing stands.

“Even if you’ve visited the Parade before, this new boardwalk gets you closer to the little penguins as they waddle up the shore.”

The upgrades required careful consideration to protect the little penguins’ sensitive natural habitat from heavy construction vehicles. As part of

the construction, the steel framework was lifted by helicopter into location, with a skilled pilot guiding the beams and frames into position. Other components of the boardwalk were carried in by hand and installed one by one to ensure as little disruption as possible to the penguin population.

The upgrade will also protect the penguins’ habitat by reducing erosion from visitors walking in the area.

Forward-thinking focus for dairy farmers

THE GippsDairy Muster returns for its fourth consecutive year on Wednesday, April 30 at the Federation University’s Gippsland Campus in Churchill.

A premiere event for the GippsDairy team, the Muster showcases the latest trends, technologies, and practices in dairy farming and features a line-up of industry experts and farmer panel discussions.

This year’s theme is Farming into the Future: Imagine | Inquire | Innovate and will aim to provide Gippsland farmers with practical ways to enhance the future of their farm business using new and developing technologies.

The day will run from 9.30am-2.15pm and

includes four key presentations:

- Innovations in monitoring animal welfare and performance
- Utilising drones on farm
- An update on the PastureSmarts technology
- Virtual herding

Attendees will also hear about the latest legislation updates impacting the use of new technologies on farms across Victoria.

Leongatha South dairy farmer Callum Moscript will be the emcee for the event.

Along with his extensive farm experience, Callum is a co-owner of First Class Genetics, driving advancements in Australian livestock through the import of unique genetics from global markets. He is

committed to guiding innovation and fostering leadership within the sector to ensure its sustainability and future success.

For more information and to view the event program, visit dairyaustralia.com.au/gippsdairymuster.

To register for the 2025 GippsDairy Muster, visit: dairyaustralia.com.au/gippsdairy.

GippsDairy would like to thank its gold sponsor Gardiner Foundation, and silver sponsor Lallemand Animal Nutrition, with additional support from Bowden’s Agricultural Contracting P/L, Burra Foods Australia, Community Bank Heyfield and District, Dairy Farmers Victoria, DeLaval, Fonterra and GEA.

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DEATHS

CAMPBELL (nee Siggins), Gladys (Lorraine):
27.08.1943 - 10.03.2025.

Dearly loved wife of Alex (dec.).

Both enjoying a cup of tea and toast, together again.

Adored mum of Tania and Lyn(ette) and husband Chris.

Dearly loved Nanna of Alex and wife Katie, Grace and fiance Sean and Ryan.

Proud and loved Great Nanna Campbell of Flossy and Finley.

CAMPBELL, Lorraine:

Sister-in-law of Peter and Suzanne Campbell.

Aunt to Tim, Chris and Natasha.

Rest in peace.

MILES (nee Allcorn), Alma Evelyn:
21.03.1934 - 01.03.2025.

Loved aunty of Raymond and Maureen, dear great aunty of Priscilla, Meredith and Mark, Olivia, Isabelle and Mathew.

We will miss you and our twice weekly phone calls, but are happy that you are now where you want to be.

Thank you for your love and everything over the years.

--Raymond.

DEATHS

MILNES (nee Oates), Gwen:
Passed away peacefully at Rose Lodge on 4 March, 2025.

Cherished daughter of Jack and Emily Oates (Johnston).

Loved sister of Harry, Dorothy, Don (all dec.) and Gladys.

Adored wife of Max with whom she enjoyed over 45 years of wonderful marriage.

A loving aunty, great aunty, great-great aunty and friend.

Gwen will always be treasured by both the Oates' and Milnes' families and

by who all who knew and loved her. Her kindness, courage, faith, generosity of spirit and care for all she met was an inspiration to us all. She will never be forgotten.

The family would particularly like to thank the staff at Rose Lodge for the superb way that they cared for Gwen, particularly during her twilight days.

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DEATHS

MILNES (nee Oates), Gwen:
Gwen loved wife of Max (dec.) for 46 years.

Formerly of Ryanston, passed away at Rose Lodge March 4.

A wonderful couple reunited.

Loved daughter of Jack (dec.) and Emily (dec.).

Sister of Harry, Joyce, Dorothy and Jack, Don (all dec.) and Janice, Gladys and Dietmar (dec.).

Cherished memories.

My sister Gwen, how you will be missed.

Gladys and Dietmar (dec.).

Much loved aunt of Tilo and Julie, Trevor and Moira, Troy and Marney.

And all their families.

Sleep peacefully.

MILNES (nee Oates), Gwen Marjorie:

Beloved sister of Don (dec.) devoted sister-in-law and loving friend of Janice.

Cherished and loving aunt to Peter, Barry, Ali and Lynette, and a loving great aunt to Talia, Dylan, Ted, and Maggie.

Your vibrant positivity and warm, welcoming spirit brought light into our lives.

We will forever treasure the memories of your joyful presence and miss you dearly.

DEATHS

MILNES, Gwen:
We loved your positive qualities.

--John, Janene, Glenda and family.

MILLS (nee Fischmann), Heather Joy:
Beloved daughter to Roy and Pauline (both dec.); sister to Peter (dec.) David and Rodney.

The most loving and caring mother to Fiona and partner Scott, Adrian, Barry and fiancé Ebony; adoring grandmother to Noah and James.

Tragically taken from us, words cannot express our love for you, forever in our hearts, love us all xoxoxo.

A private family memorial will be held and a celebration of life will be announced for a future date.

MILLS, Heather:
From everyone associated with Julie Wade Clothing Store, our deepest condolences are sent out to Heather's children Fiona, Adrian and Barry, and Heather's extended family.

Heather was a much loved and respected staff member and friend of ours.

Working with her was a pleasure.

She was tragically taken too soon just as her life as a retiree was starting.

Thinking of you all, --Eric and Joanne Mesch.

DEATHS

TURTON, Arthur William (Arch):
Loved brother of Graham, loved brother-in-law of Shirley, fond uncle of Michael, Paul, Andrea and Narelle and their families.

Passed away after a long battle.

Now at peace.

"Gone fishing"

YOUNG, Robert Campbell (Bob):
Formerly of Inverloch. Aged 93 years.

Passed away peacefully at Koorooman House Nursing Home on March 8, 2025.

Loved son of William (Bill) and Margaret Young, brother of Margaret (Peggy) (all dec.).

Reunited with 'Father'

Another boatman proud to have been a professional fisherman home from sea.

Family friend of 3 generations.

Rest in peace Bob.

--Kim, Mark and Nicole.

IN MEMORIAM

McGLASHAN, Susan Elaine:
04.08.1947 - 13.03.2024.

My darling Susan, 12 months have passed, you are so missed by family and friends, forever in my heart.

Till we are in each others arms again.

Your loving husband.

--Terry Amor.

SMYTHE, George Edward (Ted):
14.03.2021.

Dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

--We miss you so.

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

LINDSAY (nee Morgan), Helen Ann:

Colin, Jessica and families, would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, cards, messages, and support at this difficult and sad time.

We especially wish to thank the staff at Kirrak House for their care.

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Advertisements offering a used motor car for sale must include in the advertisement:
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• If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or
• If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

PUBLIC NOTICES


AGM
Korumburra RSL sub branch
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
7.30pm at 34 Mine Road. Korumburra

PUBLIC NOTICES


HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE
13 11 14

PUBLIC NOTICES

A.G.M.:
South Gippsland Jazz Society Inc.
At Inverloch RSL, Bolding Street, Sunday, April 6, commencing 2pm. Music entertainment to follow until 4.30pm.

PERSONALS

LANGWARRIN:
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MILNES:

A Funeral Service to give thanks for Mrs. Gwenyth Marjorie Milnes' amazing life will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Thursday, March 13, 2025, commencing at 11am.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.



YOUNG:
The Funeral Service for Mr. Robert (Bob) Young will be held at the graveside, Inverloch Cemetery on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, commencing at 11am.



IN MEMORIAM

LINDSAY, Suzanne:
01.04.1948 - 13.03.2021.

4 years have gone it doesn't get any easier.

It's the loneliness that hurts not having you by my side.

All my love Greg.

♥

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Newhaven College is seeking applications TEACHER

Newhaven College is seeking a full time VCE Outdoor Education, Physical Education and Middle School Health Teacher to work in our specialised Year 9 Environmental Centre program.

Fixed term contract position commencing on Monday 2 June 2025 until end of Semester 1 2026. Extension beyond this is possible by negotiation.

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/discover/work-with-us or contact Director of Business, Alan Nolan 03 5956 7505.

Applications (cover letter and CV) to be submitted to: recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au
Applications close Monday 17 March 2025 at 5pm

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 available on the College website.

50 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Sentinel-Times Classifieds

SITUATIONS VACANT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Co-opted Board Director: TAFE Gippsland

Applications are currently sought from suitably qualified Gippsland residents for the role of Co-opted Director of the Board at TAFE Gippsland.

TAFE Gippsland is one of the leading providers of large-scale vocational education and training in Victoria. It is also the first-choice provider of training and further education for students and industry in Gippsland.

With a proud history of helping Gippsland communities thrive for almost a century, TAFE Gippsland is also at the forefront of modern workplace training initiatives.

Play a part in shaping the future of a skilled and thriving Gippsland.

Applications close:
11.59pm Monday, March 31, 2025.

Details at: www.tafegippsland.edu.au/about/careers

For specific enquiries relating to this position, please contact Fran Bishop, Board Secretary on 0419 711 586

For assistance with the online application process, please contact Jenna Langley, People and Culture Manager on 0459 023 510.

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GIPPSLAND**



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Rose Lodge is a not-for profit Aged Care facility located in Wonthaggi that is committed to providing high-quality care and support to our residents, and we believe that our dedication and compassionate staff are the key to our success.

We are always looking for talented and passionate individuals who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others and share our values which are: **Community, Respect, Wellbeing, Accountability and Partnership.**

Rose Lodge offers a range of rewarding and meaningful career opportunities in the aged care industry and this new traineeship program is an extension of this.

The program is in collaboration with All Health Training – AHT and Rose Lodge, allowing staff to **earn while you learn** in a supportive environment.

If you are interested, we will be holding the below information sessions to answer any questions you may have. Please note that you are only required to attend one of these sessions.

- Tuesday, April 1 at 10.30am – Rose Lodge
- Thursday, April 3 at 4pm – Rose Lodge

If you would like to apply, please email your resume to hr@roselodge.com.au

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.



We are looking for a strong hardworking enthusiastic person to join our family business to look after the Fresh Produce department.

Applicants must have experience in either Green Grocery Store or supermarket Produce and have a passion and creative flair for fresh fruit and produce.

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Job Vacancy ID: 1468344

CANTEEN ASSISTANTS

Wonthaggi Campus
5 days/week 11am-2:30pm
Commencing Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Job Vacancy ID: 1468348

San Remo Campus
5 days/week 11am-2:30pm
Commencing Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Job Vacancy ID: 1468314

Dudley Campus
2 days/week (Thurs-Fri) 11am-2:30pm
Commencing Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Job Vacancy ID: 1468324

Positions Close:
Thursday, March 20, 2025

Bass Coast College is seeking suitably qualified staff to join its team in 2025 for the above positions.

Applications can be made via DET Recruitment Online

For further information please contact Gabe Windsor – Business Manager (5611 4000)

PUBLIC NOTICES



Alumni Reunions

Classes of
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The application is for a permit to:

- Vary a restriction registered on title.
- The restriction pertains to a planning permit that has expired.
- The restriction therefore cannot be acted upon

A permit is required under the following clauses of the planning scheme:

Clause 52.02 Easements, Restrictions and Reserves: Variation to a restriction on title.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Application Number: **PDPLANPER-2025/000069**

Address: **27 Marine Street, CAPE PATERSON**

Applicant: **Beveridge Williams & Co Pty Ltd**

For further reference contact: **Isia**

Phone number: 1300 BCOAST (226 278)

How can I make a submission?

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority. If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision. This application **has not** been decided and you can still make a submission before a decision has been made.

An objection must:

- be made to the responsible authority in writing by emailing basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au or posting it to: **Bass Coast Shire Council, P.O. Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995;**
- include the reasons for the objection and;
- state how the objector would be affected.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before: Wed, Mar. 26, 2025

Scan the QR code for more information for this application or visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/planningads



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Sentinel-Times



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- Qualified Light Vehicle Mechanic (preferred)
- 3-4 year apprentices are also encouraged to apply
- European vehicle knowledge is a bonus but not required

What We Offer:

- Competitive wages above the industry award, negotiable based on experience
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If you're looking to join a thriving business with opportunities for growth, we'd love to hear from you!

How to Apply:

Visit us in person at Foster Service Centre, 21 Toora Road, Foster or email your resume to fosterservicecentre@gmail.com

We look forward to meeting you!

V0982

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DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

Sentinel-Times

PUBLIC NOTICES



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SPORTS

Local clubs get behind Nathan

By Tayla Kershaw

LOCAL clubs are encouraging the next generation of sports stars. Among them is 10-year-old Nathan Moore, who is just two weeks away from competing in his first Aquathlon in the 11/12 Victorian team.

Having moved to Inverloch over a year ago, Nathan was warmly welcomed into Leon-gatha Little Athletics and South Coast Athletics.

Nathan has been involved in athletics for three years, but the extra support from his new clubs saw him compete at a state level at Casey Fields last weekend.

Nathan ran in the 1500 metre and shaved nine seconds off his personal best.

"He was really rapt with that result," Nathan's mum Anna said.

"He won regionals to compete at state. The top 24 kids in Victoria were selected to compete at State Athletics. Nathan was coached by South Coast's Miles (Wrigley), who was incredibly supportive."

Since joining the local athletics club, Anna has enjoyed the backing Nathan receives, which often comes in the form of mentorship from experienced athletes.

"It's great to see teens and athletes in their 20s getting behind him and sharing their knowledge," Anna said.

"It's beautiful to watch – there's been no other club like it. They help him set up his blocks and cheer for him. It's a real community club committed to supporting the next generation. They've gotten him to the point where he can compete in the U14s."

Nathan's next big competition is the School Sport Victoria (SSV) Aquathlon in Western Australia.

He is an exceptional swimmer and was encouraged to join South Gippsland Bass (SGB) Swimming Club after a school sports event.

"What I have noticed in Gippsland is the helpful nature of these clubs," Anna said.

"Where Miles was helping Nathan with his running, fitness and transitions, his SGB coach

in Wonthaggi, Sam (O'Keefe), has been teaching him to duck dive and open water swimming. Everyone really gets around him. It's such a good environment for a kid who just loves his sport."

The Aquathlon includes a one-kilometre run, a 200-metre open water swim and another one-kilometre swim to finish.

There is no bike component at primary level.

Regardless, Nathan has certainly made time to get out on his bike with his other inspiration – his grandfather Michael Reddie.

Also from Inverloch, Michael – or "Grumps" to Nathan – is 75 years old and continues to participate in the local parkrun.

"My dad has taken Nathan under his wing and really gotten him into fitness," Anna said.

"He has taught Nathan that he can do anything he wants to. He has really put in the hard yards to get Nathan to where he is."

This message particularly resounded when Nathan completed his first aquathlon during the selection period for the Victorian squad.

The selection process took place in Altona and the top eight were selected.

Following the Aquathlon, Nathan has made several goals for himself.

He'd like to make the SSV athletics and cross-country teams and go under the five-minute barrier in the 1500 metres.

He'd also love to continue seeing the country with his sport.

"He wants to keep having fun and he has really enjoyed getting to see Australia," Anna said.

"Western Australia isn't somewhere we've really considered before, but now we are so excited to have the opportunity to explore Perth and Fremantle as a family."

Anna expressed her gratitude to the amazing community offered to Nathan through the athletics clubs and SGB.

"I would all children who share these passions to sign up. They do a wonderful job," she said.



Ten-year-old athlete Nathan Moore with his biggest inspiration – his "Grumps" Michael Reddie from Inverloch.



Inverloch's Nathan Moore recently took his athletics to state level.

Last of the internals at Wonthaggi Croquet Club

THE club held its External Handicap Doubles tournament on the weekend of March 1 and 2.

Sponsored once again by the Workmen's Club of Wonthaggi, the event was successfully completed by early afternoon on the Sunday.

An earlier-than-normal finish came about due to the unfortunate withdrawal of one of the pairs on Saturday.

The final result could not have been closer with the pair of Craig Priller (Drouin) and Neil Warburton (Wonthaggi) and the Drouin pair of Bob Quale and Ray Biffin both finishing with four wins and +6 hoops.

However, with the former pair defeating the latter pair during the event, Craig and Neil were declared the eventual winner – well played all.

Haymes Paint Shop also needs recognition again for their continuing assistance.



Wonthaggi Croquet Club secretary Sue Cartwright with her winning team Jo Butterfield, Marj Prendergast, Neil Warburton, Terry Nash, Stephen Wilbourne and Tom Lacey.

Thanks must also go to all the members who assisted in the preparation of the greens, etc. and made themselves available on the weekend.

Tuesday, March 4, completed the in-house tournaments with the battle for the President/Secretary's Shield taking place.

Three teams on each side, drawn at random, competed

with the secretary's team being the victors this year with five games to four.

It took some time for the secretary to wrest the shield from the president but persistence prevailed.

Broken up by a lunchtime barbecue – thanks Bert – a fun day was held by all.

Every one of these internal tournaments is held to try and

get as many members as possible to participate in a not-too-serious but fun environment.

Playing to enjoy and not for sheep stations.

Wonthaggi club days are Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10am.

The club is situated on Wentworth Road near the sports/swimming complex so come along and have a try.



PIBC Club Captain Ash Easton (Winner Senior Men's). Photos: Craig Anderson.

Waves of talent on display at PIBC

THE Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) turned out in full force on Saturday, March 8, for the Aggregate 4 competition held at the first car park at Woolies.

The competition was spearheaded by PIBC Club Captain Ash Easton and team, including Head Judge Walter Hiatt.

A huge thanks went out to the event's sponsors for providing an array of prizes that rewarded the standout performances of the day including Creatures of Leisure, Tracks Mag, Atoll Travel, Sin Eyewear, Island Surfboards, and Safflower Clinic.

As part of the tradition, Bobby Matthews presented special awards, this time of three eggs each.

Results:

- Junior Males (U18): 1st – Jarrah Cicero, 2nd – Lachie Eastwood and 3rd – Rye Cicero.
- Junior Females (U18): 1st – Abbey Clarke, 2nd – Lillian Based and 3rd – Jade Hilford.
- Cadet Males (U16): 1st – Arch Rayner, 2nd – Dusty James

Rayner and 3rd – Angus Kennedy.

Cadet Females (U16): 1st – Scarlett Rennie, 2nd – Evie Lutz and 3rd – Savannah Bennett.

Senior Women's (35+): 1st – Zoe Adams, 2nd – Michelle Fincher and 3rd – Kellie McDonald.

Senior Men's (28-45): 1st – Ash Easton, 2nd – Carl Wright and 3rd – Jake Eisen.

Masters Mixed (45-60): 1st – Glyndyn Ringrose, 2nd – Adrian Maier and 3rd – Matthew Ware.

Legends Mixed (60+): 1st – Brian Tancheff, 2nd – Steve Turner and 3rd – Mal Gregson.

Open Women: 1st – Lillian Based, 2nd – Sarah Seuren and 3rd – Abbey Clarke.

Open Men: 1st – Cody Jeffrey, 2nd – Ravi Fostin and 3rd – Blake Green.

Special Awards:

- Best Turn – Cody Jeffrey
- Grom of the Day – Cicero twins
- Little Legend – Cruz De Roth
- Captain's Award – Ash Easton



Master's winner Glyndyn Ringrose.



Lara Smyth and Nathan Moore are heading west as they prepare to represent Victoria at the School Sports Australia Championships.

SGB swimmers represent team Vic

TWO SGB swimmers, Nathan Moore and Lara Smyth have been selected in the School Sports Victoria (SSV) Team-Vic 11-19 years Triathlon/Aquathlon team for the School Sports Australia (SSS) Championships in Rockingham, WA from Sunday, March 23 to Thursday, March 27.

Nathan, who is in Grade 5 at Inverloch-Kongwak Primary School, is part of the aquathlon team which involves running one kilometre, then swimming 200 metres and finishing with another one kilometre of running.

Lara, a year 12 student at Newhaven College is part of the senior girl's triathlon team which involves swimming 750 metres, bike riding 20 kilometres and running five kilometres.

Both Nathan and Lara will also participate in team relay events on Thursday, March 27.

Lara is really looking forward to challenging herself in the multi-sport race as well as meeting new team members. It is also a great opportunity for her to catch up with competitors who she has swum against at State Championships or run against at National Championships.

Nathan is looking forward to going to Western Australia and competing against the other states. He is also excited about getting to do two of his favourite sports combined.

Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling

PHANTOM: 1st place on 28pts Disco Ball, 2nd place on 26pts Filthy Frank and 3rd place on 24pts Asymbol.

2s Company: 1st place on 11pts King Pins, 2nd place on 11pts Him & Her and 3rd place on 10pts Palms.

Almost Bowling Legends: 1st place on 62pts Storm, 2nd place on 61pts Pinpals and 3rd place 61pts Dreamers.

Business League Early: 1st place on 11pts Balls Deep, 2nd place on 9pts Turkey Slappers, 3rd place on 9pts NTC and 4th place on 8pts Happy Hour.

Business League Late: 1st place on 10pts City Lights, 2nd place on 9pts Team Rich, 3rd place on 7pts S&R Clarke Auto and 4th place on 2pts Balls Of Fury.

Top scores:

Men – Jason Bence 235, Scott Lynch 221 and Raff Merante 210.

Woman: Valma Peterson 159, Mary Daroha 155 and Sarah Mercuri 150.



Inverloch Cubs reel in new skills at fishing clinic

THIRTEEN eager Inverloch Cubs took part in a hands-on fishing clinic at the Anderson Inlet Angling Club on Thursday, February 6. Guided by experienced coaches Peter Knigge and Dave Francis, the young anglers learned essential skills, from tying knots and making rigs to identifying fish species and casting a line.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Torradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

WEDNESDAY March 12
4.00am 0.86m
10.34am 1.22m
4.44pm 0.53m

THURSDAY March 13
12.08am 1.34m
5.39am 0.81m
11.59am 1.23m
6.03pm 0.54m

FRIDAY March 14
1.08am 1.38m
6.58am 0.71m
1.11pm 1.29m
7.09pm 0.54m

SATURDAY March 15
1.56am 1.43m
7.51am 0.60m
2.11pm 1.38m
8.01pm 0.53m

SUNDAY March 16
2.34am 1.47m
8.30am 0.50m
2.59pm 1.47m
8.44pm 0.53m

MONDAY March 17
3.06am 1.49m
9.04am 0.42m
3.38pm 1.54m
9.19pm 0.55m

TUESDAY March 18
3.34am 1.50m
9.36am 0.37m
4.13pm 1.59m
9.52pm 0.57m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club excels

WARATAH Beach Surf Life Saving Club in Sandy Point enjoyed great success over the weekend, including sweeping the podium in the first aid competition at South Melbourne Life Saving Club.

Clubs from around the State battled it out, tackling a first-aid scenario with a range of patients and simulated injuries.

Teams were judged on their ability to communicate, treat the patients and show overall first-aid excellence.

Waratah Beach teams claimed the first three places, ahead of teams from Bancoora and Point Leo Surf Life Saving Clubs.

Waratah Team A comprising Jessica Horsburgh and Jameson Trainor won the competition from Waratah Team B represented by Daniel Osborn and Amity Clarke, and Waratah Team C consisting of Tempest Clarke and James Sands.

“This is a credit to the team for their hard work in training over summer preparing to deliver high-quality treatment both on and off the beach,” vice club captain Jack Kennedy said.

Jameson Trainor’s versatility is demonstrated by the fact he also competed in the champion lifesaver event and finished in second place.

This puts Waratah in first place for the State Championships in the lifesaving events category, which is a great achievement.

STH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

THE club participated in its annual event with Traralgon Bridge Club at Traralgon last Tuesday with players from South Gippsland performing very well.

Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour were the North/South winners with a 60.25 per cent average board score, pipping Alan Johnston and Lois Dwyer with 59.85 per cent.

Other South Gippsland Bridge Club pairs John Quayle and Matti Shub won the East West sitting pairs with 61.66 per cent with Deb Anglim and John French coming in second place with 57.26, whilst Phillip and Neville Chapman scored 56.34 in fourth place.

March 7 at Wonthaggi RSL: six tables competing.

North/South master point winners: First: John Quayle and Matti Shub 61.66. Second: Deb Anglim and Doug McIntosh 57.26. Third: Phillip and Nev Chapman 56.34. Fourth: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 48.47.

East/West winners:

First: Faye Rowlands and John Currier were well out in front with a fine 65.43. Second: Moya Crowley and Mike Dooley 54.98. Third: Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 50.61. Fourth: Lois Dwyer and Robyn Egan 50.43.

PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE

PHILLIP Island residents Jill Short and Caroline Shaw competed in the inaugural MCC Bridge Congress on Sunday, March 2, placing 20th E/W in a field of 60.

Congratulations to this novice pair. Duplicate games at the club were held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Six full tables for both events and winners included Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour (64 per cent) with second-placed Rob and Margot Killeen (57 per cent).

Then Don and Trish Stewart-Uden (60.74 per cent) won Wednesday, with runners up Moya Crowley and Diane Coleman (58.89 per cent).

Six full tables created a great atmosphere and kept the competition strong.



The Bass Coast MTB team pulled out their best at Thredbo for the Interschools event.

Investment can’t come soon enough as locals shine at Thredbo

Bass Coast Mountain Bikers competed on the National stage at the annual MTB Interschools at Thredbo held from March 3–7, 2025.

Perfect weather blessed 17 competitors and their families who made the annual trek to Thredbo with 14 students from Newhaven College’s MTB’s Academy, two students from Cowes Primary School and one from Bass Coast Secondary College all representing their schools at this prestigious event.

Thredbo MTB Interschools event is the largest schools Mountain Biking Event where 1700 students represent

over 300 schools. Students compete in four events in an action packed, week-long schedule, participating in All Mountain, Flow, Pump and Downhill Races.

With strong results from everyone across the Bass Coast MTB contingent a standout performance came from Year 3 Kody Sheers from Cowes Primary School placing fifth in both the All Mountain and Flow events being bottom age in Division 5 (Years 3 and 4). Another rising star from Cowes Primary School Year 6 Isla Basterfield also but in two strong performances in Division 4 (Years 5 and 6) with a sixth in the All

Mountain and eighth in the Flow events.

Other very strong showings came from Newhaven College’s Year 8’s Maxen Mills and Miller Macillef in the ultra-competitive Division 3 (Years 7 and 8). Maxen placed 11th in All Mountain, 16th in Flow and 22nd in downhill out of 250 competitors earning event bragging rights over his fellow teammates and important points for his school. Ride of the week went to close friend Miller who placed 11th in the gruelling Down Hill race on Thredbo’s notorious Cannon Ball run finishing with a massive whip on the humongous tabletop jump at the finish

much to the excitement of his supporters.

Overall Newhaven College’s MTB teams’ depth was on display with a successful showing taking an impressive fifth in the hyper competitive Division 3 where 110 schools were represented.

With MTB’s popularity on show with representatives from Years 3 to 10 a hot topic of discussion between Bass Coast MTB families is the pending implementation of the Bass Coast MTB strategy where they all agreed on the urgency for our own local MTB infrastructure to be invested in as soon as possible.

Sights set on state champs as LGC win Small Club of Year

LEONGATHA Gymnastic Club (LGC) were recently crowned Small Club of the Year by Gymnastics Victoria, which was an honour for the small not-for-profit club.

The club prides itself on being very community based, affordable and accessible with a range of programs for everyone from toddlers to the elderly.

“Gymnastics Victoria were looking for clubs that are inclusive, clubs that are friendly, welcoming, and then obviously follow all of their policies and rules,” explained Head Coach and Competitive Program Coordinator for LGC Lily Akers on winning the award.

“We’re trying to keep as many kids as possible and make it open to as many families and groups, and then also trying to make as many different programs as possible that are suitable to all different types of athletes.”

About 230 athletes use the gym, with both recreational and competitive classes offered.

The recreational classes en-

courage physical activity and personal growth in a fun, engaging environment that extends to athletes of all skill levels.

There is a ninja gym for athletes that need a bit more support and an outlet for energy; an under fives class and a Fit4Life program for those over 50.

There are also more structured and competitive gymnastics classes, such as the Gym-Star program which provides a pathway for athletes who are aspiring to compete.

Experienced leaders mentor junior coaches, fostering a nurturing atmosphere where they can grow their skills alongside the athletes.

The club also offers classes at a secondary location in Toora to increase participation.

This year, LGC is reintroducing a team in the Australian Levels Program (ALP) for Women’s Artistic Gymnastics (WAG), with the goal of qualifying for the State Championships.

The club hasn’t competed

in ALP for several years, and they’ve never reached a state-level competition before, but they have five dedicated athletes training more than 11 hours per week, working toward this goal with the support of their parents, community, and the club.

In October the team will go to Maffra for the South East Regional event in the hopes of taking out first place and in doing so qualify for the State Championships.

As a not-for-profit that doesn’t receive funding and with low fees, the club relies heavily on the generosity of local sponsors, to help provide opportunities for their athletes.

As such, LGC are always looking to collaborate with more businesses that share their vision of supporting young, passionate, dedicated athletes and building a strong community.

For more information or to discuss potential sponsorships get in touch with LGC via email: info@leongathagymclub.com.



The Leongatha Gymnastic Club were crowned Small Club of the Year at the recent Gymnastics Victoria Awards ceremony, with Head Coach Lily Akers proudly holding the award.



C Grade and Monthly Medal winner Karen Sheerin (centre) with B Grade winner Shaz Patullo and A Grade winner Anne Tschiderer at the Wonthaggi Golf Club.



Leongatha Golf Club's March Monthly Medal winner Jo McNaughton.



Korumburra's March Monthly Medal and B Grade Winner, Chris Rickard.



B Grade winner and Monthly Medallist Lyn De'Laney, sponsor Tracey Ryan from Lyn Rose Boutique and A Grade winner Elly Berryman at Woorayl Golf Club.



Ayden Walters, Michael Thomas, Trent Walters and Damien Symmons from Woorayl.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, March 4. Stableford: 39 players.
A Grade: Shayne Harland (2) 36 points. B Grade: Brian Brown (38) 40 points.
NTPs: first Athol Worthy, seventh Rob Gallagher, 10th Noel Ladgrove and 13th Murray Webb.
Thursday, March 6: Stableford: 26 players.
A Grade: Barry Kerr (10) 38 points. B Grade: Mick Belvedere (17) 37 points.
NTPs: first Barry Kerr, 10th Don Olden and 13th Shayne Harland.
Saturday, March 8: Sponsor: Elders Korumburra.
Two-man Ambrose Member/Guest: 28 players.
Winners: Charles Mackin and Robert Baldry-Short 61.25.
Two-man Ambrose Member/Member: 40 players.
Winners: John Payne and Paul Hopkins 60.75 C/B.
NTPs: seventh Ian Morris and 13th John Payne.

Ladies

LAST Wednesday we had our Women's March Monthly Medal Day, played in perfect golfing weather!
Congratulations to Chris Rickard our winner of this month's award with a fabulous 68 net.
We kindly thank the Tiny Teapot Cafe for sponsoring our MM day each month!
Well done to all players and congrats to our grade winners!
A Grade winner was Shelley Snooks (15) 70 net c/b Heather Grist (20). B Grade winner was Chris Rickard (27) with 68 nett. Runner-up was Julie Brannaghan (24) with 74 nett c/b.
C Grade winner was Lorraine Knox (41) with 73 nett. Runner-up was Karen Sorrell (32) with 74 nett.
Best Scratch Score went to Kerri Besley with 84.
BDTL to Kerri Besley 71 net, Judy Webb 74 net.
NTPs on the first Heather Grist (Discount Store), seventh Trudi Mantell, 10th Maree Wittingslow and the 13th green Julie Brannaghan (Burra Garden Supplies).
Thursday Twilight winners last week were Scott Burgess and Colette Seabrook coming in with 23 pts. NTP's on the first went to Bob Stiff and Colette.
Friday we had players go to Foster to play in their Doreen Black Plate event. Even though we didn't bring home the plate, we congratulate Shelley Snooks winning A Grade. Deb Wrigley winning B Grade and a NTP along with Heather Grist who also had a NTP. Maree Wittingslow was lucky to have won a prize in the raffle.
Saturday we had our two-person Ambrose 'Guest Day' with a small field. Winning with a score of 68 nett partners Kerri Besley and Lorraine Knox. Runner-up went to Deb Wrigley and Tanya Wrigley with 68.25 nett. NTP's on the first Kerri and 13th Tanya.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, March 4: 4BBB Stableford.
Tuesday's 4BBB Stableford event had a field of 70 members/guests take to the course playing from either the blue or yellow tees.
Overall winners:
1: Michael O'Rafferty (14) and Jeremy de Silva (8) with a score of 45. 2: Colin Bear (14) and Kevin Michael (22) with a score of 42 on a countback.
NTP fifth second shot: Peter Waters, 14th: Gordon Morrison, 16th: Gordon Allan.
Thursday, March 6: Annual Tournament 4BBB Stableford Event.
Thursday's event was the first round of the Leongatha Golf Club Annual Tournament.
This was a 4BBB Stableford round with a well-contested field of 99 members/guests taking to the course, teeing off with a shotgun start at 8.30am off the blue tees.
Overall winners:
1: Marianne Leaver (26) and Karen Castledine Briggs (28) with a score of 48 points. 2: Karen de Groot (34) and Lianne Adamson (32) with a score of 47 points. 3: Jeffrey Brewer (14) and Alan Briggs (20) with a score of 46 points.
NTP 14th: Ted Shackleton, 16th: Paul Richardson.
Friday, March 7: Annual Tournament Ambrose Fours Event.
Friday was the Annual Tournament Ambrose Fours round with another excellent field of 96 members/guests taking to the course, teeing off with a shotgun start at 8.30am.
Overall winners:
1: Graeme Watkins (6), Stephen Lacy (22), David Mock (24) and Jeff White (23) with a score of 54.625. 2: Scott Charlton (25), Dylan Clark (18), Mark Lafferty (5) and Tom McDermott (5) with a score of 56.375. 3: Rod Hopcraft (10), Andrew Westaway (9), Craig Hams (6) and Neryl Hopcraft (28) with a score of 57.375.
NTP 14th: Craig Hams at .61m, 16th: Shirley Welsford at 2.05m.
Saturday, March 8: Annual Tournament Individual Stableford Event.
Saturday was the Annual Tournament Individual Stableford round with a field of 85 members/guests taking to the course.
Overall winner: Bernard Skerys (16) with a high score of the day of 41 points.
A Grade winner: Tony Morganti (8) with a score of 35 points on a countback. A Grade runner up: Martin Ebney (8) from the Devil Bend Golf Club with a score of 35 points.
B Grade winner: Declan Whelan (13) from the SGA Golf Club with a score of 36 points on a countback. B Grade runner up: William Fuller (13) with a score of 36.
C Grade winner: Bernard Skerys (16) with a score of 41 points. C Grade runner up: Kevin Snell (20) with a score of 38 points.

D Grade winner: Simon Good (34) from the Future Golf Club with a score of 40 points. D Grade runner up: Dot Stubbs (24) with a score of 37 points.
NTP 14th: Craig Hutchinson, 16th: David Chugg.
Sunday, March 9: Annual Tournament Two-Person Gentsomes Event.
Sunday was the Annual Tournament final Two-Person Gentsomes round with a field of 73 members/guests taking to the course, teeing off with a shotgun start at 8.30am.
Overall winners:
1: Delia Perry (35) and Jo McNaughton (30) with a score of 51 points.
2: Trevor Steer (19) and Jill Steer (37) with a score of 50 points.
3: Trevor Rickard (9) and Debbie Wrigley (29) from the Korumburra Golf Club with a score of 49 points on a countback.
NTP 14th: Joe Meade at 2.00m, 16th: Paul Richardson at 2.15m.

Ladies

IT WAS another excessively warm day for the March Monthly Medal.
Fortunately, there was a two-tee start for the players which allowed most to get in before it became too hot.
Jo McNaughton's name continues to pop up among the winning circles.
So much so, that the predictive text completes her name as soon as a J is entered.
Jo won her first-ever Monthly Medal with 102/31/71.
Marg Griffiths also fared well coming in with the second-best score of 108/36/72.
Down-the-line balls were awarded very generously today and were won by the following players: Lianne Adamson 73 net, Jenny Teasdale and Shirley Welsford 74 net, Dot Stubbs 75 net, Michelle Roberts, Mel Wilder and Janet Monk 76 net, Leanne Costello and Kim Harris 77 net, Di Williams 78 net, and Anna de Bondt and Nan Meagher 79 net.
Nearest the pins were won by Lianne Adamson second shot on the fifth, Janet Monk on the 14th and Colleen Touzel on the 16th.
Twelve women competed in the nine-hole competition.
Karen Orford won the day with 17 points.
Marie Sands, Max Eabry and Viv French each won a ball down the line.

MEENIYAN

SATURDAY'S men's results: First round of the club championships
The day's winner was Brad Wright with 68 nett, and runner-up Jarrad Byrnes with 70 nett.
DTL Dylan Zuidema 71 nett, Ryan McKnight 72 nett, Phil Hutchison 73 nett, Will Bullock 74 nett, Richard Luykx 74 nett.
NTPs: Second Scott Browne,

11th Kurt Newton, 14th Ryan McKnight and the Pro pin on the eighth John Harrison.
Club championship leaders after Round 1
A grade: Ryan McKnight 77 gross, Brett McKnight 81 gross.
B grade: Mat Vanboven 86 gross, Jacob Byrnes, Brad Wright, Scott Browne all 87 gross.
C grade: Phil Hutcheson 97 gross Peter Wilson 100 gross.
Sunday the club had 68 players from around Gippsland contest the Meeniyen Plate sponsored by Drummond Golf in Traralgon who we thank for their generosity.
The A grade winner was Ethan Smith (Woorayl) with 35 pts, runner-up was Andrew Logan (Meeniyen) with 34 pts.
The B grade winner was Ian Hopper (Garfield) with 39 pts, runner-up was Neville Lindsay (Heyfield) with 34 pts.
The C grade winner was Phil Hutcheson (Meeniyen) with 30 pts, runner-up was Mike Steele (Meeniyen) with 29 pts.
NTPs: Second Andrew Logan, eighth Matt Smith (Woorayl), 11th Graham English (Drouin), 14th John Skaraatt (Yarram).
The winning team was Ayden Walters, Michael Thomas, Trent Walters and Damien Symmons from Woorayl.
A huge thanks to all the clubs that made the effort to travel to play in our event Heyfield, Drouin, Garfield, Trafalgar, Moe, Morwell, Yarram, Foster and Woorayl we look forward to hosting you again next year. Also a big thanks to Susan Straw and Pam Erving for your help through the day, and as always the curators and volunteers that keep our course looking so fantastic.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, March 4: Stableford.
A Grade: P. Woodall (8) 35 points.
B Grade: N. Baker (21) 38 points.
DTL: M. Richter, T. Tomada 36, Tom Traill 34 and N. Rutledge 32.
NTP: fourth G. Renwick, sixth G. Renwick, 13th M. Richter and 16th T. Whitelaw.
Birdies: fourth P. Woodall and 16th N. Rutledge.
Friday, March 7: Men's and Ladies' 4BBB.
Men's winner: T. Bradshaw and P. Woodall 47 points.
Ladies' winner: W. Gervasi and D. Kidd 43 points.
DTL: R. Thompson and P. Draper 43, and C. Gunn and Anne 38.
Saturday, March 8: Stableford.
A Grade: G. Renwick (10) 38 points. B Grade: J. Taylor (35) 37 points.
DTL: A. Liebe, S. Woodall 35, J. McFarlane, 33 and J. Hughes 32 c/b.
NTP: fourth T. Baker, sixth S. Woodall, 13th J. Hughes and 16th M. Payne.
Birdies: sixth G. Renwick.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: March 6, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Gino Hennequin 39.
Runner up: Craig Charles 35.
BDTL to 33 C/B: Warwick Judkins 34, Grant MacKenzie 34, Mark Casey 34 and Ian Johnson 33 C/B.
Results: March 6, SR. 36. Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18.
Winner: Bob Cornelis 21.
BDTL to 18: Norm Burne 19, Mark Nicholson 19 and Kevin Bayley 18.
Results: March 8, S.R 71. Competition: Stableford.
A Grade: Simon O'Halloran 37.
B Grade: Secondo Tiziani 40.
C Grade: Sean Adrichem 39.
Balls down the line to 35: Brendan Stapleton 36, Hamish Burns 36, Ross Lovett 36, David Hynes 36, Steve Terrill 35, Eric Van Agtmaal 35, Sam Hovath 35 and Bill Fennell 35.
Eagles: Stephen Judd seventh and Peter Dell 10th.
NTPs: Brad Andrew second, Simon O'Halloran fourth, Daniel Crellin Propin eighth, Alan Cubbin 13th and Bill Blanch money hole 17th.

Ladies

THERE were 23 players contesting the March Monthly Medal on Wednesday.
The lack of rain is making the ground very hard, and some tricky lies are happening.
However, there was a real contest for the Medal between the three grade winners.
C Grade winner Karen Sheerin (36)70 net pipped both B Grade winner Shaz Patullo (30)71 net and A Grade's Anne Tschiderer (19)73 net to take out her second Monthly Medal.
The only NTP collected on the eighth and putting -25 putts went to Marg Ryan.
The Scratch winner was Anne Tschiderer 92.
BDL went to A. Grenville 73, I. Walsh 74, Y. Everitt 75, K. Geyer 75, L. Brusamarello 75 and M. Walker 76.

WOORAYL

A BEAUTIFUL morning greeted the golfers for the Monthly Medal. The event was Stroke and Putts. It was sponsored by Lyn Rose Boutique.
Fifteen ladies assembled in hot sunny conditions.
A Grade's winner was Elly Berryman 74 net.
The B Grade winner and Monthly Medallist was Lyn De'Laney on a countback with 74 net.
BDL: Kath Davis 74 net, Anne Grist 75 net and Jean Hayes 75 net.
NTPs: eighth Linda Forrester, 11th Heather Sullivan and 17th Elly Berryman.
Sharyn Rayson won the putting with 28 putts.



Weekend Pennant Div. 1 Premiers Wonthaggi, who defeated Korumburra 58-55.

Saturday Pennant Grand Final

THE Grand Finals of the Strzelecki South Saturday Pennant was played on March 1. There are a total of six Divisions in this competition.

Phillip Island hosted Divisions 1,2,3, and 6. While Loch hosted Divisions 4 and 5.

Both clubs being congratulated on their hosting and hospitality. A job well done.

There were some one sided games, but overall the challenge was on. Action and excitement a buzz all round, all day at both venues.

Congratulations to the winners and a job well done to the opposition who made it to the finals. A great Pennant season.



Weekend Pennant Div. 2 Premiers Tarwin Lower , who defeated Fish Creek 70-54.



Weekend Pennant Div. 3 Premiers Meeniyan, who narrowly defeated Foster 68-60.



Weekend Pennant Division 4 Premiers Port Welshpool, who marginally beat out Wonthaggi 54-51.



Weekend Pennant Div. 5 Premiers Wonthaggi, who defeated Phillip Island 69-58.



Weekend Pennant Div. 6 Premiers San Remo, who defeated Fish Creek 51-30.



Bill Selby (skip), John Duthie, Joyce Arnold and Sue Floyd were the social bowls winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

ANOTHER enjoyable day was had by all bowlers on Monday, with lots of fun and laughter.

The winners were Elly Carter – for the first time – Chris Rose and Jan Clark.

They won with a respectable score of +13 – well done to you all.

Friday saw an early start due to an electrical work outage that didn't eventuate.

The members turned out in force and had a very good afternoon.

Winners on the day were Jan Clark and Pat Novak.

They won with +14 – very well done, ladies.

FOSTER

LAST Tuesday saw the midweek Division 1 and Division 3 teams take to the greens at Korumburra for the Pennant grand finals.

The club knew it would be a tough one.

Both divisions were playing very strong teams that have held top positions on the ladders all season.

Division 1 played Wonthaggi.

Credit goes to the two teams that won their rinks.

It was a very tight competition all day – an excellent match.

Sadly, Foster didn't quite get over the line, going down by four shots overall.

Division 3 played Meeniyan – a hard-fought battle there too, going down by only seven shots.

A big thank you to Korumburra Bowls Club for its hosting and hospitality on the day.

A truly great effort and achievement by the small club, having the two mid-week divisions and one Saturday division in grand finals.

The bowlers will return next year, up for the challenge once again.

Well done Foster Bowls Club.

Last week saw the last round of the Jack Attack competition.

Both sections came down to playoffs for the premier-ships.

Winners for the night were the Crows, Cory and Ash, winning Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored by Foster Cars

and Off-road.

The runners up were RAM, Roxy, Adam and Michelle, winning the chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

The players were spoilt for choice on the barbecue with marinated steak and chicken and the usual sausages – getting a real treat from the local butcher, Prom Meats.

A great selection of raffle prizes again this week, from Cellarbrations, Prom Meats, IGA and the club were shared around.

Next week is presentation night and dress up in green.

Last Saturday morning saw Foster play another couple of Club Championships.

The Mixed Pairs match was between Phil and Gwen, and Ian and Heather.

Ian and Heather took the lead early putting the pressure on Phil and Gwen.

Phil and Gwen fought back but were unable to close in on the score difference made by Ian and Heather.

The Ladies Pairs match was between Jenny and Judy and Sue and Bev.

A very close tussle was had for most of the game.

Sue and Bev stepped up a gear in the last few ends bringing home the win.

Some great bowling for spectators.

Congratulations to the winners.

Well done to all who played.

INVERLOCH

THURSDAY social bowls saw 28 players turn out on Thursday.

Winners on two wins, 33 points and 23 shots up were Bill Selby (skip), John Duthie, Joyce Arnold and Sue Floyd.

Runners-up on two wins, 33 points and 15 shots up were Carol Hughes (skip), Rob Howard, Jon Abbott and Jill Kennedy.

The hard luck story for the day on two wins and 27 points was the team of Doug Archer (skip), Keith Cousens, Kevin Woolstencroft and Ted Lee.

Next Monthly Triples is on March 19.

Autumn Ivy Bowls is an eight-week competition of 28 teams of pairs.

It is held from 7-9pm

with an entry fee of \$10 per person.

The dates are April 1, 8, 15 and 29, and May 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Register quickly or miss out.

Contact John Sutcliffe.

Celebrate Equinox at Inverloch Bowls Club on March 21.

The gates open 7.15pm and the games will run between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. The cost is \$12 per game.

Sunset is at 7.27pm.

It is a fun event for family and friends.

KORUMBURRA

EVEN though Pennant is now finished there is still plenty happening around the club.

Last Monday, the club held its Monthly Triples sponsored by AG Services.

Winners on the day were the Meeniyan combination of Dave Bond, Ray Corry and Nick Kelly.

Runners-up were local team Bruce Anderson, Geoff Barber and Alan Cherrett with best last game going to Sue Crouch, and Richard and Tracy Cove.

On Wednesday, it was a very sad occasion with the funeral of former past president and life member Bruce Peters.

The club's sincere condolences to Joan and the family.

Sunday was the Jack and Mary Wrench Mixed Pairs Day with good numbers on the green.

Winners on the day were Synden Bordino and Mick Coram.

Runners-up were Graham and Lyn Daniel.

The club thanked the Wrench family.

Members are reminded there is a counter tea this Friday night and the annual presentation night is on March 28.

Please put your names on the list.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

ANOTHER week, another beautiful day with all the wonderful bowlers at Loch and District Bowls Club.

The bowlers were welcomed to the rink by John this week as Rob and David prepared the teams for the day's play.

Continued page 57



Elly Carter, Chris Rose and Jan Clark were the winners of Breakaway Bowls on Monday.

From page 56
Trevor and Alex from Loch prepared the green and the club.

What terrific hosts they are.

Fifty of the family of bowlers made their way onto the green.

As they walked out to start the day's play, the weather was mild and overcast, but at this time of year whenever the sun peeks out from the clouds the temperature rises rapidly.

Even without the day warming up, the humidity was definitely uncomfortable for most players.

Weather aside, the state of play for the day was, as usual, exemplary.

Some great ends were seen across all the rinks.

What a joy to be part of this bowls group.

The winners on a score of 38 were Phil Wright (S), Alex Martin (L) and Rob Jeffrey (3).

Runners-up on a score of 34 were Gwen Jeffries (2), Marianne Scales (L), Steven Muhi (3) and Trevor Loughridge (S).

Best one-game winners on a score of 18 were Lindsay Stevenson (2), Gillian Harper (3), Bobby Arnold (L) and Steve Edge (S).

A big thank you to Trevor for looking after the thirsty bowlers.

Trevor was busy looking after the kitchen as well.

A big congratulations to the San Remo players for their Pennant win last week – what a well-deserved win.

Also, a big good luck to the Pakenham players who are fighting it out this week in their grand final.

Meanwhile, the club is looking forward to meeting up at Lang Lang next week.

Till then, good luck and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS a very good week at the club.

Tuesday saw Division 1 and Division 2 playing in the grand final at Korumburra.

Division 1 were looking to go through the year undefeated.

On a fine sunny morning, the scene was set with Foster wanting to spoil their day.

The two teams were close on the scoreboard all day as you would expect in a

grand final.

Wonthaggi was able to hold Foster out on the last bowl of the day to win the flag.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 51, Foster 47.

The Division 1 team members were Joy Phillips, Rob Allan, Bryan Donohue, Kathy Simpson, Michael Raman, Wendy Donohue, Frank Seaton, Jan Jeeves, Denise Silver, Caroline Donohue, Glen Birt, and Mary McBain.

Division 2 was playing Leongatha after winning the right to play in the grand final the week before.

Leongatha had a comfortable win against Wonthaggi in the second semi-final at Leongatha.

With nothing to lose, Wonthaggi was focused and ready to play.

As the match went on, it was clear that it was going to be Wonthaggi's day.

All rinks played well to record a very good win.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 80, Leongatha 29.

The Division 2 team members were Rob Westbrook, Kyle Birt, Allan Ireland, Roger Lee, Jenny Miller, Ken Webb, Teresa Davidson, Peter McBain, Frank Cimino, Lyn Tagell, Heather Blanch, and Ray Hin.

Wednesday saw the Turkey Triples being played on a fine sunny day.

With both greens nearly full, the scene was set for some good scores.

There was only one team that was a four-game winner.

They were Frank Cimino, Janis Parks, and Gulio Marcolongo with a score of four wins and 10 shots up.

There were six teams that were three-game winners with the best score going to the team of Darran Rowe, Marty Hanniford, and John Duscher with a score of three wins and 35 shots up.

The best game went to the team from San Remo – Tony McKiernan, Mark Andreatta, and Haydn Cave with a score of 12 shots up.

The NABA award went to Jan Jeeves and her team.

They each receive a cap and a drink bottle from the Wonthaggi Club.

Once again, the club enjoyed great music during the day from Wendy's music machine.

Saturday social bowls



Fred Demenech, Glenda Binch, Helen Rook and Jim Wilson were the Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls winners on Friday.

saw 24 bowlers grace the greens on a perfect day for bowls.

Two teams were two-game winners with three-bowl triples being the order of the day.

The winners on countback were Steve Bruynen, Caroline Donohue, and Trevor Teer with a score of two wins and 32 points and 25 shots up.

The runners-up were Norm Evans, Peter Morgan, and Tom Allan, a visitor from Woolgoolga.

Bowls this week:

Wednesday: Social bowls at 1pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 10am.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Wonthaggi hosts the Strzelecki North versus South, Weekend and Midweek Division 1 Pennant teams to play off to represent the region at the State Titles in May.

Last year, it was held at Moama.

Don't forget Friday, March 21, for a pork dinner with a choice of two sweets at 6pm after the members' draw and the raffles. Also, the Skins event on Sunday, March 23.

Friday night went off very well with more than 40 people there to enjoy a great meal.

Jeannie, Shirley, Wally, and Dennis were happy meat tray winners.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THE week started with a barbecue enjoyed by all.

Thanks to the ladies for a wonderful spread.

Tuesday's winners with an amazing plus 32 were Phylis Peterson, Jos Kemper, Steve Rosenberg and Fred Demenech. Runners up on plus six were Pam Russell, Robert McLaren and John Rook.

The third-place team were very close on plus five.

Friday saw another good win on plus 25.

They were Helen Rook, Glenda Binch, Jim Wilson and Fred Demenech.

Runners-up on plus 15 were Jean Wylde, Betty Huitema and Max Sweetnam.

More photos page 58.



Phil Wright (S), Alex Martin (L) and Rob Jeffrey (3) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners at Loch and District Bowls Club.



Midweek Pennant Division 1 winners Wonthaggi defeated Foster in a tight match 51-47.

Midweek Pennant Grand Final

THE grand finals of the Strzelecki South Midweek Pennant were played on Tuesday, March 4.

Korumburra Bowling Club hosted all four divisions. Its hosting and hospitality were very commendable. Conditions were just nice for bowling. Great

bowling all round from everyone.

There was some great competition and all fairly close results.

Congratulations to the winners and well done to all the other teams for getting to the finals – a very worthy accomplishment.



Midweek Pennant Division 2 winners Wonthaggi defeated Leongatha 81-29.



Midweek Pennant Division 3 winners Meeniyan, who defeated Foster 57-50.



Midweek Pennant Division 4 winners Port Welshpool, who defeated Mirboo North 43-35.



Lindsay Stevenson (2), Gillian Harper (3) and Bobby Arnold (L) were the best one-game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group. Absent: Steve Edge.



Foster's Club Mixed Pairs Champions Ian McLeod and Heather Ray.



The Club Ladies Pairs Champions at Foster were Sue Waugh and Bev Tyres.



Wonthaggi's Turkey Triples winners were Frank Cimino, Janis Parks and Gulio Marcolongo.



Last week's Jack Attack winners were the Crows, Cory and Ash, at the Foster Bowls Club.



The Breakaway Bowls winners on Friday were Jan Clark and Pat Novak.

STONY CREEK CUP



Group 73 were the winners of fashions on the field's Best Dressed Local Group category. W40_1025



The winners of the 2025 Fashions on the Field's Lady of the Day, and Gentleman of the Day, Karlie Owen and Rob Williams. Karlie has had multiple wins over the years at Stony Creek Fashions on the Field. W46_1025



Paul Speed, Allan McLean, Koby Brann and Peter Little enjoying the festivities before their fashions on the field appearance. W38_1025



Harry Stevens enjoying a pony ride on the friendly pony Louie. Led by Zoe Ledger. W44_1025



Stunning mare, Miss Lil being attended to by her trainer, Frank Stockdale. Miss Lil finished fifth in race three, The Meeniyah Hotel MDN Plate. W30_1025



Drummer, Dave Manning and guitarist and vocalist, Travis Thompson were entertaining the huge crowd of racegoers. W41_1025



Five-year-old bay gelding, Fam Gorman proudly struts back having been victorious in the Stony Creek Cup, superbly ridden by skilled jockey, Teo Nugent. W49_1025



There were barely noses difference, in fact it was 0.15L, as Fam Gorman and Independent Road crossed the finish line of the Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup on Sunday. Photo: Racing Victoria.

Fam Gorman triumphs in a neck-and-neck Stony Creek Cup

IT WAS scorching hot on Sunday, March 9, with temperatures soaring over 30 degrees celsius, but that didn't deter racegoers from filling the Stony Creek Racing Club for the 2025 Stony Creek Cup.

While the highlight of the day was, of course, the horse racing, the event offered much more for attendees to enjoy. From food and beverages to face painting and pony rides for the kids, as well as fashions on the field and, naturally, betting, there was something for everyone.

The main event, the Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup, was the seventh and penultimate race of the day, allowing for plenty of build-up and anticipation. This captivating 2114-metre race saw five-year-old bay gelding Fam Gorman and eight-year-old bay gelding Independent Road battle it out in a thrilling neck-and-neck finish.

Ultimately, it was Fam Gorman who claimed first place, ridden by the skilled 26-year-old jockey Teo Nugent. Nugent, who had earlier won race two – the CPK McLaren MotorBody Maiden – added another victory to his name.

Independent Road, ridden by 39-year-old veteran Craig Newitt, finished in second place.

As always, Fashions on the Field added an extra sparkle to the event, with various categories to celebrate the best-dressed racegoers. These included Lady of the Day, Gentleman of the Day, Local Lady of the Day, Local Gentleman of the Day, Most Impressive Millinery, Best Dressed Local Family, and Best Dressed Local Group.

The younger generation also had a chance to shine, with categories such as Best Dressed Young Lady Aged 14 to 17, Best Dressed Young Man Aged 14 to 17, Best Dressed Girl Aged 13 and Under, and Best Dressed Boy Aged 13 and Under.

Despite not competing in Fashions on the Field, many racegoers were still dressed to impress.

The prestigious titles of Lady of the Day and Gentleman of the Day were hotly contested. Karlie Owen was named Lady of the Day, with Owen commenting, "I try and come and support the club most years."

The title of Gentleman of the Day went to Rob

Williams, a seasoned veteran in the world of Fashions on the Field.

"It's my first time at Stony, but I've competed at Woolamai, Cranbourne, Collie in Western Australia, and I've managed to win all of them," Williams said.

The day also saw Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, take time out of his busy schedule to attend and sponsor the fourth race – the Danny O'Brien MP Handicap. The race was a closely contested affair, particularly among the top three. In the end, four-year-old bay/brown mare Gracie's Rain, ridden by 26-year-old Emily Pozman, emerged victorious.

Pozman, who won three races total for the day, including the Yewafilms Handicap and Brandt Leongatha Handicap, was certainly on a roll.

In addition to the Stony Creek Cup and Danny O'Brien handicap, the day saw a series of other exciting races, with winners emerging from a variety of competitive fields.

In Race 1, the Ladbrokes Owners Bonus Maiden, Zeusmas took home the win, followed by Slippery Rich in second place. Race

2, the CPK McLaren MotorBody Maiden, saw Indefinite cross the line first, with Rippleview Lad finishing as the runner-up. The Meeniyen Hotel Maiden, Race 3, was claimed by Amraam, with Podargoni securing second. In Race 5, the Yewafilms Handicap, Calabria Bella emerged victorious, followed by Laminar in second place. Race 6, the Dr Michael Bourke OAM Handicap, was won by Frosted Romance, with Departing Bullet finishing as the runner-up. Finally, in Race 8, the Brandt Leongatha Handicap, Frank Express claimed first place, with Mystic Vamp taking second.

Jason Benbow, CEO of the Stony Creek Racing Club, praised the event, saying, "The weather has been perfect," and added, "We're really grateful for all our supporters, sponsors, and obviously the patrons who have turned up today."

The Stony Creek Cup is one of the most prestigious events on the Victorian country racing calendar. Held annually at the Stony Creek Racing Club, it attracts competitive fields, offering a prize pool of \$85,000 in 2025.



Security guard Som Bimaoi was all business. W28_1025



Cheryl Gill, Heather Moir, Charlie Jones and Denise Pigdon enjoying a well-earned break from the sun. W33_1025



Members of the Meeniyen Fire Brigade, Geoff Cooling and Sean Carson selling raffle tickets. W32_1025



Samantha Murray and Ashley Manning from Ashley Manning Bookmaking were helping many punters leave with a win. W37_1025



Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien presenting the Raceour trophy to the victors. W35_1025



Team Fam Gorman celebrates their victory with the 2025 Stony Creek Cup. W50_1025

FOOTY TIPPING



1

BEN FISHER

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Geelong

Sydney

North Melbourne

Collingwood

Adelaide

GWS

Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



81 Commercial Street,
Korumburra
5655 1024



1

MATT ROBERTSON

Carlton

Hawthorn

Geelong

Brisbane

Western Bulldogs

Collingwood

Adelaide

Melbourne

Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



119 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1027



1

CARL LINDSAY

Carlton

Hawthorn

Geelong

Sydney

Western Bulldogs

Collingwood

Adelaide

GWS

West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



145 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1137



1

ALEX GEYER

Carlton

Hawthorn

Geelong

Sydney

Western Bulldogs

Collingwood

Adelaide

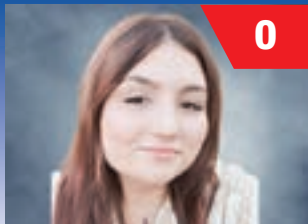
GWS

West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



Wonthaggi 5672 5522
Leongatha 5662 2941



0

JAE DAVEY

Carlton

Essendon

Geelong

Sydney

Western Bulldogs

Collingwood

St Kilda

Melbourne

West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 0



62-64 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
0421 162 530



1

DARRYL MCGANNON

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Hawthorn

Geelong

Brisbane

Western Bulldogs

Collingwood

Adelaide

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



1 Roughead Street,
Leongatha
5662 2327



0

KRIS BAKER

Carlton

Essendon

Geelong

Sydney

Western Bulldogs

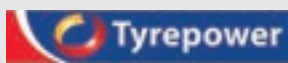
Collingwood

Adelaide

GWS

Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 0



78-80 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5760



1

RYAN SHANE

Carlton

Hawthorn

Geelong

Sydney

Western Bulldogs

Collingwood

Adelaide

GWS

West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



Leongatha Toyota

7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5662 2302



1

CRAIG FARRINGTON DARREN TILE

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Hawthorn

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Sydney

Western Bulldogs

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West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



6/5 Cyclone Street,
Wonthaggi
Darren 0405 603 569
Craig 0415 641 845



1

ADAM WARE

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Essendon

Geelong

Brisbane

Western Bulldogs

Collingwood

Adelaide

GWS

Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



2/88-98 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
1800 358 131



1

JUSTIN CAPORALE

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Hawthorn

Geelong

Brisbane

Western Bulldogs

Collingwood

Adelaide

Melbourne

West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



41 McCartin Street,
Leongatha
5662 2529



1

LEIGH DONOHUE

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Western Bulldogs

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Adam Ware	1
Alex Geyer	1
Ben Fisher	1
Brad Hodson	1
Brett Jacobs	1
Carl Lindsay	1
Craig & Darren	1
Darryl McGannon	1
David England	1
Justin Caporale	1
Keith & Eddie	1
Leigh Donohue	1
Liam Sawyer	1
Matt Robertson	1
Peter Fort	1
Ryan Shane	1
Dylan Clark	0
Jae Davey	0
Kris Baker	0
Warren Stewart	0



0

WARREN STEWART

Carlton
Hawthorn
Geelong
Brisbane
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
Melbourne
West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 0



Wonthaggi Toyota
346 Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi
5632 3503



2

PHIL HARDY

Carlton
Hawthorn
Geelong
Brisbane
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



Bass Coast **LIGHT ENGINES**
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Wonthaggi
5672 4017



0

DYLAN CLARK

Carlton
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Geelong
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 0



1 A'Beckett Street
Inverloch
5674 1432



1

DAVID ENGLAND

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Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
GWS
West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



3/45-61 McKenzie St,
Wonthaggi
9701 7388



1

PETER FORT

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Brisbane
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



47 Station Street,
Korumburra
0417 332 141



1

KEITH KELLY **EDDIE CHANDLER**

Carlton
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Geelong
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
Melbourne
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



54 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1311



1

LIAM SAWYER

Carlton
Hawthorn
Geelong
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



16 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
5672 1007



1

AARON MCGREGOR

Carlton
Hawthorn
Geelong
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
GWS
West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



24 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 5906



1

BRAD HODSON

Carlton
Essendon
Geelong
Brisbane
Western Bulldogs
Collingwood
Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



15/17 Murray Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5878



1

BRETT JACOBS

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Essendon
Geelong
Sydney
North Melbourne
Collingwood
Adelaide
Melbourne
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



28 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4770



2

HAYDEN POPPE

Carlton
Hawthorn
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Will won the San Remo Butchers meat tray this week.

Electric start to darts

MONDAY night at the Phillip Island Darts Centre was nothing short of electric as all 10 teams battled it out, eager to gain early dominance in the new season. With five high-intensity matches, the crowd witnessed both blowouts and edge-of-your-seat thrillers, proving that this season is set to be one for the ages

Leading the charge, Miramar demolished Deadly Darts in a brutal 6-1 victory, making a clear statement to the competition.

Darts Vaders showed no mercy either, taking down Mustangs 5-1 in commanding fashion.

But the biggest rout of the night belonged to Breakers, who delivered a devastating 6-0 shutout against The Riverboys – a performance that left no doubt about their title ambitions.

Not all matches were one-sided, though. Aulin and The Storm engaged in an absolute thriller, trading blows in a match that could have gone either way. In the end, Aulin held their nerve, sealing a 4-3 victory in what could be an early contender for match of the season.

Meanwhile, The Vikings secured their first win in heart-stopping fashion, edging out Joe's Hornets 4-3 in another down-to-the-wire showdown.

Off the boards, the San Remo Butchers meat tray went to Will, who wasted no time planning a feast, while Bob walked away with the beer prize, no doubt ready to toast a great night of darts.

Darts action resumes for Round 3 on March 17. With this kind of drama already unfolding, you won't want to miss what happens next!

Darts is well and truly back – bring on Round 3!

Allambee Mirboo and District Semi Finals

THIS week is the first round of finals. All teams are to be at the Leongatha Tennis Courts by 12pm for a 12.30pm start. The matches will be:

Section 1: Inverloch v Korumburra and Koonwarra v Westernport White

Section 2: Outtrim v Leongatha and Korumburra v Baromi

Westernport Red and Leongatha from Section 1 must also have players in attendance to help with umpiring.

On the day, tickets for the Presentation Night will be on sale. Held after the Grand Final at Space 47 Leongatha, it will cost \$30 for a buffet dinner. Please either bring cash on the day to get your ticket, or you can transfer from your account.

All teams must provide a raffle prize, which can be given to a member of the Committee at the Finals, or brought with you on the evening.

Friends and family fly in to welcome a new Swan

LEONGATHA'S Tom Hanily made his debut in AFL football last Friday night, in one of the biggest games of the year, the season opener against Hawthorn at the time-honored SCG.

And they came from everywhere to witness the special occasion.

A carload of mates from Xavier College, uncle Ants Hanily from Inverloch, for whom Tom has milked cows in recent years, all the family members; father Mick, mother Veronica, siblings Matilda, Ned and his partner Lara, Tom's partner Lily Debono, Josh Smith and Roger Mark, some of Tom's local footy mates and family friends.

There would have been more than 20 Leongatha and district people who made the late dash to Sydney to see him run out on the ground and into the big time.

"It was pretty surreal really, seeing his picture go up on the big screen and being introduced to the crowd," said Mick Hanily on his return home at the weekend.

"He doesn't say much, but pretty happy though. We'll see what happens next week. But yes, a huge thrill."

Mick said the Swans organisation could not have looked after them better, a "real family club" but with all the professionalism you hear talked about in connection with Sydney.



Members of the Hanily family, including father Mick, mother Veronica and siblings Ned and Matilda, were joined by a big group of family and friends from the Leongatha area to witness son Tom's debut for the Sydney Swans last Friday night.

The tributes and best wishes came from all quarters before the game and after.

- Leongatha Primary School newsletter: Best of luck to former LPS student Tom Hanily who makes his AFL debut tonight with the Sydney Swans.

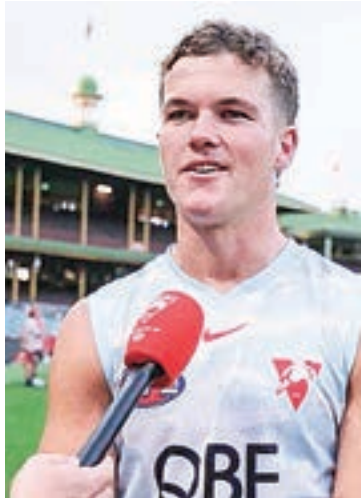
- Leongatha FNC: Congratulations Tom! We will all be watching.

- 'Diehard Swans fan' Darren Chester, the Member for Gippsland, also welcomed the selection of Tom Hanily as another 'outstanding football talent' from the Leongatha Parrots.

Former coach at Gippsland Power, Rhett McLennan, paid tribute to Tom's remarkable achievement in coming from the mid-season rookie draft in May last year to making his debut at the start of the 2025 season.

"He's always been able to go out there and get a kick but what is a real credit to him is the way he's been able to focus on that role that's likely to get him a game at the top level, as a small forward, and really work hard on honing his skills in that area," said McLennan.

After being drafted as pick



Tom Hanily's elevation from the mid-season rookie draft last year to making his debut for the Sydney Swans last Friday night was one of the stories of the AFL's opening round.

14 out of 19 by Sydney in May last year, after earlier turning out for Gippsland Power, Tom played nine VFL games for the Swans reserves and clearly impressed in his first pre-season with the club.

Tom started as the tactical sub and replaced Angus Sheldrick in the third quarter. He inserted himself into the play on a number of occasions, notably trying to find Isaac Heeney with a kick close to goal, hitting the stats sheet with two kicks, four handballs, a mark and a free kick.

There were certainly signs.

Junior girls footy to kick off at Nyora this season

NYORA is looking forward to fielding at least one girls footy side this season under the guidance of coach Adam Tagliaferro, whose daughter Aaylah inspired the move.

She didn't enjoy mixed footy but expressed a desire to play in a girls team after having done so at school, her dad deciding to provide that opportunity at the Saints.

The aim is to get as many girls involved as possible, with Nyora to feature in the West Gippsland Junior Football League in which it hopes to have Under 12 and Under 14 sides, with the focus on the latter at this stage.

Adam grew up playing footy at Nyora, where he also played most of his Senior games including the 2018 Premiership, and is looking forward to the Saints taking the field in junior girls footy for the first time.

The first couple of training sessions drew six or seven girls, with up to 12 already expressing interest.

"It's 15 a side the comp we play in, and the league assured us if we need to borrow players, they'll do whatever they can to make sure we get a side in," the coach said.

With most of the Saints' matches to be played on Friday nights, there is an opportunity for girls to play some extra footy, with those who are part of mixed sides elsewhere able



Adam Tagliaferro (with Maliyah, Sharlette and Aaylah) will be coaching Nyora's junior girl footballers and encourages any girls interested in playing to get in touch.

to obtain a permit to represent Nyora as well.

Teams from Warragul, Nar Nar Goon, Drouin, Newborough and Longwarry will be part of the action.

While building the skills of his young Saints is important, Adam is keen to ensure that takes place in an enjoyable environment.

"I'm trying to make it as fun as possible, teach them the

fundamentals and have a bit of a laugh," he said, observing that the same girls attended the first couple of training sessions, suggesting they enjoyed the first.

"If anyone is interested in having a kick, just come down and see if they like it and if footy's for them," Adam said of the obligation-free chance to meet other players and have a go.

The coach is driven by his memories of growing up playing sport and the friendships he formed doing so, wanting to give the girls a platform to do that.

While training has so far been on Monday nights, that is subject to change after the cricket season, so keep an eye on the Nyora Football Netball Club's Facebook page or call Adam on 0433 612 814.



The premiership U15 Glen Alvie side. From left, Coach Matt Donohue, Grace Luff, Lauren Sinclair, Jarvis Hynes, Archie Donohue, Jacko Glen, Nate Luff, Archie Luke, Will Simmons, Axl Moore, Archie Moore and Tony Bals.

Glen Alvie seals U15 Grand Final in last over

By Scott Checkley

AN EPIC U15 Grand Final was played at Outtrim on Sunday, March 9.

Glen Alvie batted first in the split innings format, reaching 1/66 in their first 20 overs. Archie Donohue batted well with support from Archie Luke, George Edwards 2/26 bowled well early for Korumburra/Nyora.

Their turn with the bat saw Korumburra/Nyora reach 1/60 from their 20 overs with openers Evan Belvedere with 27 and Toby Nicholas batting very well, the game very much even.

Glen Alvie's second block of 20 overs saw Archie Donohue retire for a very well-made 50. Will Simmons, Tony Bals Jarvis Hynes and Nate Luff all chipped in to help Glen Alvie post a good total.

Needing 110 to win from their remaining 20 overs Korumburra/Nyora were gallant in the chase. The loss of key man Tyler Dole early in the chase saw Toby Nicholas with 37 runs and pocket rocket Flynn Belvedere scoring 14, form a great partnership to have the chase on track.

Good shots along with aggressive running had Glen Alvie under pressure.



Archie Donohue was named Player of the Match in Sunday's U15 Grand Final with Neil Grabham and Les White.

The game then swung around again with the introduction of Lauren Sinclair and Grace Luff into the attack, both girls bowled full and straight which saw four wickets fall in a flurry and the game changed momentum Glen Alvie's way again.

Enter Jonah Foster and Hudson Jefferies who swung the game back again with a 40-run stand in quick time, Foster playing a great knock of 23 with some brilliant shots off his

pads and one great uppercut.

The atmosphere at the ground was fantastic, a credit to the clubs to have so much support.

Player of the match, Archie Donohue then came back into the game and with a cool head picked up the last three wickets to seal the win, finishing with 3/12.

In what was a great display of Junior Cricket that went down to the last over the game indeed



Korumburra-Nyora Batsman Toby Nicholas was effective at protecting the stumps, finishing the first innings with 37 (70). W24_1025

was a real credit to both teams.

Well done to Premiers Glen Alvie on keeping their group together and having a brilliant season.

Thank you to umpires Les White and Neil Grabham for supporting Junior Cricket, OMK Cricket Club for hosting the game along with Paul The Pieman for their continued support of Junior Cricket.

Final scores:Glen Alvie 5/169 defeated Korumburra / Nyora 165

Goannas pipped by Frankston in their season's final game

IT WAS a beautiful clear morning on Tuesday as the Gippsland Goannas Over-70 cricket team headed to Jubilee Park in Frankston.

It was their final game of the season against the Mornington Peninsula/Canterbury Combine (MP/C) Over-70 team.

Winning the toss, the Goannas batted first with Warren Dummett and Neil Meredith opening the innings.

There was a very bright start on a fast outfield, with 11 fours and a six coming from the first 10 overs.

Both openers retired after 30 balls, for 28 and 34 respectively.

Derek Morris and Ian Southall continued with some good running between the wickets, and the score was 1/85 in the 15th over when Morris was bowled for four.

Garry Rose joined Southy and they took the score to 107 when firstly Southall was run out for 30, from 28 balls, Rose was bowled for nine and Gordon Cowling was caught for zero.

It was 4/107 after 23 overs.

Rob Francis, 22 from 26, Bob Duljas, 18 retired, Andrew Smith, 14 caught (17), Phill Higgins, 5 retired (14), Ron Milnes run out 1, Barrie Nunn 6x and Murray Moore 7x all helped the score to a very respectable 7/179 at the end of the 40 overs.

After a lovely lunch supplied by the MP/C players, Southall and Cowling opened the bowling, with 40 runs coming from the first 10 overs.

Francis and Meredith took over, Francis retired with a ricked back after two overs, and Nunn had Tony Stancombe well stumped by Dummett for 35, in the 17th over.

The score at drinks was 2/98 as Meredith bowled Ralph Catts.

Southall and Meredith resumed the attack after drinks and helped slow the scoring rate.

Mero took a good catch off Southy's bowling and the score was 3/114 after 26 overs.

Moore and Smith bowled five overs.

Dummett had another good stumping from Moore, till Moore retired with a torn hammy, Morris had gone off with a torn adductor, and Milnes was limping with a strained hammy.

Cowling and Nunn returned, but the score steadily mounted and MP/C were able to pass the Goannas total in the 38th over.

Southall 1/16 from eight overs, Meredith 1/38 from eight, Nunn 1/24 from six and Moore 1/19 from three were the successful bowlers.

MP/C put on pizzas for an after-

match snack and the captains Michael Angwin and Gordon Cowling thanked the Frankston Cricket Club for the excellent wicket and ground, the team manager for organising lunch and pizza and Donald Cameron – torn hamstring from game three weeks ago – for umpiring all day.

Player of the match awards went to Goannas' Bob Duljas for his highest score ever, and Ian Sharp – at 82 years old – for taking 3/19 from eight overs and making 28 retired from 19 balls.

Cowling and Sharp had played at Heathmont Cricket Club in the 1960s.

Attention now turns to the annual Echuca tournament, in which the Goannas will play in Division 1 after winning Division 2 last year.

The four games will be played over five days from Sunday, March 16.



Vale John Mercer

By Rover

MIRBOO North Cricket Club extends its deepest sympathy to the family of life member, John Mercer, its former captain, president, committeeman, groundsman and keen spectator – following his recent passing.

John's sportsmanship and sense of fair play on and off the cricket field were exemplary.

In October 2022, MNCC named its turf wicket table in honour of John Mercer and Stuart McKenzie, that recognised a combined 100 years of service.

It also marked more than 10 seasons of fastidious pitch preparation by John and Stuart.

John's playing career spanned five decades, during which he made 19 centuries and dozens of half centuries for Mirboo North.

His top score was 145 retired v Glendale.

Opposition teams knew if they didn't get Johnny Mercer out early, they'd be chasing leather all afternoon.

John also captured hundreds of wickets for Mirboo North as a spin bowler and took countless catches in the slips and covers.

He represented Boolarra and District in Gippsland Cricket League matches and Traralgon-Boolarra at Melbourne Country Week.

John was a winner of the annual Vin Kallady Memorial Trophy as MNCC's best player during numerous cricket seasons.

In 1987 John was awarded MNCC life membership and in 2012/13, he received the annual Luke Beyer Memorial Shield for Best Club Person.

John played in the following eight MNCC premierships sides:

- A Grade 1965/66 v Boolarra
- A Grade 1967/68 v Glendale
- A Grade 1969/70 v Boolarra
- A Grade 1981/82 v Boolarra Footballers
- A Grade 1982/83 v Yinnar
- A Grade 1983/84 Boolarra Footballers
- B Grade 1985/86 Yinnar
- B Grade 1986/87 Thorpdale.

Prior to last Saturday's matches, Will Cheatley paid tribute to John, before a minute's silence was held on the Eastern Oval, involving Mirboo North's B and C Grade teams and respective visiting sides.

Black armbands were worn with stumps and boundary markers painted red, white and blue, in recognition of John's lifelong love of the Footscray/Western Bulldogs Football Club.

Goannas game abandoned

THE Over-60 cricket game between the Gippsland Goannas and the Barkly St/Maribyrnong team did not go ahead on Sunday, as the opposition could not get enough players to travel to Gippsland.

The Goannas’ Over-70 team travelled to Jubilee Park, Frankston, to take on the strong Mornington Peninsula/Canterbury combine on Tuesday, March 4.

The Goannas had an intraclub game at Churchill on Sunday.

This was a lead into the annual Echuca tournament, which will start on Sunday, March 16.

C GRADE DIVISION 1

P-Island 6/129 d Korumburra 7/125
Korumburra – 1st INNINGS: S Harland 13, I Riddell 4, G Edwards 15, P Beadel 28, R Gallagher 8, Fill-in 4, T Morrison 17*, T Sorrell 14, B Riddell 16*
Bowling: J Kleverkamp 1/9, J Allan 1/17, A Williams 1/32, S McMillan 2/28, M Cleary 2/16, S Di Falco 0/14, D McCausland 0/9

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: S Niven 18, B Marshall 22, O Hodson 0, Z Hughes 14, D Ivey 12, A Williams 24*, M Cleary 7, D McCausland 18*
Bowling: B Riddell 0/24, G Edwards 0/12, T Sorrell 1/17, P Beadel 2/15, S Harland 2/27, M Foote 1/13, L Gallagher 0/15

OMK 380 d Town 8/83
OMK – 1st INNINGS: O Fitzpatrick 153, J Greenwood 73, M Nicholas 91, N Furness 25, L Maskell 3*, R Eustace 3*
Bowling: P J Kallookkaran 2/60, K Gilliatte 0/33, D Wilson 0/38, H Livingstone 1/36, A Aeschlimann 0/58, K Oates 0/6

Town – 1st INNINGS: T Cashin 13, A Aeschlimann 24, R Edward’s 3, H Livingstone 0, D Wilson 6, P J Kallookkaran 15, K Gilliatte 9, K Oates 2, J Aeschlimann 4*
Bowling: S A Handley 2/19, O Fitzpatrick 1/16, L Maskell 4/25, R Eustace 1/19

Nerrena 3/164 d K-Bass 7/163
Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS: J Hockett 3, J Dickson 69, G Miller 27, V K Gopal 11, C Henderson 1, R Blackney 28, E Magnussen 6, A Joseph 4*, Fill-in 1*
Bowling: S Murphy 0/31, B Salmon 1/16, C Baudinette 2/38, E Berryman 1/18, C Marinou 1/25, G Murphy 1/8, J Donohue 1/19

Nerrena – 1st INNINGS: B Trotman 0, B Gannon 76*, E Berryman 10, G Murphy 42, C Baudinette 24*
Bowling: H Bettles 2/30, Fill-in 0/30, E Magnussen 0/26, V K Gopal 0/42, A Joseph 1/15, R Blackney 0/11, J Dickson 0/7

Club – BYE

C GRADE DIVISION 2

Inverloch 4/196 d Koon L/RSL 8/121
Inverloch – 1ST INNINGS: D Harris 37, W Stewart 100, M Asbury 5, Fill-in 18, J Foote 5*, M Woods 3*
Bowling: J Hawkins 1/21, T Lund 0/40, A Piksons 0/28, D Yuthmika 0/42, D Van Puyenbroek 0/7, R Collins 2/37, D Isgro 1/12

Koonwarra L/RSL – 1ST INNINGS:
A Stanley 3, D Hanily 14, M Caruana 15, G Matthies 13, J Hawkins 3, D Isgro 4, R Collins 1, A Piksons 6, D Yuthmika 30*, D Van Puyenbroek 9*
Bowling: I Richardson 2/25, A Parker 1/25, M Asbury 2/7, H Williams 2/8, A Hall 1/6, K Atyeo-peters 0/17, L Richardson 0/9, J Foote 0/14

Glen Alvie 3/136 d OMK 130
OMK – 1ST INNINGS: R Waytt 12, D Wylie 11, J Battersby 0, D Elford 30, Michael Whiteside 6, Matt Whiteside 34, A Halliwell 0, Private player 4, C Walker 0, A Perry 18, C Moir 0*
Bowling: J Hayes 1/11, G Luff 2/9, P Loos 0/24, T Bolding 1/21, W Bridle 2/24, C Andersen 0/24, L Ton 1/15

Glen Alvie – 1ST INNINGS: D McGuirk 11, O Luff 1, I Thorn 61*, J Cuttriss 27, L Ton 18*
Bowling: A Halliwell 0/16, M Whiteside 2/24, D Elford 0/30, R Waytt 0/33, J Battersby 1/17, Private player 0/9

Phillip Island d Nyora
Phillip Island won by forfeit.

MDU – BYE



Gregory Miller swings at it. He finished with a solid 27. W03_1025

Fitzpatrick sets OMK alight

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

OMK crushed Leongatha Town as opening batsman Owen Fitzpatrick amassed an incredible 153 runs in the C1 match held on Saturday.

OMK welcomed Town to Digger Park and started on its winning way with a successful toss.

The Diggers chose to bat first, which proved to be an excellent decision as Fitzpatrick was fired up for a solid innings.

Fitzpatrick had set the Diggers apart with his 153 runs before he was caught by Dean Wilson off the bowling of Tim Cashin.

Fitzpatrick wasn’t the only one in fine form.

Captain Justin Greenwood opened the innings alongside Fitzpatrick.

He made 73 runs before he was bowled by Hugh Livingstone, which sent in Mitchell Nicholas.

Nicholas made 91 runs before he was bowled by Poly Joseph Kallookkaran.

Kallookkaran also dismissed Noah Furness for 25 runs.

Liam Maskell and Ryan Eustace finished off the innings with three runs each and were not out when OMK reached its impressive and daunting final tally of 4/380.

The challenge proved too much for Town, who could not gain enough momentum.

Cashin and captain Alex Aeschlimann made 13 and 24 runs respectively, which turned out to be a highlight for Town’s innings.

Kallookkaran added 15 runs later in the innings.

For OMK, Maskell had the best bowling figures, claiming 4/25.

Scott Anthony Handley took two wickets, and singles were taken by Fitzpatrick and Eustace.

Town handed OMK the win with a score of 8/83.

Nerrena dominates Kilcunda-Bass

NERRENA flexed its muscles and overpowered Kilcunda-Bass at the Leongatha velodrome.

Kilcunda-Bass won the toss and chose to bat.

The Sharks lost opening batsman Joel Hockett for three runs.

With the score at 1/17, Gregory Miller joined Joel Dickson at the crease and the



Joel Dickson from Kilcunda-Bass was happy to block a few, still finishing with 69 runs including 10 boundaries. W04_1025

partnership went on to make 69 and 27 runs respectively.

Robert Blackney contributed 28 runs to the total.

Cameron Baudinette was the top bowler for Nerrena, taking 2/38.

The rest of the fallen wickets were shared between five bowlers.

Kilcunda-Bass played out its allotted overs and returned a score of 7/163.

Nerrena hit a snag when it lost opening batsman Billy Trotman for a duck.

However, captain Brian Gannon was in it for the innings, making 76 not out.

Third bat Eamon Berryman stepped in at the dismissal of Trotman and made 10 runs and was followed by Gerard Murphy.

Murphy recorded 42 runs, helping to secure the win.

Baudinette saw out the innings with Gannon and made 24 not out.

Nerrena had the points within 30 overs.

Kilcunda-Bass bowler Hunter Bettles claimed 2/30 and Ash Joseph took 1/15.

Nerrena’s winning total was 3/164.

Island edges out Korumburra in hard-fought victory

A TUSSELE with Korumburra saw Phillip Island earn a victory.

Playing at the Poowong Recreation Reserve, the toss was in favour of Korumburra.

The Cobras chose to bat first, sending in Shayne Harland who went on to make 13 runs.

Number four batsmen Patrick Beadel produced the top score of 28 runs.

George Edwards, Timothy

Morrison and Bryce Riddell contributed 15, 17 and 16 runs respectively.

Morrison and Riddell were not out at the end of the Cobras’ 35 overs.

Korumburra was set to defend 7/125.

Phillip Island made a decent start to its innings with the opening partnership of Steven Niven and Brydon Marshall making 18 and 22 runs respectively.

Archie Williams would secure the win for Phillip Island, top-scoring with 24 runs.

Daniel McCausland made 18 runs and was not out at the end of the match.

For Korumburra, Beadel and Harland were the top bowlers with two wickets each.

Singles went to Thomas Sorrell and Matt Foote.

Phillip Island’s winning score was 6/129.

Wonthaggi Club had the round 13 bye.

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Stewart’s century earns Inverloch the win

LEADING by example, captain Warren Stewart made a century and steered Inverloch to victory against Koonwarra LRSL.

The Stingrays won the toss and chose to send Stewart out to bat – a match-winning decision.

Stewart was joined at the crease by David Harris, who made 37 runs before he was caught by Rhett Collins off the bowling of Jack Hawkins.

Collins would ultimately dismiss Stewart as well.

Collins claimed 2/37 for the innings, while singles were

taken by Hawkins and Dan Isgro.

Koonwarra L/RSL was challenged to chase 4/196.

A modest start by Koonwarra L/RSL meant the Cougars could not gain the right momentum to approach Inverloch’s score.

Tailender Dihen Yuthmika made the top score with 30 not out.

Dylan Hanily, Mick Caruana and captain Glenn Matthies made 14, 15 and 13 runs respectively.

Inverloch bowlers Isaac Richardson, Michael Asbury and Holly Williams claimed two wickets each.

Koonwarra L/RSL fell short with a score of 8/121.

Captain Thorn leads Glen Alvie to triumph

GLEN Alvie recorded a nice win over OMK.

Playing at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve, OMK won the toss and elected to bat.

Fourth bat Danny Elford was the first to put a significant score on the board with 30 runs.

The top score came from Matt Whiteside, who made 34 runs before he was run out by Jarvis Hynes.

Tailender Andrew Perry finished it off with 18 runs.

Glen Alvie’s bowling honours went to Grace Luff and Wayne Bridle, who claimed 2/9 and 2/24 respectively.

Singles were taken by Hynes, Tai Bolding and Lucas Ton.

At the end of 35 overs, OMK had made 10/130.

Glen Alvie had its turn at bat but lost opening batsman Owen Luff for one run.

A catch by Angus Halliwell off the bowling of Michael Whiteside dismissed Luff.

Luff’s dismissal sent in captain Ian Thorn, who won the game with 61 not out.

Opening batsman Daniel McGuirk made 11 runs, John Cuttriss added 27 runs, and Ton ended the innings not out, having made 18 runs.

Whiteside took two wickets from Glen Alvie and one wicket went to Jayden Battersby.

Glen Alvie claimed the points with a score of 3/136.

The match between Phillip Island and Nyora was abandoned after Nyora was forced to forfeit.

MDU had the bye.



Club's Lochlan McLean wasn't fazed by bowler Callum McCaughan, as he went on to claim a century with 101 runs. W06_1025

Club dominate in final round

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

WONTHAGGI Club is looking to see out the 2024/25 home and away season in a big way with a massive score of 7/369 over MDU.

A humble start to the innings at the Dumbalk Recreation Reserve led to fourth bat Lochlan McLean smashing 101 runs.

He was ultimately caught by Glenn Casey off the bowling of captain Tyrone Zukovskis, but the floodgates had been opened.

Jason O'Reilly added 46 runs, and tailenders Heath Dobbie and Mohamed Ashik Mohamed Nizar made 75 and 54 respectively.

Dobbie and Mohamed Nizar were not out at the end of the innings.

Jake Palmer was MDU's top bowler, taking 4/36.

Three wickets were claimed by Zukovskis.

MDU will be looking to chase Club's score on Saturday.

OMK sights on outright victory

OMK claimed a first innings win from Korumburra at the Outtrim Recreation Oval.

Korumburra won the toss and chose to bat.

OMK's Mitchell Andrew and Russ White dismissed the first three batsmen, but fourth bat Aaron Damon managed to put a crucial 48 runs on the board.

The OMK bowlers controlled the remainder of the innings.

Bowling honours went to Ben Maguire with 3/6; White and Andrew took two each.

Korumburra was bowled out with a score of 10/76.

OMK opened its innings, sending in captains Adam Busana and Kris Kerr.

Busana made 50 runs before he was caught by Philip Richards off the bowling of Jayden Douglas and Kerr was not out at stumps.

White added 19 runs to OMK's final score.

For Korumburra, Douglas and McKinnon took two wickets each.

OMK made 4/150 and will be chasing an outright win this weekend.



Kai Allison leaves a wide one from Callum McCaughan. He finished with 34 before being caught by Anthony Dyke. W07_1025

Taberner's 140 powers Inverloch

A WHOPPING 140-run haul from Walter Taberner pushed Inverloch's score to 10/209 against top-of-the-table Nerrena.

Eventually dismissed by Damien Symmons, the initially shell-shocked Red Caps picked up the pace and dramatically slowed the run rate.

So much so that the next best scores were captain Brett Debono's 18 runs and 16 runs from Greg Eddy.

Symmons claimed 4/38 for the innings and two wickets each went to Ryan Clark and Jaxon Checkley.

The Red Caps will respond this Saturday.

Phillip Island had the final round bye.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Imperials ready to claim victory

THE Imperials are hunting down Koonwarra L/RSL's score after bowling the Cougars out 10/99 on Saturday.

Koonwarra L/RSL won the toss at its home ground and chose to bat.

Glenn Boxall opened the account with 16 runs, and Benjamin Heppell and Louis Read contributed 18 and 17 runs respectively.

Nigel Grimes managed the top

score of 24 runs towards the bottom of the batting order.

Lucas Anderson was the Imperials' best bowler, claiming 4/22.

Three wickets were taken by Martin Reidy.

Koonwarra L/RSL was forced to end its innings in the 44th over.

The Imperials were able to face 23 overs. Kane Maskell opened and made 28 runs alongside Mark Lafferty, who made 13 runs. Kristian Gray contributed 15 runs.

Louis Read dismissed Imperials captain Samuel Vagg for a duck, and Gary Sauvarin and James Forrester made five and eight runs respectively.

Both were not out at stumps.

Read claimed two wickets and singles were taken by Matthew Boswell and Nick Arnup.

With a score of 4/79, the Imperials continue their innings on Saturday.

Foster fires with 242

IN A top-of-the-table showdown, second-placed Foster made 10/242 against ladder leader Leongatha Town.

Foster won the toss at home and chose to bat.

Town bowlers Levi Hickey and Luke Ashton dismissed the opening partnership, but it was third bat Neil Henry who made the difference for Foster.

Henry made 55 runs before he was also bowled by Ashton.

Donald Caldwell and Tim

Garvey added 26 and 37 runs respectively.

Brett Gay rounded out the innings with 41 runs before he also fell victim to Hickey.

Hickey had a day out, claiming 5/64. Town will have the opportunity to bat on Saturday.

Nyora's chase begins

GLEN Alvie is looking to defend 10/204 against Nyora.

Nyora won the toss at its home ground but decided to let Glen Alvie bat first.

Steven Smith opened well with 27 runs, but fellow opening batsman Glenn Moore was lost for a duck.

Fourth and fifth bats Jack Brown and captain Darcy Hale saw Glen Alvie pick up steam again, making 38 and 60 runs respectively.

Hale's 60 was the top score.

Another 30 runs were added by Raphael Spiteri-Stevens.

Mitch Rowe was Nyora's top bowler, taking 3/29.

Lincoln Brock and Benn Hayes took two wickets each.

Glen Alvie was bowled out after 58 overs.

Nyora opened its account and faced 12 overs, amassing 2/40.

Aaron Thompson made 28 runs – including five fours – before Brown claimed his wicket.

Captain Lochie Rowe was dismissed by Hale for six runs.

Brock and Jordan Knox will continue Nyora's run this weekend.



MDU's Riley Prosser sending a fast ball to star batsman Lochlan McLean. W09_1025

B GRADE DIVISION 1

Korumburra 96 v OMK 4/150
Korumburra – 1st INNINGS: T M Allen 4, C Turton 13, Z Barrett 3, A Damon 48, N Belvedere 3, P Richards 9, D Whelan 5*
J Douglas 0, O Maskell 0, G Barrett 3, S McKinnon 2
Bowling: R White 2/35, M Andrew 2/28, K Kerr 0/13, A Busana 1/7, b Maguire 3/6, D Jeffries 1/6, N Wylie 1/1
OMK – 1st INNINGS: A Busana 50, K Kerr 72*, R White 19, N Wylie 1, M Andrew 6, M Sawyers 1*
Bowling: J Douglas 2/49, A Damon 0/24, N Belvedere 0/35, O Maskell 0/34, S McKinnon 2/7

Inverloch 209 v Nerrena
Inverloch – 1st INNINGS: W Taberner 140, B Debono 18, J Rowe 2, D Cashin 0, G Eddy 16, S Hayes 5, J Motttram Carter 0, Private Player 2, W Chapman 4, C Butler 13, N McMillan 0*
Bowling: W Croatto 0/34, R Clark 2/37, J Checkley 2/28, T Harris 1/41, D Symmons 4/38, C Dougherty 1/23

Club 7/369 v MDU
Club - 1st INNINGS: D Britt 13, H West 6, K Allison 34, L Mclean 101, S Roche 8, J O'Reilly 46, J Williamson 7, H Dobbie 75*, M A Mohamed Nizar 54*
Bowling: J Palmer 4/36, S Mcrae 0/35, C McCaughan 0/41, R Prosser 0/84, G Batten 0/22, T Zukovskis (c) 3/111, D Zuidema 0/21, K Sinclair 0/12

Phillip Island - BYE

B GRADE DIVISION 2

Foster 242 v Town
Foster – 1st INNINGS: J Gay 5, J Pilkington 17, N Henry 55, D Caldwell 26, B Busuttill 19, T Garvey 37, D Garlick 19, S Chaseling 0, B Gay 41, G Singh 0, S Embuldeniya 0*
Bowling: L Hickey 5/64, T McRae 1/47, P Jayasinghe 1/26, L Ashton 2/29, F Livingstone 1/56, C Bruce 0/14

Glen Alvie 204 v Nyora 2/40
Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS: S Smith 27, G Moore 0, J Tiziani 2, J Brown 38, D Hale 60, N Brown 4, R Spiteri-Stevens 30, T Bals 5, L Scholz 9, G Hynes 0, L McRae 2*
Bowling: M Rowe 3/29, A Thompson 1/15, J Henry 1/57, S Henry 0/13, L Brock 2/26, D Blackney 0/13, B Hayes 2/33
Nyora – 1st INNINGS: A Thompson 28, L Row 6, L Brock 0*, J Knox 2*
Bowling: L McRae 0/16, D Hale 1/7, J Brown 1/17, N Brown 0/0

Koonwarra L/RSL 99 v Imperials 4/79
Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS: G Boxall 16, A Boxall 2, N Arnup 0, B Heppell 18, L Read 17, B Anderson 0, A Dury 6, N Grimes 24, M Boswell 3, K Thorne 1, S Anderson 2*
Bowling: M Reidy 3/22, C Bruce 0/19, L Anderson 4/22, J Jeffery 0/14, C Rickard 1/11, K Maskell 1/8
Imperials – 1st INNINGS: K Maskell 28, M Lafferty 13, K Gray 15, S Vagg 0, G Sauvarin 5*, J Forrester 8*
Bowling: G Boxall 0/13, M Boswell 1/34, L Read 2/13, N Arnup 1/5, K Thorne 0/6

Kilcunda Bass - BYE

A GRADE	DIVISION 1
Town 236 v Phillip Island	
Town – 1st INNINGS	
Ron Abeyesinghe c: B Johnston b: M Royal	19
Jesse Giardina c: B Johnston b: M Royal	31
Jack Hume c: G McCausland b: M Royal	19
DLMP Gallage c: L Cleeland b: Z Brown.....	6
Madura Madusanka c: B Johnston b: K Lane	85
Buwaneka Wakishta c: B Johnston b: K Lane.....	7
Rhett Hume c: T Niven b: M Royal	26
Birendra De Saram c: D Mock b: M Royal	23
Archie Fixter st: J Black b: K Lane	5
Samuel Clark not out	5*
Ethan Smith c: L Cleeland b: K Lane	3
Extras (1w, 2nb, 2lb, 2b)	7
Total 10 / 236 (73.4 Overs)	
Bowling: G McCausland 3-1-14-0, T Niven 14-2-34-0, M Royal 17-2-58-5, Z Brown 18-0-56-1 (2w), K Lane 17.4-0-55-4 (1w), T Niven 4-0-15-0	
OMK 154 & 0/8 v Korumburra 104	
OMK – 1st INNINGS	
Ryan Williams retired	17
Zavier Lamers b: GSA Mudalige	0
Ethan Lamers c: R Rangana b: T Crocker	14
Koby Brann st: R Rangana b: S Dole	45
Clayton Quaife run out: GSA Mudalige	0
Jacob Lamers b: T Crocker	0
Thomas Wyatt lbw: S Dole	59
Noel Creed lbw: T Crocker	1
Peter Dell c: GSA Mudalige b: T Crocker	9
Travis Pickering b: S Dole	0
Nicholas Auddino not out	0*
Extras (1lb, 8b)	9
Total 10 / 154 (39.2 Over)	
Bowling: M Nader 9-0-29-0, GSA Mudalige 8-1-25-1, T Crocker 8-3-40-4, A Millar 4-0-22-0, S Dole 10.2-1-29-3	
Korumburra – 1st INNINGS	
Andy Millar c: ? b: P Dell	24
Mustafa Nader b: P Dell	8
Tom Crocker lbw: T Pickering	8
Rumesh Rangana c: R Williams b: E Lamers	27
Shane Dole lbw: J Lamers	0
Matthew Allen lbw: J Lamers	0
Jason Richards b: J Lamers	4
GSA Mudalige b: J Lamers	24
Mitch Young c: R Williams b: J Lamers	1
James Dunn c: N Creed b: J Lamers	5
Liam Dole not out	0*
Extras (3lb)	3
Total 10 / 104 (29.1 Overs)	
OMK Bowling: T Pickering 9-4-39-1, P Dell 6.1-1-13-2, J Lamers 8-2-23-6, E Lamers 4-0-19-1, T Wyatt 2-0-7-0	
OMK – 2nd INNINGS	
Clayton Quaife not out	7*
Zavier Lamers not out.....	0*
Extras (1w)	1
Total 0 / 8 (5 Overs)	
Bowling: M Nader 3-1-5-0, GSA Mudalige 1-0-1-0 (1w), T Crocker 1-0-2-0	
Koonwarra L/RSL 78 v Imperials 2/129	
Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS	
Mitchell Scrimshaw lbw: I Bolge	13
Harry Scrimshaw c: I Bolge b: L Wright	2
Kayden Scrimshaw c: A Williams b: L Wright	0
William Cashin c: I Bolge b: L Wright	2
James Rushton c: A Casey b: A Williams.....	21
Jason Kennedy c: ? b: L Wright	7
Callum Buckland c: I Bolge b: A Williams	13
Joshua Thomas b: K McGrath	2
Blake Smith b: L Wright	4
Spencer Chadwick not out	7*
Matt Cooke retired	0
Extras (3nb, 4b)	7
Total 10 / 78 (33.3 Overs)	
Bowling: L Wright 10.3-1-32-5, I Bolge 8-3-8-1, A Williams 8-4-20-2,K McGrath 7-2-14-1	
Imperials – 1st INNINGS	
Campbell Reid c: B Smith b: J Kennedy	12
Jack Ginnane not out	55*
Aydan Williams c&b: J Rushton	31
Timothy Sauvarin not out	13*
Extras (6w, 6nb, 1lb, 5b)	18
Total 2 / 129 (40.5 Overs)	
Bowling: J Thomas 5-2-15-0 (3nb), B Smith 4-0-12-0, S Chadwick 6-2-11-0, J Kennedy 11-3-24-1, W Cashin 4-0-14-0, C Buckland 3-0-22-0 (6w), J Rushton 7.4-0-25-1 (3nb)	
Club 252 v Nerrena	
Club – 1st INNINGS	
Mitch Thomas c: J Curtis b: T Wightman	54
Alexander Geyer c: D Berryman b: T Wightman	98
Stewart Beaumont c: M Clark b: T Wightman	11
Ryan Thomas c: H Funnell b: T Wightman	14
Joel Brann c&b: T Wightman	14
Jakeb Thomas b: J Trease	7
Gavin Britt c: A Gannon b: T Wightman	12
Fraser West b: J Curtis	21
James Sheerin c: M Clark b: T Wightman	12
Jack Sheerin c&b: T Wightman.....	3
Mark McCall not out	0*
Extras (3w,m 2lb, 1b)	6
Total 10 / 252 (70.3 Overs)	
Bowling: J Trease 15-4-48-1, J Hoy 12-0-69-0, A Gannon 5-1-24-0, T Wightman 28-2-75-8 (3w), D Berryman 8-0-23-0, J Curtis 2.3-0-10-1	



Inverloch's Jesse Dugard takes one of his three wickets for the day, giving up just 25 runs. W14_1025

Rankin rips through MDU’s batting order

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

A FIVE wicket haul from Lewis Rankin may see Inverloch retain its spot on top of the A2 ladder as the 2024/25 home and away season comes to a close.

The Stingrays travelled to the Meeniyar Recreation Reserve to take on MDU in the final round.

The home team won the toss and chose to bat.

Rankin dominated early, completely wiping out the top of the batting order.

Steve Arnup managed 21 runs late in the innings and Scott Browne contributed 19 runs. Other top Inverloch performers were Jesse Dugard with 3/25 and Cooper Newman with 2/14.

MDU was bowled out 10/84 and Inverloch opened its innings.

Riley Harris opened and made four runs before he was dismissed LBW by Browne.

Rhys Newman was the other opening batsman, and he made 14 not out alongside Jack Butcher with five not out. Inverloch will con-

tinue its run on Saturday.

Can Glen Alvie chase down Nyora?

ALSO vying for the top spot is Nyora, who made a decent 7/263 against Glen Alvie on Saturday.

Bailey Henderson and Scott Peatling opened, but Henderson was dismissed for 10 runs after he was caught by Andrew Dakin off the bowling of Archie Luke.

Henry Dolphin joined Peatling at the crease, and they made 31 and 68 respectively.

They were also caught by Dakin, their wickets falling to Matthew Dakin and Ben McRae.

Aaron Kaddatz added 39 runs to the tally and Myles Cordeux continued to lift the team with 41.

Reece Cordeux ended the innings with 27 not out.

Matthew Dakin and McRae were Glen Alvie’s top bowlers with three wickets each.

Glen Alvie will bat this weekend.

Kilcunda-Bass eyes Foster’s 188

KILCUNDA-BASS has Foster’s total of 10/188 in its sights.

Foster won the toss and chose to bat first at the Bass Recreation Reserve.

Mitchell Jones started well with 30 runs and fifth bat Tex Dyson went on to top score with 68 runs.

Twenty runs were added to the board by Andrew Pattie.

Kilcunda-Bass bowlers Cameron Davidson and Brad Wright shared bowling honours with three wickets each.

Singles were taken by Jaydan Tregear, Ben Rookes and Andrew Leighton.

Foster was bowled out in the 56th over and Kilcunda-Bass was able to launch its innings.

Brad Wright and Robert Wallace were the opening partnership.

Wright’s wicket was claimed by Pattie for six runs.

Wallace made 47 not out and Tregear made 18 not out.

Kilcunda-Bass faced 19 overs and is sitting on 1/75.



MDU’s Scott Browne tries his luck at facing Inverloch’s bowling onslaught. W17_1025

A GRADE DIVISION 2

Foster 188 v Kilcunda-Bass 1/75	
Foster – 1st INNINGS	
Michael Cooke c: S Lucas b: C Davidson	11
Mitchell Jones lbw: B Wright	30
Ollie Rook c: S Lucas b: B Wright	17
Josh Toner c: R Wallace b: B Wright	0
Tex Dyson c: A Larcombe b: J Tregear	68
Jake Best b: C Davidson	14
Andrew Pattie c: M Grayson b: B Rookes	20
Mitchell Allott c: S Lucas b: C Davidson.....	0
Ben East lbw: A Leighton	12
Eddie Smith b: R Brown	1
Billy Davy not out	4*
Extras (5w, 1nb, 5lb).....	11
Total 10 / 188 (55.1 Overs)	
Bowling: C Davidson 11-1-27-3 (1nb), T Smith 10-3-29-0 (1w), B Wright 14-4-34-3, M Grayson 4-0-31-0, R Brown 3.1-0-18-1 (3w), R Wallace 3-0-19-0, J Tregear 1-0-4-1, B Rookes 5-2-12-1 (1w), A Leighton 4-0-9-1	
Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS	
Brad Wright c: M Jones b: A Pattie.....	6
Robert Wallace not out	47*
Jaydan Tregear not out	18*
Extras (4w).....	4
Total 1 / 75 (19 Overs)	
Bowling: M Cooke 7-0-35-0, A Pattie 5-0-24-1 (4w), B East 2-0-10-0, O Rook 3-1-6-0, J Toner 2-2-0-0	

Nyora 7/263 v Glen Alvie

Nyora – 1st INNINGS	
Bailey Henderson c: A Dakin b: A Luke	10
Scott Peatling c: A Dakin b: B McRae.....	68
Henry Dolphin c: A Dakin b: M Dakin	31
Jy Hull b: B McRae	7
Aaron Kaddatz c: ? b: M Dakin	39
Michael Lynch c: ? b: B McRae	8
Myles Cordeux b: M Dakin	41
Reece Cordeux not out.....	27*
Aidan Simmons not out	11*
Extras (9w, 2nb, 4lb, 6b)	21
Total 7 / 263 (75 Overs)	
Bowling: M Dakin 16-2-39-3 (1nb), A Luke 10-1-55-1 (1w), Z Scholz 12-2-34-0 (1w), W Luke 8-0-28-0 (7w), Ben McRae 25-5-68-3 (1nb), E Spiteri-Stevens 4-0-29-0	

MDU 84 v Inverloch 1/23

MDU – 1st INNINGS	
Joel Sinclair b: L Rankin	3
Mitch McGrath c: ? b: L Rankin	4
SC Lakshan b: L Rankin	5
Wayne Prosser lbw: L Rankin	0
Tharindu Nuwan c: ? b: J Dugard	1
Jai Bright b: J Dugard	1
Steve Arnup b: J Dugard	21
Sam Bright b: C Newman.....	5
Zak Bright c: J Dugard b: L Rankin	7
Scott Browne c: D Clark b: C Newman	19
Mark Cantwell not out.....	8*
Extras (2w, 5nb, 3lb)	10
Total 10 / 84 (53.1 Overs)	
Bowling: J Dugard 15-2-25-3 , L Rankin 19-8-32-5 (2w, 3nb), C Newman 9.1-2-14-2, R Newman 6-4-5-0 (2nb), T Debono 2-0-3-0, J Strickland 2-1-2-0	
Inverloch – 1st INNINGS	
Riley Harris lbw: S Browne	4
Rhys Newman not out	14*
Jack Butcher not out	5*
Extras	0
Total 1 / 23 (21 Overs)	
Bowling: S Bright 7-4-14-0, S Browne 8-6-5-1, SC Lakshan 4-4-0-0, T Nuwan 2-0-4-0	



The Imperials put on a spectacular display on Sunday winning this year's under 17 Premiership Cup. Back, from left, Coach Jack Ginnane, Eamon Berryman, Charlie Bickerton, Archie Casey, Noah McLennan, Easwaramahadev Gundlapalli, Connor Richards and Isaac Bolge. Front, Clayton Quaife, Archie Gannon, Klayton McGrath and Kade Berryman. Absent: Sam Holt.

Bowling masterclass in U17 Grand Final

THE U17 Grand Final followed the trend of the Finals Series where runs have been hard to come by with Inverloch 60 defeated by Imperials/Nerrena 4/63.

Inverloch won the toss and elected to bat but soon found themselves in trouble when in form young quick Archie Gannon dismissed both Inverloch stars Rhys Newman and Riley Harris.

Archie Terlich was then joined by Cooper Newman at the crease, and they really worked hard to regain some momentum.

Terlich top scored with 21 while Newman contributed 10 runs.

Unfortunately, the loss of

By Scott Checkley

those boys and the relentless bowling from Archie Casey (Player of the Match) 4/15 and Klayton McGrath 3/17 saw Inverloch bowled out cheaply. It was a brilliant display of bowling from the Imperials/Nerrena team.

Needing early wickets Keely Dennerley sparked Inverloch with a great caught and bowled and then when Rhys Newman found the edge of McGrath's willow it was game on.

Kade Berryman and Clayton Quaife then batted with great maturity to all but seal the win and with

an Archie Gannon straight drive the victory was delivered in a great performance by the Imps/Nerrena team.

Congratulations to both teams on great seasons, so many talented young cricketers that will be great players for their clubs for many years. Once again there was a great crowd in attendance supporting the players.

Thank you to umpires Ash Stride and Ian Salmon for supporting Junior Cricket, Leongatha Town Cricket Club for hosting the Grand Final and Paul The Pieman for their continued support of Junior Cricket.



Archie Casey was named Player of the Match in Sunday's Grand Final against Inverloch.



Keely Dennerley played it safe against some ripping bowling from the Imperials/Nerrena. W19_1025



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