



GREEN ISLAND

- How Phillip Island will get there first

THERE'S a unique confluence of factors that has put Phillip Island at the front of the queue when it comes to the rollout of community-based renewable energy projects.

- It's located in the most marginal electorate in the state,
- The peak local tourism body, Destination Phillip Island, aims "to be recognised nationally and globally as a world leading sustainable tourism destination",
- It's backed by a green council,
- The area has a high roof-top solar take-up,

Mondo/AusNet have identified Phillip Island as a leader in community involvement, and

The Island boasts one of the most active community renewable energy organisations in Victoria – Totally Renewable Phillip Island.

It's a powerful package that's hard to deny. In the latest of these initiatives, the Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio stopped by at the Berninneit Cultural Centre on Tuesday morning this week to announce

that Phillip Island would receive seven of the 100 neighbourhood batteries being rolled out around the state during the government's present term of office.

The State Government is committing \$2.1 million of the total project cost of \$2,859,292 to install seven 100kW/250kWh batteries at various locations around the Island (Berninneit, Senior Citizens, YMCA, Wimbledon Heights, Rhyll, Ventnor and Smiths Beach) at \$300,000-plus per battery.

Continued page 3

The Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio chats with Phillip Island Primary School captains Jasper Reynolds and Matilda Cotton, principal Rod McKenzie and Bass MP Jordan Crugnale prior to announcing another major renewable energy project for Phillip Island this week.

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Green Island - How Phillip Island will get there first

From page 1

The overall cost to the state government of the 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program is \$42 million, with the wholly-owned AusNet commercial business entity, Mondo, which has the contract to deliver these community energy hubs and solar mini-grids also be contributing to the project.

It follows the development of the \$10 million Phillip Island Community Energy Storage System (PICES) at Gap Road, opened by Minister D'Ambrosio in June last year, designed to provide energy support for Phillip Island during peak periods, like we saw over the heat-wave holiday weekend just passed.

Speaking at the announcement that seven neighbourhood batteries would be located on Phillip Island, Minister D'Ambrosio said "the batteries will go a long way to helping to reduce those outages that happen from time to time because the grid, as it is, can't cope with the demand at peak times on Phillip Island.

"I do want to say how delighted I am to be here at the Berninnett Cultural Centre to officially announce one of the successful recipients of the first round of our 100 Neighborhood Batteries Program.

"It's a commitment that we took to the last election and this first round promised to be a very exciting one.

"And what better place to do it than here, at Berninnett, which I think has just been opened recently, developed with the support of the council here but also of course, the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund, the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, and the Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme.

"The centre here also has a 125 kilowatt solar system on the roof to reduce the building's emissions and support its energy efficient operations.

"Our 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program is all about making sure that we can provide or improve energy security in local communities. And we can do that in a number of ways.

"These technologies can actually help communities to be able to install more solar panels in their community, because



Some of the stakeholders with Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio at the announcement of \$2.1 million in funding for Phillip Island's neighbourhood battery project.



Chatting with the Minister for Energy & Resources, Minister for Climate Action, Minister for the State Electricity Commission Lily D'Ambrosio after the announcement of \$2.1 million in state funding for a neighbourhood battery program are Chair of Totally Renewable Phillip Island Mary Whelan and Managing Director of Westernport Water Dona Tantirimudalige.

the grid can support more solar panels being installed and that of course means that we've got a better chance of securing our energy needs especially when we have peak demand times like we do on Phillip Island.

"Phillip Island is absolutely very popular for holiday makers during the summer period and these batteries will go a long way to helping to reduce those outages that happen from time to time because the grid as it is can't cope with the demand at peak times on Phillip Island."

So, Phillip Island is getting seven of the available 100 neighbourhood batteries but what about places like Foster and Woodside which suffered debilitating power outages over the weekend?

We asked the Minister if the

100 batteries were just climate change window dressing and a drop in the ocean, that, in fact, 100 neighbourhood batteries could easily be located on Phillip Island.

"It's not a drop in the ocean. It's just part of an overall strategy to increase supply, to add to the distribution network, to install massive batteries, large solar projects; a whole range of other projects which taken together will help us to get to our Renewable Energy Target of 65 per cent by 2030.

"This particular project suits an area like Phillip Island, popular with holidaymakers, where you have periods of peak demand and high levels of rooftop solar."

Minister D'Ambrosio said she still had further announcements

to make about other communities that had been successful in the first round and all other communities would be able to apply in subsequent rounds.

But Ms D'Ambrosio would not comment on the number of neighbourhood batteries that might be needed to give other communities the same opportunity for energy access and security that Phillip Island was getting.

"This is the project we have committed to delivering in this term of office," she said.

So, what impact will the seven batteries have?

A spokesperson for Mondo said the batteries had the capacity to each power 12 houses but that this wasn't the point of the batteries which he said were designed to collect some of the excess power being produced by rooftop solar on the Island that was now being wasted because of a lack of grid capacity.

It's not a game-changer though. The battery to be located at Berninnett, for example, will likely be fully exhausted by the excess power being produced by Berninnett's own rooftop solar.

While authorities have explained the reason for locating batteries at Berninnett, the Senior Cits and the YMCA sports centre, they've only said that the other sites were chosen for the high roof-top solar uptake which makes you wonder why Newhaven College wasn't included, with its 237kW solar system, one of the biggest energy producers on the Island.



This is the rubbish bin outside a tobacco seller in the Bass Coast LGA with empty cigarette cartons branded 'Manchester' (photo contributed and verified).

VIPER seizes 90K cash

OFFICERS from the VIPER Taskforce charged a man Monday as part of an investigation into the alleged sale of illicit tobacco.

Three search warrants were executed at two tobacco stores in Korumburra and Highett and a residential address in Hoppers Crossing.

A 48-year-old Hoppers Crossing man was interviewed by police and subsequently charged with 16 counts of possess tobacco products with intent to defraud, three counts of possess schedule 4 poison and deal property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

He was remanded to appear at Melbourne Magistrates' Court on June 18.

More than 93,000 cigarettes (with a duty excise of over \$232,000), over \$90,000 cash and a small quantity of e-cigarettes were located at the residential address.

Almost 30,000 cigarette sticks (with a duty excise of over \$72,000), approximately six kilograms of loose-leaf tobacco and a quantity of e cigarettes were seized from a tobacco-nist on Commercial Street in Korumburra.

A further 20,000 cigarette sticks (with a duty excise of almost \$50,000), and various quantities of loose-leaf tobacco and e cigarettes were seized from a tobacco store on Highett Road in Highett.

The searches form part of the investigation by VIPER and Taskforce Lunar into a series of arson attacks linked to the illicit tobacco trade in Victoria.

Anyone with information on organised crime activity linked to illicit tobacco is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or make a confidential report at crimestoppersvic.com.au

What is it about illegal cigarettes?

POLICE say they are cracking down on illegal tobacco sellers. That they are fronts for organised crime, generating funds for other nefarious purposes. This photo was taken outside a tobacco seller in the Bass Coast LGA by someone who was simply dropping their dog's poop bag in the bin.

Opening the lid revealed a number of empty cartons of the brand 'Manchester' which the internet describes as "the country's biggest selling illicit brand."

In December 2022 a man was jailed for smuggling three million of them into Melbourne. Clearly that didn't stop them.

So, what's the strategy? Ignore the local sellers of illegal tobacco and only hit them up if they become involved in the fire-bombing, and otherwise try to stop the importation at the source?

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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND



WED | Mar 13

Shower or two.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

14° 23°



THUR | Mar 14

Shower or two.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h

13° 22°



FRI | Mar 15

Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: E-SE 20-30km/h

13° 25°



SAT | Mar 16

Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: S-SE 15-20km/h

12° 25°



SUN | Mar 17

Sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

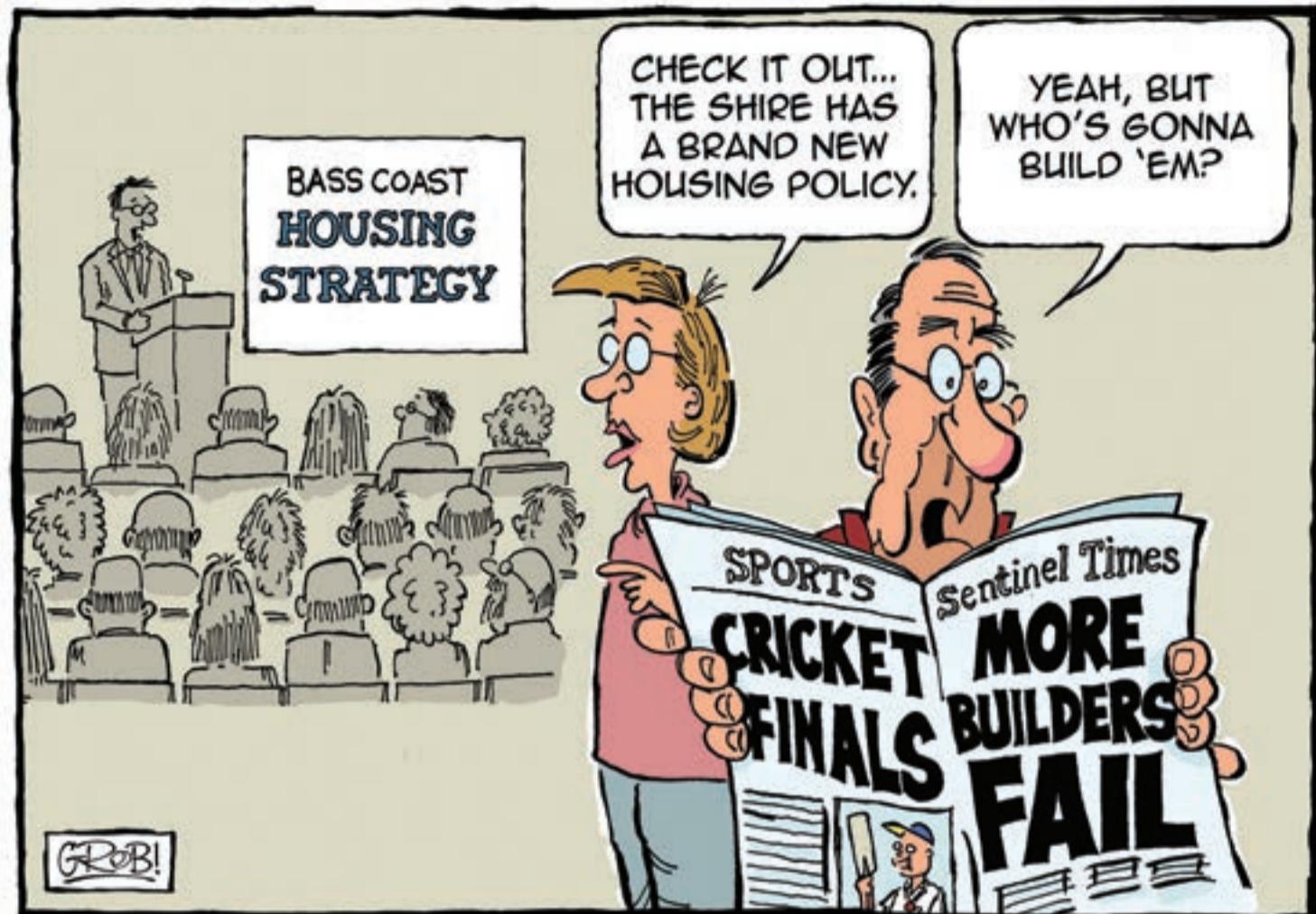
12° 27°



MON | Mar 18

Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

14° 30°



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grobb' Robinson.

IN BRIEF

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Open Mic Mirboo North is on

THE OPEN Mic at Mirboo North will be held at the Shire Hall this Saturday afternoon, after being cancelled in February due to the storm.

All musicians and performers are invited to come along and play three of their best songs over fifteen minutes at the event.

Performers can simply come along and sign up on the day, then take to the stage and entertain the crowd.

Locals and visitors alike are welcome to come along to this family friendly event to connect, forget about their

worries for a while and enjoy the wide array of performers.

A raffle will be held to raise money for the storm relief fund, with vouchers kindly donated by local businesses to be won.

Jimmy Jambs will be catering and putting on a scrumptious afternoon tea for everyone to enjoy.

The Open Mic at Mirboo North and will be held on Saturday March 23 from 12.30pm.

Loch meeting with MP

A PUBLIC meeting with Danny O'Brien MP, The Nationals State Member for MP, will be held in Loch Village at the Loch Public Hall on Wednesday March 13 at 6pm.

All community members are welcome to attend.

The agenda will cover AusNet, including power outages that frequently impact Loch Village and surrounding areas, telecommunications - communication in times of power outages, the Loch Police Station, traffic calming options, especially for Loch Primary and Pre Schools and public transport and taxi service.

The Great Fete is back this weekend

AFTER a very successful event in 2023, The Inverloch Kongwak Primary School Great Fete will be back on again this year.

The Great Fete's aim is to rebuild connections between the school community and the broader community.

This is a perfect family outing to discover all that Inverloch has to offer.

There will be more food trucks this year, more music, games, animations and educational activities, as well as a market.

A very special guest has also recently been announced. Yes! Bluey will be wandering around at The Great Fete this Saturday.

All this is made possible with the contribution and involvement of many local community groups.

This is a Free event, on Saturday March 16 from 10am-2pm at the Inverloch Primary School, 17 Bayview Avenue, Inverloch.

Air Ambulance helicopter contract extended

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) has extended its contract with Babcock Australasia (Babcock) to continue providing air ambulance operations to support paramedics in providing best care to patients across Victoria.

The five-year extension of the existing arrangement for the Air Ambulance helicopter fleet, valued at more than \$370 million, will come into effect from January 1, 2026 and extend to December 31, 2030.

AV Chief Executive Jane Miller said the renewed

partnership, which first commenced in January 2016, would ensure AV continued to provide safe, timely and expert patient care during some of Victoria's most logistically complex emergencies.

"This agreement will ensure patients who need AV's Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) continue to receive best care right across Victoria."

Road safety grants open

THE TAC Road Safety Grant Program is open now for applications for support grants of up to \$50,000 and collaboration grants of up to \$150,000.

These grants are available to support the planning and/or delivery of community road safety projects and are open to incorporated associations, community trusts, registered not-for-profit, charity or social enterprises.

Those community groups may be best placed to identify specific problems and implement solutions relevant to their unique communities.

The South Gippsland Specialist School and Bass Coast Council have both been previous recipients of TAC grants with the school buying a trailer for bike education and the Shire implementing additional road safety messaging.

Go to tac.vic.gov.au. Applications close 3pm Wednesday April 3, 2024.

Finally, a bigger, better beach warning sign

LOCAL outrage about the poor messaging on signs at Forrest Caves on Phillip Island and questions about the relative importance of dogs versus people, from the family of the victims of the January 24 disaster apparently had no impact.

But a disturbing story on ABC's 730 Report last Tuesday night, followed by an article in the Herald-Sun at the weekend, together with the onset of the hottest beach weekend in five years finally did get some action.

Where the small "Dangerous Currents" logo was still in place as late as Wednesday last week, with the large "No Dogs Anytime" sign below, by the weekend, the dogs' sign had been moved to the other side of the walkway and a much larger "Warning: Swimming Not Advised – Rip Currents" sign had been erected in its place.

Would it have made a difference when an Indian family from Clyde visited the beach on Wednesday, January 24?

Local public affairs activist, Graham Jolly of Cape Woolamai, believes it would have made a difference.

"Good on them for doing it," said Graham Jolly at the weekend.

"It's a step, a little step in the right direction but what about the other beaches?"

Mr Jolly said that two of the key recommendations in the "Bass Coast Shire Coastal



A visiting family seems to take note of the new warning sign at the entrance to Forrest Caves Beach during the busy March long weekend.

Risk Assessment" report, only released recently in full after almost five years, related to improving signs.

"One key risk treatment strategy proposed for all sites is signage and this report strongly recommends a shire-wide uniform signage strategy. Used on public land specific to aquatic recreation drowning and injury event minimisation; it should be implemented in a coordinated and consistent manner," according to the report.

Mr Jolly wants to know if the new, more-pointed messaging, and larger signs are going to be rolled out at other beaches

in Bass Coast in line with the recommendations in the report.

He also said it was high time the report was renewed, after five years.

"We also want to see what the Coroner has to say about the drownings at Bass Coast beaches this summer," Mr Jolly said.

"But sadly, it's not just a problem here. I noticed on a trip to Mallacoota at the weekend, that there's a problem with signage right along the coast, and also with the limited amount of beach patrolling being done.

"It points to a lack of

funding for surf lifesaving clubs to extend their patrols beyond the Australia Day weekend in many locations."

Emergency call

Despite the relatively benign conditions at Forrest Caves on the weekend, an emergency call did go out about a beachgoer in difficulty at about 1.30pm on Saturday. A spokesperson for the Woolamai Beach SLSC said they received an emergency call and raised the alarm but soon after were stood down when the situation was handled by those in attendance at the beach.

They still did it for Deb and the kids

BY 9.30am last Sunday, the starting time for the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids at Kilcunda, the temperature had already passed the 30°C mark, prompting organisers to change the course for the 10km run and caution other participants.

The move came in response to concerns raised by Wonthaggi Ambulance paramedic, Duncan Roney, a former colleague of the late Deb Rielly.

"We were called out to some people in distress on the George Bass Walk yesterday. It's the sort of thing that can come on quickly on a day like this and, frankly, we haven't got the resources to

deal with it if dozens of people were affected over a wide distance," said Mr Roney.

Organiser of the event, Frank Angarane of the Dalyston Football Netball Club, acknowledged it as a timely warning.

"We had 160 pre-registrations, and we would be over 200 in total today so it's a great effort and a great cause. Deb and her family wanted us to keep the Run for the Kids going and as a club, we've taken it on."

It was the first time since COVID that the 'Keeping Kids on Track' event ran and Mr Angarane couldn't have been happier with the support it received.



Penelope Lytle and Malcolm Hyde of the Wonthaggi Lifesaving Club supported Deb's Run at the weekend.

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Federal Minister Murray Watt would like to see Gippsland dairy producers supply 20 per cent of the Vietnamese market and discussed exports with the Vietnamese Minister for Agriculture at Ellinbank last week. ob03_1124

Dairy Farmers well positioned for South East Asian exports

THE FEDERAL Minister for Agriculture, Murray Watt, showcased the Ellinbank Smart Farm's produce, innovation, research and technology to the Vietnamese Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs and delegates last week.

Vietnam is the fourth largest market for Australia's agricultural exports, particularly in beef, dairy, cotton, seafood and wheat, and the South Asian market looks to keep growing given its increasing population and wealth.

According to Minister Watt South East Asia is looking for higher quality food, healthier food and more sustainable food, with regions like Gippsland being well positioned to service that growing market.

"We are undertaking some dairy exports to Vietnam, but I think we could expand that as well. Obviously, Gippsland producers supply about 20 per cent of our Australian Dairy market, I'd love to see them being able to supply 20 per cent of the Vietnamese market."

The delegates toured the Ellinbank facility and learnt about some of the cutting edge research and technology that is happening within Gippsland's farming systems.

The Ellinbank Smart Farm is engaged in advanced research initiatives including how methane emissions from cattle can be reduced and exploring how low carbon varieties of rice can be used.

Systems are being developed that provide increased efficiency, productivity and are more sustainable.

Discoveries are being taught to Vietnamese farmers on how they can adopt low carbon methods to produce more, become more profitable, but have lower emissions.

"That's great news for those farmers bottom lines, but it's also a great news for the environment," said Minister Watt.

The ministers also discussed trade deals and opening up the market up further for additional exports, particularly in the horticulture industry.

The Ellinbank Farm tour and conference was part of the ASEAN – Australia Special Summit 2024 to celebrate local agriculture.

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Mayor's Message



Cr Clare
Le Serve

WHAT a week it's been. Firstly I'd like to thank my family, friends, colleagues and community for coming along to celebrate International Women's Day last Friday at Silverwater Resort in San Remo. It was a brilliant day to inspire inclusivity and we enjoyed hearing from Olympic swimmer Nicole Livingston OAM and community sportswoman about how we can continue to shape the world into a more inclusive space for all genders.

That same morning I'd been on Phillip Island having a tour of The Block production. It's certainly shining a great spotlight onto our beautiful region and I've heard so many positive reports from local businesses who are benefitting from having this major television production here – from tradies, cafes, accommodation providers and many more.

Now more than ever we need to continue to shine light on local businesses. Some members of our community are still cleaning up post the February storm event so I really want to highlight the importance of everyone using local businesses where possible for trades entertainment and all your shopping. It can be very difficult and lonely running a small business but ongoing support from community makes it a bit easier. Please check out our Shop Eat Love Local campaigns to see how you can get involved in promoting and supporting our local businesses.

Over the last week, we had several events around the region, including the Cowes Car Show, which was a display of absolute colourful nostalgia. Well done to the organisers!

On the topic of cars, I was delighted to speak at the Totally Renewable Tenby event which had a focus on the way we can sustainably move forward with electric vehicles. We discussed how this transition can progress in a collaborative manner and the importance of fostering a supportive infrastructure to help this occur. Bass Coast are leading the way in Victoria to reduce carbon footprints through a range of programs. We are putting in place practical steps towards a cleaner and greener municipality.

Knowing it was a long weekend and a heatwave, you may have noticed additional signage and communications around beach safety. This will continue. With the Easter period not that far away you may notice ramped up campaigns about how to stay safe at the beach and around heat health. I'd like to thank all our partners, including Phillip Island Nature Parks, Parks Victoria, Life Saving Victoria, other Council's and of course media and community organisations and individuals for helping spread the word on these important issues. Together, let's ensure everyone can enjoy their days away and go home with lovely memories for generations to come.

Don't wait until the concrete pumper arrives

YOU'VE no doubt heard the famous Joni Mitchell lyrics: "they paved paradise to put up a parking lot".

Well, if you wanted to have your say when they made the decision to clear a site for a carpark in Honolulu back in the day, you'd have had to watch the local council's business papers.

Not write a protest song about it later!

The same thing is going on at Bass Coast Shire Council at the moment, not for a carpark, but deciding whether a block of flats can be erected next to your place, or whether a developer should be allowed to tear down an old weatherboard house in your street and put in six townhouses.

If you've got a problem with that and want to have something to say about the density of housing development in your area, or the neighbourhood character in general, this is your chance.

Not when the concrete pumping truck arrives.

Council endorsed its Neighbourhood Character Study, draft Housing Strategy, and draft Residential Canopy Cover Improvement Strategy for community consultation recently and last week, members of staff were out and about, ready to talk about it.

But, they came up against a heat wave, and at Wonthaggi on Friday in Apex Park, and also at Corinella, Cowes and Cape Paterson over the weekend, not too many people came out to see what it's all about.

But it is important and there



Members of the Bass Coast Shire Council's strategic planning department braved the heat last weekend to stage public information sessions on the shire's new housing strategy and neighbourhood character study; including Austin Cram, Rewa Smith and Melanie Wright.

are still two chances to meet the council's strategic planners; at Newhaven's Grayden Reserve on Wednesday, March 13 2pm-4pm and at the Inverloch Regional Farmers Market on Saturday, March 16 8am-1pm.

Here's an example of what the shire is considering doing to accommodate housing growth while stopping the expansion of town "settlement boundaries".

The shire intends to nominate three broad categories of housing change to guide the future growth and development of housing across a municipality. They are:

- Substantial Change Areas – Planning for intensification
- Incremental Change Areas – Consolidating existing urban areas; and

• Minimal Change Areas – Inappropriate for further consolidation.

The shire is already aware of areas where it would be inappropriate to increase the density of housing, but you may know other reasons why it shouldn't happen in your street.

This is what the shire council wants to hear.

"Meanwhile some areas will be more appropriate for additional housing, such as those within walking distance to public transport, shops and open spaces," according to the Housing Strategy, indicating inner residential areas are in line for more intensive residential development including multiple occupancy and even blocks of units.

"Change is inevitable, and we must respond to it. Change areas help us provide certainty and transparency to the community about where Council seeks for housing growth to occur or otherwise avoid. They form a key part of the framework that ensures we are meeting our objectives for housing supply in a sustainable and clear way for the projected population."

If you want to have a say, go to one of the public information sessions or go to the shire's Engage Bass Coast website and fill in a short survey. Follow the link: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodcharacter-housing

Tree 'gives birth to car' at Leongatha

THE lone driver of a late-model Toyota Camry Altise hatch was lucky to be alive after he/she lost control of the car and crashed deep into roadside trees on the Bass Highway at Leongatha South last Wednesday night.

Locals heard a loud bang at about 9.45pm and came outside to investigate but initially at least, could see nothing to explain the crashing sound.

Turns out, the car had mounted the embankment in front of the trees and rolled over into the bushes behind,

just missing several large cypress and eucalypt trees.

Travis Effern of Gregs Panels did an expert job of extricating the car from behind a large tree, flipping it back over on its wheels while managing to keep at least one lane of the highway open, with the help of police who stopped cars momentarily while the car was winched on to the truck.

"Looks like the tree is giving birth to a car," said a local resident as the car emerged from behind the tree. How someone survived that I'll never know."



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Winery tour delights

A SPLENDID lunch and a glimpse at the goings on behind the scenes of a local winery was thoroughly enjoyed at Fleet Wines on Saturday.

Around 40 people took the opportunity to take part in the foot stomping experience – some with a little apprehension but ultimately describing the activity as “therapeutic.”

“Almost everyone took part. It was a lot of fun and an eye opener for some of our guests,” Fleet Wines’ Lisa Jenkins said.

“It’s part of the process and a technique that we employ.”

Fleet Wines ran this event for the first time last year, and it has quickly become a highlight.

“This is a big part of our calendar. We invite our Wine Club members to come along and see the action. The afternoon was open to locals and travellers to the area over the long weekend as well,” Fleet Wines’ Justin Jenkins said.

“Many people enjoy the winery tour – getting the chance to see the processes of a working winery. It was a great day.”

The next major luncheon will be held in August, when Fleet Wines

will plant approx. 2500 natives.

“As part of the Wine Club membership, we plant 50 trees per member per year. We have been doing so since 2019 when we bought the land,” Justin said.

“It is part of our plan for revegetation and ecology restoration. We’ve planted approx. 8000 trees so far, we have room for around 20,000.”

2500 trees are set to be planted in August, 600 of which will be planted due to a successful grant submission through the South Gippsland Landcare Network (Arawata).

The tube stock is supplied by the Wonthaggi Seed Bank, which have yielded some strong trees.

“We have formed a great relationship with the Arawata Landcare Group, we’re really looking forward to working together more in the future,” Justin said.

“Our working crew is formed from people on our mailing list. This can include a mix of Wine Club member, social media followers and locals. It is a great reason to get people together, do some good by planting trees, and have some fun with a Long Table winery lunch.”



Rex Van Kempen, Sarah Howson, and Jenny and Paul O'Sullivan enjoyed an afternoon at Fleet Wines.



Justin and Lisa Jenkins welcomed guests to Fleet Wines for a winery tour on Saturday.

Older people embrace health and wellbeing

SIX times a week, a large room in the Wonthaggi RSL is transformed into a hub of activity as older people embrace a regime to improve their health and wellbeing as they age.

People from 65 to their early 90s are taking part in the free classes, funded by Gippsland Primary Health Network as part of its early intervention initiative and delivered by MyPhysio Spinal and Sports Injury Clinic, a physiotherapy and rehabilitation clinic based in Wonthaggi.

The classes are so popular there are waiting lists with participants coming from neighbouring towns as well as Wonthaggi. People can choose from three classes, delivered twice a week – the ‘Strong and Stable’ class, the ‘Falls and Prevention’ and ‘Glad’ class for people with osteoarthritis, hip and knee problems.

“It is estimated that 23.6% of the Gippsland population are aged 65 years or older, compared to 15.8% in Victoria,” Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch said. “An even higher proportion of the Bass Coast population (28.7%) is aged 65 years or older.”

“We know it is more important than ever to have services and models of care in place to promote healthy ageing and reduce pressure on local health services.”

Here’s what some of the participants say:

Wendy, 72: “I’ve always been physically active; I’m a Melbourne University graduate of health and physical education so I know it’s important to stay fit and supple. I live on my own, so I enjoy the new friendships too.”

Alan, 79: “I’ve got crook knees from being a runner and a footy umpire. The classes are helping, and the social side of the classes is an extra advantage.”

Carolyn, mid 60s and father Ronald, 85: “I was nursing my husband. When he died, I realised I needed to get fitter and the classes helped me lose weight too. Dad really needed to exercise. It’s great we can come together.”

To find out more about Gippsland PHN’s early intervention activities, go to the website.

Could endocannabinoid therapies be suitable for you?



If you experience anxiety, insomnia or chronic pain, speak with your Pharmacist for more information.

Subject to Pharmacist's scope of practice and professional judgment. A consultation with a Pharmacist is not intended to replace medical treatment or diagnosis from a medical practitioner. Patients may be referred to a medical practitioner at the Pharmacist's discretion. If your illness/injury persists or becomes worse, you should consult your medical practitioner.



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IN MEMORIAM:

Dave Trotter – passionate car enthusiast

DAVE Trotter, 74, a beloved member of the Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club (BCHAC), tragically passed away on March 4, succumbing to injuries from a motor vehicle accident. His legacy as a classic car aficionado and a warm-hearted mate will forever resonate within the community.

Dave's love for classic cars was well-known amongst his friends, family and fellow enthusiasts, as Ken, Manny and Brian explained.

"I met Dave in 2006 when he owned a 1991 Chevy Camaro Convertible. He loved his cars, but always wanted something different, so would buy and then sell them," Ken explained.

Over the years Dave owned many cars, from a 1968 Chev Impala to 1977 Chev C10 327 V8 Auto, Ford Thunderbird to Mach 1 Mustang, his final beauty a black 1967 Ford Galaxy fast-back out and about at various car shows in the district of late.

"Dave enjoyed going to car shows, swap meets and attending club outings to mix and mingle with people with similar interests. He was always a true gentleman and one of the original members of the Chev Car Club chapter in Moe," Ken added.

Dave and Manny's friendship ignited over a vintage Chevy.

"Dave was selling his Impala and I bought it – we soon became friends," Manny said.

"It's safe to say that Dave was never the most hands-on classic car owner. He preferred to drive his cars rather than spend time under the bonnet."



Dave Trotter is being remembered as a warm-hearted mate and passionate car enthusiast.

Dave's journey with cars had its ups and downs. Looking for a Ford pick-up, Dave ended up with a big black beast in the Chev C10. Not what he envisaged it was sold and the Ford Thunderbird purchased.

"He had nothing but trouble with the Thunderbird, and instead sold it for a Mustang.

"It was an original with all the right paperwork. It was a true pleasure to drive and a car that he was truly proud of."

In the years that followed Dave sold the Mustang, and bought his project car, which we all know as truly his... the matt black Ford Galaxy.

"Dave and I spent many hours repairing, painting and cleaning

this car. His project is some of my most memorable time together.

Dave loved to support his car clubs – first the Chevy club and later the Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club (joining in May 2018). He was always out and about on club meet days."

A builder by trade, Dave was rarely seen without his beloved dog Indi, and had the last couple of years kept himself busy in retirement with renovations at his home in South Dudley, and on the BCHAC committee.

Joining the committee around 2021 Dave was active in organising shed inspections and raffles and provided invaluable assistance to the Show &

Shine as well as quartermaster of club assets.

Dave's other love (other than his family of whom he was extremely proud of) was golf.

"He liked to think of it as exercise and played three days a week," Manny recalled.

"The day often started with breakfast, followed by a hit of golf and if it was warm, we sometimes finished off with a cold one in the clubhouse.

"Dave was a rock-solid friend to so many people within his community and will be missed by us all."

Dave was cared for by his son, Jason, and daughter, Rachel, following his release from hospital.

Dialysis service cares for patients, close to their homes

BASS Coast Health (BCH), in collaboration with Monash Health, offers a comprehensive Haemodialysis service for the South Gippsland and Bass Coast communities.

World Kidney Day on Thursday March 14 is an opportunity to acknowledge the value of the Haemodialysis unit at Wonthaggi Hospital. In 2023, the service provided 3069 life-sustaining treatments.

Dialysis cleans toxins from the blood of patients with end-stage kidney disease. 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 Neale Blunden of Foster used to receive treatment at Latrobe Regional Hospital at Traralgon.

"Wonthaggi Hospital is a lot closer to home. It's a good service, and the nurses are very good, and we all have lots of fun. You've got to make something like this fun," he said.

"Receiving dialysis has been life-changing for me. I've had kidney disease for 28 years and I knew it may come to this."

Haemodialysis Ward Nurse Unit Manager Sky Martin said dialysis patients range in age from their forties to their eighties.

"It's a privilege to share this journey with our consumers. We get to be a part of people's lives when they are often at their most vulnerable," she said.

"We provide dialysis, emotional support and education, and we try to have a laugh along the way."

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.



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South Gippsland
Shire Council

South Gippsland Shire Council News

The Great Southern Rail Trail

Great news! After South Gippsland's devastating storm, the Great Southern Rail Trail is now open for use again.

Like most of our region, the Rail Trail was hit by the extreme weather event on Tuesday 13 February.

From fallen trees scattered across the Trail, to the hangers from above, to say that the clean-up job ahead was going to be big, was nothing short of an understatement.

Council staff and contractors cleared over 120 trees and branches along the 108 kilometre stretch of trail.

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to thank everyone involved in cleaning up the Rail Trail. This remarkable effort means

that our community can once again use the it safely.

Our beloved Trail is not only a draw card for attracting visitors to the region, but it is also an asset to residents throughout South Gippsland. It provides a space that promotes both positive physical and mental wellbeing.

We encourage everyone to get out on the Great Southern Rail Trail and share your journey with the Trail's Facebook page.

If while you're enjoying the Trail you notice a hazard such as a fallen branch, please report it via the Snap Send Solve app or online at reports.snapandsolve.com

Community Training Calendar



'Culture, Diversity and how to be Inclusive', is a FREE learning opportunity your community group won't want to miss!

19 March from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at the Korumburra Community Hub.

Diversify your group and remove barriers that may be preventing people from being part of your organisation.

Discover how to foster an inclusive environment and embrace diversity in all its forms.

This workshop will teach you strategies to promote inclusiveness in both your personal and professional life. Secure your place at:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 20 March 2.00pm
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

Dates are also listed on Council's website at:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting-dates

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Please contact the Governance Team for questions about Council Meetings

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a new job? We might have the perfect position for you!

Check out our current vacant positions here:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

CLEAN-UP SUPPORT FOR STORM DAMAGED HOMES

If your home was damaged by the February 2024 Victorian storms, you may be eligible for clean-up support.

You can register for the following:

- Removal of dangerous trees
- Demolition of storm-damaged homes

To check your eligibility, to register and for more information, please visit:

www.vic.gov.au/clean-support-storm-damaged-homes

For more information, please contact the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.

REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

RFT/402 – Building Maintenance Services Contract 2024-2026

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

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

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

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha

03 5662 9200

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Friends of Coal Creek makes submission to council on the park's future

By Andrew Paloczi

FRIENDS of Coal Creek (FOCC) is calling for revitalisation of the tourist attraction, which would entail restoration, maintenance of the facility and an increase in activities there, advising South Gippsland Shire Council that closing the park would make no economic sense.

The group also called on council to step aside as the manager of the facility and for the introduction of a management structure comparable to the Sovereign Hill Museums Association, a not-for-profit community-based organisation.

The association is controlled by a Board elected by members and serving in a voluntary capacity.

Revitalisation, New Direction, or Closure were the three options proposed in council's Coal Creek Discussion Paper.

"Coal Creek is part of the fabric of the community and its roots go deep into the foundation of who we are as South Gippslanders," FOCC declared in its submission to council in response to the discussion paper.

The volunteer organisation that has been supporting Coal Creek over the last 25 years addressed all three options put forward in the discussion paper and provided ideas on how the park can continue in a sustainable and beneficial manner.

It pointed to the post-pandemic improvements over the last 18 months as evidence revitalisation is a practical option, praising the current park management for its improvements to facilities and maintenance and its reintroduction of events at Coal Creek.

Prior to preparing its submission, FOCC considered the feedback it received from respondents to its 2022 community survey, as well as views expressed at its February 2024 public meeting at Coal Creek.

Approximately 240 people completed the survey offering their thoughts on the importance of Coal Creek and what will attract visitors to the park, with people's opinions guiding the organisation's response.

FOCC doesn't quibble with the need for change, saying technology and expanded offerings must be embraced to make the park viable, and that the attraction currently fails to deliver an experience reflecting the history of the local coal mining era in the early 1900s.

Opening more buildings, creating interactive displays and demonstrations of 'lost' trades are ideas put forward, the latter including wheelwrights, printing, blacksmiths, weaving and spinning.

Featuring the mining of black coal and providing a simulated mine experience are identified as vital, as is getting the narrow-gauge tramway operational.

A new entrance building with welcome desk, café, souvenir shop, information centre, rest rooms and theatre room is proposed, with promotion of what Coal Creek and South Gippsland as a whole have to offer.

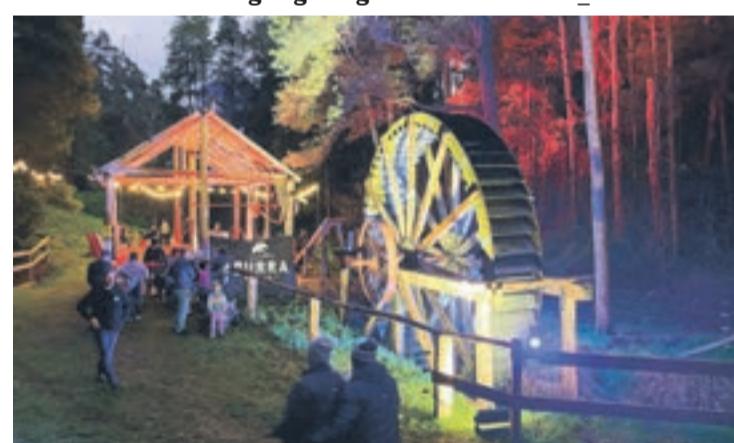
FOCC suggests modifying the current front entrance to Coal Creek to become a permanent gallery space with its own facilities.



Janet and Roger Powell of Friends of Coal Creek, of which Roger is president, are hopeful of a positive outcome for the tourist attraction. A09_1124



Now completed works on Coal Creek's rotunda are among the improvements made since the pandemic, with Coal Creek team leader Kim O'Connell and South Gippsland Shire Council's manager of economy community and investment Christian Stefani highlighting that feature. A10_1124



Korumburra Southern Lights Festival is one of the successful events held recently at Coal Creek that Friends of Coal Creek say illustrates the park's potential. A12_1124

Improved accessibility throughout the park is called for, along with sealing of the front carpark.

FOCC is looking into funding an e-Cart to transport people around the park, which would accommodate wheelchairs, walking frames and prams.

Better signage and a path linking Coal Creek to the Great Southern Rail Trail at Korumburra Railway Station are other suggestions, along with additional and well-promoted events.

The need for an entry fee is also highlighted, with charges for tramway rides, trade lessons and guided tours other income-generating ideas to fund the park.

FOCC points to council's discussion paper as evidence that it would cost millions of dollars and years of work to close Coal Creek, potentially to end

up with something of little value to the community or other commercial activity.

"The economic flow on from visitors coming to Coal Creek would vanish and not be replaced," it is stated.

It is also pointed out that council would still need to maintain the area should the park close.

FOCC argues Coal Creek has the potential to be an economic driver attracting tourists to come to South Gippsland for food, wine and cultural experiences.

The attraction's connection to South Gippsland families over multiple generations and the important role coal mining played in the growth and industrialisation of Victoria are further reasons to keep the park and its museum operational, the organisation says.

Regarding the New Direction option, FOCC stated that it was

difficult to review due to a lack of clarity provided regarding the effect a new direction would have on the existing historic park.

While the organisation believes New Direction is likely to be a costlier choice than Revitalisation, it sees potential for a mixture of the two.

That is provided the New Direction elements don't detract from the historical focus of the park, are complementary to it, are based on long-term financially sustainable activities and contribute financially to the existing park, and benefit all of South Gippsland.

Potential suitable new directions identified relate to accommodation, educational facilities, event and concert facilities, and Coal Creek park management.

Insufficient current short-term accommodation for visitors creates the potential for a caravan park at the under-utilised eastern end of the park, with the idea of purchasing and upgrading the Coal Creek Motel to give it a high-quality resort style vibe also proposed.

FOCC sees potential to create school camp accommodation.

Establishing a link with a TAFE college and creating a training facility teaching valuable skills that can be used in the region and that complements the work of Korumburra's existing training centre is considered of interest.

A permanent stage and concert set up could build on the success of recent community entertainment events held at Coal Creek, with the idea of a "mini music bowl" concept suggested.

In regards to a new direction for management of the park, FOCC is unequivocal in its view that council shouldn't be involved in the daily running of Coal Creek.

"The mechanisms and reporting structures required to run a shire are different to those required to run a tourist and entertainment destination," the group said.

It called for the focus to shift to being about the delivery of an experience for visitors rather than centred on achieving the cheapest cost.

Mayor's Message



Cr Clare Williams



HELLO South Gippsland.

One of the best things about being a Councillor is representing the community. This happens in so many different ways, such as sitting on Committees, meetings with State and Federal MPs and catching up with our community. It has and always will be the greatest privilege to represent you all as Mayor.

This week, Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis and I met with Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC the Governor of Victoria. This was a great opportunity for us to again demonstrate the remarkable and hard moments that our community have gone through in the past month. Shining a light on how our community has mobilised to support each other, and what we need from other government agencies to continue cleaning up.

While we visited the Governor, we also attended the Rural Councils Victoria meeting, which was held at state Parliament and provided another great opportunity to meet with the Premier of Victoria and a number of government Ministers. Meeting with our counterparts from other regions and presenting joint advocacy opportunities to government is always valuable. We are never alone in our challenges.

Recently, Councillor Scott Rae attended a South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS) Committee meeting. At the meeting, Committee members spoke about transport network issues that affect industrial freight and our communities. Councillor Rae took the opportunity to speak about a suite of improvements and projects that we would like to see completed.

Engagement Opportunities

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Future of Coal Creek survey and put their hand up to be part of the Community Assembly. The survey is now closed and the Community Assembly recruitment is happening now. I'm really looking forward to seeing the feedback from you all.

Due to the storm event, the engagement opportunity for Amendment C119sgip – Areas Susceptible to Erosion has been extended to Friday 22 March. This amendment proposes to update the Erosion Management Overlay to protect areas susceptible to erosion and remove the need for permits in some situations.

To view and provide feedback on any current engagement opportunity, please visit: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

International Women's Day

This year, International Women's Day focussed on giving women equal opportunity to earn, learn and lead.

I am very fortunate to be a leader, and be surrounded by amazing women every day who do extraordinary things in varying fields. Every woman is doing something that others look up to, and I'm really proud to see women continuing to be included and thrive in our community.



Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

Police are out there to keep you safe. If you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.





Mr Jason Scott, Head of Senior School (and Vice Principal) with pictured here past year 12 students, has been with the College for fourteen years.

Newhaven College seeks new Head Senior School

NEWHAVEN College announces the search for a dynamic and experienced educator to assume the pivotal role of Head of Senior School following the retirement of Mr Jason Scott, who served with distinction for fourteen years.

The successful candidate will be entrusted with fostering an enriching and supportive learning environment, ensuring that students continue to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally during this

crucial stage of their education.

Newhaven College is committed to creating an environment where each student can reach their highest potential, focusing on their academic growth as well as their social, sporting, and cultural development. During Senior School years students make decisions that shape their future career paths. The aim is for every student to graduate with a clear vision of their future opportunities, whether that's further study or

entering the workforce.

"We are seeking a visionary leader who is passionate about education and dedicated to providing the highest standard of support and guidance to our Senior School students," said Mr Tony Corr, Principal of Newhaven College. "The successful candidate will play a crucial role in shaping the educational journey of our students and contributing to the continued success and growth of our College."

Candidates with a proven track record in educational leadership and a passion for fostering holistic student development are encouraged to apply.

Join Newhaven College in shaping the future of education and empowering young minds for success. For additional details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, please contact Leisa Lomax, Human Resources Manager on 5956 7505. Applications close 4pm Tuesday March 26.

Encouraging students to embrace Anzac spirit

VICTORIAN students are encouraged to explore how Victorians came together to build the Shrine of Remembrance and other war memorials as part of the 2024 Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize competition.

The annual award competition, which invites students in Years 9 to 12 in Victoria to apply for a unique international study tour opportunity, opened last week.

Students are asked to delve deeper into the essence of the Anzac spirit as they develop their submissions, which can take the form of written pieces, creative works, and digital presentations.

The Prize delivers on the Alban Labor Government's 2022 election commitment to give 12 young students the opportunity to join a fully funded study tour.

This year, the selected students will embark on an unforgettable journey to battlefields and commemorative sites in Türkiye, retracing the experience of Australian men and women at war on the Gallipoli Peninsula and surrounds.

The Spirit of Anzac Prize also offers students the opportunity to participate in a unique education program that fosters understanding and appreciation for our nation's Anzac spirit.

Applications are open until Monday, April 29. To apply or find out more visit vic.gov.au/premiers-spirit-anzac-prize

NEWHAVEN COLLEGE

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Saturday 16 March
10am - 2pm

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Inverloch Marine's unwavering commitment under new ownership

WHILE Inverloch Marine came under new ownership this year, the ethos of the business remains unchanged, with a commitment to excellent customer service and high-quality work.

That philosophy applies across all aspects of the business, including boat sales, customisation and servicing.

Inverloch Marine has exclusive distribution rights for Victoria and South Australia for multi-award-winning New Zealand boat brand 'Extreme'.

The high-end aluminium Kiwi-manufactured boats are ideal for serious offshore fishing, perfect for those who might venture 30kms off the coast in pursuit of big game fish.

There are 'stock boats' available to inspect at Inverloch Marine, with the business operators choosing specifications that offer broad appeal.

Exploring those boats enables customers to determine what suits their needs and, if they decide to buy, whether to opt for customisation or stick with a 'stock boat'.

Test drives are available.

Inverloch Marine owner James Cody said people can order a boat to meet their precise specifications.

"The manufacturer offers a



Inverloch Marine owner James Cody with an Extreme 745 Game King. A03_1124

number of options as factory fitted but we have the capability to also do extensive modifications to boats when they arrive here," he said.

Expert staff and a large purpose-built facility ensure customisation is carried out efficiently and precisely.

The business also has a substantial workshop for its marine technicians to service boats and motors.

For those wanting to fish

nearer the shore, Inverloch Marine stocks 'Quintrex' boats.

The business pairs 'Quintrex' and 'Extreme' boats with Yamaha motors, being a franchisee for that brand.

"They've got great longevity in the marketplace and incredible R&D capabilities, so they're always looking to innovate their products," James said of Yamaha.

Inverloch Marine has 10

staff and has been running for over 30 years.

James spoke of the legacy outgoing owner Tim Edney has created.

"We have a great deal of respect for the business that he's built up over the years and wish to continue in the same vein," James said, explaining that while there may be future expansion there is no desire to change the business' approach.

Historical display during Poowong's 150th anniversary

THOSE who love historical agricultural machinery and old vehicles will be in for a treat if they are attending Poowong's 150th Anniversary Celebrations this April.

The Poowong Historical Society will be exhibiting historical agricultural machinery, cars and trucks that have a special connection with Poowong, on the grounds of the Pioneer Chapel during the festivities.

On display, will be about 20 pieces of equipment that are connected to farming in Poowong as well as a number of vehicles that were owned by past or current Poowong residents.

This includes a 1964 Bedford truck which has been passed down through five generations of Sabens who were originally farmers in the area.

A display highlight will be a 19th Century horse wagon that was brought to Poowong with

the first settlers in the 1870's and the same family still have it in their possession today.

Then there will be the classic red Massey Ferguson tractor that has been motoring for decades and remains in the same Poowong family.

There will be a blurb with each item, explaining what each piece of equipment is and how it is connected to Poowong.

The chapel will also be open for perusing and various local historical items will be on display in there as well.

The Poowong Pioneer Chapel and grounds will be open with the indoor and outdoor exhibits on Sunday April 21 from 10am to 3pm.

The exhibition is part of the Poowong's 150th Anniversary Celebrations which will run from Friday to Sunday April 19 to 21, with various events and activities held over the weekend.



This 1964 Bedford truck has been passed down through five generations of Sabens from Poowong and will be on display at Poowong's 150th Anniversary Celebrations this April. ob08_1124

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Leongatha Community Market moves to railway precinct

AFTER a decade of trading at the end of a court and hidden from view, the Leongatha Community Market will be moving to the railway precinct, and this Sunday will mark their inaugural market at the new site.

Against a stunning and colourful mural back drop and on site with the historical railway station, fresh landscaping and the rail trail running through it, the market organisers realised a golden opportunity.

With a loyal customer base and about 25 regular stall holders, the organisers saw the opportunity to move the market to a larger more visible site, that will also see it have the potential to grow much larger.

The market will also be moved from its regular Saturday timeslot to every third Sunday morning of the month running from 8.30am to 1pm.

This opens up the chance for more locals and visitors to browse the market at a leisurely pace, or to make a convenient stop off for coffee and cake while on a rail trail ride.

All the same great local stalls will remain, including the Men's Shed and their collection of wood worked goods, the Leongatha Community Garden with fresh vegetables, preserves and jams and those specialised stall holders selling local produce like honey and olive oil.

New stall holders that are keen to join the regulars at the expanding Rail Trail Community Market include those with local and handmade craft items, pottery and jewellery.

Live music will also entertain market wanderers in an atmosphere that is family friendly and has a great vibe.

Locals protest AUKUS

PROTESTS are being held this weekend on the first anniversary of US, UK and Australia signing the AUKUS military pact.

Anti-AUKUS groups are calling for the Australian government to get out of the AUKUS war pact, cancel the nuclear-powered submarine deal, keep Australia out of US wars, adopt an independent foreign policy that promotes peace and justice and spend the \$368 billion of peoples' taxes on people's needs and climate crisis action.

Southern Gippsland Anti-AUKUS spokesperson Ken Blackman said, "The AUKUS war pact locks Australia into US global war-fighting, which could trigger a nuclear catastrophe. The developing military and political integration of the US and Australia over defence is provocative, risks conflict with China and has made us complicit in the Gaza genocide through our Pine Gap communications facility.

"AUKUS is a hugely long-term commitment, unlikely to be respected by future governments. Calm and rational assessment of Australia's defence needs by numerous critics with expertise or relevant experience is not reassuring! We should demand much more open discussion of the options."

They are calling on the Australian Government to use diplomacy, trade and sharing partnerships to build strong and peaceful relations with our neighbours. The Victorian Anti-AUKUS Coalition is holding a rally in Melbourne on Saturday at the State Library.

NEW SUNDAY MORNING Market

RAIL TRAIL COMMUNITY MARKET LEONGATHA

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17 MARCH 2024
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3RD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

RAILWAY PRECINCT LEONGATHA
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Discover Bandicoots this Easter on Churchill Island.

New bandicoot discovery tour at Churchill Island

PHILLIP Island is famous for its 40,000 little penguins, and now tourists can experience the island's nocturnal nature party for the first time, with a new Eastern barred bandicoot tour.

Phillip Island Nature Parks will host five nightly wildlife experiences on Churchill Island with the first two having taken place on March 9 and 10 and the remaining three over Easter from March 29 to 31, giving unique insight into how the endangered Eastern barred bandicoots live and interact in the wild.

It comes after the Nature Parks researchers, as part of a multi-agency recovery effort, helped save the Eastern barred bandicoot from extinction, reintroducing the species to the fox-free safe haven in 2017.

Mark Anderson, General Manager, Tourism at Phillip Island Nature Parks said Phillip Island was home to a strong population of bandicoots, including on Churchill Island, thanks to the dedicated conservation recovery program.

"The Eastern barred bandicoots have now been on Phillip Island for more

than six years and since then have bred and grown in numbers, expanding to several parts of the island," Mr Anderson said.

"This exciting spotlight walk will give members of the community a rare opportunity to observe Eastern barred bandicoots foraging at dark and going about their nightly adventures in the wild, as well as a hands-on role in our conservation efforts.

"Each tour guest will be asked to help count adult and juvenile bandicoots – important data that will be used to further develop our understanding of the Churchill Island bandicoot population."

Starting at sunset, the guided walking tours will spot bandicoots which start to emerge from vegetation to forage across the paddocks and lawns, digging and searching for grubs of beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, moths, earthworms, and fungi. Each night, the animals dig hundreds of small conical pits and play an important role as soil engineers.

"The new bandicoot discovery tour promises to be

a magical experience," Mr Anderson said.

"Not only will guests spot bandicoots in their natural habitat, but they may have the opportunity to see them with young at foot.

"We do not approach any closer than about 10m, but bandicoots often delight guests by scampering and hopping around, and sometimes approach people up close."

Participants require reasonable fitness for the 1.5km walking tour, which traverses some uneven surfaces and some in low light and very dark conditions.

Tickets are limited and bookings are essential. The walking tour is not suitable for prams.

Closed shoes, non-reflective weather protection and warm clothing is recommended.

There is so much to experience at Phillip Island Nature Parks this Easter, from scavenger hunts, high tea, face painting, wine tasting, nature art, live music and more!

For more information and bookings, visit penguins.org.au/whats-on

• FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

Q and A

- Can you access a tax free income from super before you retire?

By David Caporale,
Investment Manager of Gippsreal Limited

This editorial will answer a question in relation to a strategy known as a transition to retirement (TTR) asked by a reader. A TTR strategy has both pros and cons so it is important to seek financial advice before deciding whether it is appropriate for you.

To provide a little extra context to the question the first place to start is understanding the two phases of superannuation (also known as a retirement savings vehicle).

The first phase is the accumulation stage where you are building your wealth through the superannuation environment via contributions from your employer or personally, as well as the earnings (growth and income) from investments. During the accumulation phase the tax payable is generally 15%. This is an attractive tax haven when comparing it to your marginal income tax which can be anywhere from 32.5% up to 45% if your taxable income is above \$45,000.

The second phase is referred to as the pension stage which is tax free for most people from age 60. Due to the concessional tax treatment you can appreciate why superannuation vehicles are used for retirement purposes. But there is a catch! You can't access your super until you retire and reach your 'preservation age' (except in very limited circumstances).

The 'preservation age' is between age 55 and 60, depending on when you were born. Or when you reach age 65, even if you are still working. If you have reached this age and are still working, you can transfer your super from an accumulation phase to the (TTR) pension phase using an account based pension which provides a regular income stream.

This regular income through a TTR strategy can be used for two main purposes. One, to supplement

your income if you reduce your work hours, or two, boost your super and save on tax while you keep working full time. The former will assist maintaining a similar take home pay but may be at the detriment of the balance you have left when you stop working all together.

The latter is the more commonly used strategy as the tax savings allows you to grow your super balance in the lead up to retirement. It may not be suitable for everyone but typically it works best if you are 60 or older and a mid to upper income earner.

To illustrate the benefits of the strategy let's assume you are age 60 and earn \$100,000 per annum and you intend to work full time for another 5 years. You have a super balance of \$400,000 and you transfer \$250,000 to an account based pension. You then salary sacrifice - pay part of your pre-tax salary into super - \$25,000 per annum which reduces your income tax, but also your take home pay. To offset this you draw the maximum 10% of the TTR pension (\$25,000 in the first year) balance each year. The net effect is the difference between the income tax paid and superannuation tax which for this example is circa \$4,800 per annum or 19%.

The above scenario does not take into account any government benefits which may be affected by this strategy. And you also need to bear in mind any life insurance held with your super may reduce or stop if you start a TTR pension.

To conclude, it is imperative to remember that whilst this strategy can be beneficial particularly when extrapolated over a number of years, it is complex and may not be appropriate in every situation so one must seek advice from a professional financial planner before embarking on this.

The information above does not constitute financial or other professional advice and is general in nature. It does not take into account your specific circumstances and should not be acted on without a full understanding of your current situation and future goals and objectives by a fully qualified financial advisor. Before you make any decision about whether to acquire a certain financial product, you should obtain and read the relevant product disclosure statement.

YARNING CIRCLE Invitation to Mob

Womin jeka members of the First Nations community to join us for a cuppa and yarn.

We're having a BBQ at the Yarning Circle at the Koala Conservation Reserve and invite all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that live on Millowl and/or Bass Coast.

Come along and meet First Nations Board members and staff of Phillip Island Nature Parks, as well as representatives of the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network.

DATE: Saturday 23 March

TIME: 11.30am–1.30pm

PLACE: Koala Conservation Reserve
1810 Phillip Island Rd, Rhyll

If you would like to come along or would like more information

CONTACT:

Kate on 0429 989 773



penguins.org.au/reconciliation

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and waters of Millowl, the Bunurong. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

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Gippsland Jobs Expo is back for 2024

THE GIPPSLAND Jobs Expo is back and it is an opportunity for job seekers to explore current job vacancies in Latrobe City and surrounding regions.

It caters to a variety of job seekers from school students and graduates to seasoned professionals, as well as individuals considering a job change.

Gippsland employers from a broad range of industries will be in attendance to showcase job openings, provide industry insights, and host valuable workshops.

Workshops will cover different job seeking topics such as how to improve your resume and interview skills and future jobs for the Region.

The Expo will be held at Traralgon Town Hall, Traralgon, on Wednesday March 27, 9.30am to 2.30pm.

More than just a dispensary, there's more!

Bena Ong
Pharmacist

Terry White
Chemmart
Leongatha

(Part 2)

IN OUR ongoing journey through the diverse services offered at TerryWhite Chemmart stores, we uncover even more gems designed to enhance your health and well-being. From specialised compounding services at our Leongatha branch to cutting-edge pharmacy prescribing trials, we're committed to delivering excellence and innovation to our valued customers.

1. Tailored Solutions with Compounding Services at Leongatha: Nestled within our Leongatha stores lies a hub of innovation and customisation: our compounding services. Here, our compounding team harness the art and science of compounding to create personalised medications tailored to your unique needs. Whether you require custom dosage forms, allergen-free formulations, or specialised medications not available commercially, our compounding services offer a solution just for you. Experience the difference of personalised care and precision at TerryWhite Leongatha, where your health is our priority.

2. Pioneering Pharmacy Prescribing Trial: Exciting news from the pharmacy world! We're thrilled to be part of a groundbreaking pharmacy prescribing trial recently launched in Victoria. This innovative initiative empowers qualified pharmacists to independently prescribe certain medications, expanding their role in primary healthcare. By leveraging our expertise and accessibility, we're able to offer timely interventions, streamline patient care, and ease the burden on primary care providers. While the trial currently focuses on specific indications, its potential to revolutionise healthcare delivery in Australia is immense.

Have questions? Our friendly pharmacists are here to help. Join us as we shape the future of healthcare—one prescription at a time.

As we continue to push the boundaries of excellence and innovation, our TerryWhite Chemmart stores remain constant in our commitment to providing exceptional care to our customers. Whether you're seeking specialised medications or exploring the forefront of pharmacy practice through our prescribing trial, we invite you to join us on this journey towards a healthier future. Your well-being is our passion, and we're dedicated to empowering you every step of the way.



Leongatha P: 03 5662 2183
Korumburra P: 03 5655 1555
Inverloch P: 03 5674 1652

Welshpool Autumn Show flourishes

THE 63rd Welshpool Autumn Flower Show was a visual feast on Friday with stunning blooms on display and an incredible floral scent permeating the air.

Organised by the Welshpool & District Horticultural Society, the show is a vibrant celebration of horticulture held annually at the Welshpool Memorial Hall. The show is a significant event in the local calendar, attracting flower enthusiasts from across the region with the weather gods throwing everything in growers direction this year from floods and storms to a heatwave.

The show is host to the Dahlia Society of Victoria's Rural Championship, showcasing a stunning array of dahlias, a flower known for its diverse forms and vivid colours. The competition is fierce, with entrants vying for the coveted championship title.

This year Trish Newby of Mount Best took home the coveted championship sash, and bragging rights.

"I'm thrilled to have won the championship," Trish smiled.

"(Show secretary) Fran got me into showing seven years ago, and this is my first championship."

"I have won individually in the past but not a championship."

Trish's incredible display was made up of a spectacular array of cactus, semi-cactus and decorative dahlia



Dahlia Society of Victoria's Rural Championship winner Trish Newby with her prized dahlias. C20_1124

blooms, with three blooms required to be staged separately and three containers of three blooms.

The event spanned two days, with the show officially opening at 2pm on Friday with special guest and show judge Sue Thompson declaring the show open.

In a very special moment, two life memberships were awarded to 98-year-old Bruce and Kate Crowl.

"It's been wonderful with a good display of dahlias, fruit and vegetables," Assistant show secretary Prue Fleming explaining.

"It's always a good event, the community really gets behind us, it's a lot of work, but is always worth it."

Visitors marvelled at the floral displays, engaged with fellow gardening enthusiasts, and voted with their coins in the Rustic Delights Public's Choice Award with all funds going to Welshpool's Flood Relief.

Local school children and kindergarteners once again got involved with dried floral crafts and displays in the entranceway with Arlo taking out first place for Prep, Grade 1 and 2 in the Potato Person category.

Best in Show went to Gary Butler for his maidenhair fern.

"(The fern) is kept in a greenhouse all year and fed a blended tea every day," Gary explained, surprised by his

win but aware many have commented on its size.

And whilst there were new faces and visitors to the show, Gary like many are regulars, often exhibiting in the Spring and Autumn shows.

Best in Class went to: Best Dahlia – Bill Johnson, Class A Dahlias – Trish Newby, Class B Cut flowers, shrubs and trees – Shirley McConville, Class C Cut flowers, shrubs and trees in containers – Arie Bos, Class D Plants growing in pots or containers – Gary Butler, Class E – Floral Art – Dawn Green, Class F Vegetables and Fruit – Rodney Grylls, Class G Produce from home garden – Den Gilheany, and Class H – Snapshots/Visual Arts – Helen Baud.

The recent storms – an environmental disaster for Mirboo North

By Viki Sinclair,
Assistant Coordinator POF

PRESERVE our Forests Mirboo North (POF) are greatly distressed at the catastrophic damage caused by the violent storm of February 13 in South Gippsland Shire and especially at Mirboo North.

It brought down thousands of large trees, including many irreplaceable, old eucalyptus trees which fell on roadsides, private property and public reserves. This has caused enormous distress to many local residents who suffered terrible property loss and damage plus left large infrastructure damage and disruption for many. We give heartfelt thanks to all the amazing volunteers and organisations who have helped in the cleanup and given caring support to our people here.

At this time however, we also need to recognise that this massive tree loss/damage has greatly increased threats to the wellbeing and even survival of many local bird and mammal species. Trees lost, many over 100 years old, contained the critically needed hollows and resources for many local flora and fauna species to live, breed or shelter. They provided essential habitats, nesting and roosting sites, fruit, sap, pollen, nectar, seeds, leaves, wood, bark and ground litter for the maintenance of a healthy local ecology and biodiversity.

Baths Road Reserve (BRR) has suffered the most devastating damage environmentally and sadly will take decades to fully recover. Its last species survey (1996) revealed that



A baby Greater Glider that was recently found on the side of the road in Darlimurla area near Mirboo North.



Strzelecki koala seen during surveys of the area.
Photo: Susan Koci.

four mammal species and 24 bird species used hollows there with most, if not all, still found locally. These included the Greater Glider (Endangered Nat) which is fully dependent on hollows, the Gang Gang Cockatoo (Threatened Nat) and the Powerful Owl (Vulnerable Vic).

BRR was a unique local gem, containing highly significant local bushland important to the very depleted Strzelecki Bioregion where less than two per cent of its forests are conserved in permanent reserves.

Since the disaster, POF have been working with South Gippsland Shire Council, Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), Friends of the Earth and Friends of Baths Road Reserve in assessing the extent and impact of the damage upon all forest and bushland sites in and around Mirboo North. We are developing appropriate strategies to address their immediate and

future management needs. We thank all concerned for their wonderful support. It is a great relief to know that both the Immediate Protection Area (IPA) which the town successfully prevented being logged recently and the Mirboo Regional Park containing Lyrebird Walk have only had minor damage, largely along the perimeter areas.

The Hoods Hill State Forest area behind the cemetery has however been badly hit.

It is of serious concern that cleanup operations which leave existing tracks and roads and encroach into impacted natural areas can unfortunately have the potential to cause further harm to wildlife. These vital areas risk the invasion of pest plants, feral animals and pathogens due to the disturbance of their ecosystems. They and all badly storm damaged sites will need ecologically sensitive remediation to rehabilitate and restore them anywhere near

to their previous biodiversity value.

POF and VNPA have jointly called on the Victorian Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos and Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy and Resources to prioritise and adequately resource the recovery of wildlife and ecosystems in our local natural areas over the extraction of fallen or felled logs that lie beyond tracks and roads. Too often the government of the day has failed to provide additional resources to enable this to occur in the past. The 'Loss of coarse woody debris from Victorian native forests and woodlands' and 'Loss of hollow-bearing trees from Victorian native forests' are both listed as threatening processes under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. We need an ecological response, not a forestry led process of recovery.

We have also called on the Minister for Environment to finally gazette the IPA as a permanent Conservation Park which was the final recommendation of the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement and Victorian Environment Assessment Council Dec 2022.

Their recommendations followed extensive scientific and community assessments which identified its high conservation value. Yet the IPA still lacks its final legal designation and protection!

We wish to avoid further loss of habitat and damage to forest values throughout the district and enable our native ecosystems to adapt better to these inevitable, climate change driven disasters.

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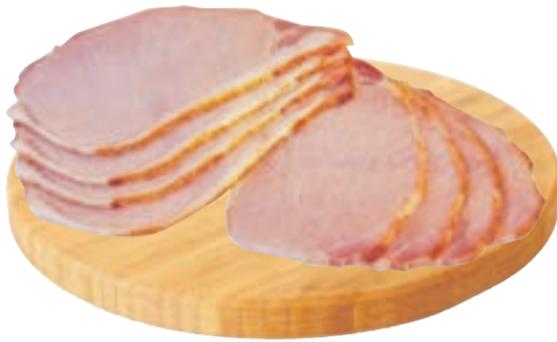
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Find us on www.facebook.com/RitchiesWonthaggi

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Supporting those who support us

LEONGATHA Rotary Show n' Shine would also like to recognise the many sponsors who are helping bring this year's event to life.

Ace Industrial P/L, A W Smith Home Hardware, Autopro, Browns Stockfeed, Big Dog Locksmiths, Chapman Machinery, Condoluci, Edney's, Good Year Autocare Leongatha, Hartley Wells, Health & Whole Foods, Leongatha Auto Wreckers, Leongatha Ford, Leongatha Garden Supply, Leongatha Isuzu, Leongatha Kitchens, Leongatha Rural Supply, Lunds Auto Electrical, Marriots, McDonalds, CPK McLaren Motorbody, MDC Building, MJA Accounting, Ryans Bricks, SG Hire and Sales, Shannons Insurance, South Gippsland Dental Clinic, South Gippsland Dumpsters, South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Inc, Spencers HBB, Stewarts Tyres and Tradelink.

This year's Show n' Shine categories include:

Motorcycles: Best Custom Motorcycle or Trike, Best American Iron, Marriots MPE – Best Japanese, Best European Motorcycle and Best classic Motorcycle.

Trucks/Tractors: Chapman Machinery Service – Tractor of the Show and Lunds Auto Electrical – Best Truck Post 2000.

Vehicles: Rapid Response Dental – Best Hot Rod, HPC - Best Street Machine, Health and Whole Foods – Best Custom, Leongatha Isuzu Ute – Best Aussie Vehicle, Meguiars – Best Paint, John Mackie – Best of British, Good Year Auto – Best Vintage Pre 1930, Best Japanese, Evans Petroleum – Best Post Vintage, Presidents Choice and Evans Petroleum – Entry of the Show.



Craig McLaren and Jim McNiven with Craig's 1934 Ford two-door Coupe hot rod that will be on exhibit at this weekend's Show N' Shine in Leongatha. A07_1124

Leongatha Show N Shine and swap meet

NOW IN its seventeenth year the Leongatha Show N' Shine keeps on growing and looks to be a bigger and better than ever motoring event this year.

It's an ideal outing for motoring enthusiasts and clubs to enjoy, to exhibit their pride and joy, to win some prizes and to find those elusive parts and accessories at the swap meet.

Ten judges, including local car club members, will carefully select the best from 18 categories, including best hot

rod, best street machine, best vintage, best truck, bike of the show, and many more with trophies going to each winner.

A 1934 Ford Coupe hot rod that has been in the making for twenty years and has been brought to life at the hands of local Craig McLaren and will be making its first foray into the motoring event.

It's bright yellow coat and schmick, perfect motor and interior will delight car enthusiasts and maybe even

those who aren't.

The event is hosted by the Leongatha Rotary Club, with help from other community volunteers including the Scouts Group, the Men's Shed, the Car Club and the Bowling Club.

Many local sponsors also contribute to the success of the day, with Evans Petroleum being the major sponsor and donating the trophy for the ultimate prize, the Car of the Show.

This event is a family fun day

with quality lucky draw prizes each hour and free showbags for each vehicle, as well as food and drinks vans, and children's activities to keep everyone entertained.

Leongatha Show N' Shine will be held on Sunday March 17, at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve, Roughead Street, Leongatha. Swap meet gates open at 6am and Show Car gates open at 7:30am.

General Admission is \$10, children are free.

INVERLOCH-KONGWAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREAT FETE

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

Inverloch Primary School

Join us 10am-2pm

Food Entertainment Stalls

A community and school fundraising event

Event Info @inverlochkpsfete

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

Rotary Club of Leongatha

SHOW 'N' SHINE AND SWAP MEET

Sunday 17th March 2024

at Leongatha Recreation Reserve Roughead Street, Leongatha

Swap Meet Gate 1 only ~ Show Cars Gate 3 only

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

Swap Meet Pricing

\$20 first site, \$10 for additional sites.

For Express Entry go to link below

<http://tinyurl.com/37mekey9>

Enquiries Jim 0418 559 119

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Flo enjoying life at 105

CARINYA Lodge resident Flo Cooper celebrated her 105th birthday with family on Wednesday, enjoying cake and socialising, with the Korumburra home's other centenarians joining the occasion.

"I certainly don't feel 105," Flo declared, attributing her longevity to a healthy lifestyle.

"I didn't smoke and I didn't drink," she said, prompting a quick reply from one of her daughters, Gayle Thompson.

"Her daughters made up for it," Gayle said, with another voice adding that was only two of the three.

The other daughters, Leonie Giles and Myra Martin were also on hand, with Flo expressing her delight to be with family.

"Family is definitely important and always has been supportive, and we're a closeknit family," Flo said.

She was born in a two-storey hilltop house in Korumburra, operating as a maternity hospital, and lived most of her life in Poowong where her parents had a dairy farm.

Flo married her first husband Colin Martin who came to town to build the Poowong Hall.

After meeting Colin, Flo took to visiting him on her bike and wasn't going to let him get away.

"He didn't have a chance," she said.

Flo and Colin eventually took over the Drouin Road dairy farm from her parents.

After Colin's death, Flo remarried, living with her new husband Joe Cooper in Mandurah Western Australia, about an hour from Perth.

That move was responsible for



Flo Cooper is thrilled to have her three daughters Gayle Thompson, Leonie Giles and Myra Martin at her 105th birthday celebration.

A01_1124

her transformation into a one-eyed West Coast Eagles supporter, having once followed Melbourne.

Flo's seen much change of another kind, with extraordinary technological advances throughout her life.

The mobile phone is one innovation that stands out for her.

However, when someone asked Flo recently about the biggest improvement she has seen over the years, she delivered the surprising answer, "baking paper".

Vegemite is another product she is a great admirer of, perhaps having tasted it as a four-year-old in 1923, meaning Flo might have been a happy little Vegemite for over a century.

"It's a remarkable achievement," Leonie said of her mum's special milestone, with fellow Carinya residents Topsie Cairns, who turned 101 earlier this month and Bob Olney who reached triple figures on October 23 last year soon on hand to acknowledge Flo.



CUC staff and students Sibby Wilson, Nick Gartland, Andrea Evans - McCall and Rebecca Prowd celebrate the third birthday of the Country Universities Centre Bass Coast. ob01_1124

CUC Bass Coast turns three

THE COUNTRY Universities Centre Bass Coast celebrated their third birthday last week.

Over the past three years and even during COVID, the centre has supported over 300 students since opening their doors, and 52 students have gone on to complete their degrees and successfully graduate.

"We're really proud of where we've come from and we're just really proud of the success of our Centre," said Centre Manager Andrea McCall Evans.

"Even when you look at the alumni wall of those students that have graduated, lots of them are still working in the community, which is fabulous."

Nick Gartland works within the social work sector at Orange Door and is one of the students who uses the Centre

regularly to undertake a Master of Forensic Behavioural Science with Swinburne University, in the interests of progressing his career.

"One of the great things about this place is being able to connect with other people within networks and being able to speak with other people also going to uni, and knowing that you're not going through the same struggles alone, you're all doing it together."

Learning Skills Advisor Rebecca Prowd enjoys meeting the many different students who come in and use the centre and learning about the variety of subjects that locals are undertaking as well as their differing experiences within their courses.

"Just to be there to support them and to be part of their journey is really special," said Rebecca.



OPEN MORNINGS and meet the Principal

9:15am - Thursday's
7th, 14th and 21st, March 2024

Register online: <https://www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au/enrolments/transition-program/event-registration-form/>

All Welcome!

Mary MacKillop
Catholic Regional College



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

2024 Community Heritage Grant

Applications now open

APPLICATIONS are now open for the 2024 Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program. The CHG program offers cash grants of up to \$20,000 to community organisations to preserve and manage collections that have Australian cultural and historical significance.

"Over the course of three decades, CHG has become a constant and trusted source of support in the heritage sector. It is pleasing that the original purpose of the program in 1994 – to assist groups across Australia who are responsible for nationally significant collections – remains at its heart. CHG is still looking out for volunteer-run historical societies and museums, groups that have become custodians of unique heritage material, and Indigenous and multicultural groups to ensure that these collections can remain within their communities and region," said Fiona Clarke, Assistant Director, Collaboration Branch.

Historical societies, regional museums, archives and galleries are invited to apply, including Indigenous and multicultural organisations. The grants enable groups to work with consultants to undertake significance assessments and preservation needs assessments and based on these reports, deliver preservation and conservation, collection management, and digitisation activities. Funding is also available for training workshops.

"CHG offers many benefits for small groups that are seeking professional support and to build their own collection skills and knowledge. We encourage applicants to read the guidelines and visit the website to see examples of past CHG projects. And if you have queries, the CHG team are available to provide further advice," Ms Clarke said.

New applications close midnight (AEST) on Thursday May 9, 2024. Previous CHG program recipients and proposals for training projects have an extended deadline, with applications closing on Tuesday June 4, 2024.

To find out more and apply visit nla.gov.au/chg.

By Courtney O'Brien

A NEW section of Amazon Shipwreck was found floating in the waters off Inverloch Surf Beach recently, one end was charred, matching segments of ribs seen in 2020 and 2022 at Wreck Creek.

The wooden relic measured almost two metres long, 16 cm deep and 20 cm wide, with some of the wooden treenails still intact.

The Amazon is listed as one of Heritage Victoria's most at risk significant shipwrecks and the site and associated artifacts are protected by the Commonwealth Heritage Act.

Maritime archaeologists, Liam Phillips and Danielle Wilkinson from Heritage Victoria are responsible for the conservation of artifacts from the site, which is archeologically precarious due to the eroding sands.

"What we're finding is that there's just an artifact scatter of ship timbers that are all across that beach and as that beach is eroding, all those loose parts are starting to erode out of the beach and then they wash up on shore," explained Liam.

"When it did wreck at the start, the bow part of the ship dislodged from the main shipwreck site and so we've got two main sites of the Amazon."

The Amazon 1863 notify Parks Victoria of any pieces found, who then collect the artifacts or ship timbers and the larger more significant pieces are stored in wet baths.

"They are kept in wet baths



Liam Phillips, a Maritime Archaeologist with Heritage Victoria is responsible for the documentation and conservation of the Amazon ship wreck on Inverloch beach.

because they are waterlogged timbers and if they dry out, they will start to crack and wear," commented Liam.

"One dead wood, which now sits at the community centre, went through conservation but it also dried out and cracked so the conservation that it underwent is a little bit different to how we'd like it to happen."

Liam and Nev record each individual piece that is revealed or washes up.

This involves undertaking a photogrammetry of each relic which creates a 3D model and then they complete artifact drawings of the piece to scale.

"Then we can try and figure out where that piece belonged on the structural formation of the ship. You need a specialist to try and figure those pieces

out and every ship is built differently, so it's kind of a hard puzzle," said Liam.

After information on relics have been collected, they are then usually redeposited in a similar environment, that stops them from decaying and keeps them preserved for future generations.

There is one piece however, that the Amazon 1863 committee have been campaigning and looking for funding for, to try and have it conserved and placed on display for the public to see.

It is the Amazon trail board which is a decorative piece that leads up to the figurehead.

However, once this piece goes through conservation, it will need to be stored differently because it's been kept

wet and it hasn't dried out.

"It will need to be placed somewhere that is temperature controlled and humidity controlled for the rest of its life. That's the main issue that we're finding at the moment is once it goes through that conservation, where is it going to go?"

With a museum expected to be built in Inverloch, the Amazon Committee hopes that this might provide the opportunity for this significant piece of the Amazon to be placed appropriately, but until that's confirmed the relic will stay hidden from public view.

"It's being kept in the bath for now because there's no firm place for it to go, but as soon as there is, Heritage Vic will start the conservation process," Liam confirmed.

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Inverloch RSL unveils stunning mural

By Lindsay Guerin

A REMARKABLE mural portraying an array of poignant military photographs from various campaigns, including the Women's Land Army and similar Australian endeavours, has been unveiled at the Inverloch Cemetery. Ray Burtt, a talented graphic artist from our community, poured his heart and soul into this captivating masterpiece, which beautifully complements the Inverloch RSL/Legacy commemorative garden.

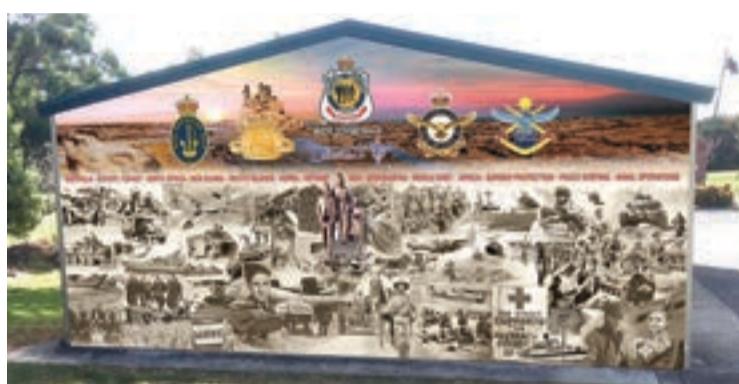
The newly unveiled mural serves as a tribute to the brave men and women who devoted their lives to serving our country. With meticulous attention to detail and a profound understanding of the historical significance behind each photo, Burtt managed to create a visually stunning artwork that encapsulates the enduring spirit of those who fought for our freedom.

Located within the Inverloch Cemetery grounds, the mural stands as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women throughout history. It showcases a diverse range of military campaigns and honours the vital contributions of the Women's Land Army during times of conflict. From the trenches of World War I to modern-day peacekeeping missions, the mural promises to stir emotions while preserving the memory of those who served.

Ray Burtt's dedication and passion for his craft shine through in this remarkable



Members of Inverloch RSL were joined by Legacy representatives at the unveiling last week.



Inverloch's new mural proudly honours military heritage.

work of art. His deep respect for the subject matter is evident in photos shown, as he effortlessly captures the courage and resilience of those who fought for our nation. Burtt's exceptional talent and commitment to creating something

meaningful have breathed life into the Inverloch Cemetery, providing visitors with an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made in the name of freedom.

Local officials attended the unveiling ceremony with

members of the Inverloch RSL, and Legacy representatives. The event offered the community a chance to appreciate and honour the shared history and sacrifice of our military heroes. The mural now stands as a cherished addition to the Inverloch RSL/Legacy commemorative garden, serving as a focal point for remembrance and reflection.

Inverloch residents and visitors are encouraged to visit the Inverloch Cemetery and embrace the emotional journey this remarkable mural offers. Please make time to admire Ray Burtt's outstanding artistic vision, which radiates pride, respect, and gratitude for the countless generations of Australians who have defended our nation.

Here's cheers to Cowes' twilight market

THE Cowes Foreshore Market has had a bumper season over the summer and that extended into Saturday of the Labour Day Long Weekend, despite the heat.

In fact, the afternoon to evening format was very much to the liking of relatively new business operator, Kim Richardson, of Mates Gin Distiller, Inverloch Road Wonthaggi.

"People are more likely to be interested in tasting the gin in the afternoon or evening than they are at a morning market, so yes, this is much better," said Kim Richardson at the Cowes Foreshore Market on Saturday.

"I've been going for about two years and I'm still working out which of the markets are best. I'm going to Kongwak for the first time tomorrow, so I'll see how that goes.

"I also did the Lobster Festival and the Wonthaggi Show but what I would like is someone to help me with the markets."

Mates Gin Distillery manufactures local Bass Coast gin and has a distillery door for tastings, purchases and merchandise in Wonthaggi open Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

As well as the gin, they offer a selection of cocktails, local beer, wine and food, providing an alternative place to gather for a drink with your friends... err mates!

The taste of the locally distilled gin seemed to go over rather well with market visitors.

Coming Cowes Foreshore Market dates include:

- April 27 – Easter Saturday. 2pm – 9pm
- June 8 – Saturday – Queens Birthday weekend. 11am to 5pm.



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Keep our
area clean

By author Claire Chitty

WE'RE incredibly blessed to live in this region of Australia, a perfect mix of rugged coastal and family friendly beaches, to rolling rural landscapes, and accessibility to the city.

There's nothing more enjoyable than an early morning swim, or a late afternoon walk as the sun dips into the ocean. My favourite walk is a track that runs parallel to the sea, where farmland meets the coastline. Crashing waves intermingle with the noisy Cape Barren geese as they routinely fly overhead in the evening, whilst ibis, ducks and water hens compete for attention as they settle in the reeds or branches for the night.

Some days, the beach is deserted. At other times, namely, after school and on weekends, the laughter of children floats through the air as they frolic in the salty water. Occasionally, the hum of a fishing boat in the distance wafts inaudibly, and we're grateful we're spared the annoying drone of jet skis, more prevalent in Port Phillip Bay.

We breathe in the fresh air that nature offers and embrace the healing energy needed for mental health, rest, relaxation and rejuvenation.

Yes, it is an idyllic lifestyle that suits us. Dirt roads, despite the dust in summer, generally carry less traffic, and not everyone wants to live in a heavily built-up area or have a commercial hub. Leave that for Wonthaggi, Inverloch and the Island, please!

And like every facet of life, wherever people gather, there's always bound to be contention of some type, whether its housing development, sand mining, vegetation removal or other matters. Our beach is currently debating the issue of dogs and horses that pound the sand in designated and not designated areas much to the annoyance of some residents and a topic passionately deliberated on Facebook. Personally, I don't have a problem, yet not everyone is keen on dogs running free, and rightly so. It can be frightening for the older person or a child to have a dog jump up, bare their teeth or bark relentlessly at them. What many owners may not be unaware of is that if a dog is off lead and injures another dog on a lead, the responsibility defaults to the unrestrained animal. More frustrating are the owners who fail to remove their animals' faeces, whether it be on the sand, footpath or nature trail.

In addition, it's quite sad that community events, including Clean Up Australia Day, need to be allocated to remove rubbish from waterways and parklands. In six months, a friend and I have collected over 22 supermarket bags of broken glass, plastic, drink bottles, and the odd shoe from our shores. Yet the recent 'appearance' of random golf balls on the beach this week has been a first. In lieu of the risk this poses to sea and bird life, we're happy to direct the prospective golfer to the nearest golf course.

In all seriousness, we need to be mindful of the ongoing impact humanity has on the environment. Nature is for everyone to share and enjoy, and it's our individual responsibility to clean up after ourselves and protect this stunning area. Please, let's keep our beaches and rural landscape beautiful.

Louise and George continue championship tradition

LOUISE Black and George Witherow continue to relish their involvement with the State Firefighter Championships, the pair again set to be involved when competition takes place at Mooroopna Recreation Reserve this month.

Competition is again divided into Rural and Urban Championships, with senior and junior sections in each.

Louise, of District 9 Headquarters in Warragul and Leongatha Fire Brigade is a 'recorder', entering competitors' times for the Urban Championships, while George of Koonwarra Fire Brigade gets action under way as the starter for the Rural Championships.

Both see firefighter competition as important for the development of firefighters.

"I've always found it a great stepping stone, particularly as far as juniors are concerned, to our future firefighters," George said, his involvement in competition beginning in the days when District 9 held its own events.

He continues to be a District 9 ambassador on the State Championships Committee Rural Fire Brigade, along with John Kennedy who was captain of Loch Fire Brigade for 27 years.

Louise initially joined the Benalla Fire Brigade to become a junior leader, with her children participating in junior competition.

"They learnt the skills they were going to require when they became senior members of the brigade," she said of the junior development that competition provides for young people.

Regularly attending competitions encouraged her to volunteer as a recorder.

"With all of these competitions there is so much work to be done behind the scenes, and because I was a parent attending, I decided



Louise Black is ready for this month's State Firefighter Championships where she will again be a 'recorder' entering results for the 'urban' events. A13_1124



George Witherow will be monitoring for false starts as he continues his role as 'rural starter' at the State Firefighter Championships, and is pictured with fellow District 9 Ambassador on the State Championships Committee Rural Fire Brigade, John Kennedy. A14_1124

to see if there was something I could do to help the organisers and that's where I stepped in to assist with time keeping and recording results," she explained.

She's now been a recorder for 22 years and designed the current data recording set up through Excel.

Louise moved to Leongatha in early 2022, soon switching to the town's brigade and has also become secretary at

District 9 Headquarters.

"You don't have to be a firefighter to be actively involved in a fire brigade and there is always something that people can offer to do behind the scenes," Louise said, noting she has never been a firefighter.

George's association with the region's CFA began when he was appointed to local government in Leongatha, initially joining the Meenyan

- Stony Creek Fire Brigade, then spending many years at Leongatha where he was secretary and treasurer, with the last 15 or more years at Koonwarra.

"I've got a love for the community and its protection," he said of his years as a firefighter.

As for his 25 years as a starter, George described what he loves about his involvement with firefighting competition.

"I've enjoyed meeting up with firefighters from around the State, both male and female and juniors," he said.

George loves seeing the comradeship of volunteers.

He has become popular with the juniors in his role as starter, while the senior competitors have adjusted to his stringent enforcement of false starts.

"Some senior teams are running for sheep stations and you can get a false start quick smart, but I've educated them, so I've had few false starts in the last seven or eight years," George said.

Rural competition events are conducted on grass and focus on speed, teamwork and decision making to deliver water from tankers to target areas, with the action a strong reflection of current rural firefighting practices.

Urban competition events take place on asphalt tracks, some developing from traditional firefighting methods of the late 1800s and early 1900s, with the addition of new events that reflect today's fireground skills.

The State Rural Senior Championship takes place on Saturday March 23, with the rural juniors battling it out the following day.

While the State Urban Senior Championship is also in Mooroopna throughout that weekend, the State Urban Junior Championship takes place the previous weekend, March 16 and 17.

Fish Creek CFA volunteers thanked in Parliament

NINETY years of dedicated service by three Fish Creek CFA volunteers was recognised in state parliament by The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath.

Ms Bath paid tribute to CFA volunteers Neil Hamilton for achieving 50 years of service, Jan Hamilton for 30 years of service and Ian Vernon for 10 years of service, acknowledging their important work as first responders and keeping Victorians safe.

"Our valued CFA volunteers protect country communities, responding to bushfire emergencies and complex rescues involving road accidents, high angles and searches.

"They epitomise the spirit of selfless professionalism and care deeply about protecting regional communities."

Speaking on Neil Hamilton, Ms Bath passionately outlined Neil's impressive firefighting track record including participating in most of the major bushfires on the east coast



Fish Creek CFA volunteers thanked in state parliament for their service and dedication to protecting regional communities. Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, FRV District Commander Ben McKie, Neil Hamilton, Jan Hamilton, The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath and Ian Vernon.

since 1970.

"Having started with Fish Creek Brigade in 1967 Neil has filled most positions in the local brigade including an 18 year stint as Captain.

"Together with wife Jan, Neil has continued to coordinate the brigades Royal Children's Hospital Appeal for

39 years.

"Jan is an active member of the CFA Auxiliary and has an impressive volunteer track record in her own right.

"Volunteering as the Fish Creek and the South Gippsland groups Communication Officer for over 30 years - Jan dedicates her

time manning the CFA's radio 24/7 to ensure prompt turn out and accurate messaging during emergencies.

"Their collective wisdom and experience both on and off the fireground is an invaluable asset to Fish Creek and our wider Gippsland communities."



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OH WHAT A FEELING



International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2024

Master Builders Victoria calls on women to put themselves forward

A BUMPER crowd of more than 840 people packed the Centrepiece event space at Melbourne Park Friday morning, as Master Builders Victoria celebrated its annual International Women's Day (IWD) breakfast.

Addressing the crowd, Master Builders Victoria (MBV) CEO Michaela Lihou said that given current heightened demands and workforce shortages, it was imperative to reflect on the existing barriers that deter women from entering the building and construction industry.

"At Master Builders Victoria, we are committed to working together to remove these barriers and we are making progress, albeit slowly," she said.

"The stats tell us that women have consistently comprised only two per cent of field-based workers in the Australian construction sector over the past 30 years. At the end of the 2023 financial year, more than 13,600 apprentices and trainees had commenced their journey in building and construction in Victoria, but of those, only 5.1 per cent were female."

"There are more people in this room today, than females who started an apprenticeship last year. Clearly, we still have some way to go."

The event was hosted by former Olympian Nicole Livingstone OAM, and featured a keynote presentation by interior designer and television personality Shaynna Blaze, who shared some of her trials and triumphs during her career.

A panel discussion featured Alice Hanna, Head of People and Culture, Capitol Group; Penny Gray, Head of Trade Solutions, Bunnings Trade; and Melinda Davis, Chief Operating Officer with Empowered Women in Trades.

"It wasn't so long ago that women had to drive 10 or 15 minutes away from a site to use a bathroom. But what we're seeing now is companies increasingly wanting to authentically attract and build an inclusive space for women, rather than just ticking a 'gender equity' box, because it's actually good for business," Alice Hanna said.

Melinda Davis called for less discussion about gender and more of a discussion about appropriate skills and attributes for the job at hand.

Friday's event also saw the launch of the 2024 Women in Apprenticeships Awards, which were created last year by Bunnings Trade, in partnership with the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).

The awards were designed to recognise and reward female apprentices in the building and construction industry, and give their careers a financial and professional kickstart.

In 2024 the awards are back and even bigger. Partnering again with NAWIC, Bunnings Trade is encouraging female apprentices, or those who know an apprentice, to nominate for a chance to win an individual support pack valued at over \$10,500, including trade quality products and mentoring and wellbeing support.

Entries are open and will close on Friday, April 5. Full details available at trade.bunnings.com.au/campaign/women-in-apprenticeships#

Newhaven College celebrates International Women's Day

ACCESS to a fulfilling education for girls and young women is an intrinsic human right, however, not all girls receive the same level of education around the world. At Newhaven College, this does not go unnoticed as the College's female population appreciates the privileges that an intensive and holistic education can provide. On Friday 8 March, the College celebrated International Women's Day, by shedding light on the transformative impact that educated girls can have on a global scale.

Year 12 student Tilia Pires-Andersen has a strong passion for STEM subjects and urges girls to take up subjects in science and maths.

Tilia says "International Women's Day offers a chance for me to see the women I admire get the recognition they deserve, in a society where they have been systematically underrepresented. It is a reminder of the constant achievements of women, specifically women in leadership, and an inspiration for me. School is a place for opportunity, and I think we should take advantage of everything that school provides us with, as these are things that will actively benefit our future."

College students are taught about the value of education and how to embrace all the opportunities they are given. No matter what gender, all students are provided with an open-minded, progressive



Principal Tony Corr, Head of Junior School, Cath Huther with students, Sadie Potter, Beau Davies and Chinasa Okoli.

appreciation for learning, sharing knowledge and embracing challenges. After 42 years of teaching, Art Teacher and local artist, Sian Adnam thinks back to when girls were not even encouraged to surf, let alone speak up in class.

"At co-educational schools, girls can be overlooked and overwhelmed by the presence of boys. IWD focuses on girls using their voice and being given the opportunities to do that."

When asked what IWD means to her, Lucinda Schenk, an enthusiastic member of the College's Learning Support team, reflected that the day provides

"time to reflect and acknowledge amazing women who have demonstrated incredible accomplishments, celebrating their bravery and strength."

The College certainly emphasises the achievements of girls and boys alike, seeing many of the College's dux and highest achievers being girls over the past few years.

Newhaven College Careers Advisor, Anthea Bennett, comments that 20 years ago when she started teaching, "the opportunity for women in leadership roles was non-existent. Significant change and progress has been made over the years and the landscape has certainly changed

with women in leadership."

This is true at Newhaven College, where the College Board and the Leadership teams are populated with an equal balance of women and men. This was not the case just a few years ago. Women being in a position of power and mentorship normalises this to the College's staff and students. If you see it, you can be it.

Final words to all women and girls from Anthea Bennett: "Be courageous, take opportunities and back yourself" and from Tilia: "Make use of every single opportunity you are given, and keep supporting girls around you, as we are in this together."

Dressed to express at Inverloch to celebrate women

IT WAS time to dust off that special outfit from the back of the closet as the Southern Business Women's Network (SBWN) hosted a spectacular celebration of International Women's Day 2024 at the RACV Inverloch last Thursday evening.

Melanie Dale, the dynamic guest speaker, took centre stage. Known as "Let's Get Layered" on social media, Melanie injects colour, energy, and drama into her daily life. Her mantra, "If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much room," resonated with the 80 attendees who hung on her every word.

Growing up in country Victoria, Melanie found solace in discarded pre-loved items, transforming them to regularly reinvent herself. Now residing in Melbourne, her symphony of modifications reflects her emotions and feelings on any given day.



"I can tick off 'telling my life story to a room full of strangers' now," Melanie stated after the event.

"After the incredible reception I feel so connected to those strangers - a room full of amazing women who were nodding in agreement at the struggles we all experience.

"Grateful for this beautiful opportunity, I cherish the chance to connect with truly incredible women."

As the evening unfolded, attendees mingled, sipped cocktails, and enjoyed canapés. The highlight was a delicious two-course meal, during which Melanie shared her heartfelt story.

"Forever thankful for asking me to participate in this humbling International Women's Day event."

Guests were also treated to inspiring speeches from the Go Girls Foundation and

Women for Change which fitted with this year's International Women's Day theme 'Count Her In - Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress'.

"It was a fabulous event!" SBWN's president Penni Elliott stated.

Proudly sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank and South Gippsland Shire Council, Melanie's words echoed and the room buzzed with empowerment.



International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2024

Gippsland Southern Health Service celebrates its women

FEMALE staff, patients and aged care residents of Gippsland Southern Health Service were celebrated during International Women's Day on Friday, with women encouraged to pose for photos in front of a special display marking the occasion.

Dallas Surace, the organisation's Executive Assistant and Community Engagement officer visited GSHS facilities throughout the day inviting women to participate.

She said International Women's Day is ideally suited to showcase the health service's predominantly female staff, with all but one of the executive team being women.

"I'm going to make a fabulous reel of all the amazing women that we have here," Dallas said, having explained she wanted to capture staff, patients and residents.

Noting this year's International Women's Day theme focuses on inclusion, Dallas was keen to represent the diversity of women across GSHS.

"I had previously done stories on our older generations because I feel like they're a bit forgotten," she said.

Working on that project, Dallas became inspired to broaden the scope of her endeavours.

"I spoke to the women, and I thought wouldn't it be great if we had photos of all of our generations that are working here; we've got international women, younger women, older women," Dallas said.

She started her IWD with a visit to the general ward at Korumburra Hospital before spending time with residents and staff at the attached Alchera aged care facility.



Gippsland Southern Health Service's Executive Assistant and Community Engagement officer Dallas Surace and Registered Nurse Alicia Scott celebrate International Women's Day. A15_1124

The primary health section also received a visit, with female staff such as occupational therapists and physios helping add to Dallas' burgeoning photo collection.

Staff and residents at Hillside Lodge aged care, also attached to Korumburra Hospital, were then given the chance to join the photo project.

At Leongatha Hospital, registered nurse Alicia Scott was happy to accompany Dallas for a photo for the Sentinel-Times, the pair posing in front of Dallas' specially made sign.

"It's all about women supporting women, especially in our profession," Alicia said.

Data officer in health information, Ella Findlay, also spoke of the value

of the day.

"It's a great way to show respect and equality in and outside the workplace," she said.

Health information manager Zoe Harbis chatted about International Women's Day and Dallas' way of celebrating the occasion.

"What a fantastic day to recognise all women and their roles within Gippsland Southern Health Service," Zoe said.

Dallas' photographic tour wrapped up with a visit to Kooroaman House aged care facility, attached to Leongatha Hospital.

Check out Gippsland Southern Health Service's social media pages for the results of her hard work.



MC at the International Women's Day lunch at the Silverwater Resort last Friday was local celebrant Deb Holder, chatting with Marg Desira, Kathy Quigley-O'Brien and Jill Jones.



Linda Appelman, Cr Rochelle Halstead, Peter Florance and Trish Fernandez enjoyed the International Women's Day lunch at San Remo on Friday.



Liberal candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred chats with Griffith Point Lodge Aged Care residents Doris Legg, Dianne Baker and Lorraine Dowie at the IWD lunch last Friday.



Getting together to celebrate International Women's Day were, from left, Charlotte and Kim Brown, Nicole Devitt and Alex Chiampo.



Supporting the International Women's Day celebration at Silverwater San Remo were Donna Taylor, Robyn Borley, Jodi Kennedy and Kirsty Harris.

Nicole Livingstone OAM inspires on women's day



Guest speaker at the International Women's Day celebration at Silverwater Resort at San Remo last Friday, Nicole Livingstone, paid tribute to the trail blazers of her sport, Sarah 'Fanny' Durack and Mina Wylie, for paving the way. Durack gold and Wylie silver, won Australia's first women's Olympic medals in swimming.

gold medals and 80 per cent of its track and field gold; a remarkable achievement.

At the end of her address Ms Livingstone, who has had three major careers; as an Olympic swimmer, attending three summer Olympics in 1988, 1992, and 1996, as a commentator of sports and also as head of the AFLW women's football competition; she provided some takeaway words of wisdom:

- Have pride in what you do and who you represent
- Know your own values and what is important to you
- What are your non-negotiables
- The team around you matters
- It's a two-way street - give and take
- Use the support systems around you
- Positivity is contagious
- Surround yourself with upholders
- Show a little mongrel - grit and integrity
- How do you unwind, recharge, reset?

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve welcomed guests and thanked sponsors and corporate partners including Bass Coast Health and Phillip Island Nature Parks, saying it was the women in local business, sports groups, local government, government and community groups which inspired her most.

Ms Livingstone, who was born and raised in Melbourne, admitted to not spending much time down by the coast, although the experience would have helped her later in life when she once interviewed for a job commentating on surf lifesaving.

"I'd been involved in Royal Lifesaving in Melbourne but I managed to get through the interview with big Darrell Eastlake and got the job."

Nicole says she plans to spend more time down here and called in at a local cheese manufacturer on her way home.

Nicole's address started with an account of the trail blazing exploits of pioneer Australian swimmers Sarah 'Fanny' Durack and Mina Wylie who campaigned for the right to swim at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, the first Olympics to have women's swimming.

The pair was initially refused permission by the NSWLSA but ultimately won the day only to find they had to raise their own money to get there and compete, also paying for a chaperone to accompany them.

Durack went on to win Australia's first gold medal in a long line

of women's swimming gold medals, and after going off course at the river venue, Wylie, who had earlier beaten Durack, came home strongly to claim silver; a one-two finish by two Australian women at their first attempt at the 100 metres freestyle.

Ms Livingstone said it was a little known fact that women had won 64 per cent of Australia's Olympic

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

AFL not doing enough on junior retention

IT'S all pretty sexy at the top end of footy; the multi-million dollar player salaries, the huge TV rights deals, the corporate contest for the Sydney market, the money that's being thrown at Tasmania and, it must be said, the level of audience engagement.

The story lines are endless.

But what about the crisis at the grass roots of footy, the drop off in numbers playing the game after juniors? Where's the strategy (and the money) for the promotion of the game at the foundation level and where's the strategy for attracting and retaining players at community clubs?

Where is it? It doesn't exist!

Beyond what's going on with the regional Under 19 and Under 16 programs, the AFL couldn't give a toss what's happening in country leagues and the need to move and adapt quickly to changes in demographics and the shift to other sports and activities.

It's simply not the same'ol situation that it's always been at the grassroots and if the AFL doesn't get active in a big way, the golden goose of the billion-dollar football industry is going to stop laying the golden eggs.

Right now, the AFL needs to take another look at the structure of football in Gippsland to see if it is serving the community's and the game's needs.

Yeah, but we've already done that, you might say, but in a rapidly changing world, you might have to restructure Gippsland football more regularly, including consideration of a promotion-relegation system in a two-tier West Gippsland league.

There are a lot of people talking about the structure of Gippsland's leagues and the retention of players, young and in their mid-20s, and the AFL needs to turn its mind to the problem before it's too late.

Disappointing cartoon

ALTHOUGH I understand that it was intended to be light-hearted, I was disappointed in the cartoon printed in the February 27 edition of the South Gippsland Sentinel Times.

Mayor Clare Le Serve has served Bass Coast Shire for over 10 years as a Councillor and is dedicated to her local region and community. I found the cartoon to be disrespectful to both Cr Le Serve and her position. As we celebrate International Women's Day for another year, I believe we can and should do better.

Mohya Davies, Foster

Dangerous rip warnings need improvement

YOUR article of warning of risks to unsuspecting visitors to our local beaches with warm weather is a timely reminder for all.

The Age recently reported that social media may lure people to our beautiful but dangerous beaches, possibly with hidden rips.

A coastal risk assessment of Bass Coast Shire was released in 2019 and land managers were to monitor and review the process.

Nature Parks will implement changes in seven weeks.

Why five years to act? Many lives have been lost in the sea since.

What have coroners recommended to prevent further loss of lives?

We need answers soon.

Terry Ahern, Surf Beach

Vox Pop

What's the first car you owned? What do you remember about it?



Bruno Peterson

Churchill

"It was an EH Holden ute. They still had the EJ taillights. It had a 3/4 Repco race motor and was lowered so low to the ground at the front, you could roll a beer can down the road. Chrome wheels, the lot. Loved that car. I remember doing a doughnut on the Princes Highway right in the middle of Traf one night. You couldn't do that now with the centre of the road filled in."



Graham Ransome

Phillip Island

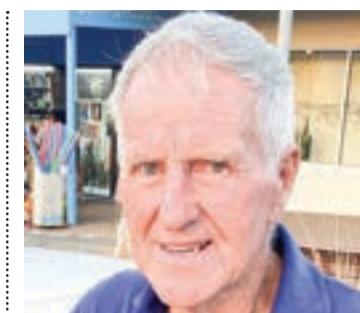
"My first car was an MGA, I bought in 1968 only six years old. It was a terrific car and I got the MG bug after that. I had a lot of them; an MG TC, an MGB GT, MGB Roadster, another MGB and I've still got another MGB GT at home. Had a lot of enjoyment just driving them around generally. They're reliable and easy to work on."



Graham Watt

Cranbourne

"My first car was a HT (Holden) wagon which I bought for \$200 that we completely rebuilt. We cut out all the rust, did a new paint job and kept it until it was written off. Wasn't my fault though. A lady came straight out in front of me, and I T-boned her. I was a bit dirty on that as I'd only just put in a new transmission the day before. That's my car now – an SS Commodore!"



Howard Jones

Phillip Island

"I started off with a Morris Minor Low Line. It was a good car, no problems. Didn't go far in it but it got me to trade school over in Wonthaggi no problem. It was owned by a local lady, so it was in pretty good nick. We put a Morris Major motor in it which didn't improve the performance much and I later wound up with an RX4 (Mazda from 1974). I was looking for something with a bit more speed. You had to have that."

AUKUS, no thanks

READERS with headspace to get past interest rate and price inflation, and the endless housing debate may recall AUKUS.

Our government preaches it's the jewel in our defence planning, and the opposition (who dreamed it up) of course agree. Devised, in rough terms, over six years, it's the (very) expensive answer to our defence needs until mid-century. Payments, infrastructure planning and training have begun. Up to eight long-range, nuclear-powered but conventionally-armed submarines – some to be built here – will be based on our coasts, east and west. US vessels will use these bases too.

Additional sabre-rattling includes US B52 bomber and US combat unit training rotation through the NT; big new US storage, inc. weaponry, in Australia; and extensive merger of Australian personnel with US forces, and enhanced intelligence-sharing, inc. Pine Gap and NW Cape bases.

This must be serious, right? We're told an aggressive, expansionist China threatens and – as in WW2 – 'we've got to face reality and stick with friends who've got the tech know-how we need.'

Happy with that? Actually, we're not. Not at all. We are so concerned that a small group of locals joined Anti-AUKUS Victoria, a non-party coalition, last year.

We think the est. \$368b. price tag (that's \$14,000 for each Australian) could be much better spent (name your priority that badly needs funding).

We believe there are many serious unanswered questions about AUKUS: Does China, our biggest trading partner, actually threaten Australia? Is this the sort of defence and military alliance that we need – or should co-operative and diplomatic initiatives in our region lead? We should build on what we've done at the ASEAN summit in Melbourne recently. That's security too!

Many former Australian leaders, political and military, see this program as risky, from future US leadership to tech capacity here. We see Australia's sovereignty as seriously compromised by the deep integration planned with US war-fighting preparations. Then there's the several nuclear dimensions: on these, and on the numerous other steps already taken to commit to AUKUS there has been no election or parliamentary debate. Zero. Under the radar.

Both Morrison and Albanese have added unnecessary political secrecy to the inevitable military limits.

But that's enough from us. We want to hear your doubts about this whole AUKUS project. With friends, we hope to spread

the word locally this weekend, when events across Australia are planned. If you're worried about AUKUS, you should be involved. Please message noaukusSG@gmail.com with your concerns!

Ken Blackman, Inverloch

Land tax hits renters

MANY Gippslanders will be suffering bill shock this month as the result of the Allan Labor Government's land tax changes begins to hit mailboxes and hip pockets.

While my colleagues in The Nationals and I opposed the changes, the Allan Labor Government last year pushed through legislation that reduced the valuation threshold for land tax exemptions from \$300k to just \$50k.

Landowners can expect a new land tax bill of \$500 for taxable landholdings valued between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and \$975 for land between \$100,000 and \$300,000.

These new land taxes will simply be passed on to renters.

Keep in mind that Victorians already pay the highest taxes - \$5074 per person - of any state in Australia, including the highest property taxes per capita in the nation at \$2120.

In the midst of a rental crisis, the Allan Labor Government should be looking at ways to incentivise additional rental stock rather than driving people out of the market.

Danny O'Brien MP, Nationals Member for Gippsland South

Share your view to make a difference

AS THE cost-of-living crisis deepens on the back of a global pandemic and natural disasters, many people are feeling overwhelmed with how to address the issues facing their community.

The Salvation Army is committed to identifying the most pressing challenges and providing targeted, local solutions. If you can spare a few minutes of your time, you can help us by sharing your experience.

This independent, nationwide pulse check on social justice issues will capture the most pertinent concerns in your community right now. The findings will allow us to direct services and advocate for positive change where it's needed most.

First released in 2022, The Salvation Army's National Social Justice Stocktake provided an overview of what mattered most to people across Australia. It uncovered

mental health and housing affordability as the top two concerns nationally, with alcohol and drug misuse, family violence and homelessness rounding out the top five.

We were inspired to see genuine interest from community leaders to understand the findings and as a result, we have welcomed some great initiatives, such as progress towards a National Housing and Homelessness Plan and a modest increase to the Job-Seeker allowance, but there is still so much to do.

This latest survey will allow us to gauge where progress has been made and where help is desperately needed. It has become a crucial part of our advocacy, changing leaders' perspectives on social justice.

Please help us by having your say at salvationarmy.org.au/socialjustice-survey

To see what mattered most in your community last time we did the survey, visit salvationarmy.org.au/socialjusticestocktake/

Jennifer Kirkaldy, General Manager, Policy and Advocacy, The Salvation Army Australia

Societal violence

MY CONCERN (is) at the rise of violent behaviour in today's society and the apparent unwillingness of the court system to protect citizens and deter this violent behaviour.

We all see the news reports on nightly news of more bashings, attacks and other detestable behaviours, but while most of us say it's got to stop, we do nothing to make it stop. I choose to do more and believe that parliament needs to make laws that force court judges to give mandatory sentences and refuse bail in all cases that involve a person or persons doing violence against fellow citizens of this State.

Violence is not done only by adults. Youth offenders also appear to be a constant concern causing citizens to start living in fear. This was never the case when I was growing up in the second half of last century.

Youth offenders are not being deterred by current court decisions. From reports we see that they have a belief that they will not be punished in any serious way. Social media also shares blame for changes of behaviour as apparently some of the violent behaviour is for notoriety on sites like Facebook.

(To our state politicians) I hope that you take this matter onboard and with your colleagues make a start to implement changes in law that will protect todays and future citizens of the State of Victoria.

Name withheld



WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

THIS Thursday, March 14, is the Housing Matters monthly renters' rights session. It is held at Mitchell House, 3pm – 4.30pm on the second Thursday of each month.

If you are renting and have questions or concerns, you can book a free, confidential consultation with the friendly lawyers from the Gippsland Community Legal Service. Just contact us at Mitchell House on 5672 3731 to book.

Last week we mentioned that the Bass Coast Refugee Sponsorship Group is holding a fundraiser. The event was scheduled for later in March, but unfortunately has had to be postponed. Of course, as soon as we have the new confirmed date, we will let you know.

Some will have noticed that the Monday and Friday Bass Coast Health playgroups we host at Mitchell House have not yet started this year.

There have been a few reasons why this is the case, but we are expecting all to return to normal very soon – so watch this space and our Facebook page for updates.

We do though, have some very good news to share this week – for those of you (and there are many) who were disappointed in December last year when 'Jo's up-cycling fashion give away' was postponed, we have scheduled a new date: Wednesday March 27. That's the Wednesday before Easter and as previously planned, the event coincides with our Community Lunch. You can have a wonderful, tasty meal prepared by Emma, Chris and Sean, the newest addition to our kitchen team, and then browse the rack of up-cycled garments and choose one to take home with you. Jo – fashionista and talented up-cycler – will be on hand to assist as will Linda, one of the amazing Mitchell House volunteers.

Bookings are essential so call us or pop into Mitchell House and put your name on the list, this is an event you won't want to miss.

The 15th to 21st of March is Harmony Week. This year on Monday March 18 Mitchell House is joining with other Wonthaggi Community groups to celebrate the diversity of our community. Festivities will begin with a Welcome to Country in Wishart Reserve at 11am, followed by a walk down McBride Avenue to Mitchell House. Upon arrival we will continue the celebrations by sharing a diverse array of food, good conversation and entertainment provided by local musicians.

So come join us in Wishart Reserve, wear orange if you can and celebrate Harmony Week with Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre.



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi
PH: (03) 5672 3731
www.wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

BOTH the Horticulture and Hairdressing courses welcomed new students last week. The learners were very happy to join the classes because they thought they might have missed out.

Although both courses have already started, new students are welcome in the first few weeks, but this will have to be the last week new learners can join before the courses progress too far. However, there will be a mid-year intake for Hairdressing and a Term 2 intake for the Certificate III in Information Technology courses. Bookings can be made right now.

This week will see the White Card course for the construction industry run on Friday, and next week will have the Safe Food Handling and Responsible Service of Alcohol courses.

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit bcal.vic.edu.au or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

Volunteers saved what they could but most of the old timers had to go.

Woody herbs planted years ago, neglected clumps of rhubarb and other bits and pieces well passed their use by were moved on to the compost. Workers saved a few roots to grow on elsewhere, but it was a fairly comprehensive clear out.

All the activity at the garden last week was part of a renovation and replant of shared plots, as well as the installation and preparation of donated raised metal plots, which should suit gardeners who prefer not to bend low to the task.

It was a satisfying morning's work. And the rehabilitated plots should be up and running for cool season planting.

To find out more about available growing plots for all abilities contact tgordon@westnet.com.au or drop into the community garden on a Thursday between 10 and noon.

WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

Some of the Woodies are exploring a new (to them) technique called kumiko. It is a carving and joining method using small strips of wood without nails.

As with the segmented turning group, this is another way to use materials which would otherwise be considered scrap. One member is using the technique to construct a scale model of the Eiffel Tower using only skewers and toothpicks.

There are two kumiko sessions running at the workshop on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings.

For more information about joining the Woodcrafters, visit wonthaggewoodcrafters.com.au or visit workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi
PH: (03) 5672 3115
www.bcal.vic.edu.au



YES YOUTH HUB

THE YES Youth Hub is a community project managed by the YMCA Bass Coast on behalf of young people, the Victorian Government and Bass Coast Shire Council. It provides a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for young people aged 12 to 25 living, working, and playing in the Bass Coast. We are located at 76 Watt Street, Wonthaggi and our "YES Youth Hub Drop-In" is open on Monday to Wednesday between 2.30pm – 5.30pm. Young people are always welcome to come down and check out the space during Drop-In.

We are excited to announce that in partnership with the Bass Coast YMCA FReeZA funding, we will be hosting an "Under 25's Open Mic" on here at the YES Youth Hub (76 Watt Street, Wonthaggi). Join us between 4pm to 6pm on Sunday March 24 for some live music or for the opportunity to perform in front of people. Free entry. Snacks and drinks included. If you are keen to perform you can choose to play one song or as many as you'd like. Some music equipment is available for use. If you're thinking of performing feel free to pop into the YES Youth Hub Monday to Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm to check out the space. All performers will receive a \$30 gift voucher. Although the event is free we do ask that people get a ticket online via Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/under-25s-open-mic-tickets-857407517967>) or follow our socials for more info.

In other news the pilot "Corinella Youth Group" is up and running. The YES Youth Hub, in partnership with GippSport, Corinella and District Community Centre (CDCC) & Bass Coast YMCA, will be running the group on Thursday's between 4.30pm – 6.30pm (for six weeks). This is a great chance for young people in the area to make new friends and try some recreation, arts and cultural activities close to home. If this works we could look at making it a permanent fixture on the CDCC calendar. Please contact Emma (emma@gippsport.com.au) if you or a family member might be interested in joining.

On Monday evenings our staff are funded by YMCA Open Doors to provide a community meal for young people. So, if you (or a young person you know) need a free feed next Monday and are aged between 12 – 25 years old, I highly recommend popping down to the YES Youth Hub between 4.30 PM – 5.30pm. Also, don't forget that the YES Youth Hub also has a free Youth Pantry & Laundry.

You can find us on Instagram or Facebook on the following handles @YESYouthHub @basscoast.freeza @basscoastskateparks @basscoastymca



76 Watt Street, Wonthaggi
PH: 0477 224 430
@YESYouthHub

Nut Cake

By Meg Viney

ANOTHER delicious Greek dessert, again with syrup poured over the top and soaked through.

Syrup

- 1 cup water
- 2/3 cup sugar
- A piece of cinnamon stick
- 1 slice of lemon
- (Optional) 2 tablespoons rum

Cook in a small saucepan for 10 minutes and then set aside to cool.

Cake

- 75 gm butter
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup each of flour and farina (semolina)
- 1/3 cup walnuts chopped
- 1 teaspr baking powder
- 1 teaspr ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspr grated orange peel

Cream butter and sugar, then add the eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Add all ingredients other than walnuts. When the mixture is smooth, mix in the walnuts.

Pour into a buttered 18 to 20 cm cake tin and bake on 180 for 30 minutes. When cooked (check with a skewer), remove and pour over the syrup. Allow to cool and serve with cream.

• FAITH FACTOR

Faith isn't a switch to flick

By Perry Thorp, Trainee Pastor, Grace Chapel, Archies Creek

IMAGINE someone at the gym, facing challenges in their workout routine. Despite setbacks, they trust in their efforts and believe in a higher power guiding their journey. Through perseverance and faith, they achieve their fitness goals, finding strength and fulfilment in surrendering control and allowing God to shape their life's path.

Faith isn't a switch to flick; it's a journey of understanding, perseverance, and discernment that brings us closer to our Creator God. Like training our physical muscles, we must exercise our spiritual muscles to draw nearer to God. The Bible compares God's word to spiritual food – if we only partake sporadically, can we expect to grow stronger? (Matthew 4:4).

We must also be willing to let go of worldly distractions that pull us away from our relationship with God. Discernment is key, as we navigate through the noise of the world and listen for God's voice. There are many 'spiritual' or emotional forces, but are they from God? It may be subtle, but with practice we can discern His guidance in our lives.

God has a plan for each of us, personally and on a much greater level, and surrendering control to Him paves the way for His direction. Trusting in Him, acknowledging His presence in every aspect of our lives, leads to fulfilment and renewal. As Proverbs 3:5-8 reminds us, trusting in God above our own understanding brings healing and refreshment to our souls.

So, how is the gym in your heart? Are you exercising your faith muscles, trusting in God's guidance, and surrendering control to His plan? Embrace the journey of faith, persevere through challenges, and find strength in surrendering to God's will.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2.



New youth mental health service to address a gap

THE new Youth Enhanced Service in Gippsland will provide holistic support for young people experiencing severe or complex mental health challenges to address a gap in existing services.

Gippsland Primary Health Network will commission Relationships Australia Victoria (RAV) to deliver the Youth Enhanced Service, in partnership with other agencies and health professionals, based on a national model developed by Orygen.

The Gippsland model is being developed with input from young people, their families and wider community.

Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, said the model would target young people aged between 12 and 25 years who had complex mental health needs.

"This service will fill the gap between low intensity care and acute care in the hospital system," Ms Proposch said.

"It is sometimes referred to as the 'missing middle', considered too complex to be met by the primary mental health care system and not acute enough for the tertiary mental health system."

The Youth Enhanced Service will be delivered across Gippsland from July 1, 2024 and include holistic and high-quality mental health and psycho-social supports that will be continuously adapted to meet the changing needs of young people.

RAV will tailor the Youth Enhanced model to meet the needs of young people from diverse backgrounds, ensuring all clients have access to support that is sensitive and appropriate for their cultural, language, religious, sexuality and socio-economic backgrounds.

RAV Senior Manager Operations Regional Victoria, Jo Huggins, said it was crucial for young people experiencing mental health challenges to have early access to support services.

"It's equally important for those services to adapt as the needs of a young person change," Ms Huggins said.

"For young people in rural areas, travel and other factors can make it difficult to find and access support and appointments. That's why prioritising service availability and accessibility is central to our Youth Enhanced Service."

"At its core, the Youth Enhanced Service is about enabling young people to be safe, feel supported and empowered to make decisions about their healthcare journey."

The Youth Enhanced Service will be delivered in partnership with:

- Youth Advocacy and Support Service
- Eating Disorders Victoria
- Deputy Chief Psychiatrist, Dr Lee-anne Fisher
- Senior Occupational Therapist with the Social Confidence Collective, Jo Rouse
- Clinical Psychologist with Erin Dolan and Associates, Dr Erin Dolan
- Dr Anna Howson from the Wonthaggi Medical Group

The Youth Enhanced Service will also work with a network of more than 70 local organisations, schools, health services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

If you or someone you know needs help, contact: Lifeline 13 11 14, Beyondblue Support Service 1300 659 467, MensLine 1300 789 987, Kids Helpline 1800 551 800, Qlife 1800 184 527, Yarning SaneNStrong 1800 959 563 or Head to Health 1800 595 212.

To access mental health support in Gippsland, speak to your local GP.

LRH to take lead on increasing clinical trials in Gippsland

STAFF from Latrobe Regional Health's research and cancer team joined five other Gippsland health services last week to discuss how they can work together to deliver clinical trials closer to home to further reduce travel for the many patients who still miss out.

Hosted by TrialHub, based at Alfred Health, the purpose of the event was to share opportunities for future research and clinical trial activity across the Gippsland region based on existing and emerging expertise.

The Federal Government's TrialHub pilot program started almost most four years ago as a metro-to-regional hospital partnership model to support the establishment of sustainable clinical trial units in regional, rural and outer metro hospitals. Latrobe Regional Health was selected as one of six Victorian health services to participate in the Australian-first program.

Clinical trials can give patients access to the latest treatments or interventions, but regional and rural patients often miss out because, historically, they've only been available at a city hospital.

Latrobe Regional Health's General Manager of Research and Partnerships, Jhodie Duncan, presented the challenges and successes of setting



LRH research general manager Jhodie Duncan, executive director of research and education Anita Raymond, clinical trial participant Nick Johnson, director of cancer services Tricia Wright and medical oncologist Mahesh Iddawela.

up their inaugural clinical trial unit almost five years ago.

Since 2019, almost 30 clinical trials have opened at LRH and more than 100 patients have been recruited onto trials, providing advance care options closer to home and saving Gippsland patients hours of travel to Melbourne.

However, it was recognised that distance to Latrobe Regional Hospital is still too much for many Gippsland patients.

Anne Woollett, director of TrialHub said: "While small

health services recognise that alone they cannot provide a full suite of trials and trial services, but when working together, the opportunities are so much greater."

West Gippsland Health, Gippsland Southern Health, Central Gippsland Health, Bass Coast Health and Bairnsdale Regional Health shared their current capabilities and what they'd like to be able to offer their patients.

There was unanimous agreement that clinical trials are vital to patient care, and

the group left committed to increasing access for the entire region.

Gippsland clinical trial ambassador, and one of Latrobe Regional Health's first ever oncology clinical trial participants, Nick Johnson, gave the group a great personal insight into being on a clinical trial.

Latrobe Regional Health will help lead a soon-to-be-formed Gippsland clinical trials working group to move Friday's conversations forward.

Home program gives Michael a good night's sleep



Gippsland Southern Health Service Nurse Cindy with Hospital in the Home patient Michael Watson.

"There are many benefits from a patient-recovery perspective and many cost benefits."

The patients remain in hospital for a four-hour observation period and are contacted in the evening by the HITH coordinator who also visits the next morning to organise their discharge.

Ms Munro said patients are still considered in-patients if they transition to HITH and

remain under the care of the admitting doctor.

Mr Watson said the program had worked perfectly.

"I was the first cab off the rank to try it out in Leongatha. It was a good thing and everything went off without a hitch."

"I've had to spend time in hospital for other issues, so I was happy to get home."

Mr Watson praised the Leongatha hospital and Ms Munro

for keeping him informed.

"Everyone was really good at informing me what was going on and helped me to get prepared," he said.

"I couldn't have asked for a better nurse. Cindy was very informative from the time I arrived at hospital, after the operation and then she was around the next morning to make sure I was all right and we had a phone conference with the doctor. It was all perfect."

Mr Watson isn't sure how he developed the hernia.

"I'm a heavy diesel mechanic by trade and I'm bound to have lifted something I shouldn't have at some point in my life. I can't think of any definitive time, I just discovered the lump one day and had it checked out."

Ms Munro said people need to live in South Gippsland Shire and be fit enough and have someone caring for them at home to be eligible for the program.

At any stage overnight, they can call an ambulance and go back to hospital or call the nursing coordinator and talk them through their issue.

According to the Victorian Department of Health 'research findings demonstrate patients have improved outcomes and recovery at home with fewer complications such as infection, delirium and confusion and recovery'.



Preventative measures to reduce myopia

MYOPIA, commonly known as near-sightedness, is increasingly affecting young children worldwide. The surge in myopia rates is a cause for concern among parents and healthcare professionals.

In places like Singapore, where education and prosperity were flourishing, myopia rates soared to around 80 per cent in young adults, earning it the title of "the myopia capital of the world." Similar trends have been observed globally: the United States, the UK, South Korea, Taiwan, and mainland China all report rising rates. Myopia isn't merely an inconvenience; it can lead to vision impairment, blindness, and hinder learning.

In Australia, approximately 6.3 million people are affected by myopia, according to The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. With the prevalence among 12-year-



Myopia is fast becoming one of the biggest problems optometrists are seeing due to technological advancements and screentime. C10_1124

old Australian children doubling in the last six years.

Myopia occurs when the eyeball grows too quickly during childhood.

"Kids are starting to use screens at a very young age, which is damaging," Akers Eyewear owner, Leonie Akers explained.

"But there are preventative

measures that can be taken," optometrist Jenni Hoang added.

"We encourage kids to take regular breaks – every 15-20 minutes take a break."

Even microbreaks can prevent individuals from staring at a screen for hours on end.

"Spend time outdoors – it has been medically proven

that spending time outdoors can prevent myopia and progression.

"And, mainly, getting your eyes checked regularly. If you need treatment you need to be onto it as soon as possible."

"Many people do not realise that myopia increases your risk of other eye diseases."

As both Jenni and Leonie emphasised, an eye check involves proactive and preventative measures to maintain eye health.

"You don't always need glasses, and sometimes the solution is not glasses."

"Almost 98 per cent of eye diseases are preventable."

Amongst other specialties, Jenni is also a dry eye specialist. Drop into Akers Eyewear today to book an appointment or call 5672 1965.

Don't let dry eyes or screens hold you back any longer.

Beyond Now app goes to Lifeline to streamline support

BEYOND Blue is transferring ownership of its highly regarded suicide prevention app, Beyond Now, to Lifeline Australia as part of a partnership that aims to provide more clarity for people seeking support during a crisis.

While the look of the platform is changing, the service will continue undisrupted with redirects linking to Lifeline's Beyond Now App and webpage. People who currently have the Beyond Now App downloaded to their phone are being notified of the change in ownership via an In-App Message. People can continue to access their plan and use the App as they normally do, uninterrupted.

In November 2023, Beyond Blue and Lifeline Australia formalised a three-year collaboration agreement that builds on their long record of working together in operations and advocacy.

Together, Beyond Blue and Lifeline Australia support millions of people every year with information, advice, online self-help and referrals via telephone, text, webchat, and digital platforms.

Lifeline and Beyond Blue will remain equipped and available to provide support to all Australians, no matter the nature of their distress.

Beyond Blue Support Service: 1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au/getsupport

Lifeline: 131144

Happy mouths on World Oral Health Day



It is never too young or too late to start taking care of your teeth and mouth.

conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory infections, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

"A healthy mouth is essential for proper digestion, enabling the breakdown of food for optimal nutrition. And a healthy smile can also be important for self-esteem and social interactions."

Dr Umakhantham has compiled a list of mouth myths and facts to mark World Oral Health Day, which this year has the theme "A Happy Mouth is a Happy Body".

She says establishing good

dental habits in childhood is paramount for long-term oral health.

"By introducing children to a regular oral care routine, including brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, flossing – and encouraging them to make healthy food and drink choices – parents and caregivers help instil practices that become ingrained in daily life," Dr Umakhantham says.

"These habits play a crucial role in preventing tooth decay, ensuring the health of baby and adult teeth. Ultimately,

teaching children about oral health empowers them to take lifelong responsibility for their overall health and wellbeing."

Dr Umakhantham says regular dental check-ups were another important element of good oral healthcare: "Visiting the dentist regularly helps in the early detection of potential issues, enhances prevention efforts, and allows for the monitoring of changes."

DHSV CEO Susan McKee recommends families follow the Eat Well, Drink Well, Clean Well guidelines from the Victorian Government's free school dental program, Smile Squad.

"One in four young people and one in three adults have untreated decay. That makes oral disease one of the most prevalent diseases in our community, but it's also one of the most preventable."

"Following the basic guidelines of good oral health care – including eating well, drinking well and cleaning well – is a great way for us all to help protect our mouth and overall body health."

BOWEN THERAPY

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Gippsland emergency departments on life support

THE LATEST figures show that emergency departments (EDs) right across Gippsland are failing to meet key performance targets.

The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien says immediate intervention is needed as the 2022-2023 Annual Reports from Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH), Central Gippsland Health (CGH) and Bass Coast Health (BCH) all clearly demonstrated that their emergency departments are under-resourced and in desperate need of support.

"Only 59 per cent of patients who presented to LRH ED were seen within the clinically recommended timeframe while CGH performed slightly

better at 74 percent and BCH managed 78 per cent.

"Local ED nurses and doctors do an outstanding job under pressure EDs and their ability to respond to patients' needs can quite literally be life or death."

"So, it was extremely alarming to read that more than 250 who presented to LRH last year waited for more than 24 hours in the ED."

Mr O'Brien said patients presenting to EDs via ambulance were also left waiting with only 70 percent finding their way into the CGH ED within 40 minutes. Alarming that figure is as low as 59 per cent at BCH and a startling 42 per cent for LRH.

"It is no wonder ambulance

response times have not improved across Gippsland South with these figures clearly demonstrating that ambulances are getting stuck at our local EDs."

"Indeed, the latest reports from Ambulance Victoria show little-to-no improvement in response times across both shires over the last ten years, with code 1 still averaging over 18-minute response time in both the Wellington and South Gippsland shires."

Mr O'Brien said the clear and crucial need for the \$10 million emergency department mental health hub at LRH was also evident in the performance figures which showed 72 percent of mental

health patients presenting to LRH ED waiting more than four hours for treatment.

This figure was also well below the targeted KPI of 19 percent at BCH and CGH where 59 per cent of mental health patients also waited longer than four hours at their respective EDs.

"It is clear that our local emergency departments are in desperate need of help to keep up with growing demand as Victorians put off crucial medical appointments due to the rising cost of living."

"The State Government must take immediate action to properly resource and staff our emergency departments and scrap its unfair Health Tax that is driving up GP costs."

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Cathy McGowan AO will join Voices for Monash as guest speaker on March 21.

Exciting guest speaker at next Politics in the Pub

CITIZEN engagement and participatory democracy have never been easier to get involved with than enjoying the remarkable Cathy McGowan AO share her journey and understanding of grassroots community engagement from big idea to lived reality – Join us for Politics in the Pub hosted by Voices for Monash (V4M) featuring former federal MP Cathy McGowan AO as the next guest speaker, Thursday, March 21 at Middels, 94 Princes Highway, Drouin, 6pm to 7.30pm.

Cathy McGowan was the original community independent elected with the support of Voices for Indi where she won two terms before handing over to Helen Haines who has now also won two terms as a member of federal parliament. This is the third in a series of Politics in the Pub events – previously the community have learned from Voices for Indi Founder Dennis Ginnivan as well as Ann Capling, the campaign director to Dr Monique Ryan in Kooyong.

Cathy will discuss with us her time leading the community all the way to parliament in Canberra from a committed group of concerned citizens through campaigning and ongoing success. For those seeking to learn how a community independent might up-end the hold of traditional parties, here is your chance to hear how Cathy brought the community with her to Canberra and involved them in the policy decisions all the way through her two terms in Parliament.

Cathy will discuss how putting people at the centre of politics leads to better, more efficient and effective outcomes for the local community – by not being aligned to the vested interests of a political party – Cathy was free to work with both sides of politics to achieve better policy decisions for Indi and the nation.

Voices for Monash committee member and former independent candidate, Deb Leonard, says Cathy paved the way for independents and communities to claim back democracy.

"Cathy's tenure as an independent demonstrated that it is possible to achieve a strong, two way relationship between community and an elected representative, and for the community to have their say in issues that affect them" says Deb.

During her time as a Member of Parliament, Cathy McGowan delivered immense tangible benefits to her community, including:

- Delivering 50 new mobile phone towers in partnership with Victorian and Commonwealth Governments
- Advocating for funding from the State Government for the Wangaratta Hospital Upgrade
- She secured passage of legislation to establish the Future Drought fund resulting in at least \$20m a year for drought preparedness
- Introduced the original private members bill to set up an Integrity Commission and code of conduct which her successor, Helen Haines has adapted and continued to champion
- Secured funding for the North East Rail Line

We invite all attendees to stay for dinner after the formal part of the event to continue the discussion.



Phillip Island's favourite jazz son, Andrew Nolte, returns on March 17 bringing his musical magic and stellar lineup of talent. Don't miss out!

Swing into the groove with Andrew Nolte Dixieland Band

AFTER a two-year hiatus due to COVID when Andrew Nolte based himself interstate the now favourite son of Phillip Island audiences is about to return for the second time in twelve months having previously appeared at the Jazz Extravaganza in April last year. Be prepared for a well curated musical journey through classic titles with the some of the best musicians in this field on Sunday March 17 with the

Andrew Nolte Dixieland Band. Featuring Andrew Nolte on guitar and banjo, Sean Nihill on trumpet, Jim Glasson on clarinet and saxophone, Richard Mander on bass, Marc Nolte on drums. At the time of issue, we are unable to announce the trombone player so watch this space.

We are expecting large numbers for this month's event so please get in early and purchase your tickets.

Our March event is proudly

supported by Terry White Chemmart Pharmacy.

Entry for our Sunday Jazz is \$20 for Jazz Club Members and \$25 for visitors.

Venue is at Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Rd, Cowes.

For more information on bookings please contact Robin – 0432 814 407 or Jill – 0417 416 300 to arrange purchase of tickets. Tickets are selling fast, but we still have some available.

Classical guitar duo set to delight

CONTRA Guitar Duo, a dynamic classical guitar duo hailing from Brisbane, has been enchanting audiences across the globe with their exquisite performances. From the stages of Australia to the far reaches of Europe and Dubai, Hamish Strathdee and Emma-Shay Gallenti-Guilfoyle's musical journey has been nothing short of remarkable.

Comprising highly skilled musicians with extensive training and studies in Canberra, Germany, and Italy, Contra Guitar Duo has garnered acclaim and recognition in prestigious international guitar competitions. Their list of accolades includes prize winnings and finalist positions in international guitar competitions spanning Adelaide, Melbourne, London, Denmark, New York, and Stuttgart.

With performance highlights at esteemed events such as the World Expo, Melbourne Guitar Festival, and Taranaki Guitar Summer School in New Zealand, Contra Guitar Duo has earned praise from critics and audiences alike. Renowned music critic Philip Pogson described their music as possessing "thoughtful, elegantly shaped phrasing" and "liquid amber" tones that captivate listeners.

Their upcoming concert on March 16 at 2.30 pm in the Wesley of Warragul promises to be a musical extravaganza not to be missed. Audiences can expect to be transported into a world of sublime melodies, intricate harmonies, and flawless musicianship.



Discover the captivating artistry of Contra Guitar Duo, formed by Hamish Strathdee and Emma-Shay Gallenti-Guilfoyle on March 16.

Spectacular celebrations set for Wonthaggi

HARMONY Week is approaching (March 18-25) and Wonthaggi has much to celebrate with its multicultural community. With a history of welcoming numerous waves of new arrivals over decades, our town continues to include migrants, refugees and 'escapees' from Melbourne and other parts!

On Monday, March 18 all members of the community are invited to a celebration of our diversity.

Commencing at 11am at Wishart's Reserve with a Welcome to Country, followed by a fun-filled parade down McBride Street (bring banners!) arriving at Apex Park in time for lunch at Mitchell House, with food from the four corners of the world – accompanied by live music. You can contribute to the lunch by bringing a plate, which you can drop off at Mitchell House prior to the start of the Welcome ceremony (drop off between 10 and 10.30am).

The ABC's Back Roads program will be filming in Wonthaggi during Harmony Week, including our celebration. So, dress up in your favourite clothes – traditional or something orange and come and have fun together.

Grants helping musicians hit the high note of their careers

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks announced applications for the latest round of the Labor Government's Music Works grants program will open on Thursday, March 14 – making it possible for musicians to build their national and international profile and boosting local jobs, industry and Victoria's economy.

This year's grants program offers funding for artists in two new categories, with Stream 1: Uncovering Talent dedicated to supporting early career artists and people from underrepresented backgrounds in the industry.

Stream 2: Evolve and Export boosts opportunities for Victorian artists to take their music to new markets, with funding to support innovative new music projects and activities.

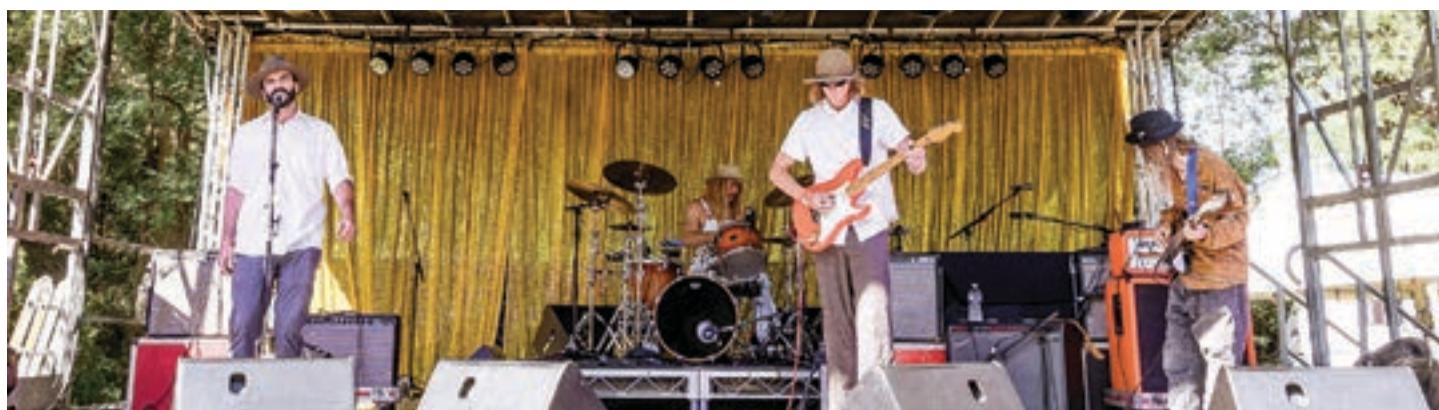
Both categories have dedicated streams for First Peoples and Deaf and Disabled applicants alongside general streams.

Music Works is open to every artist and project across all genres of contemporary music and has supported artists including The Teskey Brothers, Amyl and the Sniffers, RGV and Julia Jacklin showcase their music in Victoria and around the world.

It also supported First Peoples artists including Bumpy to distribute and promote her debut EP DJ Kidd Benny to run workshops and a community hip hop show, and Kutch Edwards to promote his new album.

Applications for the new round of Music Works grants open on Thursday, March 14 and close at 3pm on Thursday, April 18.

For more information or to apply, visit creative.vic.gov.au/musicworks



Local powerhouses will collide on March 23 for an epic showdown as Ozone Street and Nick Carver & the Mean Street Butchers take to the stage.

Showdown of epic proportions

GET ready for an electrifying night of musical magic at The Westernport Hotel on March 23rd! It's set to be an explosive collision as two local powerhouses, Ozone Street and Nick Carver & the Mean Street Butchers, unite for an epic showdown.

Ozone Street is not just any band; they're a vibrant force to be reckoned with on the local music scene. Comprised of a dynamic group of 20-somethings, Ozone Street brings a refreshing blend of vintage blues and surf-inspired melodies that transport audiences to sun-soaked shores and dimly lit

blues bars.

Nick Carver & the Mean Street Butchers promise a raw, intense experience with their blend of sideways rock and psychedelic blues, inspired by legends like Queens of the Stone Age and Black Rebel Motorcycle Club.

Kicking off the night will be The Dropkicks, local teenage sensations, whose youthful enthusiasm will set the stage on fire! Mark your calendars, gather your crew, and prepare for a night of hot band-on-band action that will leave you craving more!

Tickets from thewesternport.com.au



Dog days of fun at the Arawata Pet Day

DOGS and pets are in for a fun filled and super eventful time at the upcoming Arawata Pet Day.

Dogs will have a chance to compete in the Jack Russell racing time trial, where they will run separately chasing a continuous loop lure and South Gippsland Shire Councillor Jenni Keeri will be presenting the sash for the winner.

Three old bicycle wheels have been welded together by a local farmer and will be repurposed for the Pet Day to become the continuous loop lure machine.

Eight general class winners will all receive a sash, with winners being judged by Suzy Cee from Dogtopia a qualified Vet Nurse, Certified Trick Dog Instructor and certified in Canine Conditioning

and Emmett Therapy for dogs.

These eight winners will go in to the pet parade where Best on Parade and Runner Up Best on Parade will be judged by Clare Stainsby a GP farmer, breeder of Welsh Black Cattle and a qualified Earthdog Judge.

Dogs will also get to compete in fly ball, and a new form of entertainment will be there with Loch local Sue Healy, who will be doing carriage dressage with her Shetland pony Good Golly Miss Molly.

There will be entertainment, brunch and a sausage sizzle and lucky door prizes for pet owners on the day.

Arawata Pet Day will be held at the Arawata School Grounds on Sunday March 17.



Sue Healy will be doing carriage dressage with her Shetland pony Good Golly Miss Molly at the upcoming Arawata Pet Day.



One more sleep to Elmo's Circus Dream

THE wait is over! Elmo and all your Sesame Street favourites have announced the 2024 tour dates, and they are heading to regional Victoria stopping at Wonthaggi Union Community Arts this Thursday (March 14) for two shows: 10.30am and 1pm.

This thrilling theatre show takes you on an enchanting journey with Elmo and his friends as they discover their hidden talents and dreams at the circus. Get ready to be entertained by their amazing acts, catchy songs, and heart-warming moments that will leave you smiling from ear to ear.

It all begins with Elmo's enchanting bedtime story about the circus. As Elmo falls asleep, he is magically transported to his dreamtime circus where he is warmly greeted by his friends Abby, Cookie Monster, Grover, Bert, and Ernie. The show bursts into high energy as the talented cast sings and dances to the iconic Sesame

Street theme song, but with a twist - they are embarking on an exciting adventure to the circus! With their vibrant costumes and catchy tunes, they express their deep desire to join the circus and become part of its magical experience. From hilarious clowning and daring stunt attempts to mesmerising dog acts and captivating dance routines, the stage comes alive with their boundless energy, skill, and infectious enthusiasm.

But the excitement doesn't stop there! Brace yourself as internationally renowned circus performers take the stage, showcasing their extraordinary talents. Prepare to be spellbound by their impressive acrobatic displays, jaw dropping juggling acts, and mind-bending illusions that will leave you in awe at their incredible feats.

'Elmo's Circus Dream' is more than just a show - it's an immersive experience that ignites the imaginations of children, encourages self-expression and teaches valuable life lessons in a fun and engaging way. Get ready to be dazzled as the magic of the circus unfolds before your eyes, leaving you with unforgettable memories and a renewed belief in the power of dreams.

Don't miss out! It's not too late to secure your tickets (trybooking.com/events/landing/1178674) and join Elmo and his Sesame Street friends at Elmo's Circus Dream - it will leave you beaming from ear to ear and believing that anything is possible!

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 8pm - 10pm

South Coast FM
88.1 89.1 89.5

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ARAWATA PET DAY

Sunday March 17

Arawata School Grounds - Fairbank Road • Gates open 10am

Family (four members) \$15 • Adults \$5 • Children (under 14) \$2.50

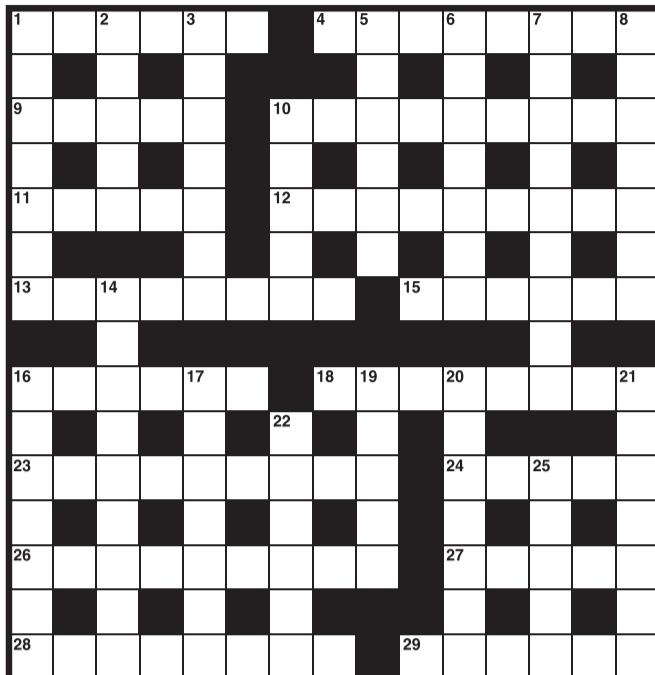
- EIGHT fun Pet Show classes with prizes
- Best on Parade & Runner Up BOP Sashes
- Lucky Gate Prizes
- Special entertainment
- Treats for your K9 buddy
- Brunch from 10:30am Bacon/Egg rolls,
- Sausage Sizzle from midday. Cold drinks to buy (Gluten Free available)

To assist with catering send message to the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/ACHA3951>

event schedule subject to change



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Landed property (6)
4 Before chapter one (9)
9 Purchaser (5)
10 Eager; anticipatory (9)
11 Offspring (5)
12 Most pungent (9)

13 Tropical storms (8)
15 Song's words (6)
16 Style of the Middle Ages (6)
18 Conclusive trial (4,4)
23 Ancient Greek goddess (9)
24 Cleave (5)

9-LETTER

No. 218

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".

Today's Aim:

20 words: Good

30 words: Very good

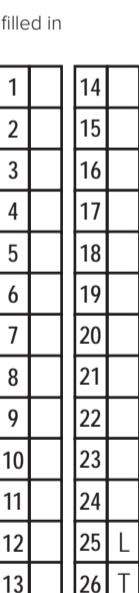
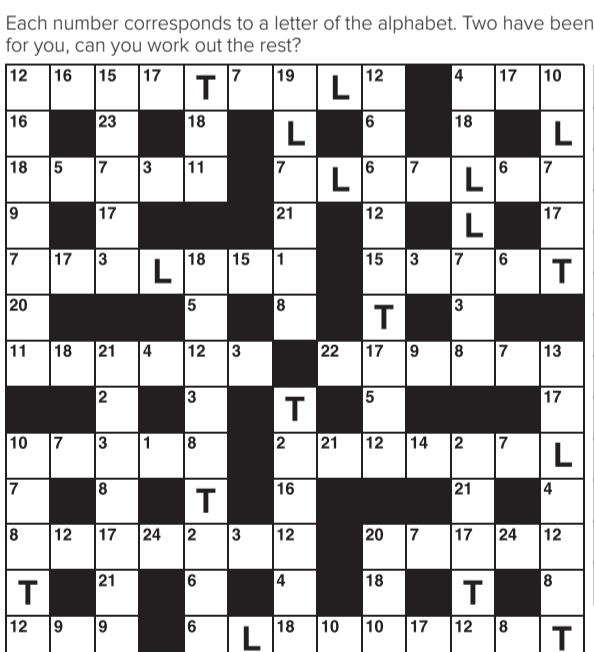
41 words: Excellent



SOLUTION

CODEWORD

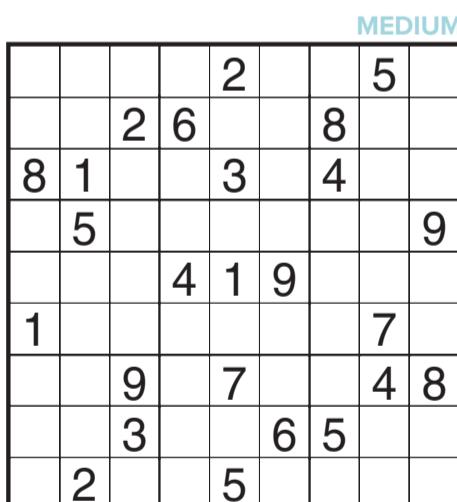
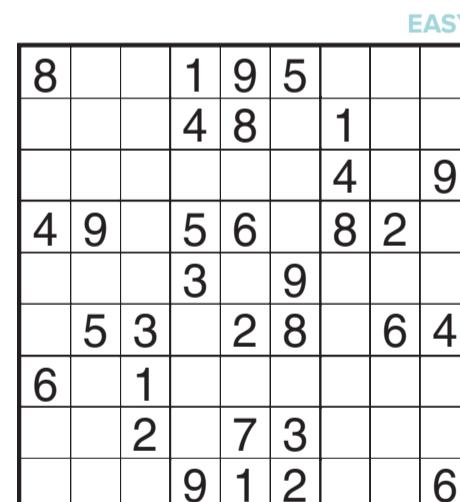
No. 168



SUDOKU

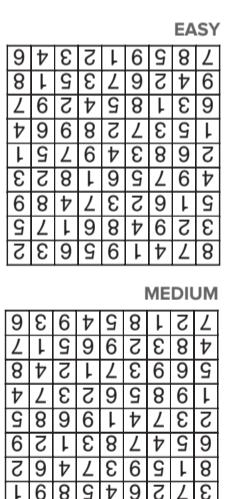
No. 218

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 3x3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



0803 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

SOLUTIONS



EASY

MEDIUM

QUICK QUIZ

- Who is the creator of comic strip *Calvin and Hobbes*?
- Myocardial infarction is the medical name for what bodily occurrence?
- Quentin Tarantino's (pictured) 2021 debut fiction book is a novelisation of which of his films?
- Belmopan is the capital city of which Central American country?
- In which decade was the Rubik's Cube invented?
- Lion's mane is one of the largest species of which marine animal?
- The geometric shape torus can be colloquially described as what kind of shape?
- The annual music festival Coachella is held in which US state?
- What is the main flavour of the sweet spread kaya?
- Novelist and poet James Joyce was born in which country?



(1974) 6. Jellyfish 7. Doughnut 8. California 9. Coconut 10. Ireland

ANSWERS: 1. Bill Watterson 2. Heart attack 3. Once Upon a Time: in Hollywood 4. Belize 5. 1970s

WORD SEARCH

No. 128



APLOMB	DOUBLE	RETIÈRE
BALLON	ÉCARTÈ	SECOND POSITION
BARRE	EMBOÎTÈ	SICKLE
BATTU	ENTRÈE	SICKLE
BRISÈ	ÈPAULÈ	SOUBERSAUT
CHANGEMENT	FAILLI	SPLIT
CHASSÈ	FRAPPÈ	TENDU
CODA	JETÈ	TIGHTS
COUPÈ	PASSÈ	TOMBÈ
COURU	PIQUÈ	TURNOUT
CROIX	PLIÈ	TUTU
DÈBOULÈ	POINTE	
DÈGAGÈ	POSÈ	
DEMI	QUATRE	

and grit

SECRET MESSAGE: A dancer is full of grace



Enjoying the International Women's Day lunch at the Silverwater Resort last Friday were Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve, Rowanne Grinsted and Bass MP Jordan Crugnale.



Among those at the International Women's Day celebrations at San Remo last Friday were Lyndal McKenzie, Michaela Salvato, Whitney Anderson and Catherine Basterfield.



Bass Coast Shire CEO Greg Box chats with Liberal candidate for Monash Mary Aldred at the International Women's Day lunch at San Remo last Friday.



It was hot at the Loch Community Market on Sunday but spare a thought for Strzelecki Lions John Hutchison and Peter Levy cooking in the chip van.



From near and far they travelled to Welshpool Autumn Show. Jitka was visiting from the Czech Republic with friend Jenni from the Gold Coast who were amazed by the beautiful display. C01_1124



Rural Dahlia Championship 2024 winner Trish Newby (Mount Best), novice David Custance (Nyora) and show secretary Fran Grylls took a moment to catch up on Friday after the official opening. C02_1124



Exhibitor and Floral Art winner Dawn Green with special guest and judge Sue Thompson at Welshpool Autumn Flower Show. C03_1124



Leonore and Alex Giliberto of Yarram were over the moon by the families wins with Leonore winning a photography prize and husband, Matthew (not pictured) winning in the produce division. C04_1124



Welshpool and District Horticultural Society's newest life member Bruce Crowl and steward Tom Reakes enjoy Friday's sunshine outside. C05_1124

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at International Women's Day, Loch Community Market, Leongatha Town Cricket Club Reunion, Stony Creek Races, SJD Homes Grand Opening and the Welshpool Autumn Show.



The Anand family, who are interested in building locally, take a look at the new SJD Homes' Wonthaggi Display Home Super Centre in White Road last Saturday.



Members of the marketing team at SJD Homes Lauren Liconte, Mikayla Edwards and Madison Debnam at the opening of the new Wonthaggi Display Home Super Centre.



SJD Homes representatives Kim O'Connor, Rod Fitzsimmons and Lou Fuatago at the opening of the new Display Home Super Centre at the weekend.



Mandy Manning and Karlie Owen were Fashions on the Field winners at the Stony Creek Races.



Callum Smith and Paul Carter enjoyed the Leongatha Town Cricket Club reunion on Saturday night.



Premiership players Matt Davies, Fergus Elliott and Glen Paine at the Leongatha Town Cricket Club reunion.



Premiership players Andrew Hawkins and Richard Elliott enjoyed a catch up at Saturday night's Leongatha Town Cricket Club reunion.



Leongatha Town Cricket Club's reunion was attended by premiership players including Alex Aeschlimann and Neil Quick.



Housing growth goes to a new level in Wonthaggi

A \$4 MILLION investment in the growth and development of housing in Bass Coast generally, and Wonthaggi in particular, was launched last Saturday when SJD Homes opened its 'Display Home Super Centre' at 330 White Road, North Wonthaggi.

The new centre, which is the first of its kind in Bass Coast or South Gippsland signals a new era in the growth of housing in the region.

"It's a quantum move forward for the expansion of housing in Bass Coast and Wonthaggi, a one-stop shop if you like for those looking to buy land and build a home in the local area," said Construction Manager with SJD Homes Kim O'Connor.

"We have four different styles of homes right here on site at the White Road centre for you to look at, with four unique floorplans on display, each capturing the essence of modern living, while embracing the coastal lifestyle."

"Whether you're looking to build on your own land at San Remo or you're interested in a house and land package at Sea Bliss in Corinella, or Parklands, Powlett Ridge, The Range or Northern Views in Wonthaggi, or indeed somewhere else; our



The Buchanan family of Warragul are considering a move to the Wonthaggi-Bass Coast area and called in at the new SJD Homes 'Display Home Super Centre' in White Road Wonthaggi, during its grand opening at the weekend, to get a few ideas.

team can help you here at the new Display Home Super Centre," said SDJ senior sale manager Rod Fitzsimmons.

And according to Lou Fua-taga of SJD Homes, who will be available to answer all your questions when you visit the display centre, it's well worth a look, not only by those interested in building but also those who would like to visit the centre to see what's on offer locally.

"We've got the extremely well-priced Maldivian style of 22.3 squares, a four

bedroom home at \$253,900 but bringing you in under the \$500,000 mark for house and land package in Wonthaggi."

"We also have the Caversham, with its generous, open living plan; the Patterson and the Portsea, all different and all onsite here at 330 White Road."

It's a sign that Wonthaggi and Bass Coast is really stepping up to meet the demand for new housing that is already coming our way and will accelerate as the

town opens up an additional 5000 more blocks in the new North-East Wonthaggi development precinct.

If you wondered if Wonthaggi was going to make that leap forward, you only need to see what's already going on off McGibbonys Road in North Wonthaggi and to drop in at the new SJD Homes centre in White Road.

The SJD Homes 'Display Home Super Centre' in White Road Wonthaggi is open 7 days-a-week from 12 noon to 5pm.



Liz Jacobs and Graeme Dark of Housing Matters Bass Coast believe it's important for tenants to know their rental rights and have organised a regular, free and confidential legal service for renters in the Bass Coast. ob07_1124

Free legal service for renters to know their rights

WITH the national rental vacancy rate hitting an all-time low of 0.7 per cent according to Domain, and no end in sight to the high cost of living, Australia's ongoing housing crisis is deepening.

The mismatch between the low supply and rising demand of rental properties presents ongoing challenges for tenants who are looking for a home and those who are already renting.

"As the housing crisis shows no sign of easing, competition is fierce for the few available rentals. Tenants may put up with bad conditions or unfair rent increases because of the housing shortage," said Liz Jacobs of Housing Matters Bass Coast.

With Renters' rights in Australia being among some of the weakest in the developed world when compared with Europe or the US, the basic right of people to a secure, affordable and liveable home is under greater threat now than it has ever been.

As a result, Housing Matters Bass Coast, are auspiced by and have partnered with the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre and qualified lawyers from Gippsland Community Legal Service to offer tenants free and confidential legal advice.

Tenants can discuss issues and find out about their rights in one-on-one sessions with a lawyer.

Many issues that renters face and which they can seek advice for include having their rent increased without notice, not having repairs done, having mould issues, or delays with getting their bond returned, for example.

"Bass Coast has higher rents, when compared to other regional areas in Victoria. We see housing a human right, and we are sad to see increasing numbers of people sleeping rough in our towns and camping in the bush," said Graeme Dark of Housing Matters Bass Coast.

With these free sessions, renters who are unsure of their rights or who are afraid to approach their real estate agent or landlord with an issue, can find out what they can do and how they can get help.

Lawyers are available for face-to-face consultations every second Thursday of the month from 3pm – 4.30pm at the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre.

Bookings are essential and a member from the Neighbourhood Centre or Housing Matters Bass Coast can also be available for support at these meetings.

The next upcoming session will be held on Thursday March 14, with following sessions available on May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12.

To make a booking or to find out more, contact the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre, 6 Murray Street, Wonthaggi on 5672 3731 or email: reception@wonthagineighbourhoodcentre.com.

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'Hidden Haven' 4.2 acres on the outskirts of town

ESCAPE to the outskirts of Leongatha and uncover the serenity of 'Hidden Haven,' a sprawling 4.2-acre property offering the best of both worlds being close to Leongatha amenities, schools, and shops but also providing rural tranquillity.

The tastefully renovated home has four spacious bedrooms with each room offering beautiful views. The master bedroom has plenty of wardrobe space and a large ensuite. A central bathroom features a claw foot bath, walk-in shower, double vanity and toilet.

The kitchen flows seamlessly into the dining and living area and is well-equipped with all new appliances, a walk-in-pantry and featuring stained glassed windows.

Perfect for a teenagers retreat or guest house the property also includes a self-contained one-bedroom bungalow which has an ensuite.

The property has the perfect set up for equestrian enthusiast which includes stables, a sand arena and four paddocks set over the 4.2 acres. There is ample shedding located on the property for machinery and hay storage. Town water is connected for the home as well as servicing troughs and stables, ensuring a reliable water source.

Situated quite literally a stone's throw from the Great Southern Rail Trail for you to be able to walk, ride and enjoy. Ideally located a short walk from the main street of Leongatha, 15 minutes to the trendy town of Meenyan, 20 minutes to the beaches at Inverloch, 45 minutes to Wilson's Promontory and under two hours to Melbourne's CBD.

'Hidden Haven' is a retreat where rural tranquillity meets in-town convenience. With the perfect fusion of a charming home, a well-appointed bungalow, and equestrian facilities, this 4.2-acre estate offers a lifestyle that is both idyllic and convenient.

For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Katrina Griggs on 0428 571 083 or Don Olden on 0417 805 312.



4 | 2 | 6 4.2 acres
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Agent Elders
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Don Olden 0417 805 312



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Leongatha 705m²

Charming Home in Convenient Location
• 3-bed, 2-bath with colonial style kitchen
• Front lounge has a gas log heater
• Fenced yard & low maintenance garden

Web ID: 300P6183



Korumburra 709m²

Modern Comfort, Rustic Charm
• 4-bed, 2 bath & 3 spacious living areas
• Well-appointed kitchen, walk-in pantry
• Great outdoor undercover area

Web ID: 300P101334

\$699,000



Dumbalk 160 Acres

'Kialla' Exceptional Grazing & Lifestyle
• Architecturally designed, private setting
• LU shedding (3 phase power), hay shed
• 12 fenced paddocks, central laneway

Web ID: 300P105003

\$2.1 Million



Krowera 305 Acres

On Top of the World
• 143-acres & 162-acres with home
• Heavy carrying 'Bluegum' hill country
• Loch 9km, Korumburra 18km, Melb 1.5hrs

Web ID: 300P129224/300P133707 **\$2.5 Million**



Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

DON OLDEN
Licensed Estate Agent
0417 805 312

KATRINA GRIGGS
Sales Consultant
0428 571 083

SHARON TURTON
Property Manager
0439 383 091

HELEN ARRESTIA
Sales Support
03 5662 3523

NATALIE RES
Sales Support
03 5662 3523

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523



Architecturally designed!

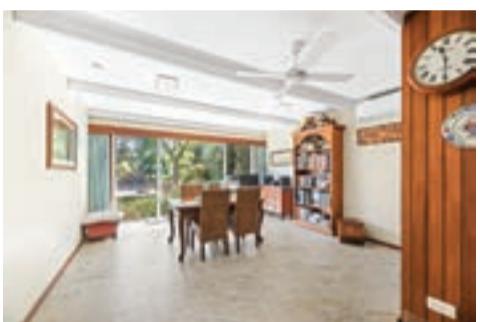
LOCATED only two blocks from the CBD of Leongatha is this stunning, architecturally designed home. Lovingly and sympathetically renovated over recent years, it has a northerly orientation and is nestled amongst magnificent low maintenance gardens. The land allotment is 2,214m², in two titles and with the surrounding peace and tranquillity, you don't even feel like you are in town!

Upon inspection you will appreciate and embrace what the current Vendors have achieved and their attention to detail to preserve and maintain some of the original features. From the sunken lounge to the rich teak panelling on the walls, you will immediately embrace the elements of a quality 1970's build. Features of the home include:

- Three bedrooms, with the master bedroom boasting a gorgeous ensuite and built-in robes
- Fourth bedroom or studio – Fully self-contained that lends itself to dual occupancy or the ability to create a secondary income from a BnB
- Recently renovated kitchen, with quality appliances and clever cabinetry featuring German shelving systems
- A cosy sunken living area, as well as a second north facing living/dining area, overlooking the manicured garden
- Fully renovated central bathroom and a very functional laundry with clever storage
- Undercover alfresco area with solar exhaust fan
- Two car carport as well as a single car, lock up garage and a lock up garden/tool shed
- Within walking distance to the shops, Great Southern Rail Trail and the wetlands

An inspection is a must to appreciate everything about this property. Extra features include double glazed windows, a 4Kw solar system, solar hot water, protective awnings on the western windows, installation of ceiling fans and additional light fittings, a thoughtfully created and curated garden, and the list goes on!

So, don't miss the opportunity to inspect this gorgeous home, right in town. Call Kellie Thomas on 0438 647 449 today to arrange your inspection!



4 3 3 2,214m²

39 Johnson Street, **Leongatha**

For Sale \$925,000

Agent Nutrien Harcourts

Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449

kellie.thomas@nh.com.au

Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha

47 Bair Street, Leongatha
(03) 5662 2292

Scan the QR code to visit our website



MEENIYAN

Spectacular and Stunning!

- Gorgeous lifestyle property on approx. 3.9 acres.
- Master BR with large ensuite & walk-in robe.
- Oversized dble car garage, LU shed & two dams.

\$1,575,000

4 2 2



BUFFALO

A Little Beauty in Buffalo!

- Near new family home on approx. 1,218m².
- Master BR boasts a walk-in robe and ensuite.
- Spacious kitchen with large island bench & WIP.

\$480,000

3 2 2



TARWIN LOWER

Spectacular and Stunning!

- Beautiful turnkey family home on 4.95 acres.
- Fully appointed modern kitchen with WIP.
- Master BR with large ensuite & walk-in robe.

\$1,300,000

4 2 2



FISH CREEK

Beautiful Country Escape on 4.1 Acres!

- Spacious kitchen with quality appliances & views.
- Sizeable living areas & outdoor entertaining.
- Shedding, laneway system and horse amenities.

\$1,200,000

3 2 4



LEONGATHA

Stunning Family Home!

- Well-appointed kitchen with quality appliances.
- Master bedroom with gorgeous ensuite & BIR.
- Manicured gardens, large block, great location.

\$629,000 - \$649,000

3 2 2



BARRY REDMOND

Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292



KELLIE THOMAS

Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449



MATT REDMOND

Licensed Estate Agent
0418 357 341



MONIQUE WIGHTMAN

Marketing Manager & Office Admin



LEONGATHA

Extraordinary Oasis on 7.4 Acres!

- Stunning kitchen with quality appliances.
- Master BR with views, walk in robe & ensuite.
- Decking area, bitumen driveway & shedding.

\$1,695,000 - \$1,795,000

HM10640-V18

We get results!



Is this the best located office building in Leongatha?

THE freehold property at 26 Anderson Street (South Gippsland Hwy), Leongatha, which includes an exceptional office building of some 326m², in a highly visible, highly accessible location next to McDonalds Restaurant, will be offered at auction on Thursday, April 11.

SEJ Livestock & Real Estate, the long-established tenant of the office, since it was built in 1993, have a secure lease until May 2026, plus options through to April 2032, paying all the usual outgoings, and providing a net income of \$71,104 per annum.

So, it's the freehold and not the business that's for sale.

"We just thought, with all of us getting to an age now where you've got to make sure these things are squared away, that we should sell the property," said Bill Sweeney, one of the partners of SEJ Property which owns 26 Anderson Street.

"But it's been a great office for the business, still is, and I've got to hand it to the late Woorayl Shire Councillor Bryan Cusack for finding this for us."

"When Stevens, Egan and Johnston started out in 1983 with Mike Stevens, Bill Egan, Terry Johnston and myself, we were in a little office in Hyland Place, I suppose it was, next to the old church, where Michael's IGA is today."

"We got bigger and had to move and thought we'd found the perfect spot, on the highway, coming into town, in an old house where the Salvation Army is today."

"But then the shire came and told us there would be a highway going straight through the house, and we'd have to move."

"To Bryan Cusack's credit, he came and picked us up in his car and drove us around to various sites and we were lucky enough to get this one, close to the centre of

town but also with plenty of room around it."

"In fact, where we are sitting here in the office today is the exact spot where the Gippsland and Northern holding yards were, in the old Leongatha Saleyards, so there's a bit of history here, with the old saleyards oak trees still out there."

"When I do a bit of gardening out there, I'll still occasionally find the odd bit of bluestone or something from the saleyards."

"Another stroke of good fortune was getting Wayne Hayward to build it and he did a very good job."

So, it's something of an end of an era for the ownership of SEJ office building, but not for SEJ Livestock & Real Estate, which will continue, with all the usual services from the site next to McDonalds.

Auction and property details

Described as a "high profile highway position" the commercial freehold at 26 Anderson Street (South Gippsland Hwy) Leongatha will be auctioned by SEJ Real Estate on Thursday, April 11 at 11am, the first time this high-profile, 1174m² corner site has been offered for sale in more than 30 years.

The established tenant, SEJ Livestock and Real Estate has renewed its lease until May 2026 and holds options through to April 2032, with a net income of \$71,104 pa + GST and the tenant paying all the usual outgoings.

The feature of the property is an "exceptional" 326m² office building with open foyer, individual and open plan offices, board room, kitchen and bathroom facilities, car parking and storage yard.

For further information and to arrange a personal inspection, please contact Irene Walker at SEJ Real Estate 0429 045 632.



Commercial Freehold

26 Anderson Street, **Leongatha**
Auction Thursday, April 11 at 11am
Agent SEJ Real Estate
Irene Walker 0429 045 632

The founders of SEJ Livestock; Bill Sweeney, Bill Egan, Mike Stevens and Terry Johnston at a clearing sale back in the day. The freehold property, where SEJ Livestock and Real Estate will continue to operate is going to auction on Thursday, April 11.



YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE & LIVESTOCK SPECIALISTS

NERRENA



- Magnificent quality home
- Situated on 1/2 an acre
- Stunning rural farm views
- 5 bed, 2 bath, 3 living
- Great shedding & garden
- Easy 10 min. drive to Leongatha

\$895,000

KOONWARRA



- Prepare to fall in love!
- Contemporary Victorian Home
- 3 ac (approx.) paddock & garden
- Panoramic views & peaceful
- Open plan living, spacious & bright
- 4 QS BRs, 2 bath & family rooms

\$1,850,000 - \$1,920,000

INVERLOCH



- 135 acres / 54.63 ha - grazing
- 5 paddocks with central lane
- Exc steel stock yards
- 6 dams with fenced creek
- Lovely house sites (STCA)

\$13,500 PER ACRE

LEONGATHA



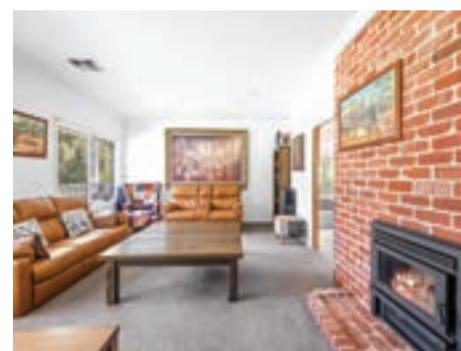
- Opportunity here!
- Excellent foundations
- 3 bed, 2 bath, open living
- Great sized 854m² block
- Easy walk to the shops

ANOTHER WANTED!





Private oasis five minutes from Inverloch



3 | 2 | 6 2ha

48 Desmond Road, **Wattlebank**
For Sale \$1,950,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Leongatha Office 03 5662 0922

HAVE you been monitoring the market and waiting for the right property to become available? Here it is, 48 Desmond Road, Wattle Bank. So much to offer the right buyer, this exceptionally well-maintained lifestyle property is complete with a custom heritage style home built by a renowned builder, large easily accessible shed, multiple garden rooms spread across this beautiful property and so much more.

Boasting a spacious layout on just under five acres with an array of impressive features, this property offers the perfect blend of comfort and class. Entering the property through the solar automated front gate you are welcomed in by the meandering driveway which leads to the home.

The custom home contains wall, ceiling and colour bond roof insulation assisting with the extremely low electricity bills per annum, step inside to discover a homelike and inviting interior, complete with spotted gum wood floors and quality carpet, double glazed windows, double sided cosy fireplace for those chilly winter nights in Bass Coast, Mitsubishi heavy industries zoned refrigeration/heating which can be operated from each room and be awe-struck by the central brick feature wall.

The master bedroom is situated to one end of the home and showcases large picture windows and a walk-through robe into an ensuite for added convenience.

To the opposite end of the home are the two other carpeted bedrooms featuring built-in robes and are serviced by a family bathroom whilst the study/fourth bedroom is close by.

Prepare meals with ease in the stylish kitchen highlighting stone benchtops, self-cleaning wall oven, soft close cabinetry, plenty of space and clever storage. The open-plan kitchen/living/dining area

seamlessly flows out to the undercover alfresco, creating the perfect setting for entertaining guests or simply enjoying the serene surroundings. Completing the home is the well fit out laundry with ample storage and direct access outside.

Outside be impressed by the large four bay shed (18m x 9m x 3.6 high) with three sliding doors, lights, concrete floor, many electricity points including a welding power point, water connected complete with a sink and fitted with 48 solar panels that service the property.

Endless discoveries to be had within the manicured gardens and lawns, each space has been created to provide a different feel and colour throughout the whole year due to the various plants and placements. Amongst the numerous species of trees there are a few gardens that stand out including the vegetable and fruit room, succulent garden room, forest walk, multiple rose gardens, round room and long garden room, dam view room, lilly pilly hedge and the Laburnum Yellow walk. With so much more to see outside you will come across a well-equipped BBQ/entertaining area, an abundance of garden sheds and over 200K litres of water storage.

Situated in the sought after suburb of Wattle Bank, this property offers a peaceful lifestyle away from the hustle and bustle of city living. With its superb features and convenient location close to the Sandy beaches of Inverloch and liberal amenities at Wonthaggi, this home is a true gem not to be missed. Contact our friendly sales team at Alex Scott & Staff Leongatha to arrange a private inspection.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in preparing the above information, it is to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the appropriate legal documentation to complete your due diligence.

'Kurana' – One of the district's finest farms

THIS property presents an excellent opportunity to secure a beautiful farm close to Cowes and everything that Phillip Island has to offer.

First time offered in 80 years the property features a four-bedroom home with views across the Islands farmland plus a fully self-contained two-bedroom cottage.

The main home features four bedrooms, a master bedroom with ensuite and built-in robes, a big country style kitchen with a light filled family room plus a second large living room with an open fire.

The home has sweeping rural views of the Island's farmland towards Ventnor.

A newer two-bedroom cottage designed for visiting family and friends has open plan living and kitchen, plus two generous bedrooms and bathroom.

The house yard has a three-car garage and an adjoining three bay machinery shed.

The property has additional excellent shedding with four large haysheds, two large machinery sheds plus workshop, and stock shelters. There is also a not active herringbone milking shed complete with very good all weather stock handling facilities.

A central laneway system with frontage to Ventnor Road and Pyramid Rock Road services the entire property. A whole farm plan with more than twenty paddocks across the 156 acres are easily accessible on the all-weather gravel laneway system. The property has three phase power, town water plus four dams and a fully reticulated stock watering system with drinking troughs in each of the main paddocks. This has been a much-loved family farm that grows an abundance of grass backed by a first-class fertiliser history. This is a premium rural holding that will impress anyone looking for that special rural property.

Contact Alex Scott & Staff on 5952 2633 to arrange a private inspection.



6 | 3 | 4 63.39ha

143 Pyramid Rock Road, **Cowes**
For Sale Contact Agent
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Cowes Office 03 5952 2633



LEONGATHA



28 Horn Street

- Iconic Leongatha Residence
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 living area
- Stunning residence on 3445m² allotment

\$1,550,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



14 Isabella Boulevard

- Near new brick home
- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Open plan kitchen, meals & living

\$599,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

COWES



4 Shamrock Avenue

- Original home in the heart of Cowes
- Separate self-contained bungalow
- 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 car

\$730,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



213 White Road

- Large 1000m² block
- Laneway access

SOLD

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



33 Worthy Street

- 4 bedroom, beautiful home
- Lock-up shed + carport
- 6237m² land in quiet location

\$940,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



18 William Street

- 4 bedroom/ 2 bathroom
- Outdoor entertaining
- Views

\$599,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

SUNDERLAND BAY



20 Sunderland Bay Road

- Meticulously maintained
- Spacious 585m² (approx.) allotment
- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 car

\$680,000 - \$700,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



215-219 White Road

- 3000m² block
- Development perfect

SOLD

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



6 Harding Lane

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Large living plus outdoor entertaining
- As new home, quality build

\$849,900

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



27 Radovick Street

- 3 bedroom brick
- Central location
- Shedding, rear access

\$725,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

SUNDERLAND BAY



1/6 Elane Street

- Amazing views to Pyramid Rock
- New carpets, gas log fire, stone benchtops
- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car

\$800,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



1/7 Turner Street

- 3 bedroom home
- Great kitchen

SOLD \$420,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



7 Olympic Court

- Super neat 3 bedroom home
- Upgraded throughout
- Near flat court close to CBD

\$525,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

RANCEBY



800 Korumburra-Warragul Road

- 13 acre farmlet
- 3 bedroom homestead
- Shedding, dam

\$950,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

COWES



8 Kembla Road

- Double storey, opposite Whytesands
- Open living leading to undercover deck
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car

\$940,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



41 Tarooh Street

- 2 storey home
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom

SOLD \$925,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA

5662 0922

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
Tony Giles 0407 528 192
Dan Huther 0418 334 801

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

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

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783
Phil Hanley 0417 140 508



Gippsland farm forestry grants are now available

THE VICTORIAN Government is again offering grants to landholders in Gippsland to assist in establishing trees for timber, as part of a broader program to encourage and support the establishment and management of plantations on farms to contribute to future timber supply. Timber plantations can be established as woodlots, shelterbelts or wide-spaced plantings (or any combination of these) and be ideally placed within the context of a whole farm plan. The minimum eligible plantation establishment area for a grant application is three hectares. An opportunity also exists to apply for a one-off consultancy grant, to assist landholders should they require specialised and specific advice in designing and planning a plantation establishment project.

Grant applications are open and will close on March 7, 2025. During this open period, grants will be assessed and administered with the interested landholders progressively. If you're involved in a group or organisation (eg. Landcare) and would like more information about the grants or farm forestry generally, one of our Farm Forestry Officers would be delighted to present in a group setting. Further information, including forms and guidelines visit the VicForests website.

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre 

Mixed results for stores

By SGSA

AGENTS yarded 2600 cattle at last Friday's VLE Leongatha store sale in a mixed quality yarding.

The market held steady for the better end of the grown and weaner Angus steers and Angus weaners heifers with the best of the coloured cattle just slightly easier with the return of a few feedlot and commission buyers along with local graziers keeping prices near recent rates.

Secondary, Xbred and dairy types lost another \$100 and more in places on poorer lines with buyers being cautious as the season cuts out with a late burst of summer heat.

A reminded to everyone that all future store sales will now commence at 9am.

Leongatha Store Sale on Friday, Mar. 8, 2024

Grown Steers

Graham 12 Angus	606kg	\$2.97	\$1800
Novotny 11 Angus	596kg	\$3.02	\$1800
I & D Ricardo 16 Angus	594kg	\$3.04	\$1810
Graham 12 Angus	545kg	\$2.93	\$1600
Katathani Farm 13 Angus x	544kg	\$3.40	\$1850
Katathani Farm 15 Angus	523kg	\$3.44	\$1800
Katathani Farm 14 Angus	500kg	\$3.30	\$1650
Vuiller Shorthorns 13 S/horn	507kg	\$2.91	\$1476
Hall 15 Angus	486kg	\$3.41	\$1660
B & S Phillips 10 Angus	482kg	\$3.21	\$1550
M Dean 11 Angus	479kg	\$3.42	\$1640
Leveque Nom 18 BB	454kg	\$3.08	\$1400
Hall 15 Angus	452kg	\$3.36	\$1520
R. J Mc Kenzie 32 Hereford	443kg	\$2.77	\$1231

Weaners

Emiton 11 Angus	398kg	\$3.44	\$1370
Loch Park 32 Angus	395kg	\$3.00	\$1185
M & M Cattle Co 15 Angus	375kg	\$3.46	\$1300
NP & JA Chandler 61 Angus	354kg	\$3.68	\$1306
S & D Love 29 Hereford	320kg	\$2.63	\$843

Heifers

Grassy Spur Farm 14 Angus	440kg	\$2.56	\$1129
Katelea 21 Angus	398kg	\$2.51	\$1000
Loch Park 25 Angus	370kg	\$2.64	\$980
Stringer 13 Angus	365kg	\$2.87	\$1050

Xbred & Dairy

Harris 22 FF	474kg	\$2.04	\$970
Harris 21 FF	438kg	\$1.94	\$850

Cows & Calves

F & J Edward's 6 x 6 Red Angus			\$1625
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Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, March 4, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x	\$22 to \$50
Friesian Bulls	\$25 to \$66
Friesian Heifers	\$150 to \$240
Beef Bulls	\$30 to \$360
Beef Heifers	\$42 to \$170
Number of Calves: 124		
Number purchased to rear: 55		

End of dairy era for the White family

By Andrew Paloczi

RUSSELL and Amy White's four daughters are looking forward to a new Christmas Day experience this year, not having to wait for Dad to return from the milking shed before they unwrap their presents.

That follows the long-term dairy family's decision to focus solely on beef production.

With the White's Hillgroves Road Leongatha South dairy property and herd sold, Russ' parents Les and Dianne are set for a move into town, while Russ and Amy run their two beef properties, also in Leongatha South.

The White family ran Dilee Holsteins stud for about 40 years.

The retirement of Les and Dianne was the ideal moment for a lifestyle change for Russell, Amy and their young family.

"Beef prices were good, we'd set ourselves up with the other blocks of land and we crunched the numbers, and I think the idea dropped in Russ' head," Amy said, a seed she was happy to have planted.

Russ added that the move from working seven days a week to five had great appeal.

However, for the moment he is working even harder than before, helping get his parents'



Les, Dianne, Amy, Russell, Charli, Lacey, Harper and Mackenzie White have recently begun a new life, with the long-term dairy family having moved out of the industry. A06_1124

place ready for their move, in addition to farming duties.

Les said the family has been in the dairy industry for four generations.

He grew up on a Krowera dairy farm, the area in which his great great grandfather settled in 1882, and said he never knew anything but dairy.

"I always wanted to be a dairy farmer from when I was a kid," Les said.

His son was happy to follow him into farming.

"I was always going to be a farmer," Russ said, having

already spent plenty of time working before he left school at 16.

"Every day I had at school I'd have one off to work," he said.

He started out on the family's then Kongwak property before going into partnership with his parents, at which point the recently sold Leongatha South dairy farm was bought.

Russ reflected on the shift away from the dairy industry.

"I've enjoyed it but I'm happy to have a change," he said.

He mentioned Dianne's vast contribution on the farm.

She has reared calves for 54 years, probably about 280 a year for the last 15 years, getting up at 5am so she'd be finished when the guys finished milking, with Les saying she taught the calves how to swear.

"Sometimes calves wouldn't do what you wanted them to do," she explained, adding they didn't hear anything too bad.

Neither Dianne nor Amy intended marrying a dairy farmer, with Les quick to remark that Dianne set eyes on him and never let him go.

Federal support for storm affected farmers expected

WHILE on a tour at the Ellinbank Smart Farm last week as part of the ASEAN – Australia Special Summit 2024 to celebrate local agriculture, the Federal Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt was asked about funding for farmers.

"I'm very conscious that this

part of Victoria recently experienced those terrible storms, particularly Mirboo North, but I know the region in general

long term government support, as well as clarity and transparency about how funds are accessed and distributed.

"... But as the weeks and months roll on, further support is provided to communities as the impacts become clearer, and I would expect that to occur."

"We always want to make sure that our processes for providing disaster relief are as simple for people as possible."

"We're in the middle of a couple of big reviews of our disaster support at the moment, and one of the aims of that is to simplify the processes," said the Minister.

Federal support is expected for Mirboo North farmers as the impacts become clearer, stated the Federal Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt, while in Ellinbank last week. ob05_1124

Victorian firewood collection areas open in state forests

VICTORIANS can collect free firewood for personal use from state forest collection areas until June 30, but collectors are being reminded to check local weather conditions and plan their route before heading into the forest, especially after recent flooding, storms, and bushfires. Domestic firewood supply in state forests is provided from fallen trees and forest management works.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Director Forest and Fire Operations Gippsland, Sam Quigley said people can collect up to two cubic metres per person per day during a firewood collection season with a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year.

Mr Quigley said firewood collection is only allowed in designated firewood collection areas

during a firewood season and urged the community to stay out of dangerous storm-ravaged areas to allow authorities to clean-up debris.

"These areas are not designated collection areas and anyone entering them to take firewood is not only committing an offence, but they are risking their own safety," he said.

"When collecting, please drive only on formed roads, be aware of the environment around you and safety of yourself and others as trees may fall or drop limbs without warning," he said.

Mr Quigley also encouraged people who rely on firewood for heating and cooking to plan their needs early.

"Firewood collected during the collection seasons needs at least 8-12 months to cure and be dry before use."

The Victorian Government provides targeted energy support and concessions for people on low incomes who buy firewood or need assistance with their energy costs. This includes tailored support via the Energy Assistance Program, a \$250 rebate for eligible households from the Energy Bill Relief Fund, payments of between \$55 and \$619 per year for eligible households that rely on non-mains energy including firewood for heating and cooking, and up to \$650 via the Non Mains Utility Relief Grant for Victorians on low incomes who rely on firewood as their only source of fixed heating.

More information about financial assistance is available for people on low incomes who buy firewood: www.ffd.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support.

It is illegal to cut down trees, collect wood outside designated areas or to leave formed roads to collect.

"Most people do the right thing and stick to the collection limits, but people should know Authorised Officers will be patrolling to catch those who aren't," Mr Quigley said.

Officers can issue fines of \$769 to those caught breaking the rules, and serious offences have a maximum penalty of \$9,615 and/or one year in prison.

Community members can help by reporting any suspected illegal firewood collection on 136 186. To find your local collection area, visit ffd.vic.gov.au/firewood and more information about firewood collection rules can be found at vic.gov.au/collecting-firewood.



Fall armyworm commands growers' attention

VICTORIAN agronomists and growers should be vigilant in crop surveillance for Fall armyworm (FAW), following the impacts the pest is having on crops in Queensland.

Fall armyworm has rapidly spread across Australia after being found in Queensland in January 2020 and is now established in New South Wales, Northern Territory, Western Australia and parts of Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria Plant Pests and Diseases Manager Chris Pittock said a collaborative effort between government, industry and the community is crucial to effectively manage pests such as Fall armyworm.

"If agronomists and farmers find Fall armyworm on their property, they should seek professional advice for treatment and management.

"Given this pest is established in some parts of the state – we have adapted our practices to manage it. We have been able to watch what has happened in the northern states and learn from their experiences."

"Detections of concern to us would be if the pest is found outside of central Victoria near the Murray River, and some



Beware of Fall armyworm on your crops, and report sightings immediately to ensure professional treatment advice.

parts of Gippsland."

Agriculture Victoria has been leading the State response for the National Fall armyworm project, which is coordinated by Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF).

The project aims to support Australian growers with the latest information and tools to manage FAW.

Early detection of FAW is important to ensure producers are making decisions in observance with best practice methods of control, and to reduce

the likelihood of resistance occurring in the pest.

For the most up-to-date information on how to identify and prevent FAW, check out the Fall Armyworm Beatsheet [the-beatsheet.com.au/key-pests/fall-armyworm/].

Agriculture Victoria is monitoring the distribution of Fall armyworm across Victoria. You can report a sighting by contacting the Customer Contact Centre on 136 186 or by completing the Online Reporting Form [forms.bio.vic.gov.au/public-reporting]

Fall Armyworm information
• Fall armyworm has adapted to warm tropical and subtropical areas in northern Australia and can migrate rapidly and be spread by storm events.

• Fall armyworm feed on maize, sweet corn, sorghum and sugarcane, and experiences in Queensland have also shown a high preference for feeding on corn, even though wheat, millet and sunflowers were nearby.

• Adult moths are 32 to 40mm in length, wing tip to wing tip, with a brown or grey forewing and a white hind wing. Male fall armyworms have more patterns and a distinct white spot on each of their forewings.

• Eggs are pale yellow in colour and clustered together in a mass, which often contain 100 – 200 eggs per mass. Egg masses are usually attached to foliage with a layer of mould/silk-like fuzzy substance.

• Newly hatched larvae are light coloured with a larger darker head and then develop white stripes lengthwise as the larvae darken and grow to about 34mm in length.

Help implement Victoria's new Biosecurity Strategy

AGRICULTURE Victoria is calling for applicants to join the Biosecurity Reference Group and help implement Victoria's new Biosecurity Strategy.

Agriculture Victoria Executive Director Katherine Clift said the Biosecurity Reference Group would play a vital role in ensuring Victoria's biosecurity response reflects the entire system.

"The new Biosecurity Strategy outlines how we can work together to manage biosecurity risks and build our resilience to emerging threats," Dr Clift said.

"That's why it is important the Biosecurity Reference Group is filled with people from across Victoria's biosecurity system who can represent the many different interests that biosecurity touches."

Applications are invited from people from all affected groups, including Traditional Owners, agriculture, supply chain, community and environment.

The original Biosecurity Reference Group played a pivotal role in guiding the development of Victoria's new Biosecurity Strategy.

Their expertise ensured the strategy prioritised collaboration and engagement across the biosecurity system to respond to issues, marking a significant shift in Victoria's biosecurity policy.

Dr Clift emphasised the importance of continuing to strengthen how Victoria manages emerging biosecurity threats such as foot-and-mouth disease and red imported fire ants.

"The renewed Biosecurity Reference Group will help guide the implementation of the strategy, including how we should measure success," Dr Clift said.

"This will help safeguard our farms and parks, pets and gardens, our native plants and animals, the safety of our food, cultural integrity of our landscapes and success of our industries."

Submit an expression of interest to join the Biosecurity Reference Group visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/brg by 5pm Wednesday, April 3.

GippsDairy helps farmers along the succession path

THROUGHOUT the process of delivering Our Farm Our Plan in Gippsland, GippsDairy Extension Advisor Kim Price realised the need for more information to be readily available to dairy farmers in Gippsland about succession planning.

"Statistics would show less than 20 per cent of Gippsland dairy farms have clear succession plans, and this tells me we need to get better at this. It's a driving factor to make days like this happen," said Kim.

Kim joined forces with Colin Wright, Principal and Agri team leader with Phillipsons Agri Group, and Matt Harms from ONFARM Consulting to put together a workshop that would start to help farmers along the succession path.

Matt began the day with some basic ground rules for succession planning.

"First rule - there are no rules! Every situation, every family, every set of assets and every family's circumstances are unique, so what works

well for one may not for another," he said.

"Have your trusted team, and work with them to find the options or pathways that work best for you and your family. Keep the communication lines open and respectful."

The Wednesday event was attended by almost 40 progressive dairy farmers, engaging in succession discussions in an open forum at the RACV Inverloch Resort.

The day featured a farmer discussion panel - Benn Thex-

ton and the Loughridge family including Bill, Faye, Jodi, and Brett. The Loughridges spoke about their progress with their succession plan. Benn spoke about the opportunities he had been provided by his parents, and how that helped them achieve where they are today.

For information on how to start your succession planning contact Matt Harms info@onfarmconsulting.com.au or Colin Wright colin.wright@philipsons.com.au

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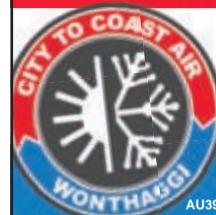
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DEATHS

BARTON
(nee McKinley), Irene:
29.02.2024
in Western Australia.
A friendship lasting 50 years. Sadly missed.
Condolences to Russell, Adele, sister Ina and families.
Bruce and Sheila Campbell.

BEYER,
Grant William:

Grant William Beyer passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family at the Victorian Heart Hospital on Monday, March 4, aged 71.
Loving husband of 51 years to Kerry.
Much loved father and father-in-law to Claire, Damien and Luke (dec.).
Grandpapa to Evelyn and April.
Forever in our hearts.

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DEATHS

CADEE,
William Ernest (Bill):
Late of Corio.
Passed away peacefully on March 9, 2024.
Dearly loved brother of Elaine, brother-in-law of John (dec.).
Loved uncle of Sandra (dec.), Leanne, and Lisa.
Loved brother to Gladys, Ron, and Lorna (all dec.).
You will never be forgotten and your 7.00pm nightly phone calls over the years made my day.
You will be sadly missed forever.

Treasured memories always by Elaine and family.
Sympathy to Lorna, Judy, Deb, and families.

DEATHS**HARRISON,**
Russell:

Long time Player, Administrator and Life Member of the Nerrena Cricket Club, a proud player in the clubs first A Grade premiership in 1976-77.

Our deepest sympathy to Eileen, Ash, Jane, Cohen and Raidyn from the Nerrena Cricket Club.

Rest in peace.

JACKSON, Kath:
Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc. (BCHAC).

The Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club is sad to advise the passing of Kath in the early morning of 6 March. Kath, with husband Eddie had been a member of our club since 2010, and with GHAC prior to 2010. Kath and Eddie were regular attendees at our monthly meetings, social events and joined the club on several annual rallies in their Wolseley club car.

Kath had been ill for some time and will be missed by all who knew her.

Our condolences to Eddie, family and friends.

Brian Asbury
Secretary.

DEATHS

LEWIS, Dennis:
A hardworking, honest, dependable man and loyal friend.
He was inspirational and overcame many challenges throughout his lifetime.

Dennis was a very decent man and we were honoured to have known him.

Paula, Alan and family.

MAIN
(nee Hansen), Irene:

Passed away peacefully at Wonthaggi Hospital on 02.03.2024.

Our dearest Nine, even though you are no longer with us we all have our own treasured memories to hold onto. Thanks for all you have done for our family, we will miss you.

Gary, Anne, Louis, Sean, and families.

MORRISON, Patricia:

Passed away peacefully at Korumburra Hospital on March 7, 2024, at the age of 91.

Late of Korumburra and previously, Bena. Wife of Alex Morrison (dec.). Daughter of Martha and Cyril Davey (both dec.) of Strzelecki.

Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law to Maureen and Robert and much loved Nan to Michael and Linda, Shelley and Troy.

A very special Great Nanny to Erin, Ellie; Maya and Aydan.

Now resting in peace.

DEATHS

MORRISON, Patricia:
Mum to Gary.
It's not what we write, it's not what we say, it's how we remember you in our own special way.

You will be sadly missed.

- Gary and Nola.

Nan to Fiona and Jai. Great Nan to Matilda, Ryver, Evie and Indi and Nan to Nicole and Ryan, friend to Kaye.

Mother and mother-in-law of Phillip and Joy. Dear Nan of Brett and Mel, Scott and Ebony and Catherine. Great Nanny Pat to Harriet, Clover and Finn.

Treasured memories, always in our thoughts.

Much loved mother and mother-in-law to Lindsay & Sue and wonderful Nan to Stacey and Jason, Robert, Nicholas and Rhiannon and Great Grandmother to Elsie.

She will be sadly missed.

OAKLEY
(nee Demo), Vera:

Loved and loving wife of Tom (dec.). Devoted mother of Gradey and Grant (both dec.).

Caring grandmother of Margaret and Jason. Great grandmother of four.

Sister of Joan, Else (both dec.), Lorraine, Valorie and Brian.

Passed after a long illness 04.03.2024. in Fremantle W.A.

Remembered and loved by John (dec.), Jill, Carol, Linda and families.

OAKLEY,
Vera Joan:

Loving memories of our sister Vera Joan Oakley (Demo).

Vera passed away peacefully at Fiona Stanley Hospital W.A. on March 3, 2024 to join her husband Tom and their sons Grady and Grant.

"Our Lovely Bud", you leave us with so many special memories.

Much loved by Val and Lorraine Hart and their families.

PAPPALARDO
(nee Reda), Maria:

Passed away peacefully at Woorayl Lodge Leongatha aged 73 years.

Loving wife of Venero (dec.).

Loving daughter to Fiora and Domenico (both dec.).

Sister of Rosina and Raffaele.

Auntie to many nieces and nephews.

Our dearest sister now at rest.

DEATHS

THOMPSON,
Warren Andrew:
Mum to Gary.
It's not what we write, it's not what we say, it's how we remember you in our own special way.

You will be sadly missed.

- Gary and Nola.

Warren was surrounded by the love of his family and friends, departed this world in the arms of his three sons.

TROTTER,
David Mark:

To my Dave, who sadly passed away March 4.

We had known each other for 55 years. We were kids when we met and then we fell in love.

A lifetime we spent together married for 53 years. You were my love, my life, my everything. Even my speller, I wasn't any good at spelling.

We had our ups and downs but mostly ups, plus so much happiness together.

Oh how much I loved you Dave. My beautiful memories that I will always have. I never stopped loving you. Rest in peace my Dave. Love you always. Forever your Duppie



TROTTER, Dave:

Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc. (BCHAC).

Dave Trotter a BCHAC member passed away on the March 4, 2024, as a result of an accident he incurred on New Years Day.

Dave joined the club in 2018 and was an active committee member who contributed to the management of the club for a number of years.

Dave will be sorely missed by club members. Our sincere condolences and best wishes to family and friends.

-- Brian Asbury
Secretary BCHAC.

FUNERALS

BEYER:

A Funeral Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr Grant Beyer will be held at the Mirboo Recreation Reserve, Strzelecki Highway Mirboo North on Thursday, March 14 2024 commencing 2pm.

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MAIN:
The Funeral Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs. Irene Main will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Rd, Wonthaggi on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 commencing at 10.30am

A Private Cremation will follow.

Handley & Anderson
Wonthaggi 5672 1074

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Available in 2, 3 and 4 drawers. Over 8 colours to choose from. Order now at the Sentinel-Times Wonthaggi office 47 McBride Avenue 5672 1888

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Small squares, this season, good quality, \$10 per bale, free delivery. Phone 5657 3291.

GARAGE SALES

DUMBALK:
48 Farmers Road, Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, 10am - 3pm. Household goods, tools galore. A bit of everything! CASH ONLY.

MEGA DUMBALK COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES:
Saturday, March 16, 8am - 1pm. Maps at Community Centre Tarwin Street, Dumbalk. Gold coin donation. 15+ locations in town and surrounds.

NYORA:
23 Patman Drive, Saturday and Sunday, March 16, and 17, 8.30am to 4.30pm STRICT. All sorts, camping, powertools, garden, toys and more.

WONTHAGGI:
58 Broome Crescent, Saturday, March 16, 8am - 4pm. Everything must go.

USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS**BASS COAST CAR REMOVALS**

We pay you for your unwanted cars, 4x4's & trucks

We can remove farm scrap metal for free. Towing now available.

Call Shane 7 days a week 5678 2002 or 0407 599 616

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

Advertisements offering a used motor car for sale must include in the advertisement:

- The cash price of the motor car; and
- Whichever of the following is applicable...
 - If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or
 - If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

IN MEMORIAM

LINDSAY, Suzanne (Sue):

To my darling wife, three years have passed. Your memory will never be forgotten.

Your loving husband Greg.

SMYTHE, George Edward (Ted):

14.03.2021. Dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. We miss you so.

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Sentinel-Times Classifieds

MEETINGS

South Gippsland Jazz Society
AGM
April 7 at 2pm
at the Warrawee Club Rooms,
A'Beckett Street,
Inverloch

SITUATIONS VACANT

DAIRY FARM HAND POSITIONS:
One calf rearer,
one milker required.
Kongwak.
No accommodation.
Wayne 0473 814 356.

sgst.com.au

PUBLIC NOTICES



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Leongatha RSL Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held at the clubrooms on **Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:30pm**.

Nominations are invited until 5pm on Friday, March 29 for the following positions which become vacant at the Annual General Meeting.

- President (Service) Two (2) Year Term
- Secretary (Service/Affiliate) Two (2) Year Term (Must have served at least one year on the Committee in the past five years)
- Committee: Vacancy exists for One (1) Committee person. Two (2) Year Term

Nomination forms are available from staff at reception. These forms need to be signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder. All are required to be service or affiliate members of the sub-branch. They are required to be financial for 2024.

A fifty (50) word personal profile may be submitted with nominations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Noel Laing on 0407 522 889.

SITUATIONS VACANT

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Employment Opportunity

Operations Team Member – Maintenance & Construction (Sealed roads)

- Full Time Ongoing
- Monday to Friday 7.00am to 4.00pm
- 9 day fortnight
- Commencing Salary \$65,499 (incl. Industry Allowance) + 11% superannuation
- Based at our Leongatha depot

Enquiries to Brad Hender, Coordinator Infrastructure Maintenance on 5662 9122.

For more information and to apply, please go to www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/employment

SITUATIONS VACANT



Owner Drivers

We are a successful, family-owned transport company based in Traralgon, looking for Owner Drivers to join our team. We are looking for people with 12 or 14 pallet tautliners with full size tailgates. We are also looking for people with long wheelbase transit vans. Successful applicants will be offered consistent work across the Gippsland region. Vehicles must be of suitable age and appearance.

The successful contractors would already be set up as a registered company with appropriate insurances for yourself and your vehicle.

Successful applicants would be able to provide:

- A trolley jack and all other related safety and personal protective equipment
- Flexibility in your work hours when required
- Good communication and presentation skills

If you are interested, please contact Ben on 0419 569 433 or 03 5176 2244

SITUATIONS VACANT



ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN A CARING AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

LIBRARY MANAGER (Campus Librarian)

Full Time, Ongoing Position

Bass Coast College is seeking a suitably qualified Library Manager to join its team.

Role Description is available on the Department of Education's online job advertisement and recruitment management system Recruitment Online, or please contact

Nancy Crismanich on 5611 4000 for further information.

Applications need to be submitted through Recruitment Online <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/careers/Pages/advacsSCH.aspx>

Applications close: **Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

JA22183

Connect with us



@sentinel-times

DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.30pm

Classified double column

Fridays 4.30pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE



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36 McCartin St, Leongatha



Mail:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

Office Hours:
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

Payments accepted:



Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Sentinel-Times

Head of Senior School

The Newhaven College Senior School consists of approximately 400 students from Years 9 to 12. The Senior School provides a nurturing environment with programmes specifically designed for this exciting time of schooling. Each young person is supported in their individual growth in these important years in a way that sets them up for future success. The Senior School offers the opportunity for all students to complete their VCE in preparation for further study, apprenticeship or to enter the workforce.

Students in Years 10 to 12 are located in their own Senior School building and are cared for in vertical Houses, supported by their Mentor and House Leader. Year 9, whilst part of Senior School, have a stand-alone experiential year of learning and are based in the purpose-built Year 9 Environmental Centre.

The Head of Senior School is responsible for the day to day running of the Senior School and oversees the academic, pastoral care and co-curricular programme. Reporting directly to the Principal, the Head of Senior School is part of the College's Leadership Team & plays a key role in the implementation of the College's Strategic Direction, Hearts & Minds, and College Vision.

For further information visit: newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven

Applications close 4:00pm Tuesday 26 March.



**NEWHAVEN
COLLEGE**





Team Leader South Gippsland

Port Welshpool, Full time

Gippsland Ports is a provider of waterway management, dredging, marine infrastructure and asset management services along the Gippsland coast from Anderson Inlet to Mallacoota.

We are currently seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to assist the Manager to accomplish all aspects of day-to-day operations of the Port Welshpool Depot, including administration and programming of works, on-the-job supervision of staff, adherence to OHS policies and procedures and to take a lead role in the construction, repair and maintenance of marine based assets.

The ideal candidate should have strong construction experience and knowledge, good interpersonal and supervisory skills, and be able to work independently and in a team environment.

Enquiries about this position should be directed to the Manager South Gippsland, Jake Griffin on 0400 932 576.

To be considered for this position, candidates must address the key selection criteria found within the position description.

For a full position description and application details, please visit our website www.gippslandports.vic.gov.au/employment.php

Applications close on Sunday, 24 March 2024

JEN2319



LIVE LOCAL, WORK LOCAL

In Wonthaggi



Training Provided
Competitive Pay
Great Employee Benefits



Expression of Interest

Community Advisory Committee Members

Gippsland PHN is part of a national network of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia. PHNs are funded to work towards the objective of meeting the health needs of the most vulnerable people in the community or those most at risk of poor health outcomes. Gippsland PHN works closely with community and the primary health sector to identify opportunities to improve health outcomes in Gippsland, through better coordination and support of health services and by commissioning new services to address identified health needs.

Gippsland PHN is seeking expressions of interest for **Community Advisory Committee members** to commence 1 July 2024 for a three-year term.

We are looking for individuals who would like to provide input and advice on improving health care services for consumers in Gippsland.

Gippsland PHN is seeking Committee members from a range of backgrounds, with different perspectives of the health sector:

- Are you a consumer, carer and/or patient of the primary health care system?
- Do you have lived experience of a disability or care for someone with a disability?
- Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
- Do you have a multicultural background?

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you.

How to apply

All potential nominees should review the online information and complete the Expression of Interest link available at <https://gphn.org.au/about-us/caceoi/>. For more information, please email company.secretary@gphn.org.au

Applications Close: Sunday, March 17, 2024

JEN2309

Cleaners

Required for school cleaning in Bass area.

Part time shifts commencing 3pm Monday to Friday.

Must have or will get WWC and Police check.

Federal Award rates apply, training available to right candidates.

Please send resume to customerservice@sebastiangu.com.au

JEN261

Numix Concrete

Agi Truck Driver/2IC

We have a casual agi truck driving position available, with potential to go full time based at our Leongatha concrete plant. We are seeking somebody who has a good work ethic and is capable of working Monday to Friday and some Saturdays.

The successful applicant will need:

- Hold a current Australian Driver's Licence.
- HR Licence essential.
- Reliable Transport.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Proven ability to work well in a team environment.
- Road Ranger experience preferred.

We offer flexible working hours, above award wages plus penalties, and supply uniforms and boots. An immediate start is available to the right applicant.

Please email through your resume to: accounts@kennedyhaulage.com.au

Applications close:
Friday March 22, 2024

JEN2317



EDNEY'S



HYUNDAI

Motor Mechanic

Edney's of Leongatha is seeking a qualified motor mechanic to join its expanding Nissan/Hyundai dealership. The successful applicant will be given the latest dealership training throughout their employment while working in a friendly & modern environment. If you are looking for a change of environment, a great place to work then this is for you.

Come & join our team.

3rd & 4th year apprentice will be considered.

Forward hand written applications to:
Edney's Leongatha
Attention: Nick McRae
PO Box 72, Leongatha, 3953
nick@edney.com.au

JEN2321



Tractor operator

We have a position available for an experienced tractor operator.

The role is varied and will include earthmoving jobs as well as silage, slashing and cultivating etc.

The position can be full or part time and possibly include other farm roles off season. HC licence an advantage. Competitive rate/package available. Based Tarwin Lower.

Email resume to admin@daveharris.com.au or contact Dave 0438 056 987

JEN2303



Applications are warmly invited for the position of:

Director of Business

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced Director of Business who is committed to making a significant contribution to the continuing growth and development of Newhaven College.

The position requires:

- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in financial management and reporting
- A purposeful leader, who displays qualities of trust, respect, integrity and confidentiality
- An outstanding communicator who fosters collegiality, building capacity in all stakeholders

Applications close Monday 18 March.

Please go to the Director of Business listing on SEEK for more information.



NEWHAVEN
COLLEGE



JEN2312

Employment

Complete jobs listing online | www.sgst.com.au

School Crossing Supervisor Relievers



- 2x casual positions available

- \$38 per hour plus superannuation

Are you committed to the safety of children in our community?

We are seeking dedicated individuals to serve as Casual School Crossing Supervisors in Wonthaggi and surrounding suburbs.

Training is provided and you can make a difference by helping ensure safe passage for students to and from school.

For more information visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/careers or contact Brian Elliot, Team Leader Road Safety on 0427 047 625.

Applications close 24 March 2024

Elders Real Estate

Property Manager

Leongatha – Permanent, part time basis

- Be part of a dynamic, friendly & supportive team
- Competitive salary + opportunity for annual incentive
- Flexibility + access to professional development + uniform allowance

We are looking for a highly motivated person with excellent customer service skills to join the Elders Team.

You will ideally have following to be considered for the role:

- Have previous experience as a Property Manager
- Possess an understanding of Residential Tenancy Legislation
- Hold a current driver's licence and a Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice
- Have excellent communication, negotiation, and client relationship skills
- Have a keen eye for detail
- The ability to work as part of a team but also able to work autonomously without supervision

Responsibilities:

- Building and maintaining client relationships to understand their current & future needs
- Identifying and cultivating new opportunities for new and existing clients' investments
- Carrying out routine property inspections
- Debtor management
- Preparation of necessary documents for new and existing landlords and tenants

For further information on the role please contact Katrina on 0428 571 083

Applications via email to Katrina.griggs@elders.com.au or via post to Elders, 37 Bair St, Leongatha, VIC, 3953

Applications close 5pm Wednesday, March 20

Is your employment opportunity listed online?

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at

www.sgst.com.au

Email your job adverts to: ads@sgst.com.au

DEADLINE: Fridays 4.30pm

Sentinel-Times



South Gippsland Hospital

Positions Vacant

Registered Nurse Midwife or Registered Nurse

RN Grade 2 up to 0.53 EFT

Administration Officer – Home Care Packages

Grade 1A

0.42 EFT permanent part time

Podiatrist

Grade 1 or Grade 2

0.84 EFT, permanent part time

For more information

<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

Expressions of Interest - Volunteers

- Consumer Information and Communications
- Transition Care Program

<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers/>

Celebrate National Eucalypt Day in South Gippsland

NATIONAL Eucalypt Day! (NED) What started as a small event eleven years ago is now an annual national celebration of our iconic Aussie gum tree. Organised by individual groups, events like ours are unified through a trust, Eucalypt Australia, and widely advertised on social media. NED is promoted by TV personality Costa Georgiadis and gum gurus such as Dean Nicolle.

This all came about because one Bjarne K Dahl, a forestry expert, made a lot of money over his lifetime in the bush – a fortune, in fact, from fortuitous land purchases. Having no heirs, he set up a bequest to promote, study and protect the trees he loved. This trust fund is now Eucalypt Australia and Dahl's birth date (March 23) is recognised annually.

Here in South Gippsland, we are celebrating National Eucalypt Day this year on the weekend of March 23 and 24 with two open days at the pioneer Lester property in Mardan, and on Saturday at Korumburra's beautiful, well established Botanic Park.

For many years now Richard Lester has been successfully growing Eucalypt species of all shapes and sizes that would not normally grow in our climate. A tour of his collection shows how he manages this – very useful knowledge now that so many exotic gums are readily available. Species such as E. tetraptera (Square Fruited Mallee), which is suggested as a tree for small gardens, benefit from careful preparation.

The Lester farm also has some fine examples of remnant gums plus many other trees planted over generations. Among these is Eucalyptus strzeleckii.

The Strzelecki gum, (aka Wax Tip), gets a particular mention for three main reasons:

Firstly, is that the Korumburra Botanic Park has two mature E. strzeleckii in Olsens Walk and two thriving young specimens donated to the Park over the last few years.

Secondly, FOKBP have also planted several other Strzeleckii seedlings in the Olsens Walk area of the Botanic Park last year.

Thirdly, and most important, is to spread the word that our fine local E. strzeleckii, while not yet facing extinction, is in escalating decline. The hope



Though not yet extinct, the Strzelecki gum is in decline with specimens on display in Korumburra.

is that awareness will encourage farmers and people with large properties to plant seeds (described as quite easy to germinate) or tube stock.

There is plenty of general and scientific information about eucalypts online. Wikipedia's Eucalyptus strzeleckii information is very good, with several references and addresses. There are many other sites. Be aware it is good to have a cuppa on hand once you start googling!

In 2024 FOKBP intend to plant several seedlings of E. Kitsoniana (Gippsland Mallee or Bog Gum) in the Botanic Park to add further diversity to the Park's eucalypti.

And of course, there will be info handouts available at both event sites:

Richard Lester, 731 Mardan Road, Leongatha (Saturday and Sunday, March 23 – 24, 10am to 4pm)

Korumburra Botanic Park, Open every day. (Saturday March 23 – guided tour 2pm)

For information, look for posters or contact:

Richard Lester: 0419 624 122, lesterrc46@gmail.com

Ben Ellis: friends.burra.botanic@gmail.com



The inaugural Poppy's Run was well supported, with plans for it to become an annual event.

Runners and volunteers honour Poppy Mae

'POPPY'S Run' participants set out from Leongatha on Sunday, March 3, raising funds for Red Nose Australia in memory of Poppy Mae who was born sleeping on November 12 last year.

Around 100 friends and family of Poppy Mae's parents Lewie and Jordy Rankin rallied together to take part in or support the event.

Her dad Lewie and several of his mates completed a full 42km marathon, starting in Leongatha and taking in Buffalo, before finishing in Meeniyan, while others tackled the 21km or 5km course.

Over the past three months over \$36,000 has been raised for Red Nose Australia in Poppy Mae's honour, thanks to the wider community.

The Invy Espy, Marriots and Bay Built Homes received a special mention from organisers, being the major sponsors

for the run, with those in charge of the Powlett River Campdraft also thanked for their generous donation.

Red Nose Australia provides support for bereaved parents and families who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth and child loss.

The organisation also helps fund research into possible causes and prevention of sudden unexpected death in infancy and stillbirth, having contributed over \$18 million to that cause since 1988.

With six babies on average born still in Australia every day, Jordy and Lewie have set out to do what they can to prevent other parents from going through what they have.

They plan to make 'Poppy's Run' an annual event to continue to raise awareness and to keep Poppy's legacy alive.



Ferrari 250LM racing at Phillip Island over the weekend.
Photo: Rebecca Hind - Revved Photography

Spectacular historic racing does not disappoint the large crowd

By Peter R Hill

AFTER a number of years of being impacted by COVID the Victorian Historic Racing Register's Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport was back to its brilliant best. There were a handful of late withdrawals but entries still topped 410 across ten categories. The skies over the island and the sea were clear blue with temperatures in the mid-thirties Celsius on each of the three main days.

A large number of entrants took advantage of the track being open for practice on Thursday and, to the organisers surprise and delight a significant number of spectators attended. Perhaps they had checked the forecast for the weekend and decided to see the cars in the relative cool of the practice day.

This year there were overseas drivers in the form of a contingent of 12 Kiwis who launched an invasion across the Tasman. Ten of these entries were Formula 5000s contesting the season's fourth round of the Tasman Cup Revival series. With Australian entrants there were a total of 21 F5000s. The other two Kiwi entries were McLaren CanAm cars. These CanAm M8Bs would be joined by the four New Zealand McLaren M10As and Bs and Australian owned McLarens at the Australian Grand Prix two weekends after Phillip Island for the Bruce McLaren & the Tasman Era feature/tribute. Five of the New Zealand F5000s will be shipped to England to compete at Brands Hatch.

In addition to the F5000s the organisers headlined two very different race cars — the Ferrari 250LM and the Holden Torana L34.

The stunning Pininfarina designed 250LM was a 1964 NART car, chassis number: 5909 which in its day had been raced by Jochen Rhindt, Umberto Maglioli, David Piper, John Surtees and Lorenzo Bandini. Spencer Martin, Australian Drivers Champion in 1966 and 1967, was Patron of the event. Martin successfully raced a Ferrari 250LM for David McKay's Scuderia Veloce team. Martin drove the 250LM on the parade laps before the start of the sports car races. The car's owner/custodian ran the car in the Regularity events over the weekend.

Regularity events allow cars to be exercised on the track without the cut and thrust of racing. Each driver nominates a lap time then tries to consistently achieve that time. A field of 59 cars ran in each of these Regularity events with a dazzling selection of vehicles.

In addition to the LM250, amongst many others there was a Ferrari 206SP; a Ferrari Daytona Group 4; a Ferrari P4 replica; a McLaren M8B; a

a lovely Alpine Renault A110; and a 1936 supercharged MG TA driven by 22-year-old Rachael Brown.

The fiftieth anniversary of the release of the Holden Torana L34 was the cause of its celebration. The car that won the 1976 Bathurst in the hands of John Fitzpatrick and Bob Morris was on display in the paddock. This car is particularly close to the heart of the Festival's Chairman Ian Tate, as he built the engine. When I spoke with Ian, he expressed his delight at having the Fitzpatrick/Morris car on display and the 40 other L34s that would celebrate the anniversary with on-circuit parades over the weekend.

The Phillip Island track has a sloping grassy area that runs for most of the length of the main straight. This is positioned several metres above the height of the track and as well as providing an excellent viewing area the organisers allocate sections along its length to car clubs to display members' vehicles. This year 32 car clubs displayed a total of 1,100 cars — a magnificent sight as well as being an added attraction for the thousands of spectators who braved the very hot weather. There is a pavilion on that same stretch of the circuit that houses stalls offering books, models, enamel signs, parts and all manner of motorising bric-a-brac plus more car displays.

Kiwi Codie Banks dominated all the F5000 races in his Lola T332. For the first race he was joined on the front row of the grid by his father David in his Talon MR1.

Other events included a field of 46 Historic Formula Fords. There was a heavy representation of Van Diemens plus some Swifts, Lolas and Reynards then successful Australian cars — Elfin, Elwyn and Galloway. Although Nicholas McBride ran away from the rest in his Swift to claim the Larry Perkins Cup, there was some excellent racing throughout the field.

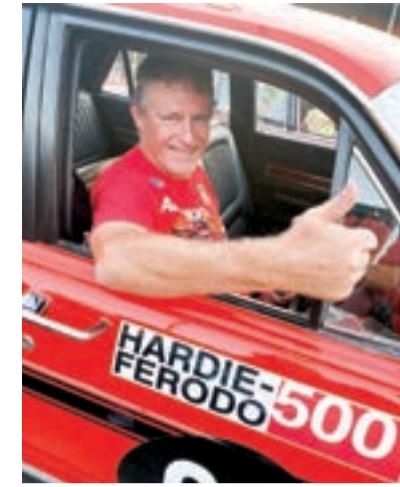
In amongst the 45 Historic Touring Cars, George Miedecke enjoyed success in a Ford Sierra Cosworth in one race and came second to Bathurst winner Stephen Richards in his Nissan Skyline GTSR3 in another.

There were plenty of Ford versus Holden battles plus some entertaining racing in a field full of Mustangs, Chevrolet Camaros, Valiant Chargers and Holden Toranas.

By Sunday evening there were plenty of sunburnt but happy people leaving this picturesque and amazing Phillip Island Grand Prix international racing circuit.



Tony Sawford of Gembrook brought his pride and joy, this Allan Grice-driven Craven Mild Torana A9X to the Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport at the weekend, drove in the races and brought it into town for the street parade.



Mark Delahoy had his Ford XW Falcon GTHO Phase II replica of the car driven by Allan Moffat to win the 1970 Hardie-Ferodo 500 at Bathurst in Friday night's car show in Cowes on Friday.

What a weekend of motorsport on the Island

LAMBORGHINIS, Ferraris, a Ford Falcon GTHO Phase III, a superb E-type Jaguar, dozens of Holden Torana SL/R 5000 L34s celebrating 50 years and many more.

The street parade in Thompson Avenue Cowes last Friday night, as part of the Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsports, was truly a sight to behold for motor enthusiasts as much as the casual observer.

Mark Delahoy made the trip down to Phillip Island for the classic car races and also the street parade, rolling out his exact replica of

the Ford XW Falcon GTHO Phase II car piloted by Allan Moffat to win the 1970 Hardie-Ferodo 500 at Bathurst.

"It's got a 351 Cleveland engine, nine-inch diff and four-speed top loader. If you tell them that, they'll know what I'm talking about," said Mark.

There was plenty of that sort of talk.

And when the cars revved their engines, ready to take off after the show there was no looking away as shiny machine after glowing pride and joy filed down the street and

into the night.

It had been a huge weekend of motorsport on the Island, with the sounds from the GP Track audible all over the island from Friday through to Sunday.

But, apart from the odd late-night rev of an engine or brief spin of the wheels, they were a very happy crowd, happy to get together at cafés, restaurants and local pubs after a big, hot day at the track.

Many locals say it's the best weekend of motorsport on the Island all year, and it would be hard to argue with that.



Back from left, Warren Turner, Tony Willcocks, Richard Elliott, Matt Davies, Glenn Paine, front from left, Matt Smith, Nathan Johnston and Brett Moore were part of Town's 03/04 A Grade premiership team.

Premiership players back at Leongatha Town

LEONGATHA Town Cricket Club welcomed back some of its premiership players on Saturday night.

The club took the opportunity to celebrate its winning teams — the 83/84 B Grade side, the 93/94 C Grade side and the 03/04 A Grade side.

The 03/04 premiership was described as "one of the great grand finals" and came down to the wire.

Playing against OMK, both teams had 90 overs and it came down to two balls, with Town ending up on the winning side.

"We finished on top of the ladder,

but it was a pretty even competition," A Grade premiership captain Matt Smith said.

"It was a real even spread of cricketers — nobody dominated. We had a strong team, we didn't rely on any one person. Only one person made 100 for the year, so everyone contributed. You have to be a team to win premierships."

The top batsmen of the A Grade premiership were Brett Moore with 56 runs and Glenn Paine with 51 runs.

Town won with 9/238.

The 83/84 C Grade premiership was against Koonwarra and saw a

great performance from Ian Rutherford who took four wickets.

Key batsmen were J. O'Brien with 63 runs and N. Park with 53 runs.

Town made a total score of 237. The 93/94 C Grade grand final was played against the Rovers.

Town's top bowlers were M. Trotman, claiming 5/38, and Z. Blake, who took 4/38.

Around 50 people attended the event to catch up, see a few old faces and have a bit of fun.

A few of the premiership players travelled interstate to be part of the occasion.

Heat fails to slow SGB swimmers

IT WAS not just the weather that was hot over the weekend at Traralgon at the 2024 Gippsland Championships, the SGB swimmers' times were as well. With plenty of personal bests, finalists, medallists and even a handful of swimmers scoring National Times. Despite the soaring heat, the 115 SGB swimmers once again gave superb efforts against the other Gippsland clubs.

While some might think swimming is the perfect sport for the warm weather, the heat took its toll on the swimmers between races, with the warmup pool a popular spot for cool down swims to get the body cool enough to be ready to race.

Swim heats were held in the morning, with the top eight swimmers progressing to the night's finals, where SGB was well represented. The finals sessions finished with relays, with great excitement from the stands as the squad cheered home their teams.

The club was challenged by Head Coach Dylan Muir to list on a whiteboard something they were proud of in their swimming and by the end of the weekend it was full of moments of which the club was proud.

SGB is still hot on the heels of Traralgon who, with a much larger team, won the Ken and Pat Hewat Premiership Trophy for most points overall with SGB coming second for the seventh year in a row. SGB retained the Ashley Delaney 14&U Team Award for the fifth year running, for most points achieved by the



The 10 and under medley relay secured a gold at the Championships.

club's Under 14 swimmers.

The coaches were proud of the swimmers' efforts.

"This is a huge meet for the club", said Dylan.

"Everyone is involved, from the Under 8 relay teams to the over 35 relay teams and all the individual swimmers. They are all important and help to make the team and the event what it is. We have swimmers really giving their all, they have stood up when we needed them to and the support from the sidelines has lifted them. We knew it would be

a huge ask to try to knock off Traralgon, so we'll leave that challenge till next year."

It's a big week for many of the swimmers with school regional swimming in Sale on Thursday, followed by the All-Juniors semi-finals and finals at MSAC next weekend.

The SGB team were: Emma Barclay, Rebecca Barclay, Hayden Barnes, Cooper Bennett, Eden Bennett, Freya Berry, Billy Boyd, Maddison Boyd, Maximilian Brocklesby, Rex Brocklesby, Asha Chalmers, Nyah Chapman, Tully Chapman, Gemma Cook, Angus Cousins, Claudia Croatto, Emily Croatto, Isabel Croatto, Tomei Dal Pozzo, Molly Dettbarn, Byron Doran, Jaya Dowel, Andi Fisher, Billy Fisher, Maggie Fisher, Cormac Flynn, Daisy Giliam-Rodda, Caiden Gill, Lachie Grimes, Cayden Gunn, Callum Hackett, Amy Hodson, Hannah Hunt, Joshua Hunt, Sienna Hunt, Holly Hurst, Lucas Jungwirth, Indi Keady, Molly Kooloos, Rachel Kooloos, Kiaran Kranen, Donna Lancaster, Amalia Lofgren, Ava Lucas, Hannah Lucas, Mostyn Lumsden, Austin Lynch, Ethan Lynch, Isabella Lynch, Rahni Matheson, Sienna Matheson, Tayah Matheson, Lorrianne McKenzie, Neka McKenzie, Sophie McKenzie, Heidi McMillan, Archer McRae, Fletcher McRae, Harper McRae, Hunter McRae, Lacey McRae, Reece McRae, Ruby McRae, Finn Middleton, Anna Miletto, Jade Mitchell, Tara Mitchell, Dylan Muir, Hugh Munro, Skye Munro, Bayley Nicholas, Trinity O'Keefe, Brooklyn Packer, Mitchell Packer, Lachlan Paterson, Zoe Paterson, Georgia Perry, Harper Perry, Ruby Pirouet, Maddison Pocklington, Cooper Quaife, Gypsy Quaife, Josie Richer, Mya Richer, Eden Roberts, Katherine Roberts, Miah Roberts, Georgia Rump, Jemma Rump, Madison Rump, Abbie Saario, Caitlin Saario, Jayden Saario, Ned Sheahan, Louise Sherar, Zachary Sherar, Will Simmons, Aidan Smyth, Archie Smyth, Darby Smyth, Lara Smyth, Matilda Swann, Jarrah Tagell, Jeddah Tagell, Matthew Thornby, Kaela Welsh and Mason Wiggins.



Top Males in the Phillip Island Boardriders' 2024 Cat Bay Classic were Andy McHenry - first, Liam McCafferty - second and Matt Krummins - third.



Top Females in the Phillip Island Boardriders' 2024 Cat Bay Classic were, Ebony Maier - first, Jaz Helsinger - second and Nala Taylor - third.

Phillip Island Boardriders' 2024 Cat Bay Classic

THE PHILLIP Island Boardriders' 2024 Cat Bay Classic ran at Anzacs over Saturday and Sunday (March 9-10).

Longboard Captain Andy McHenry and his team pulled together a massive weekend, with 50 athletes surfing over two epic days of surf.

The new judging format saw each athlete surf three rounds, with their top two waves from

each round totalled for six waves for their overall score.

This essentially meant everyone was surfing against everyone across all heats all weekend.

Results

Junior Male: Oscar Hughes (16.20)

Junior Female: Savannah Bennett (8.23)

Style Master: 1st Liam Mc-

Cafferty (27.37), 2nd Brian Thompson (16.99), 3rd Andrew Lidsey (18.11)

Top Female: 1st Ebony Maier (24.61), 2nd Jaz Helsinger (20.80), 3rd Nala Taylor (18.50)

Top Male: 1st Andy McHenry (29.46), 2nd Liam McCafferty (27.37), 3rd Matt Krummins (27.33)

Open Winners: 1st Andy McHenry, 2nd Liam McCafferty,

3rd Matt Krummins
Best Nose Ride: Jack Dell-Rennie

Best Cutback: Andrew Lidsey
Aussie Mongrel: Chooka (Warren Fowler)

Rip Curl Phillip Island were the major sponsors, with local artist Zev Landes creating all of the Cat Bay Classic graphics, and Archi Sign creating the custom trophies.

Island Darts League embraces cutting-edge scoring system

THE Phillip Island & Districts Darts League (PIDD) is raising the bar this season with a fantastic new digital scoring system! The Dart Connect app brings a whole new level of excitement to the game, providing players and fans with a wealth of cool stats and insights.

League President Scott Lethbridge is pumped about the new addition, calling it a "game-changer" for the PIDD.

"This is awesome!" Lethbridge enthused. "It'll be super helpful for everyone to be able to track their progress and see how the teams are stacking up."

A big shoutout goes to Bendigo Bank for their generous support. Their contribution of iPads made this state-of-the-art system possible. Lethbridge expressed his sincere appreciation for Bendigo Bank's commitment to local sports.

While some teams are still finding their rhythm, Round 2 saw some truly impressive throws and convincing victories.

Meanwhile, Bob Hee continues his winning streak, claiming the coveted San Remo Butchers meat tray (again)! Congrats, Bob!

The PIDD looks forward to another exciting round of darts after the long weekend. Stay tuned to see who comes out on top!

New players are always welcome, contact Scott Lethbridge 0407543154 OR scott@glpc.com.au

PIBC return from Australian Boardriders Battle

ON THE weekend of March 9 – 10, the Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) sent their high performance team to the Australian Boardriders Battle (ABB) at Burleigh Heads.

Team Captain Ash Easton led the team of Carl Wright, Joel Van Dink, Sage Russell, Tate Russell and Sam Patterson, to compete at big and burley conditions.

After 10 years of the ABB being held at Newcastle, this year saw a different format beginning with a downhill run, then a rock jump, a wave and then a huge run back up the Burleigh hill to the tag spot.

With a support team of Team Captain Jake Eisen, Board Caddy Billy Easton, Treasurer and Media Jo O'Reilly Stubbs, Committee member Geoff Russell, and general team support Zoe Adams, Lenny Wright, Irene Wright, Phil Wright and Andrew Stubbs.

In the weeks leading up to the event PIBC also created a custom designed and printed limited run t-shirt to raise funds.

Created by our former Club Champion Josh Rush and Founder of Small Business Heavy Press, Screen Printing studio. Josh collaborated with designer Chris Honey to come up with a special limited edition tee.

With incredible surfing en masse the Phillip Island Boardriders Club team finished in round one, against the 42 best Boardriders clubs across Australia.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
March 13	March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19
2.54am 1.60m 8.44am 0.30m 3.27pm 1.69m 9.07pm 0.43m	3.36am 1.63m 9.30am 0.18m 4.19pm 1.75m 9.53pm 0.46m	4.15am 1.64m 10.16am 0.12m 5.08pm 1.76m 10.36pm 0.51m	4.54am 1.62m 11.00am 0.11m 5.56pm 1.72m 11.17pm 0.56m	5.32am 1.57m 11.42am 0.15m 6.43pm 1.64m 11.58pm 0.61m	6.12am 1.51m 12.23pm 0.22m 7.30pm 1.64m 11.58pm 0.61m	12.37am 0.68m 6.53am 1.43m 1.04pm 0.31m 8.21pm 1.44m

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au



Section 3 Doubles runners up Cole Hawkins, and Elijah Tuyau with winners Edith Rowbottom and Jordy Medlar. Jordy was the Section 3 Singles winner and Cole was the runner up.



Section 4 Singles runner up Nate Poletti and winner Sam Hansen.



Section 5 Singles runner up Jack Mannix and winner Edward Hawkins.

Quality competition at tennis tournament

IT was the perfect day for the annual Korrine and District Junior Tennis Association Tennis Tournament recently.

This year all Sections were played at the one venue - the very scenic Newhaven College.

There was lots of tennis played, great sportsmanship and a barbecue on offer to bring all the players and families together.

It was a hugely successful day and enjoyed by all.

Visit the Facebook page for more photos of the day: Korrine and District Junior Tennis.

Allambee Mirboo & District Tennis Association

THE semi-finals for this season will be held in Leongatha on Saturday, March 16.

All players must come on time and be ready to play at 12.30pm. If you are not playing, please come along to help with scoring.

All teams must bring along a raffle prize for the Presentation Night. If it suits you better, you can bring your prize to the semi-finals.

Tickets for the Presentation Night will also be on sale. It will be held on Grand Final night (March 23) at the Middle Hotel in Korumburra. Tickets are \$35 per person for two courses. Korumburra would like to have numbers confirmed at the semi-finals this Saturday.

If you have any questions about the Presentation Night, please contact Belinda Whiteside.

Newhaven College mountain bikers on top of the world

THE Newhaven College Mountain Biking Team is back for 2024, kicking off the season at the Australian Mountain Biking Inter-schools in Thredbo last week.

Set against the stunning panorama of Australia's top-tier mountain bike park, about 1300 of the country's most talented junior mountain bikers once again gathered for this annual event to conquer the adrenaline-pumping gravity trails and represent their schools.

With over 290 schools competing from around the country, the stakes were high as riders navigated the challenging, technical terrains pushing their limits, at times separated by milliseconds in the time it took them to descend the mountain.

This year, the competition also introduced a new section to the Oakley Cannonball Downhill track, adding an extra layer of difficulty which tested the riders' technical abilities and agility on what is a notoriously difficult, black run.

The team consisted of Hamish Dakers-Hock, Aedan Parker, Rufus Holole, Jude Rigby, Kody Lewis and Miller Micallef; led by newly appointed mountain biking coordinator and coach, Adrian Wale.

The first event for the week was the Norco All Mountain, a gruelling eight-minute trail full of steep drops, berms and huge rocks. The team finished 24th overall for their division with Rufus Holole, Kody Lewis and Hamish Dakers-Hock the best of Newhaven group.

Next was the Rockshox Pump Track Challenge with Rufus Holole and Hamish Dakers-Hock competing with over 200 other riders. With limited track practice, they



Year 7 Newhaven College student, Rufus Holole, takes a run down the foothills of Mt Kosciuszko last week.

both finished mid-field, a trend that could well change once the school's pump track has been completed.

The Fox Flow Motion Cup was a favourite for the parents with less challenging technical features. The fastest for Newhaven were Hamish Dakers-Hock, Rufus Holole and Miller Micallef with the team finishing 27th overall in their division.

The last and biggest event for the week was the Oakley Cannonball Downhill. Marred by strong winds and lifts on wind hold, the race was eventually started halfway down

the hill. Although tired from the continual days of riding, all riders who competed performed extremely well.

The best for Newhaven were Rufus Holole, Kody Lewis and Hamish Dakers-Hock, bringing home the school's best result for the week with the team finishing a very respectable 18th overall for their division.

In addition to their achievements on the competition circuit, Newhaven College is also taking proactive steps to enhance the profile of mountain biking within the local community.

Last December, the College announced the opening of its Mountain Biking Academy, signalling its dedication to nurturing young riders and providing them with opportunities to excel in the sport, including the establishment of purpose-built, onsite training facilities.

Construction has already commenced on the 250-metre pump track which has been designed by Year 9 students in the shape of the Phillip Island Grand Prix Track.

The introduction of mountain biking to the curriculum has also garnered significant support from Newhaven parents and families, who are actively involved in the design and development of the MTB program and facilities.

The Mountain Biking Academy not only addresses the lack of riding facilities for young people in the region but also promotes physical activity and outdoor recreation, diverting the attention of young people away from screens, fostering a lifelong love of the sport.

"We're excited about the opportunities that our all-abilities program will provide for our students," said Principal Tony Corr.

"We're also thrilled to see the enthusiasm and dedication of our mountain biking families. Newhaven College was founded through the shared vision of a handful of devoted parents who built the school from the ground up. It is wonderful to see that same spirit almost 45 years on."

The Newhaven College Mountain Biking Team will be at the Newhaven College Open Day on Saturday, March 16, from 10am to 2pm happy to discuss the track developments.

OMK Cricket Club raises over \$50,000 for McGrath Foundation



The OMK Cricket Club community and organisation committee, Marnie Whiteside, Kate Sideman, Amy White, Andrea Curtis, Kate Norton and Emma Graham (absent) raised over \$50,000 for the McGrath Foundation. ob07_1124

throughout the year which contributed to the final amount raised.

They purchased a couple of items and raffled them off, with a particular Dyson Air-wrap, a styling tool proving to be one highly sought after item.

There was also the cattle project, where the committee

sold off about 60 head of cattle, making a solid contribution of about \$27,000 to the final amount.

Committee member Andrea Curtis said that they also often just receive donations from people and businesses themselves.

"It's quite big and the community love it and have

ownership over it, which is really good," explained Andrea.

Next year will mark the 10th year of fundraising and according to Andrea, there are already plans and projects in place for next year's event.

To follow, contribute or donate follow the OMK Cricket Club Pink Stumps Day Facebook page.

FOSTER

THERE was a good roll up for March Medal, given the amount of golf being played and the forecast of a hot day.

There were pretty good scores all round.

The Medal winner was Anne Heywood (26) 92 66 – well done Anne, good to see you back and in form.

Anne also won A Grade, with Jenny Mountford (20) 91 71 winning A Grade scratch.

Kaylene Morris won B Grade (31) 102 71, and Rae Knee B Grade scratch (28) 100 72.

Putting went to Geraldine Sinclair 31.

NTP on sixth was Jenny Mountford and 17th Anne Heywood.

Pennant has started and Foster's teams Division 1 lost 2/3 to Meeniyian and Division 3 lost 1/4 to Wonthaggi.

Plenty of weeks to go.

The schedules are at the printers and will be available soon.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, March 5.

Stableford: 40 players.

A Grade: Shayne Harland (4) 38 C/B.

B Grade: Doc Dixon (36) 39 points.

NTPs: first Steve Duffield, seventh Chris Clements, 10th Don Hislop and 13th John Solly.

Thursday, March 7:

Stableford: 20 players.

Winner: Mark Haringsma (10) 41 points.

NTPs: first Michael Taylor, seventh Mark Haringsma and 13th Stewart Hamilton.

Saturday, March 9:

Stableford: 62 players.

Sponsor: Steve Duffield and Chris McConnell

A Grade: Malcolm Garnham (10) 40 points.

B Grade: Peter Hornibrook 36 C/B.

NTPs: first Zach Scholte, seventh Roy Fleming, 10th Kodie Spokes and 13th Tim O'Neill.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, March 5: 4BBB Stableford.

It is a delight to host at Leongatha Golf Club, a number of Mirboo North Golf Club members who will be joining the competitions over the coming months while their course is recovering from the considerable damage sustained in the recent storm.

The club wishes them a warm welcome and all the best during this arduous process.

Tuesday's 4BBB Stableford teams' event had a field of 54 members/guests with some of the Mirboo North guests overall winners on the day.

Overall winners:

Mitchell McKay (19) and Craig McKay (23) with a score of 48 points.

David Child (19) and Ian Barlow (24) with a score of 46 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Paul Prendergast at 2.74m. NTP 14th: Chad Clasby at 4.35m. NTP 16th: Geoffrey McDonald at 2.50m.

Thursday, March 7: Burra Brewery Stableford.

Always popular is the excellent sponsorship by Burra Brewery for Thursday's Stableford round with 80 members/guests enjoying the day.

Play started with a 9am shotgun start in quality course yet warmer weather conditions.

Again, players could choose their preferred coloured tee.

A Grade winner: Grant McRitchie (15) with a score of 38 points.

A Grade runner up: John McInnes (12) with a score of 37 points.

B Grade winner: Peter Hartigan (20) with a score of 41 points.

B Grade runner up: Peter Read

(20) with a score of 36 points.

C Grade winner: Joe Lowell (24) with a score of 44 points (highest of the day).

C Grade runner up: Frank Gill (21) with a score of 38 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Mitchell McKay Mirboo North Golf Club at 3.50m. NTP 14th: Steve Fisher at 1.35m. NTP 16th: Wayne Keen at 1.48m.

For safety reasons, Saturday's scheduled event was cancelled due to the adversely hot weather conditions.

Ladies

THE women had the choice to either play stroke in the March Monthly Medal or Stableford on Wednesday.

It was probably a 50-50 split.

The Mi Club operating system converts all scores to Stableford to determine the winners.

Nola Kim (44) had the best score for the day with 44 points and Jill Steer (40) was runner up with 41 – a great score after many months of being unable to play.

The best stroke score on the day was from Robin Smith (34) finishing with 104/70 net.

However, the March Monthly medallist was Nicole Whiteside who scored an impressive 64 net last Saturday.

Balls down the line went to Janet Monk with 37 points (71 net), who also scored an eagle on the last hole – a great way to finish the day.

The next three players were all on 36 points –Trish Owen, Maryanne Gartner, and Bev Reinhard.

Delia Perry was closest to the flag on the 14th and Karen Bear on the 16th.

Second shot on the fifth went to Fay Quilford.

Glens Day had the best score in the nine-hole competition with 19 points with Paula Cross in second place on 18 points.

MEENIYAN

GOOD scores were recorded on the Medal Day last Wednesday.

It was beautiful weather, and the course was playing well.

Jenny Cope had her best score ever, to card a 70 net (37).

An unlucky Heather Poletti, also 70 net (22), was runner up.

Heather also won the putting with 26 putts.

BDL went to Dot Christie (13) and Irene Holm (19) with 71 net.

OLIVE HARRIS BOWL

MEENIYAN Golf Club ladies held their annual Olive Harris Bowl on Friday, March 8, with 17 teams competing.

The teams were from Leongatha, Korumburra, Wonthaggi, Foster, Woorayl, Phillip Island, Mirboo North, Meeniyian and Northern.

With the course presenting beautifully for the players, the club wishes to thank all the volunteers for their great continuing work as the recent storms caused a bit of havoc.

A big thank you to the Harris Family for their sponsorship and for Olive's son Adrian coming along to present the trophies.

The Bowl will stay again at Meeniyian as the winners were Meeniyian 3, consisting of Heather Poletti (21) 40 points, Faye LePage (26) 36 points and Sue Hoskin (29) 34 points with a total of 112 points.

The grade winners were A Grade Andrea Thorson 36 points (Meeniyian), B Grade Heather Poletti 40 points (Meeniyian) and C Grade Gail Browne 35 points (Meeniyian).

NTPs were second Jillian

Chandler (Phillip Island), eighth Faye LePage (Meeniyian), 11th Jean Hayes (Woorayl) and 14th Liz O'Neil (Phillip Island).

DLB went to Tanya Thorson 40 points, Jan Trease 36 points, Kay Dumbleton, Trish Owen, Maxine Eabry and Pauline Lancaster 35 points, Dot Christie 36 points, Liz O'Neill and Mary Walker 32 points, and Heather Grist and Heather McCaughan 36 points.

A big thank you to the men and ladies in the kitchen, all the ladies for their beautiful salads and slices, and all who helped the day be so successful.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: March 7, SR. 71

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Chris Wilkinson 41.

Runner up: Bruce Betts 40.

BDTL to 36 C/B.

Ball sweep: Peter Young 39, Stephen Kane 38, Glenn Hewlett 37, Ian Murrells 36 and Chris Wilkinson 36 C/B.

Results: March 7, SR. 36.

Competition: Stableford back nine-holes.

Winner: Norm Burne 18.

BDTL to 16.

Ball sweep: Ian Murrells 17, Blake Cornelius 16 and Bob Cornelius 16.

Results: March 9, Stableford 18 hole.

Winner:

A: Jason Sartori 38.

B: Bailey Harvey 39.

C: Fraser West 45.

BDTL to 36.

Ball sweep: Brad Andrew 37, Allan McLean 37, Messy Chand 37, Paul Cornelius 37, Connor Ireland 36, Shane Osbourne 36, John Haag 36, Dale Burgess 36, Peter Magnussen 36 and Andy Hovath 36.

Eagle: Peter Dell 10th.

NTP: Bruce Betts second, Graeme Campbell fourth, Norm Burne pro pin eighth, Garry O'Connor 13th and John Walsh 17th money hole.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was the March Monthly Medal.

While the weather was fine and the course is holding up, it would love a huge drink from the clouds.

The Medal winner and round of the day was returned by Dot Garry with a great 102(31)71 net.

Dot only had 29 puts on the day and took home the putting prize.

A Grade winner was Anne Tschiderer who also has a great round of 92(20)72 net.

C Grade winner was Karen Sheerin 113(39)74 net.

NTP on second was Marg Johnson and eighth Betty Bowmar.

Best Scratch was 87 Marg Johnson.

BDL went to L. Brusamarello 72, Irene Walsh 72, Marion Walker 74, Chris Hamilton 74, Jan Beaumont 75 and Marg Johnson 75.

WOORAYL

SOME early birds beat the expected heat while other women chose to hit off at the normal time for the Monthly Medal and qualifying round of Ken Grist Memorial event.

Thanks to Lyn Rose Boutique for its generous sponsorship.

Monthly Medal and B Grade winner was Sherrill Winkler with a fabulous score of 103-37-66, while the A Grade winner was Pauline Lancaster with 94-25-69.

BDL were Linda Forrester with 69 net, Heather Sullivan with 71 net and Elly Berryman with 74 net.

Heather Sullivan won the putting with 26 putts.

NTP on eighth was Kath Davis, 11th Pauline Lancaster and 17th Inge Giliam.



Winners of Olive Harris Bowl were the Meeniyian 3 team of Faye LePage, Heather Poletti and Sue Hoskin, pictured with sponsor Adrian Harris.



The Olive Harris Bowl grade winners were B Grade Heather Poletti, C Grade Gail Browne and A Grade Andrea Thorson. They were pictured with sponsor Adrian Harris.



Woorayl Golf Club's A Grade winner Pauline Lancaster with B Grade and Monthly Medal winner Sherrill Winkler.



Meeniyian Golf Club winner and runner up Jenny Cope and Heather Poletti.



Medal Day sponsor Barb Warren, with Foster Club winners Kaylene Morris, Anne Heywood and Jenny Mountford.



Wonthaggi Golf Club's A Grade winner Anne Tschiderer with Medal winner Dot Garry.



Shayne Harland and Doc Dixon were the Tuesday winners at the Korumburra Golf Club.



The winners of the Burra Brewery Stableford event round played on Thursday, March 7, at Leongatha Golf Club were Peter Hartigan, Peter Read, Phil Dempster from Burra Brewery and Grant McRitchie.



Strzelecki bowls region Weekend Pennant Division 1 Premiers Phillip Island, from left, front, Daryl White, Giulio Marcolongo, Arthur Denny, Bob Hurst, Pat Ryan, John Matthews, back, Peter Forrest, Russell May, Kevin Brown, John Newcombe, Jimmy Kirk, Peter Ferguson. Absent: Norm Watters (Emergency). C11_1124



Strzelecki bowls region Weekend Pennant Division 2 Premiers Phillip Island, from left, front, Chris Fricke, Ewen Wilson, Mark Hone, Robyn Dennis, Graeme Cornell, Kevin Wagner; back, David Hanlon, Gary Storer (back), Alan Beddows, Scott Miller (back), Stuart Cunningham, Wayne Barr and Ken Gill. C12_1124



Strzelecki bowls region Weekend Pennant Division 3 Premiers Tarwin Lower, from left, knelling, John Fedley and Mick Bowman, front, Peter Tainton, Jenny Suttie, Fred Martin, Arthur Newsome, Dave Barry, Paul Redmayne, Laurie Gabell, Synden Bontorno and Chaz Buccilli; back, John Hutt, Kevin Jones, Nick Suttie and Darren Rowe. Absent: Ray Saunders (Emergency). C13_1124

Island triumph in Division 1

Weekend Pennant Grand final

THE Strzelecki Bowls Region grand final for the south side was played on Saturday at Wonthaggi.

As weather conditions were not favourable, the game was brought forward to an 11am start to try to beat the heat.

The bowlers were very lucky to get the games completed.

Wonthaggi did a great job running the event with plenty of marquees scattered around the venue, which offered spectators plenty of shade.

The games were very close with the lead changing many times throughout the day.

The eventual winners were:

Division 1: P-Island 60 Mirboo North 58

Division 2: Phillip Island 62 Fish Creek 54

Division 3: Tarwin Lower 65 Foster 54

Division 4: Corinella 59 Fish Creek 57

Division 5: Phillip Island 43 Foster 35

Midweek Pennant Grand final

STREZELECKI Bowling Clubs midweek pennant Grand Final at Leongatha was played in much cooler conditions on Tuesday March 12. Leongatha welcomed all three divisions with some lovely homemade scones.

Winners of the day were:

Division 1 Wonthaggi 63 Korumburra 43

Division 2 Tarwin lower 57 Wonthaggi 53

Division 3 Port Welshpool 47 Fish Creek 34



Wonthaggi Division 1 Premiers. front, Caroline Donohoue, Frank Cimino, Denise Silver, Jan Jeeves, Wendy Donohue, Kathy Simpson, back, Alan Ireland, Colin Ormerod, Frank Seaton, Rob Allan, Joy Phillips, Mary McBain and Bryan Donohue. ob10_1124



Tarwin Lower Division 2 Premiers. front, Bron Ellen, Pat O'Donohue, Wilma Vandervelt, Jess Robertson, Helen Twite, Bev Martin, Sinden Bontorno, back, Dave Barry, Jenny Suttie, Darren Rowe, John Hutt, Mark Jois, Fred Martin. ob13_1124



Port Welshpool Division 3 Premiers. Denise Richardson, Jim Nicholson, Matt Gallagher, John Roberts, Marg McDonnell, Trevor Vening, Angela Tisler, Belinda Crawford, Steven Green. ob15_1124



Strzelecki bowls region Weekend Pennant Division 4 Premiers Corinella, from left, front row, Sonja Grant, Chris Brooks, Michael Saunders, Tony Heppleston, Terry Floyd, Michael Dady and Peer Borradale; back, Phil Wright, Lance Bullock, Marg Hoy, Frank d'Uinienville and Al Weeden. Absent: Dave Martin (Emergency). C14_1124



Strzelecki bowls region Weekend Pennant Division 5 Premiers Phillip Island, from left, Derek MacDonald, Merrilyn King, Glenda Grazules, Ian Diss (back), Marlene Puncher, Bruce Puncher (back), Annie Allen, Terry Dawes, Raymond Janssen and Ray Pepper. C15_1124

KORUMBURRA

A LOT has been happening in the last week, starting with the Monthly Triples.

The club had both greens full with 26 teams and great conditions for bowling.

Winners on the day were the Warraul team consisting of David Ferguson, and Gayle and Rob Wrenn.

Runners up were the Wonthaggi team of Scott Miller, Trevor Teer and George Pargeter.

The club thanked its sponsor RMBL finance.

Tuesday saw the Midweek Division 1 side play in the preliminary final against Phillip Island at Leongatha, and come away with a very good win.

Judith Nicholl won 30 shots to 15, Jenny McVeigh won 19 shots to 14 and Jo Lomagno went down 17 shots to 25 – still a very good win.

Well done to all concerned on making the grand final – the club wishes you all the best.

Thursday saw the final of the ladies' pairs with Jenny McVeigh and Caroline Snooks defeating Jo Lomagno and Lena Harfield by one shot to take out the title – well done to Jenny and Caroline.

Friday night was another big night at the clubrooms with more than 90 attending for a counter meal and even though regular chef Keith was crook the meals were enjoyed by all thanks to Robert, Peter, Neil and others.

INVERLOCH

CONGRATULATIONS to both Lorraine Dowson and Martin Hannaford on being the winners of the Strzelecki South Region Singles Finals.

In the finals, Lorraine Dowson defeated Robyn Dennis of Phillip Island and Martin Hannaford defeated Dave Barry of Tarwin Lower.

Lorraine and Martin went on to play the winners of Strzelecki North Region to advanced to the next round.

Unfortunately, Lorraine and Martin were defeated by their opponents in their respective matches.

Thursday Social Bowls saw 31 bowlers attend to play two games of 10 ends.

Only two teams won both games.

The winner with two wins and 36 points was the team of Carol Hughes (skip), Di Selby, Keith Tonkies and Nell Van Grunsven.

Runners up were Bill Selby (skip), Jon Justin, George Scott and Pat McKay.

They finished with two wins and 33 points.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

IT was a beautiful autumn day as 37 of the family of bowlers congregated at San Remo to once again fight it out for team(s) of the day.

It was good to see a couple of new faces in the group.

The group hopes they continue to play in the weekly competition.

The good weather brought out some really good bowling, which led to some very tight games.

It was still lots of fun with a fair amount of friendly banter among the players and lots of laughter.

There were a few wrong bias shots.

The Royal Children's Hospital tin is filling more and more week by week – great job all.

Many thanks to Haydn for his work both in the kitchen as well as behind the bar, also to Gwen once again for her work in the kitchen.



The South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners were Peter Taylor (L), Laurie Bell (3) and Rob Pretty (S).



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's best one game winners were Peter Gratton (S), Bob Arnold (L), Raff Merante (3) and Chris Brooks (2).

Also, a huge thank you to Peter and Pauline for their hard work, and to John for his master of ceremonies duties.

This week winners on 36 points were Rob Pretty (S), Laurie Bell (3) and Peter Taylor (L).

Runners up on 33 points were Mick Walton (S), Ken Barnes (3), Sue Wright (2) and Ann Graham (L).

Best one game winners also on 33 points were Peter Gratton (S), Raff Merante (3), Chris Brooks (2) and Bob Arnold (L).

The group takes this opportunity to congratulate so many of the players who made it into finals this year in their pennant competitions.

Corinella Division 4 was wished well in the grand final.

Next week, the bowlers will be meeting at Lang Lang and ask that everyone be on site before 10am to allow the hardest working member Peter to arrange the teams.

Be safe and see you all next week.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another good, but busy week at the club.

No Midweek Pennant, as the club had a spell this week before the grand final next Tuesday.

Wednesday saw the Turkey Triples played, with both greens full, which is a great result for the club.

A pat on the back to Fred and his team for a job well done.

On a fine sunny day, there were three teams that were four game winners.

The winners were an all-girl team, being Joy Phillips from Wonthaggi, Janis Parks from Inverloch and Robyn Dennis from Phillip Island, with a score of four wins and 37 shots up.

The runners up were a team from Phillip Island, being Daryl White, Ewen Wilson and Arthur Denny, just ahead of another team from Phillip Island in third place, being Kevin Brown, Murray McClimont and Barry.

Grazules, to round out the winners.

Best game went to another team with a mix of clubs.

That team was Chas Bucculli and Mick Bowman from Tarwin with Aldo Sartori from Wonthaggi, with a score of plus 17 shots.

The Naba award went to Tony, Barry and Haydn from San Remo.

They received a cap each from the Wonthaggi Club.

Thursday saw a good number of social bowlers out and about.

Saturday saw the Pennant grand finals being played at Wonthaggi.

All divisions 1 to 5 were played, which filled both greens, with a fantastic display of colour from all the different club uniforms.

A pat on the back to the members from Wonthaggi for working to make the day happen.

On the day, there were 30 volunteers from Wonthaggi working, which is outstanding.

Bowls this week: Tuesday is Pennant grand final day, which will be played at Leongatha, starting at 10am, Wednesday social bowls at 1pm, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am, and Saturday social bowls at 1pm.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT was another successful week of bowling with a total of 51 players.

Tuesday had 27 and Friday had 24.

Tuesday's winners with a plus 11 winning two games were Mary Spooner, Brian Newman and John Stewart.

Runners up also winning two games were Sylvia Mattock, Pat Novak, Jim Rodhi and Jim Wilson.

Friday's winners on plus 11, winner of two games, were Linda Newman John Rook and Pat Novak.

Coming second on plus nine, winner of two games also, were Judy Sweetnam, Rhonda Rattenbury and Jenny Bakker.



Korumburra Bowls Club's Ladies' Pairs winners were Jenny McVeigh and Caroline Snooks.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club Turkey Triples winners were Joy Phillips (Wonthaggi), Janis Parks (Inverloch) and Robyn Dennis (Phillip Island).



The Inverloch Bowls Club's Social Bowls winners were Di Selby, Carol Hughes (skip) and Keith Tonkies (visitor). Absent: Nell Van Grunsven.



Linda Newman, John Rook and Pat Novak were the Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls Friday winners.

After the storm comes the sunshine

By Rover

MIRBOO North Football Netball Club is fighting back hard after February 13's severe storm event left a trail of destruction throughout the town and district.

In the space of three horrific minutes, roofs flew off houses, giant eucalyptus trees were cut in half and many residents' hearts broken.

Tigerland's oval was covered in foliage and its four 10-metre high aluminium goalposts had snapped at right angles like candy sticks.

In the aftermath, Joe Piper resigned the presidency of MNFNC, to become the club's facilities manager and begin the clean-up in earnest.

His replacement, Andy McCarthy, immediately set a cracking pace in his new role at the helm of the mighty Tigers.

Katrina Palmer returns as netball vice president, a post she previously held for a number of seasons.

Long serving football vice president and senior football manager, Andrew Taylor, also resigned and is now the club's Mid Gippsland League delegate.

As well, Damien Turner has been appointed senior football coach, following Peter Mongta's decision to resign and pursue other interests.

Daniel Taylor takes up the position of senior football manager after two years at Yinnar, where he coached the Magpies to the MGFNL senior 2022 footy premiership.

MNFNC 2024 Appointments

- President: Andy McCarthy
- Netball VP: Katrina Palmer
- Junior Football VP: Justin Conlan
- Senior Football Coach: Damien Turner
- Senior Football Manager: Daniel Taylor
- Senior Football Team Manager: Brian McCormack
- Reserves Football Coach: Dom Pinneri
- Thirds Coach: Jasan Hysen
- Head Trainer: Belinda Porter
- Media Liaison: Rover
- Junior Football Coordinator: Matt Snell
- Junior Netball Coordinator: Rachel Vansittart
- Secretary: Bec Woodall
- Business Manager: Brian Lawson
- Football Player Representative: Mitch Richardson
- A Grade Netball Coach: Emma Taylor
- U17 Netball Coach: Maddi Knowles
- U15 Netball Coach: Emma Evans and Jakobi Eden
- U13 Coach: Christina Stoertebeker

Rover's 2024 Preseason Wisdom

1. An effective engine room must have compression and aggression, combined with the speed of an e-bike on full throttle.
2. As far as many football spectators go, words are small change for their thoughts, most of which, wisely, aren't disclosed to other people.
3. Ineffective disposals produce unintended consequences.
4. Giving away free kicks only helps the opposition.
5. Every coach wants a defence that's tighter than a honky tonk guitar string.
6. A netball in your team's hands is worth two in no person's land.

Countdown to round one

By Rob Popplestone

IN JUST a month the 2024 MGFNL season will kick off with one of the most anticipated round one clashes in many decades.

The replay of 2023 Grand Finalists Fish Creek and Newborough on the Kangaroos home ground is sure to be an emotional one, and not just for the unfurling of their 23-premiership flag.

The reigning premiers whilst still bathing in their grand final success were dealt a near knockout punch when their club rooms and a century of memories were burnt to the ground anonymously by those that lacked heart, reason, real friendship, camaraderie and probably no real purpose in life.

As many looked on to contemplate the response by the states most successful country football club, the sporting fraternity were climbing over themselves and the Fish Creek faithful to lend a hand where they could.

As impressive as the Kangaroos premiership was, the response, resilience, and hard work in the club's darkest hour was so much more inspiring than most will ever see on a football field.

Newborough coach, Craig Skinner under no illusions as to what his Bulldogs side will face, but at the same time excited by a new season said, "we're really looking forward to the season starting and the footy to get going with our first game at Fish Creek."

Mirboo North was another that has faced off season challenges, none more so than a freak storm that caused considerable damage to their club, couple that with the retirements of long serving President Joe Piper and the resignation of respected coach Peter Mongta, and there was every reason to believe that Tigers would be looking at the 2024 season with some trepidation.

However, new president Anthony McCarthy quickly



Sam McGannon booted the ball for Fish Creek ahead of a Thorpdale tackle in the 2023 preliminary final.

oversaw the appointment of new coach Damian Turner and in the blink of an eye, Mirboo North have quickly turned their attention to Boolarra in the opening round.

Big improvers in season 2023, Thorpdale have flown under the radar in the pre-season, under inspiring coach Jason Winderlich, but the rumour mill is hot, that as good as the Blues were last year, you can expect them to be even better and a major player as they kick off the new season with an away game against an honest MDU side.

Foster have always developed elite junior talent and the most recent example of that is the AFL listing of young prodigy Zane Duursma who will no doubt be missed, but it also gives opportunity to another of many talented youngsters from Foster.

Their first-round opponents

in Morwell East, will come out of an impressive preseason confident of being a major player in 2024 but also under no illusions as to how tough the competition will be even after such an even playing field last year.

Paul Henry, Hawk's coach, "I think it will be even closer again, from what I've heard some of the sides, those at the top have got even stronger, the Thorpdale, Fish Creek and our first-round opponent Foster so everyone is looking to get better play finals and win premierships and that's what it's all about."

In normal circumstances talk of finals prior to the season start might seem premature but the fact is as 2023 proved, every game, every single game from round one can define a year.

Hill End will be looking to climb off the bottom portion of

the ladder when they host Stony Creek, but the Lions, even away from home are anticipated to be a tough team to crack with Coach Chris VerBoon now having a season under his belt and a clearer picture of what his side needs.

Yinnar are rarely not involved at the business end of the year, but the Magpies missed a finals campaign by the barest possible margin in 2023 and will be wanting to right a few wrongs as they clash with Toora on their home deck.

The clash of the Magpies is anticipated to be closer this season than last, with Toora seemingly having put together a stronger unit both on and off field for the start of a new year.

MGFNL was quite possibly the closest most even country competition in Victoria last year and everything points to it being similar for 2024 – footy is nearly back!!

Junior teams growing at Nyora football club



Young players from Auskick have developed the skills to progress to playing in the under 10s and under 12s junior footy sides at Nyora Football club.

A JUNIOR football club was established at Nyora about four years ago and it has since expanded to include an under 10 (since 2022) and under 12's side with young players developing enough skills over the years from their Auskick days.

A strong committee and community is what coach Shannon Gallagher puts down to the success of the juniors competition.

"We'd like to think in two years' time we'll have an under 14's side as well, and that they will keep progressing to go through to the Under 16's and Under 18's as well, and we hope to see all these kids eventually playing senior football at Nyora," said Shannon.

Nyora have also developed an Area Agreement between the Elginbank and District Football League and the West Gippsland Football League.

The agreement allows players to play across both leagues during the season.

This means that players can play for Hallora on a Saturday for example and play again for Nyora on a Sunday.

This gives players the opportunity to have more time on the ground, develop skills and experience rapidly and it bolsters the numbers in teams who may be short.

In February the club held a juniors registration day which saw over 70 parents and players show up.

It was a family fun day with children's activities, entertainment and food on site to help the club gain momentum and promote their junior sides.

The Nyora juniors will also be competing in a practice match against Hallora at the Poowong Recreation Reserve on Sunday March 24 at 10am.

Registrations are still open for both boys and girls to play in the junior sides at Nyora and those interested can contact Shannon Gallagher on 0422 676 164.

Injury and opportunity mars Power's preparations

WONTHAGGI Power had a huge year in 2023 and went into the Gippsland League Grand Final at Morwell on Saturday, September 23 as favourites after a Qualifying Final win over Leongatha during which they led at every change.

But Leongatha hit some ominous form against Moe at Sale the next Saturday in the Preliminary Final and took that into the grand final, ultimately claiming victory in convincing style.

It had been a great opportunity for Power to finally break though for a Gippsland title, on the back of constant improvement since the appointment of favourite son, Jarryd Blair as coach in 2021.

So, will that pattern of improvement continue in the new 2024 season?

The fact is that it will be a tough ask for Wonthaggi Power to repeat the heroics of the past two seasons given the number of injuries to key players and the form of Collingwood VFL recruits Ryan Sparkes and Jack Hutchinson.

Adding to the Power's woes as they head into the new season without key defender Kyle Reid, who injured his knee in the Power's last-round-of-the-season match against Morwell last year, will be the loss of strong on-baller Brodie Mabilia, also to a season-ending knee injury and Flynn Anderson, injured again on his way back from playing just the one senior game in 2023.

Brodie was injured playing basketball last week and Flynn at training in a seemingly innocuous incident.

Key defender and relief ruckman Jordan Staley is taking a break from footy this year.

And the Power may not see a lot of their Collingwood VFL recruits Jack Hutchinson and



Wonthaggi Power Assistant coach Tristian Francis discusses play simulation drills at training during the week.

Ryan Sparkes after they both impressed in their first hit-outs in Collingwood's practice match against Richmond.

Hutchinson kicked the first two goals of the match and had a hand in another in the second quarter following one of his trademark spectacular flies. He kicked a third at the end of the third quarter in a complete display.

Ryan Sparkes played on the wing and was praised for his composure and ball skills while looking very much the part at that level.

The two players look likely to be available to Wonthaggi for the first-round match at Warragul on Saturday, April 6 in between games for Collingwood on March 22 against Sandringham, March 29 against Brisbane and then Carlton at Ikon Park on Sunday, April 14 which could be a good one for locals to travel down and see.

Wonthaggi have added a few recruits already this pre-season including Kaj Patterson (Tarwin Sharks), Cameron Ogden (Warragul Industrials), Darren Patmore

(Strathmerton), Brayden Duve (returning from Dalyston), Adam Pugh (returning from Nyora) and Noah Martin (Kilcunda-Bass), and they have some other prospects but it's going to be hard to replace the likes of Reid, Mabilia, Anderson, Hutchinson and Sparkes.

On the plus side, Kyle Reid is staying with the club as a defence line coach and it's likely there'll be a role for Brodie too while he recovers.

The club has a strong enough core of players to be a finals contender again this year and if they qualify Hutchinson and Sparkes as well, who knows what September might bring.

More Under 18s welcome

Wonthaggi Power been getting good numbers along to Under 16s training, as many as 34 and under the supervision of coaches Matt Pugh and Glenn Jobe, they look set to have a good season.

Under 18s numbers, as is the case with most clubs, is the difficult one but they're doing everything to encourage players to

get to training on Tuesday and Thursday nights, running buses from Newhaven College and Bass Coast College on training nights. If you'd like to join them, contact coach Jess Feather 0419 544 174.

Transfers from the Wonthaggi Power Junior Football Club and surrounds include: Angus Sutton (IK Fourths 2023), Archie Luke (Wonthaggi U14s), Edward Coyne (Wonthaggi U14s), Billy Wyhoon (Wonthaggi U14s), Jackson Glen (Wonthaggi U14s), Archie Jobe (Wonthaggi U14s), William Simmons (Wonthaggi U14s), Robert Hullick (Wonthaggi U14s), Heath Bowen (Phillip Island U14s), and Matthew Car-

Wonthaggi Power has a practice match against Phillip Island this Saturday, March 16 at Wonthaggi and then a full club practice day at Nar Nar Goon on Saturday, March 23.

The first round will be on Saturday, April 6 at Warragul and the first home game will be against reigning premiers Leongatha at Wonthaggi on Saturday, April 13.

Girls, kick off your passion

YOUNG female football enthusiasts are going up for an exhilarating season in the U14 Southern Gippsland Junior Football competition.

Following a pivotal competition meeting in early February, all clubs have unanimously agreed to introduce a dedicated U14 Girls division for the upcoming 2024 season.

This groundbreaking decision marks a significant milestone, offering girls in the region a chance to participate in football like never before.

The introduction of the U14 Girls division means that young female athletes will now have their own platform to showcase their skills and passion for the sport.

Scheduled to play on Sundays, the season will consist of 14 rounds followed by an exhilarating final series, mirroring the format of the established Mixed Competition. Matches are set to start on April 21, six weeks away!

For aspiring female footballers, this announcement opens doors to a world of possibilities at Wonthaggi, Dalyston, Leongatha, Phillip Island, Korumburra-Bena, Kilcunda-Bass and Inverloch-Kongwak.

There are still plenty of spaces to fill, so reach out to your local team for more information or call Bobbie Lee Blay on 0417 035 913.

Phillip Island Tenpin

2S COMPANY: 1st place on 12pts Pinpushers, 2nd place on 8pts Tinabe, 3rd place 7pts Jail.

ABL: 1st place on 43pts Kool Kats, 2nd place on 35pts Buccaneers, 3rd place on 32pts Just Bowl Already.

Business League Early: 1st place on 7pts Balls Deep, 2nd place on 7pts Happy Hour, 3rd place on 7pts Old Timers, 4th place on 7pts Heros of Steel.

Business League Late: 1st place on 10pts S&R Clarke Auto, 2nd place on 9pts City Lights, 3rd place on 8pts JD's, 4th place on 4pts New Image Painting.

This week's tops scores:
Woman – 176 Jacque Kent, 160 Lauren Edwards and 158 Penny Wolswinkel.

Men – 202 Toby Durdin, 198 Jack Aitken and 196 Justin Porthouse.

Phillip Island Bridge

RESULTS: Monday March 4

There was little between the first three place getters. In first place Marnie Myall and Paul Waylen (58.85%); second placed were John Farr and Bronwyn Sund (58.33%); third Anne Hodgson and Caroline Shaw (57.81%).

Wednesday March 6
First place went to Marnie Myall and Caroline Shaw (65.62%); second were Leng Haggith and Richard Poole (65.10%) and in third place Don and Trish Stewart-Uden (61.98%).

Social Bridge every Tuesday night continues so if you are looking to learn bridge, brush up on your skills or you just feel like a social game please come and join us. For further details call Jill on 0438 248 578.

Coach search commences for Bass Coast Breakers



The Breakers are looking forwards to the season ahead but are in dire need of a coach for the upcoming season. C07_1124

The Breakers are also celebrating women with families of all kinds—whether they're two-legged or four-legged! Don't let anything stop you from joining in on the fun. Head on down on a Wednesday night and be a part of their inclusive and vibrant community.

For further details on the coaching position or for more information to join the women's team call Ella Angarane on 0438 722 639.

FOOTY TIPPING

competition

Sentinel-Times



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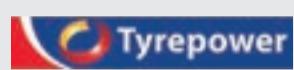


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78-80 Watt Street,
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5672 5760



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



54 Graham Street,
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



81 Commercial Street,
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5655 1024



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



129-131 Graham Street,
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



1 Roughead Street,
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5662 2327



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



15/17 Murray Street,
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5672 5878



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



119 Graham Street,
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5672 1027



SHANE COOKE

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



Leongatha Toyota
7-13 Hughes Street,
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5662 2302



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GWS
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



47 Station Street,
Korumburra
0417 332 141



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6/6 Cyclone Street,
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Dylan Clark	3
Justin Caporale	3
Kris Baker	3
Phil Hardy	3
Aaron Rigby	2
Ant Cook	2
Darryl McGannon	2
Hayden Poppe	2
Jack & Jassy	2
Keith & Eddie	2
Phil & Cathal	2
Rod O'Neill	2
Shane Cooke	2
Brad Hodson	1
Craig & Darren	1
David England	1
Peter Fort	1
Warren Stewart	1
Steve Curtis	0

1



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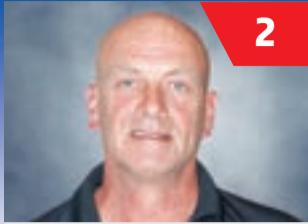
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



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2



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3



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



1 A'Beckett Street
Inverloch
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2



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



15-19 Hughes Street,
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5637 3300

3



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



145 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1137

3



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



2/5-7 Korumburra Road,
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5672 5522

0



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St Kilda
Gold Coast Suns
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West Coast
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 0



16 McBride Avenue,
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5672 1007

2



AARON RIGBY

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GWS
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Gold Coast Suns
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Port Adelaide
Brisbane

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



24 Inverloch Road,
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5672 5906

1



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Geelong
Gold Coast Suns
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Port Adelaide
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



55-57 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
Darren 0405 603 569
Craig 0415 641 845

2



PHIL ROCHE & CATHAL O'FLYNN

Richmond
Collingwood
Essendon
GWS
St Kilda
Gold Coast Suns
Melbourne
Port Adelaide
Brisbane

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



62-64 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
0421 162 530

3



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Toby Tudor, Chloe Tudor, Sophie Gleeson and Kinley Whineray had their faces painted at the Stony Creek Races.



Julie Bloch, Christy Eldred, Jacki Deering and Dianne Harrison enjoyed a day out at the Stony Creek Races.



Three families banded together to become the Most Fashionable Squad runners up.



Tisheena Cartwright, Sue Cook and Karyn Koetsveld at the Stony Creek Races on Sunday.



Influence Clothing's Judy Stone, MC Casey Bruce, judge Michael Carty, Mandy Manning, Karlie Owen, judge Sara Erdely, Sue Cook, Angela Bonser and judge Kelly Carty following the Fashions on the Field presentation.

Fashion wows at Stony Creek Cup

FASHIONS on the Field was once again a highlight at the Stony Creek Cup on Sunday.

Although the heat deterred the usual number of entries, the standard was incredibly high.

Fashions on the Field was judged by Sara Erdely, and Kelly and Michael Carty, and MCed by former jockey Casey Bruce.

Casey rode a number of winners at the Stony Creek Racing Club during her 20-year career as jockey but has traded in her racing silks for stunning dresses and has MCed Fashions on the Field for around five years.

Casey was blown away by the quality of competition presented on the day.

"The men's competition was fantastic. It was small in numbers, but the quality was outstanding. The women's competition was similar," she said.

"Stony Creek is sometimes known for its relaxed fashion. Stony Creek lives for the Best Dressed Squad category."

The Best Dressed Squad category didn't disappoint, with the runners up represented by three different families and the winners sporting matching racing shirts.

"The shirts were amazing

and absolutely perfect for the day," Casey said.

Judy Stone from Influence Clothing was the Fashions on the Field sponsor.

"Judy is a fantastic sponsor. Influence Clothing has been here for a few years and the prize money she puts up for this particular event is outstanding," Casey said.

"The \$1000 prize money almost matches some of the bigger events I've MCed, including the likes of the Bendigo Cup and Werribee Cup, so that's a massive amount of prize money on offer here at Stony Creek."



Sara Erdely, Kelly Carty and Michael Carty judged the Fashions on the Field at the Stony Creek Cup on Sunday.



Vicki Miller, Gippsland South MLA Danny O'Brien and Gippsland South MLC Melina Bath attended the Stony Creek Races on Sunday.



U17s premiers Inverloch.

Junior cricketers battle it out in grand finals

THE Leongatha and District Cricket Association junior grand finals were played on Sunday in very warm conditions.

An early start of 9am was decided and well done to everyone involved for getting the games played, with the players and umpires' welfare the priority.

UNDER 17

Inverloch won the toss and elected to bat on a great looking Scorpion Park pitch.

Riley Harris was looking to continue his great form.

The loss of Andot Mankhong and Jesse Dugard early saw Cooper Newman and Harris having to get through some good early bowling by the strong Imps attack, Isaac Bolge bowling a very good early spell.

Newman and Harris batted beautifully for a 98-run partnership.

Harris was particularly savage on short balls, playing some powerful cuts and pulls.

Newman played the perfect support role, working the ball into gaps and running well to turn the strike over.

Another good partnership with Archie Terlich and Harris and a

handy knock by Ty Debono saw Inverloch post a very good total.

Aydan Williams bowled very well for the Imps, claiming three wickets.

The Imperials run chase got off to a disastrous start, losing Clayton Quaife second ball when Mankhong took a great catch at first slip off Jesse Dugard, then two balls later a fired-up Dugard broke through the defence of Xavier Lamers to give Invys a dream start.

Cam Bruce and Aydan Williams were looking good until Bruce was caught behind, a good low-down catch by Harris off the unstoppable Dugard then when Campbell Read was run out the score was 4/37.

Aydan Williams was in great touch playing shots all around the field and Klayton McGrath was digging in with him to form a partnership until a brilliant piece of fielding from Jy Mottram Carter led to McGrath being run out.

Archie Casey then showed good determination to stick around with Williams and put on 51 runs with him, but when he was dismissed followed by Williams the game was gone.

It was a great game of junior cricket and a credit to both teams, they gave their all, in

tough conditions and both clubs should be very proud of the spirit in which the game was played.

Thanks to the Leongatha Town Cricket Club for providing a great pitch and their wonderful facilities for all to enjoy.

Thanks also to umpires Ian Salmon and Graham Wightman for their efforts and supporting junior cricket.

UNDER 15

Phillip Island and Glen Alvie put on a great game of junior cricket in the U15 grand final.

Glen Alvie won the toss and elected to bat first in the split innings format game.

Archie Moore was lost early after he was caught behind by Zack Hughes off the bowling of Jaxen Marshall.

Archie Donohue and Jack Brown formed a good partnership with Brown the aggressor, scoring at a run a ball and Donohue playing the support role patiently.

The Alvie 1/68 after 20 overs.

The Island's turn to bat saw the early loss of Drew Fusinato the a good partnership of 62 between Brydon Marshall and the in form Archie Williams had the Island slightly ahead at the half

way point with loss of Marshall just before the 20 over mark leaving the Island 2/76.

The Alvie's second 20 saw Jack Brown dismissed for a well made 48.

Donohue continued his very patient innings until he was dismissed for 37, Archie Luke chimed in with 28no, Ethan Rhee picking up two late wickets after some tight bowling from all the bowlers, only eight wides in 40 overs is a great effort.

Needing 60 to win, the Island team knocked the runs over with seven overs spare, Archie Williams again showing what a fantastic young talent he is retiring on 50, the ever improving Zack Hughes with 33no and Jobe Williams 25no.

A professional display by a very good Phillip Island team.

Well done both teams you have some fantastic young talent for your clubs to keep developing.

Thanks to umpires Les White and Geoff Parkinson.

Thanks to OMK for the use of its oval and facilities – they are a real credit to all involved.

Once again, the association thank Paul the Pieman Bakeries for its continued sponsorship of LDCA Junior Cricket.



Inverloch Man of the Match Riley Harris.



Inverloch's Riley Harris made 89 runs in the U17s grand final.

UNDER 17

Inverloch 10/184 d Imperials 10/132

Inverloch - 1st INNINGS: Riley Harris 89, Cooper Newman 32, Ty Debono 18
Bowling: Jesse Dugard 3/12, Archie Terlich 3/27
Imperials - 1st INNINGS: Aydan Williams 69, Cam Bruce 13, Archie Casey 13, Aydan Williams 3/35, Connor Richards 2/6

Player of the Match: Riley Harris, Inverloch

UNDER 15

Phillip Island 2/138 d Glen Alvie 7/136

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: Archie Williams 50 retired, Zack Hughes 33no, Jobe Williams 25*, Brydon Marshall 14
Bowling: Jaxen Marshall 2/34, Ethan Rhee 2/8, Glen Alvie - 1st INNINGS: Jack Brown 48, Archie Donohue 37, Archie Luke 28*
Bowling: Archie Moore 1/23, Jackson Glen 1/12

Player of the Match: Archie Williams, Phillip Island



The Wonthaggi Club cricketers had a win on Pink Stumps Day recently.

Pink Stumps success at Wonthaggi Club

A PINK Stumps Day Fundraiser for Wonthaggi Club Cricket Club was held on February 24.

Hosted by Jade Ray-Angarane, Bass Coast Health's Taryn Robinson from McGrath Foundation was invited to do a presentation.

Taryn explained the history of the McGrath Foundation, gave educational advice for the women in the room, what's available locally and showed statistics.

She had posters to look at and leaflets for the women to take home to read.

Megan Vuillerman also spoke about her personal experience and journey as a cancer survivor.

"It was a really magical day. I'm so glad I decided to do it. It not only raised funds for the charity, but spread awareness regarding breast cancer," Jade said.

The Club cricketers also enjoyed a win on the day.

The day was a success and \$5500 was raised for breast care nurses at McGrath Foundation.

JUNIOR FOOTY REGISTRATION NIGHT

We are very excited for the CGJFL Junior Football Season to kick off for 2024! We will be holding a Meet the Coaches/Information/Registration & Pie Night for all players and their parents.

Thursday the 21st of March

5pm at the MDU Social Rooms

Free pie and drink for the kids

Boots & Merch Swap
Bring anything that no longer fits & swap it for the next size up

Age Groups
Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 & Under 16

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Dave Trotman on 0418 589 805

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AND FAMILIES
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Adam Thorne 116 n/o celebrating his ton. Photo: Jodie Arnup.

Goannas take on Yarra Valley

OVER 70s

THE Gippsland Goannas Over-70 cricket team played the Yarra Valley >70's at Wandin North Reserve on Wednesday.

It was a pleasant morning for cricket as they arrived at the ground.

Captain Ian Southall won the toss and the Goannas batted first on the synthetic pitch.

The Goannas had 13 players, so decided to retire batsmen at 25 balls, and bowlers would have a maximum of six overs.

Garry Rose retired first with six runs to his name, shortly after Warren Dummett was caught for 15.

The Goannas were 1/25 after 10 overs.

Neil Meredith was stumped for four, Ian Gibson, 17, Dick Noble, 21, Derek Morris, 29 all retired as the Goannas reached 2/68 after 20 overs.

Wayne Tatterson had a quick hit, Gordon Cowling made nine of the 38 runs put on with Morris, and the score was 4/130 after 30 overs.

Andrew Smith, 22, Southall 34, Phillip Higgins seven, Kelvin Bond seven, and Ron Milnes five, took the score to 5/195 after the 40 overs.

This was a good score after the relatively slow start.

The YV Vets provided a beaut lunch and sent out their two national team reps, Leigh Hardham and Trevor Selby, to open the innings.

Cowling and Meredith opened the bowling, but there was no success till Southall bowled Hardham for 27 in the seventh over when the score was 1/40.

The YV bats were retiring after 30 balls, as Smith and Bond also bowled.

YV reached 2/102 after 20 overs, with a Bond return to Gibson effecting a run out in the 18th over.

The Goannas dropped a few catches, but their ground fielding was ok as the YV bats kept the scoreboard ticking over.

The heat was starting to take effect as Milnes, Noble and Morris all bowled overs without success, Cowling came back on and Higgins bowled the 34th over as the score mounted, and reached 200, when the game was called off.

Southy's bowling figures, four overs 1/15, were the best of the day.

Goannas man of the match was awarded to Andrew Smith as he had batted, bowled and fielded well.

Goannas practice will continue at Glen-garry on Wednesdays in preparation for the Echuca tournament.

Sharks win semi final preview

C GRADE

KILCUNDA-Bass have the edge over Nyora coming into the first semi-final.

In a semi-final preview, Kilcunda-Bass managed to pass Nyora's score of 10/157.

Gregory Miller opened well for Kilcunda-Bass, making 42 runs before he was bowled by Gavin Hackett.

Kevin McLean went on to dominate later in the innings, making 76 not out.

Hackett and Lincoln Brock each claimed two wickets.

Another wicket was claimed by Daniel Blackney.

Kilcunda-Bass rattled Nyora, winning with a score of 5/168.

Kilcunda-Bass and Nyora will do it all again this Saturday as they battle it out for a spot in the grand final.

Town stumble against mighty MDU

LEONGATHA Town was unable to match the might of MDU on Saturday.

Playing at home, Town had a its sights set on 5/308.

An impressive 87 run haul from Poly Joseph Kalookaran helped to keep Town competitive.

Max Carter added 35 runs and Travis Strybosch contributed 31 runs.

However, MDU bowler Keiran Brown had other ideas, claiming 5/52 and keeping Town's score manageable.

Daniel Field and Clayton Fisher were also multiple wicket takers.

Town finished its innings bowled out 10/227.

This was a final hurrah for MDU in the 2023/24 season, finishing sixth on the ladder but going out with a bang.

Town will face Phillip Island in the second semi-final.

Thorne on a roll

ADAM Thorne was the driving force that led to Koonwarra L/RSL pipping Inverloch on Saturday.

Inverloch was in a good position, having made 8/257 the previous week.

However, opening batsman



Leongatha Town's Nigel Hedges focuses on the ball.

Thorne stepped up to the wicket and was there to stay, making 114 not out.

A fill-in player batted third in the order and made 40 runs, with Glenn Matthies later contributing 31 runs.

Inverloch bowler Wayne Chapman kept the pressure on, claiming 3/90.

Multiple wickets were also claimed by Jason Smith and Shaun Hayes.

Thorne's unstoppable reign resulted in Koonwarra L/RSL recording a winning score of 9/261.

Swift victory for Phillip Island

PHILLIP Island outplayed Glen Alvie on Saturday.

The Sharks passed Glen Alvie's score of 9/175 after 35.2 overs and moved to get out of the heat.

Phillip Island opening batsman David Fusinato led the charge, making 62 not out.

Opening batsman Gavin Ex-cell contributed 31 runs and, coming in at number four, Steve Niven hit 40 runs.

Glen Alvie bowler Joe Burke managed to claim 2/33.

David Hynes was the only other wicket taker.

Phillip Island claimed its win with a score of 3/176.

Phillip Island will now go on to face Town in the second semi-final.



Town's Nigel Hedges was bowled by MDU's Keiran Brown.

Chance to make money while also benefiting OMK Cricket Club

OMK Cricket Club is keen to add more sellers to its March 30 auction at which it will be raising funds towards the construction of new practice pitches and nets, with the Diggers already having an impressive range of items to sell.

SEJ's Jimmy Kyle and Paul Wilson are volunteering their time to run the auction and are sure to make it an entertaining affair.

Apart from donated items, the club will take a commission on the sales made.

The cricket net project is estimated at \$100,000, with the concrete pitches to be replaced and covered with synthetic turf, and new netting.

Cricket Australia is contributing \$30,000 to the project, while South Gippsland Shire Council is providing \$10,000 through a Community Grant.

Club president Russ White is hopeful the auction will raise over \$20,000.



OMK Cricket Club president Russ White is calling for more vendors to take part in a fundraising auction at the end of March. A08_1124



Korumburra captain Philip Richards on his way to a top score of 36 not out.

Victory for the Stingrays

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

INVERLOCH successfully defended its total against MDU on Saturday.

The Stingrays recorded 10/177 the previous week and was geared up to stride into the finals on a high note.

Inverloch's John Bowring continued his fine form from last week, claiming the wickets of both opening batsmen.

Tyrone Zukoviskis managed 21 runs before he was dismissed.

Jai Bright later top scored with 34 runs and Zak Bright rounded out the innings with 22 not out.

Inverloch's star bowler was Callan O'Flynn, who claimed 3/33.

Harry Butcher was also a multiple wicket taker.

Ultimately, MDU fell short and was bowled out with 10/130.

Inverloch heads into the second semi-final, set to face OMK.

Jones leads OMK to the win

A STRONG performance from Luke Jones secured a win for OMK against Leongatha Town.

Jones opened the batting and made 90 runs before he was sent back to the sidelines by a catch from Archie Fixter.

The damage was done though, with David Creed, Adam Busana and captain Kris Kerr only needing to contribute 16, 12 and 13 runs respectively to claim victory.

Levi Hickey was Town's stand out bowler, taking 3/52.

The remaining two wickets were claimed by Ethan Smith.

OMK won the day with a final tally of 5/146.

OMK is ready to face Inverloch in the second semi-final.

Sharks too strong

HEATH Womersley and Henry Peppard returned to the crease to finish off the innings for Phillip Island.

Coming up against the Imperials, Womersley top scored with 32 runs and Peppard contributed 24 runs.

Coming in at number four,



Korumburra captain Philip Richards was in form on Saturday.

Thomas Blackwell hit another 30 runs.

After 42 overs, Phillip Island declared with a score of 7/133 and sent the Imperials in to bat again in hopes of an outright win.

The Imperials played 14 overs before calling it a day at 1/27.

Gary Sauvarin and Jack Ballagh made 14 and five not out respectively, while Cameron Bruce made one run before he was dismissed.

His wicket was claimed by Kurt Lane.

Phillip Island will now meet Korumburra in the first semi-final.

Cobras outplay the Cougars

KORUMBURRA toppled Koonwarra L/RSL's score on

Saturday.

Koonwarra L/RSL had produced a handy score of 8/196, but it wasn't enough to hold back the Cobras.

Trevor Allen opened Korumburra's innings well, batting 27 runs.

Shane Dole, Jeffery Walsh and Philip Richards got the job done for Korumburra, making 35, 32 and 36 runs respectively.

Richards was not out at stumps.

Matthew Boswell had Koonwarra L/RSL's best bowling figures, taking 2/18.

Other wickets were shared between four bowlers.

Korumburra won the match with 6/198 and will play in the first semi-final against Phillip Island.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Sharks stay strong

KILCUNDA-BASS defended its tally against an embattled Glen Alvie on Saturday.

The Sharks went into the match ready to protect its score of 7/253.

Vice captain Jay Tiziani stepped up for Glen Alvie, making a handy 47 runs before he was run out.

Vijai Kumar Gopal added 29 runs towards the end of the innings.

However, Kilcunda-Bass' fielding pressure kept Glen Alvie well under control.

Ben Rookes was the top bowler for the Sharks, taking 3/20.

Wickets were also shared between Rohan Duff, Jacob Havetta and James Mahood.

Glen Alvie ended its innings with a total of 9/112.

Kilcunda-Bass earned a place in the first semi-final against OMK.

The two-day match will be played this weekend.

Club sails by the Cobras

WONTHAGGI Club successfully passed Korumburra's score to win the final game of the home and away season on Saturday.

Opening batsman Luke Sibley had Club off to a flying start, making 57 runs.

It was all over for Korumburra when Luke McGuirk entered following the dismissal of captain Liam Sawyer at 1/25.

McGuirk went on to hit 91 runs before he was bowled out by Noah Belvedere.

Darren Scott and Glen Barrett were the other wicket takers for Korumburra.

Club won the day with a score of 4/205.

The match between Phillip Island and Nerrena was abandoned on Saturday.

The Sharks and the Red Caps will meet again in a rematch this weekend during the second semi-final.

Foster forfeited its match against OMK.

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

Inverloch 177 d MDU 130

MDU - 1st INNINGS: G Webster 0, T Zukovskis 21, W Prosser 4, M Hooper 10, S Browne 0, J Bright 34, C Hooper 0, Fill-in 5, S Mcrae 12, A Dyke 13, Z Bright 22*. Bowling: J Bowring 2/26, B Debono 1/10, T Debono 1/26, C O'Flynn 3/33, H Butcher 2/26, M Marston 1/7

OMK 5/146 d Town 128

OMK - 1st INNINGS: A Trotto 4, L Jones 90, J Hayes 0, D Creed 16, A Busana 12, K Kerr 13*. Bowling: L Hickey 3/52, F McLennan 0/34, E Smith 2/27, L Ashton 0/27, A Fixter 0/6

Phillip Island 7/133 d Imperials 90 & 1/27

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: H Womersley 32, M Arceo 5, H Peppard 24, T Blackwell 30, K Lane 13, C Epifano 12, O Duggan 1, A Finlayson 2*, A Williams 0*. Bowling: M Reidy 2/23, K McGrath 0/6, J Ballagh 4/71, J Jeffery 0/17, I Bolge 0/4, K Gray 1/7. Imperials - 2nd INNINGS: G Sauvarin 14*, C Bruce 1, J Ballagh 5*. Bowling: J Williams 0/1, K Lane 1/6, H Arceo 0/13, H Womersley 0/2

Korumburra 6/198 d Koon L/RSL 8/196

Korumburra - 1st INNINGS: T M Allen 27, J Wrigley 8, M Allen 17, S Dole 35, J Walsh 32, P Richards 36*, T Jenkin 16, S Head 0*. Bowling: L Read 1/20, S Chadwick 0/34, P Buckley 1/18, J Geary 0/21, R King 1/12, A Drury 0/26, M Boswell 2/18, M Scrimshaw 1/24, W Cashin 0/15

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

Nerrena 1/67 v Phillip Island 252

Match abandoned.

Nerrena - 1st INNINGS: B Croatto 44*, B Gannon 1, S Checkley 19*. Bowling: A Tolley 1/29, T Allan 0/27, D Womersley 0/8

Kilcunda-Bass 7/253 d Glen Alvie 9/112

Glen Alvie - 1st INNINGS: S Smith 11, H Smith 7, J Tiziani 45, Fill-in 1, D Hale 14, T Gunn 0, C Andersen 0, V Kumar Gopal 29, L McRae 0, C Duscher 0*. Bowling: R Duff 1/22, B Rookes 3/20, J Havetta 0/8, A McBride 1/14, J Mahood 1/22, B Waldron 0/9, A Bedford 0/15, B Joseph 0/1

Club 4/204 d Korumburra 194

Korumburra - 1st INNINGS: C Gooch 0, C Turton 6, D Scott 15, A Damon 35, P Beadel 0, N Belvedere 45, T Morrison 12, T Sorrell 6, G Barrett 0, P Dixon 61, S McKinnon 7*. Bowling: A Babu 3/45, L McGuirk 0/21, M Sharp 2/17, S Williams 5/25, B Ton 0/15, H Crump 0/13, J Caddy 0/18, J Dowson 0/18, Fill-in 0/19. Club - 1st INNINGS: L Sibley 57, L Sawyer 8, L McGuirk 9, J Caddy 9, H Crump 2*, Fill-in 21*. Bowling: P Dixon 0/31, D Scott 1/22, T Sorrell 0/21, G Barrett 1/31, S McKinnon 0/16, P Beadel 0/32, N Belvedere 1/7, A Damon 0/22, C Turton 0/13

OMK d Foster

OMK won by forfeit.

C GRADE

Koon L/RSL 9/261 d Inverloch 8/257

Koonwarra L/RSL - 1st INNINGS: A Thorne 114*, A Stanley 13, Fill-in 40, A Boxall 1, S Paterson 11, A Matthies 31, K Thorne 1, T Collins 23, A Piksons 1, R Collins 2, B Thomas 0*. Bowling: C Butler 1/61, W Chapman 3/90, J Smith 2/36, S Hayes 2/58, M Dugard 0/4

Phillip Island 3/176 d Glen Alvie 9/175

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: David Fusinato 62*, G Excell 31, D Ivey 6, S Niven 46, Drew Fusinato 11*. Bowling: D Hynes 1/23, O Luff 0/44, W Bridle 0/33, J Burke 2/33, N Luff 0/20, C Stewart 0/13

Kilcunda-Bass 5/168 d Nyora 157

Kilcunda-Bass - 1st INNINGS: G Miller 42, P Miller 24, S Williams 4, K McLean 76*, J Dickson 11, J Hackett 0, E Magnussen 1*. Bowling: K Maclure 0/29, L Brock 2/34, D Blackney 1/15, T Perkins 0/20, W Dixon 0/21, C Knox 0/19, G Hackett 2/23

MDU 5/308 d Town 227

MDU - 1st INNINGS: T Bright 16, D Thomas 39, H Cocksedge 10, W Cocksedge 83, G Cocksedge 48, C Fisher 4, D Zuidema 88*, C Schwennesen 3*. Bowling: T Strybosch 1/86, C Dowling 1/57, H Livingstone 1/21, P J Kallookkaran 1/67, M Carter 1/24, Y Ratnaike 0/16, P Carter 0/27

Town - 1st INNINGS: R Edward's 0, T Cashin 23, T Strybosch 31, N Hodges 10, T Tootell 3, P J Kallookkaran 87, H Livingstone 3, M Carter 35, P Carter 1, A Aeschlimann 10, Y Ratnaike 10*. Bowling: K Brown 5/52, D Zuidema 0/23, D Feild 2/17, G Cocksedge 0/28, C Fisher 2/34, C Schwennesen 1/8, S Riley 0/46, L Webb 0/12

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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Brodie Johnston (Phillip Island) **133** ; Mark McCall (Club) **4/27**
A2: James Rushton (Koonwarra L/RSL) **104*** ; Aaron Kaddatz (Nyora) **4/18**
B1: Luke Jones (OMK) **90** ; Jack Ballagh (Imperials) **4/71**
B2: Luke McGuirk (Club) **91** ; Ben Rookes (Kilcunda-Bass) **3/20**
C: Adam Thorne (Koonwarra L/RSL) **114*** ; Keiran Brown (MDU) **5/52**

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LADDERS

RD 14

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
A GRADE, Division 1					
Phillip Island	114	2.044	Nyora	126	1.449
Club	102	1.430	KoonL/RSL	114	1.422
Town	96	1.014	Foster	114	1.422
OMK	92	1.018	Glen Alvie	102	1.307
Imperials	90	0.964	MDU	66	0.840
Nerrena	66	0.747	Kilcunda-Bass	54	0.701
Korumburra	66	0.532	Nerrena	54	0.654
Inverloch	54	0.861	Club	42	0.722
B GRADE, Division 1					
Phillip Island	138	1.368	OMK	126	1.701
Inverloch	134	1.416	Nerrena	120	1.471
OMK	126	1.686	Phillip Island	108	1.323
Korumburra	90	1.104	Kilcunda-Bass	102	1.587
MDU	66	0.907	Club	78	1.083
Town	66	0.816	Foster	54	0.675
Koonwarra L/RSL	42	0.761	Glen Alvie	42	0.595
Imperials	18	0.486	Korumburra	42	0.426
C GRADE					
Nyora	96	1.824			
Phillip Island	96	1.472			
Town	92	1.517			
Kilcunda-Bass	84	1.032			
Koonwarra L/RSL	66	0.664			
MDU	60	1.646			
Inverloch	60	0.954			
Glen Alvie	54	0.447			
Korumburra	30	0.473			

Local cricket

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NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

SEMI FINALS
MARCH 16 & 17

A GRADE, Division 1 - (90 overs)

Phillip Island v OMK (Scorpion Park 1)
Ash Stride / John Schelling
Club v Town (Wonthaggi Turf)
Ian Salmon / Ken Scrimshaw

A Grade, Division 2 - (90 overs)

Nyora v Glen Alvie (Korumburra Rec)
Graham Wightman / Brad Phillips
Koonwarra L/RSL v Foster (Leongatha Turf)
Les White / Gary Sauvarin

B GRADE, Division 1 - (70 Overs)

Phillip Island v Korumburra (Newhaven)
Neil Grabham / Heath Dobbie
Inverloch v OMK (Inverloch FG)
Anthony Hunt / Geoff Parkinson

B GRADE, Division 2 - (70 Overs)

OMK v Kilcunda-Bass (Outtrim Rec)
Warren Williams / Noel Grayden
Nerrena v Phillip Island (Nerrena)
TBA / Michael Ryan

C GRADE - (60 Overs)

Nyora v Kilcunda-Bass (Nyora)
Doug Pell / Michael Heenan
Phillip Island v Town (Rhyll)
Geoff Wyatt / Cam Butler

Subject to Confirmation.
Any prospective umpires can contact
Jason O'Reilly 0439 688 575
or Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136

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OMK captain Koby Brann watches an incoming ball.

Shared points sends OMK to finals

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

THE match between Leongatha Town and OMK was ultimately abandoned due to Saturday's extreme heat.

Coming into the weekend, Town was sitting on a massive score of 9/324.

OMK played 58 overs before the match was called off.

Thomas Wyatt put on a great performance, hitting 83 not out.

Captain Koby Brann made 54 runs and Noel Creed finished off the innings with 18 not out.

Pamuditha Geemal Rajapakshage had Town's best bowling figures, taking 2/54.

Rhett Hume, Amila Ratnaike, Ron Abeysinghe claimed a wicket each.

When the game was abandoned, OMK had reached 7/220.

Both clubs will feature in this weekend's semi-finals.

Town will compete against Wonthaggi Club, and OMK will face Phillip Island.

Club continues its rampage

IN a team effort, Wonthaggi Club continued its dominance over Korumburra on Saturday.

Following on from an incredible batting performance, Club's bowlers also showed their prowess.

Mark McCall was the standout, claiming 4/27.



Leongatha Town bowler Amila Ratnaike sends one down to the OMK batsman.

Captain Joel Brann, Ryan Birkett and Ryan Thomas took two wickets each.

Korumburra's opening batsmen Tom Crocker and Zachary Barrett had the Cobras off to a good start, making 25 and 20 runs respectively.

However, these ended up being the top scores.

Coming in at number four, Yashan Vithanage added 18 runs.

After 34.4 overs, Korumburra was bowled out

10/95.

Club will face Leongatha Town in the second semi-final this weekend.

Red Caps claim the win

NERRENA defended its tally of 9/181 against Inverloch on Saturday.

Playing at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve, this was the final game of the 2023/24 season for both sides.

Inverloch suffered three ducks early, with opening

batsman Walter Taberner holding on to make 16 runs.

Coming in at number six, captain Dave Newman kept Inverloch competitive with 44 runs before his wicket fell to Ryan Clark.

Jesse Dugard later added 21 runs.

Nerrena bowler Timothy Wightman slowed Inverloch's run, taking 4/52.

Clark went on to claim 3/30.

Ultimately, Inverloch finished its innings with 10/112.

Imps win first innings

THE Imps defeated frontrunner Phillip Island on first innings points on Saturday.

Phillip Island sought redemption after a woeful first innings – which saw it bowled out 10/37 – and denied the Imps the outright win.

Phillip Island opening batsman Brodie Johnston had the Sharks back to their usual form, making 133 runs before he was bowled by Lachie Wright.

Thomas Niven and Cohen Beaumont made 29 and 23 runs respectively.

Wright was the Imps' top bowler, claiming 3/64.

Captain Jack Ginnane and Timothy Sauvarin claimed a wicket each.

Phillip Island finished its second innings with 5/206.

Phillip Island will contest the first semi-final against OMK.

Foster sounds a warning

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

THE runaway leader of the competition in A Grade Division Two, and the side with a mortgage on promotion to Division One next year, Nyora, didn't do a lot wrong in their last match of the home and away season against Nerrena on Saturday.

Having batted first the previous week and put on the useful total of 9/249 off 75 overs, principally on the back of 109 not out by Jake Hackett, through a series of partnerships, they did everything right on Saturday, reducing Nerrena to just 150 in reply, with Aaron Kaddatz the star with the ball taking 4/18 off 11.

But given the fact that their batting fell away later in the innings, Nyora might now be looking over their shoulder at a team that couldn't have been more impressive in securing their place in the semi-finals against Koonwarra-Leongatha RSL at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve Turf Wicket this coming weekend – Foster.

The Tigers have an excellent array of talent, with bat and ball, and they showed their resolve in chasing down the worthy target of 258 set for them by MDU the previous week, featuring a classic Paul Le Page knock of 119 including 13 fours and 6 sixes.

Foster openers Jack Gay 33 and Josh Toner 91 got the team off to the perfect start with 95 in good time for the first wicket partnership. Toner continued on with Jake Best to add another 50 and everyone got time in the middle, including Jake Staley, 67 off 68 balls, in the ideal lead up to the finals this coming weekend.

Who wins from here? Who knows?

But you'd have to say that the premier in A2 could come from any of the four that remain; Nyora versus Glen Alvie at the Korumburra Turf and Koonwarra-Leongatha RSL versus Foster at the Leongatha Rec Turf.



Kilcunda-Bass' Daniel Ferguson 33 off 141 balls played the ideal support role during a 100-plus partnership with Matthew Grayson.



Glen Alvie's Matthew Dakin bowled eight tight overs but without luck finishing with the figures of 0/12 in a solid effort in the field by the fourth-placed team.



Jimmy Rushton and Michael Thomas celebrating after their innings, Jimmy 104* and Michael 26*. Photo: Jodie Arnup.

Imps' heroics at Phillip Island not enough

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

THERE was a sensational finish to the Leongatha and District Cricket Association season and Leongatha Imperials have missed out on playing in the prestigious A Grade Division One finals for all the wrong reasons.

Instead, Outtrim Moyarra Kongwak, which was on the way to losing its last round match against Leongatha Town, and tumbling out of the final four at the last moment, have retained their place in the four ultimately because of the heat.

Needing 325 to pass Leongatha Town and protect their place in the four, OMK looked to be going along well at various stages in the afternoon, especially while captain Koby Brann 54 and the stoic Tom Wyatt 83 not out were at the crease but the loss of Brann in the middle of the afternoon injected an unwanted element of instability in the chase and by drinks, Town was on its way to victory with OMK 7/220 still needing more than 100 runs but with only three wickets

in hand.

But then, disaster for Imperials' hopes of climbing back into the four on the back of the demolition of ladder leaders Phillip Island the week before.

With the weather oppressive throughout the day, and then reaching up towards the heat-out level of 38 degrees, the association appointed umpire in the Town versus OMK game, Ash Stride, was overcome with heat-stroke and the captains both agreed that it was better not to go on with the game.

Whether or not another umpire could have been found to replace him is not known.

It has also been reported that several players felt sick with the heat.

LDCA Secretary Ken Scrimshaw confirmed on Saturday evening that the association had accepted the situation and declared the semi-finalists for next week, Phillip Island versus OMK Scorpion Park, and Wonthaggi Club versus Leongatha Town at Butch West Oval Wonthaggi.

President of the Leongatha

Imperials Cricket Club Kristin Gray said the club was bitterly disappointed with the outcome.

"The umpire was affected with heatstroke, so you can't do anything about that but it's terribly disappointing for our players for the season to end like that," said Gray on Saturday night.

"Obviously we hope he's alright, but we really felt we deserved a place in the finals," he said.

The Imperials A Grade Division One side was constantly in touch with the game at Leongatha, while they played Phillip Island at Newhaven chasing the unlikely outright result that would have secured their finals' berth but the villain of the Sharks' first innings of 37, Brodie Johnston, became the hero of the Island's second innings when he raised his bat for a century, after opening at a precarious time the week before.

He went on to make 133 off 199 balls and with several of his mates playing their part, they batted Imps out of any chance of an outright, finishing the day with 5/206 off 75 overs.



Phillip Island's Brodie Johnston redeems himself and restores his team's number one ranking in the Leongatha and District Cricket competition with 133 runs off 199 balls at Newhaven on Saturday in a drama packed finish to the season.

A GRADE

DIVISION 1

Town 9/324 v OMK 7/220 Match Abandoned.
OMK – 1st INNINGS

Jack Cochrane lbw: R Hume	10
Ethan Lamers b: A Ratnaike	10
Koby Brann c: J Giardina b: PG Rajapakshage	54
Mudassar Riaz c&b: R Abeysinghe	13
Thomas Wyatt not out	83*
Paul Fermanis c: A Ratnaike b: PG Rajapakshage	8
Clayton Quaife run out: DLMP Gallage	1
Joel Cuman run out: PG Rajapakshage	13
Noel Creed not out	18*
Extras (1w, 1nb, 4lb, 4b)	10
Total 7 / 220 (56 Overs)	
Bowling: PG Rajapakshage 16-2-54-2 (1w), R Hume 12-3-47-1 (1nb), A Ratnaike 3-2-4-1, R Abeysinghe 18-0-59-1, D Hume 5-0-32-0, DLMP Gallage 2-0-16-0	

Nerrena 9/181 d Inverloch 112

Inverloch – 1st INNINGS

Jack Butcher lbw: J Trease	0
Walter Taberner c: b: T Wightman	16
Andrew Donohue c: R Clark b: J Trease	0
Riley Harris c: D Berryman b: T Wightman	0
Jake Dennerley lbw: T Wightman	4
David Newman c&b: R Clark	44
Jacob Strickland c: D Symmons	0
Jesse Dugard c: M Clark b: T Wightman	21
Isaac Seuren b: Clark	6
Lewis Rankin not out	13*
Cooper Newman c: H Funnell b: R Clark	2
Extras (2nb, 4lb)	6
Total 10 / 112 (61.4 Overs)	
Bowling: J Trease 18-13-5-2 (2nb), R Clark 12.3-3-30-3, T Wightman 18-7-52-4, D Symmons 7-5-9-1, M Clark 6-0-12-0	

Club 4/402 d Korumburra 95

Korumburra – 1st INNINGS

Tom Crocker b: R Thomas	25
Zachary Barrett b: M McCall	20
Jye Celebrine c: A Geyer b: R Thomas	0
Yashan Vithanage c&b: J Brann	18
Noah Christensen b: M McCall	4
Hemal Ratnayake b: M McCall	0
Jacob Whiteside c: S Beaumont b: J Brann	7
Nadeesha Belpage lbw: M McCall	10
Jason Richards lbw: R Birkett	0
Harry McNeil b: R Birkett	7
Daniel Whelan not out	1*
Extras (1nb, 2lb)	3
Total 10 / 95 (34.4 Overs)	
Bowling: J Brann 10-2-26-2, R Birkett 6.4-0-22-2 (1nb), R Thomas 6-1-18-2, M McCall 12-6-27-4	

Imperials 115 d P-Island 37 & 5/206

Phillip Island – 2nd INNINGS

Thomas Niven c: L Rogers b: T Sauvarin	29
Brodie Johnston b: L Wright	133
Lachlan Cleeland c: M Lafferty b: J Ginnane	3
Eli Richards b: L Wright	6
Kohen Beaumont c: D Ginnane b: L Wright	24
Simon Kirton not out	3*
Zac Brown not out	1*
Extras (2w, 1nb, 2lb, 2b)	7
Total 5 / 206 (75 Overs)	
Bowling: L Wright 20-4-65-3 (1nb), L Anderson 9-4-14-0, J Ginnane 21-5-59-1 (1w), T Sauvarin 16-6-42-1 (1w), D Ginnane 2-0-10-0, N Eddy 7-2-12-0	

A GRADE

DIVISION 2

Nyora 9/249 d Nerrena 150

Nerrena – 1st INNINGS

Zack Trease c: J Henry b: A Kaddatz	0
Billy Trotman b: A Thompson	20
James Kelly run out: A Thompson	25
Kade Berryman lbw: A Kaddatz	48
Joel Rendell b: H Dolphin	23
Dave Trotman c: L Row b: A Thompson	24
Tyson Harris lbw: A Kaddatz	1
Archie Gannon b: L Row	0
Charlie Dougherty b: A Kaddatz	0
Fill-in not out	0*
Jaxon Checkley timed out	0
Extras (1w, 2lb, 6b)	9
Total 10 / 150 (58.5 Overs)	
Bowling: A Kaddatz 11.1-6-18-4, M Rowe 7-2-14-0, A Simmons 11-2-28-0 (1w), A Thompson 17-5-46-2, J Hackett 2-0-9-0, H Dolphin 7-1-19-1, L Row 3-0-8-1	

Foster 5/266 d MDU 258

Foster – 1st INNINGS

Jack Gay c&b: M McGrath	33
Josh Toner c: S Bright b: S Arnup	91
Jake Best c: P Le Page b: S Arnup	18
Mitchell Jones c: T Sinclair b: J Palmer	34
Jake Staley c&b: J Palmer	67
Jack Weston not out	15*
Mitchell Allott not out	1*
Extras (1w, 1nb, 1lb, 4b)	7
Total 5 / 266 (70 Overs)	
Bowling: S Bright 18-3-53-0, M Cantwell 10-0-45-0, J Palmer 10-1-62-2 (1w, 1nb), M McGrath 20-4-62-1, A Richardson 4-1-19-0, S Arnup 8-0-20-2	

Koonwarra L/RSL 0/140 d Club 121

Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS

James Rushton not out	104*
Michael Thomas not out	26*
Extras (8lb, 2b)	10
Total 0 / 140 (35 Overs)	
Bowling: J Williamson 7-0-31-0, C Fraser 7-0-21-0, R Todd 2-2-0-0, L Anstey 1-0-1-0, H Dobbie 7-2-15-0, S Roche 7-1-31-0, L McRae 2-0-11-0, J Shannon 2-0-20-0	

Glen Alvie 5/276 d Kilcunda-Bass 9/176

Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS

Cameron Davidson b: S Kennedy	17
Todd Smith run out: M Dakin	2
Owen Thomas c: R Sinclair b: S Kennedy	11
Matthew Grayson run out: M Dakin	75
Daniel Ferguson c: S Watson b: S Kennedy	33
Riley Duff c: S Kennedy b: D Williams	3
Jackson Baker c: M Donohue b: D Williams	0
Justin Price c&b: S Watson	3
Harrison Berry c: B McRae b: S Watson	12
Chris Peckett not out	5*
Extras (4w, 3nb, 5lb, 3b)	15
Total 9 / 176 (73 Overs)	
Bowling: M Dakin 8-3-12-0 (2w), R Sinclair 4-0-10-0 (1w), B McRae 22-10-32-0, S Kennedy 20-5-31-3, N Thatcher 4-0-23-0 (1w, 3nb), D Williams 9-2-36-2, M Donohue 3-1-13-0, S Peatling 1-0-5-0, S Watson 2-0-6-2	

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Confrontational was the winner of the Stony Creek Cup on Sunday. Photo: Racing Photos.

Cup success in hot conditions

DESPITE the scorching heat, the Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup was successfully run and won on Sunday.

Approximately 1800 attended the last race meeting of the season, braving the conditions to enjoy a day out at the local racing club.

The Cup featured a small field of six runners and was a competitive race with a close finish.

Drama took hold after the race when the second-place finisher protested the result, believing victory had been denied due to interference.

However, the protest was dismissed by the stewards.

The winner of the Cup was Confrontational, a promising young horse trained by Jason Warren.

"It was good to see (Confrontational) get a win in a feature race," Stony Creek Racing Club CEO Adam Olszanski said.

"Jason Warren was the winning trainer. He was not present on the day, but he is a great supporter of the Stony Creek

Racing Club and consistently sends horses to race. It's good to see the trainers who support the club getting a win."

Warren also trained the winner of race one Mika Zuki.

Two jockeys also had a great day out, winning two races each.

Brian Higgins won races three and five, and Jason Maskiell won races one and six.

All jockeys and horses coped well with the conditions, and plenty of ice water was provided.

Around the grounds, the club was well supported by racegoers with the most amount of marquee and umbrella sales of the season.

Children's activities were provided, including pony rides, face painting, and Funky Farm wildlife shows and encounters.

The 2023/24 racing season has now wrapped up and proved to be a bit of a mixed bag for the Stony Creek club.

The first race meeting took place just after Christmas and was the most successful meeting

in terms of attendance.

One meeting was lost due to 50ml of rain impacting the course, and high winds threatened the January 18 meeting, but it managed to go ahead as planned.

A low-key Publican's Day was enjoyed in February and was a success.

"It's all part and parcel of an outdoor sport, and it was a successful season regardless of the weather we experienced," Olszanski said.

"We were able to donate to local clubs and organisations, and it's great that we can do that given we are a not-for-profit organisation ourselves."

"We are looking forward to another great season, with meetings through the next summer holidays. We will be looking to have more weekend meetings next season too."

A calendar of events at Stony Creek Racing Club is set to be released around May.

More photos page 58



Photo: Racing Photos.

Country racing at its finest *at Woolamai*

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2022-2023



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