



HAVE YOUR SAY ON SAN REMO

Bass Coast Strategic Planners Ellen Whatley and Melanie Wright are leading discussions out in the community as the Council looks to shape the future of San Remo, with the town set to double in population over the next 20 years. Local residents are encouraged to participate in upcoming public consultation sessions on March 26 and April 2.

NO THANKS

Bass Coast to reject tourism 'merger'

TOURISM in Bass Coast contributes \$308.5 million in economic output and over 1600 jobs, most of that coming from Phillip Island and its world-famous major events.

However, while it successfully hosts the MotoGP, World Superbikes and Phillip Island Pro world surfing qualifying event, along the way to attracting some 35 per cent of Melbourne's international visitors, according to the State Government, Phillip Island doesn't warrant having a stand-alone regional tourism board.

But at the Bass Coast Shire Council meeting this Wednesday, Bass Coast Shire Councillors will be asked to vote

on an alternative option to the three merger proposals put forward by the Department of Jobs, Skills Industry and Regions (DJSIR) as part of a statewide reform of regional tourism promotion.

The DJSIR wants Destination Phillip Island to either join the rest of Bass Coast in merging with Destination Gippsland or Mornington Peninsula or for DPI to join Mornington on its own.

Bass Coast Shire and Destination Phillip Island want to reject all three options.

They want the government to consider supporting a fourth way given the significance of the visitor economy in the area, called 'One Bass Coast', effectively

a standalone 'regional' tourism association with Bass Coast as its only member.

If council votes that way this Wednesday, Bass Coast will write to the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events outlining Council's position.

There's one obvious problem with that approach.

In its 'Supporting regional tourism in Bass Coast Shire' options paper delivered to Bass Coast Shire and DPI in November last year, DJSIR only agreed to extend funding to the existing structure on the basis that Bass Coast Shire and Destination Phillip Island accepted one of the three options.

Continued page 3

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Pages 23-27

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PRICE FREEZE



Police have released images of a man they believe can assist with their enquiries into the scam of \$130,000.



Acting Inspector – Bass Coast LAC Jason Hullick addressed the media last Thursday, as police appeal for the public's assistance.

Disgraceful act, elderly woman scammed out of \$130,000

BASS Coast Crime Investigation Unit detectives are appealing for public assistance after a 91-year-old woman was scammed out of over \$130,000 last year.

The woman from Foster received a phone call from a person purporting to be from her bank on September 19.

The scam caller advised the woman that fraudulent charges had been made on her account, before they attended her property to collect her bank card on the same day.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Acting Inspector – Bass Coast LAC Jason Hullick said the scammer told the victim that 'they would sort out the issue' upon collecting the card.

"As soon as the male has received that card we believe that he has gone on to commit a number of transactions

himself, using the victim's card, all over metropolitan Melbourne."

It's understood the offender used the stolen card to purchase gift cards at a number of stores in Airport West, Altona, Bacchus Marsh, Balaclava, Caulfield, Chadstone, Corio, Deer Park, Elsternwick, Essendon, Footscray, Geelong, Maribyrnong, Hoppers Crossing, Malvern, Moonee Ponds, Point Cook, Port Melbourne Spotswood, Sunshine, Werribee, Williamstown and Yarraville between September 19 and September 23.

Investigators believe the offender used the victim's card over 130 times before it was cancelled.

"(The 91-year-old victim) worked hard all her life and saved for retirement and to have that taken from her is disgraceful."

According to the Acting Inspector, police have a number of avenues of enquiries they are following but highlighted the complex nature of the scam.

"There is a large amount of information we are sifting through," Acting Inspector Hullick stated. "Businesses where the cards were used have been very cooperative."

According to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in 2024, whether it be investment, romance, payment redirection, remote access or phishing - Australians made a combined total of 494,732 scam reports (a 17.8 per cent decrease), of which, 207,605 report losses of over \$2.03 billion (a 25.9 per cent decrease). This compares with a combined total of 601,803 reports and combined reported losses of over \$2.7 billion in 2023.

The report – released on

March 11, 2025, indicates that remote access scam types totalled \$106.0m in 2024, a decrease from 2023.

"It's not uncommon for this type of offending to happen," Acting Inspector Hullick said. "We obviously appeal to everybody to be very mindful of receiving phone calls from banks."

If you do receive communication from anyone claiming to be a bank or financial institution police suggest immediately hanging up, providing no information and contacting your bank directly.

Police have released images of a man that they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or alternatively contact Detective Senior Constable Yeomans at Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100.

Bass Coast to reject tourism 'merger'

From page 1

"The approval of funding for DG (\$590,000 to June 30, 2025) and DPI (\$250,000 to December 31 2025) were conditional on negotiations and co-design continuing, with the ultimate intent of merging the two regions. Both organisations accepted funding on this basis," said DJSIR.

While the State Government acknowledges that "Phillip Island has a strong international profile, with only 618 visitor economy businesses... it does not achieve the principle of scale outlined as an objective of reform."

Under the government's reform proposal, regional tourism boards would be funded on the following basis: three or more regional councils, including a regional city \$350,000 per year, six or more regional councils \$590,000 per year.

The options paper went on to say: "As the Local Government Authority with the responsibility for the promotion of the economy of the municipality, BCSC plays a critical role in leading and directing the reform process to support the Phillip Island/San Remo visitor economy. While DPI's preference is to remain independent, it cannot achieve the VEP principles outlined above."

"When co-design of the merged DG/DPI region commenced in early 2024, DPI wished to explore the alternative reform option of joining with Mornington Peninsula Regional Tourism Board (MPRTB) and positive conversations have occurred since that time."

"To finalise reform in Gippsland and progress the reform of Mornington Peninsula, the representation of Phillip Island/San Remo in the Regional Tourism Network needs to be resolved. DJSIR considers that there are three options that are available to BCSC as the relevant Council as a critical decision maker regarding the future alignment of Phillip Island/San Remo and a major investor into the future VEP"

But the DJSIR left open the possibility that Bass Coast might be able to argue otherwise.

"These options and likely funding arrangements are working options developed by DJSIR to assist BCSC, they do not represent the formal position of the Minister or the Victorian Government."

So, while the state government prefers to see groups of councils cooperating to manage the promotion of regional tourism, thereby achieving better economies of scale, Bass Coast hopes to be able to argue that Phillip Island and Bass Coast as a whole represent a special case.

In its papers for this week's council meeting, Bass Coast has considered the risks associated with adopting an unpopular merger option, including possible political backlash.

"The One Bass Coast model," said the council in its report, "ensures a unified and strategic approach to managing the visitor economy across the entire municipality. This model maintains Bass Coast's strong regional identity, safeguards current funding levels, and provides continuity in destination management and industry support."

As part of the fourth option to be considered by council, the shire has guaranteed its existing funding to DPI and DG of \$134,500 will be paid to the new entity. How Bass Coast will continue to interact with Destination Gippsland, of which its neighbour South Gippsland is a prominent member, is unknown.

Fewer summer drownings in Victoria this season

A NEAR drowning at Williamsons Beach last week and a recent tragedy at Blue Rock Lake near Moe have highlighted the dangers that exist at both inland and coastal waterways, according to Gippsland Police Inspector Sonali Deshpande.

Speaking on Gippsland ABC Radio this week about the release of Royal Life Saving's National Summer Drowning

Report, Inspector Deshpande said 22 of the 104 drownings between December and February this year happened in Victoria.

"That was 11 per cent fewer than last year but any death by drowning is a tragedy and highlights the messages of learning to swim and swimming between the flags when you go to the beach."

The National Summer

Drowning Toll for the summer of 2024/25 identified that 104 people lost their lives to drowning, up five per cent from last summer and up 14 per cent on the five-year average.

One-third (32 per cent) of all summer drowning deaths were people aged 55 years and over. Ten children (0 -14 years) drowned this summer. Males remain over-represented (81 per cent) and regional areas

account for 64 per cent of all drownings.

Only NSW with 33 deaths had a higher toll than Victoria with Queensland also on 22 deaths.

Local authorities including the Bass Coast Shire Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks combined to raise awareness of the hazards at local beaches, encouraging everyone to download the Beachsafe app to their phone.

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10° 23°	11° 29°	18° 29°	14° 26°	15° 24°	13° 23°

IN BRIEF

Motorcycle seized
during warrant

POLICE executed a search warrant at an address in Wonthaggi on Friday afternoon, March 14 and seized a motorcycle that is believed to have been stolen.

Investigations are still ongoing, but anyone with information is urged to contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000, crimestoppers.com.au or Bass Coast CIU on 5671 4100.

Millions owed by
Wonthaggi medical
cannabis facility

ONELIFE Labs, which operated a large facility in Wonthaggi to cultivate cannabis crops for medicinal marijuana products, went into voluntary administration in December 2024.

OneLife Labs took over the MediPharm Labs facility in 2022, which had been operating since 2019, reportedly acquiring the business for \$7.25 million.

Cannabiz.com.au reported that One Life Labs was left with just two customers after it acquired MediPharm Labs Australia and has suffered accumulated losses of around \$13 million according to an administrator report.

Andrew Grant, the director of OneLife Labs claimed MediPharm redirected overseas customer orders to other manufacturing facilities following the acquisition.

The Age also reported that OneLife owed \$18.5 million to its creditors and had \$11 million invested by shareholders over the past three years.

OneLife's financial struggles have also been attributed to high costs within the industry and the still-developing market of medicinal marijuana in Australia.

Discussions over the future of OneLife Labs are said to be continuing with cannabiz.com.au reporting that a deal involving a number of interested parties was expected to be completed by mid-February, 2025.

Attempts to contact Andrew Grant or OneLife Labs for comment have been unsuccessful.

Mayor Cr Halstead
elected Regional Board
Director for MAV

BASS Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, has been elected as the Regional Board Director for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), representing Gippsland.

The MAV is Victoria's peak body for local government, advocating for councils and supporting them in delivering essential services to their communities. As Regional Board Director, Cr Halstead will play a key role in ensuring the interests and priorities of Gippsland councils are strongly represented at the state level.

Cr Halstead brings extensive experience in local government and a strong commitment to strengthening regional communities. In this role, she will collaborate with fellow board members, advocate for policy changes, and work to address key regional challenges such as coastal protection, infrastructure development, economic growth, and community well-being.

Cr Halstead said she was honoured to take on the role.

"Local government plays a vital role in shaping the future of our regional townships, and I look forward to working with MAV and my fellow councillors to ensure regional voices are heard and supported."

In addition to this role, Cr Halstead also serves as Deputy Chair of OneGippsland, the region's peak advocacy body.

Temporary speed signage
at notorious intersection

FOLLOWING multiple reports from the community of issues with the Side Road Speed Activated Signs on Inverloch-Kongwak Road near the intersection of Lynnes Road, the Department of Transport and Planning have installed temporary static speed signage.

"We've temporarily installed speed signage of 70km/h on Inverloch-Kongwak Road near the intersection of Lynnes Road

while our crews work to ensure that the Side Road Speed Activated Signs are in working order," Beth Liley, Executive Director (Gippsland), Department of Transport and Planning said.

"We appreciate the community's patience and encourage drivers to follow all speed signage and drive to conditions."

Ventnor street
first, please

RESIDENTS of the foreshore-facing street, Pall Mall, at Ventnor on Phillip Island have petitioned the Bass Coast Shire Council to move them up the list of priorities for drainage and construction works.

They've submitted a petition signed by 23 residents asking that council move them up the list of priorities on Council's urban road and drainage infrastructure improvement list.

Pall Mall is presently ranked at 23 on a list of 137 road and drainage projects across the shire but works on nearby roads, Lyall Street and Graydens Road are ranked ninth, to be undertaken in 2025.

As well as receiving the petition at this week's council meeting, councillors will be asked to approve consultation with the head petitioner and other property owners to investigate a preferred treatment option and potential costs to upgrade the road.

Do you have an
event in mind?

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council in partnership with Emergency Recovery Victoria are offering grant funding of up to \$3000 to support an event, activity or training session.

The funding aims to support community led activities while promoting resilience, community connectedness and emergency preparedness.

The aim is to help communities cope better with disruptions and bounce back stronger from challenges such as natural hazards and economic downturns.

"Following the severe weather events that impacted our region,

it is fantastic to see support for our local communities," Mayor John Schelling said.

Examples of community led events that focus on disaster preparedness include:

- Volunteering exhibitions
- Community 'meet and greet' day to promote community groups in the township
- Community connections sessions, such as getting to know your neighbour activities
- Movie nights and family events that focus on capacity-building of local people
- Training sessions, such as first aid courses and mental health first aid training

Applications close midnight Saturday, May 31.

Events for which grant funding are secured must be complete by June 30 this year.

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

Call for State
Government to identify
climate risk areas

A SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council motion that will be submitted to the Municipal Association of Victoria calls on MAV to advocate to the State Government to urgently prepare state-wide coastal vulnerability mapping. The motion also stresses the need for a Coastal Hazard Overlay or a strengthened Erosion Management Overlay.

Should the motion be carried at MAV's State Council Meeting in Melbourne on May 16, the organisation will then call on the State Government to act.

"The South Gippsland Coastal Strategy identifies the importance of hazard risk mapping and overlays to help our region plan, manage and prepare for future climate change impacts," council states.

It argues a Victoria-wide overlay is needed to identify for the community at risk locations.

"This will support councils when considering the appropriateness of development in these vulnerable locations," council explains.



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The Wednesday Warriors maintain and clear local tracks and cut and deliver wood to those in need in the local community which will now be difficult without chainsaws.

New low hits as thieves steal chainsaws from Wednesday Warriors

THIEVES have stooped to a new low, having deliberately broken in and stolen nine chainsaws from the volunteer, not-for-profit Mirboo North group, Friends of Lyrebird Forest Walk.

Friends of Lyrebird Forest Walk (FOLFW), otherwise known as the Wednesday Warriors, keep this track and the Grand Ridge Rail Trail between Mirboo North and Boolarra clear of debris for the community to use unimpeded.

Volunteers of the group were shocked last Wednesday morning to find their shed in Inglis Avenue, Mirboo North had been broken into between 11am Tuesday and 7am Wednesday and chainsaws stolen.

"They'd broken into our workshop by climbing on an adjoining shed roof, smashing a window and gaining entry into the upstairs office, they've gone downstairs and then jimmied the doors to our machinery shed within the workshop and stolen about nine chainsaws," said Jim O'Brien, President of FOLFW.

"They've gone in there intentionally to take the chainsaws and they've gone back upstairs, passed them out through the window. So, there's obviously more than



Wednesday Warriors had to borrow a chainsaw to remove a fallen tree on the Grand Ridge Rail Trail last week after having nine of their chainsaws stolen.

one.

"Unfortunately, we're not insured for theft, so it's going to be a straight-out loss and also a major loss to the community because they've taken from us the very tools that we use a couple of times a week for clearing fallen timber and providing firewood to people in need. We get told through the churches who might need wood and deliver that free of charge. So basically, it's affecting the community, so they're a bunch of bloody low-lives as far as I'm concerned."

Jim estimates the replacement cost of each chainsaw

at almost \$2000, potentially costing the volunteer organisation up to \$18,000.

"We've now got to try and find some way of raising money or getting money to buy new equipment to be able to do our job," said Jim.

A tree had come down overnight across the trail and volunteers were trying to clear it last Wednesday morning so people could still continue to use the track, however they only had hand and pruning saws left to do the job and were forced to borrow a chainsaw from a member.

With Jim being the youngest member at 70 years old, this was no easy task for the volunteers.

The wider community impact was starting to be felt the same morning, with five year nine and ten students joining the FOLFW for work experience.

The chainsaws that were stolen are of three different makes, Echo, Echo CS-600, Husqvarna and Stihl.

All are engraved with WW (for Wednesday Warriors) and one which was donated to the group from the Rotary Club of Mirboo North is engraved with Mirboo North Rotary.

Addressing the media on Thursday, Acting Inspector – Bass Coast LAC Jason Hullick appealed to residents to report any suspicious behaviour they might have seen in the area or nearby either during the period the items were stolen or in the days leading up to the theft.

Each chainsaw is identifiable and the Wednesday Warriors ask anyone with information to come forward or get in touch with the Mirboo North police on 5668 1444, Bass Coast CIU on 5671 4100 or report anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Serious offenders face tougher conditions for bail

IN RESPONSE to rising crime rates across Victoria, the State Government aims to restore public confidence in the justice system by implementing tough bail laws that intend to crack down on repeat offenders and address youth crime.

Premier Jacinta Allan, Attorney-General Sonya Kilkenny, and Minister for Police Anthony Carabine announced the new laws last Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

The changes are aimed at addressing a surge in crime, particularly among young offenders, where crime rates have risen across the state, including Bass Coast and South Gippsland and ensuring that those accused of serious offences face tougher conditions for bail.

"I have listened, and I have acted," Premier Allan said. "The tough bail laws will jolt the system: community safety above all, toughest bail laws ever, and consequences for breaking the rules."

The new legislation will also target machete and knife-related crimes, with the government moving to make machetes prohibited weapons, with exemptions to be available for legitimate use. The decision comes in response to concerns over escalating violence involving weapons in the state and the Government's response is to put community safety above all.

The Tough Bail Laws will make two big changes to bail decision-making principles.

- Community safety comes first on all bail decisions: Under the laws, community safety will become the overarching principle for bail decision-making for offenders of all ages. It will be a clear and unambiguous signal: community safety comes first in all considerations.
- No longer needs to be a last resort to deny bail: Right now, under section 3B of the Bail Act, an accused youth offender is remanded (detained in custody) only as a 'last resort'. The Tough Bail Laws will remove the principle of remand as last resort.

Attorney-General Sonya Kilkenny said, "These laws are targeted squarely at the risks of young people committing serious crimes while out on bail."


The number of youth offenders on remand has increased following changes in 2024 to target serious, repeat reoffending. But more changes are needed.

"The current system is still not tough enough and does not reflect the expectations of victims or the public. The Government will make sweeping changes – not to punish people who haven't yet had their day in court, but to reduce the risk of someone on bail reoffending in the community."

Reoffending remains a serious problem. Males in their mid-to-late teens – both adults and youths – make up the most alleged aggravated burglary offenders by far, with 64 per cent under the age of 20. The Tough Bail Laws again squarely target the risks of these younger serious offenders.

The Tough Bail Laws will be introduced to Parliament this week (Tuesday, March 18), with an aim to have them enacted as soon as possible.

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Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead

EARLIER this month, Minister for Environment, The Hon Steve Dimopoulos, and Jordan Crugnale MP announced urgent coastal protection works for Silverleaves and Inverloch – welcome news for our community as we work to safeguard our coastline.

In Inverloch, planning is progressing on works to enhance protection and ensure safe access for the Surf Club, with construction anticipated to be completed by the end of September. Council Officers met with Inverloch residents and DEECA late last week to view project plans and discuss next steps.

In Silverleaves, emergency dune and asset protection work is scheduled to commence soon, with completion targeted before the Easter high tides. A geotextile bag wall, designed to provide long-term erosion protection, is expected to be installed by the end of August.

We sincerely thank Jordan Crugnale MP for her strong advocacy in securing this vital investment for Bass Coast, we appreciate her efforts in ensuring these critical works receive the attention they deserve.

Coastal erosion is a significant challenge for our community, and this funding is an important step in addressing it. Our coastline is not only a natural treasure but also vital to our local economy and way of life. Ensuring its protection is a priority for Council, and we will continue working closely with state agencies to see these projects commence as soon as possible.

While this is a great step forward, I strongly encourage the Victorian Government to continue its strategic focus on long-term coastal management, including the release of the Cape to Cape Resilience Plan and a commitment to a plan for Western Port.

With recent extreme weather events in Queensland and northern New South Wales reminding us of the increasing risks posed by coastal erosion, this work could not be more timely.

I will keep the community updated as these projects progress and look forward to seeing work begin soon.

What really needs to happen to San Remo

EVERYONE knows San Remo has serious traffic and access problems.

The issue has been highlighted extensively for action in both the San Remo Access and Movement Study and Car Parking Plan (February 2025) and the Draft San Remo Structure Plan (March 2025).

And it's a regular topic of conversation locally.

It's a no-brainer that something has to change at the key intersections with busy Phillip Island Road at Bergin Grove, Back Beach Road, and Potters Hill Road where collisions or near misses are commonplace.

But there are also problems at Keam Crescent, San Remo Parade and Panorama Drive.

But whether these issues are given the prominence they deserve in the draft San Remo Structure Plan presently out for public comment, is open to conjecture.

It's not the only thing covered in a wide-ranging document trying to address the needs of San Remo now, and over the next 20 years, when the town is predicted to grow by between 400 and 2100 additional residents.

But who will read the 131-page draft structure plan and its dozens of implementation priorities, or the 96-page access and car parking plan that goes with it, let alone the 74-page San Remo Urban Design Framework ahead of responding to the survey on the Engage Bass Coast website, making a submission or attending one of two community engagement opportunities?

It's important that those interested in the future of San



San Remo's growing pains are finally getting the attention they deserve in the Bass Coast Shire Council's Draft San Remo Structure Plan which is now open for comment but has the shire got its priorities right?

Remo do just that.

Mayor of Bass Coast, herself a resident of San Remo, Cr Rochelle Halstead has encouraged local residents and businesspeople to take an interest.

"San Remo is such a wonderful place to live, and I want future generations to enjoy it as we do today. This plan will guide how our town grows while preserving what makes it special. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts to help shape its future."

This is now the final stage of community consultation, and Council is seeking feedback from residents, businesses, and community groups to help shape the structure plan.

A range of community engagement activities will be held, including:

- Community session – Wednesday, March 26, 2025 from 6pm – 7.30pm

- Pop-up session – Wednesday, April 2, 2025 from 2pm – 6pm, Marine Parade San Remo.

Feedback on the San Remo Structure Plan is open until April 28, 2025. To share your thoughts, via submission or survey, visit engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/sanremoplan.

You can also arrange a one-on-one discussion with a member of the shire's Strategic Planning Team by calling the council on 5671 2211, or emailing strategicplanningadmin@basscoast.vic.gov.au

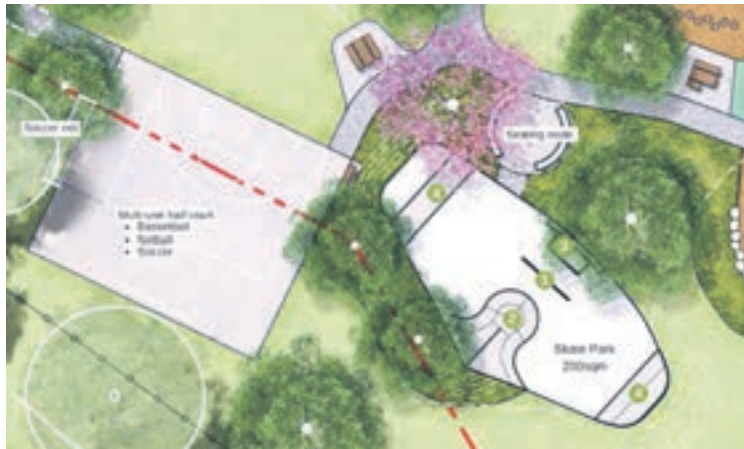
Key implementation themes:

- Incorporate Bunurong cultural values and language into public art, signage, building

design, and place names.

- Advocate for the delivery of adopted intersection upgrade plans along Phillip Island Road by the Department of Transport and Planning.
- Facilitate the shift to renewable energy by conducting a dedicated embedded network study to assess options (large-scale solar, grid-scale storage, distributed generation).
- Support initiatives that attract new businesses and investment to San Remo, creating more job opportunities and increasing local incomes.
- Within the growth front designate land east of Potters Hill Road for a potential future convenience centre.
- Continue to support and promote existing tourism initiatives.
- Investigate streamlining Local Government planning processes for housing developments that include affordable housing components.
- Undertake regular residential land supply and demand assessments in San Remo and identify current and future housing needs based on demographic projections.
- Ensure the San Remo growth area principles related to the land between Potters Hill Road and Punch Bowl Road are adopted and used to produce a structure plan following the finalisation of the Protected Settlement Boundary.
- From the 'San Remo Access and Movement Study and Car Parking Plan': Deliver a new east-west road continuing Shetland Heights Road from Potters Hill Road to Punch Bowl Road.

Modest upgrade planned for Graydens Reserve



The Graydens Reserve master plan still calls for a small skatepark but there's no sign of the controversial regional skate park plan.

AFTER the controversy surrounding a 2019 plan to turn Newhaven's neighbourhood park, Graydens Reserve, into a regional skate facility and the loss of \$650,000 SRV grant, the Bass Coast Shire Council has produced a new plan.

The plan, which still features a small skatepark among minimal changes to the reserve will go to this Wednesday's council meeting for approval.

The half-court feature remains with new line-marking, netball ring and soccer goal added.

The public toilet remains, as does the existing rotunda and play space.

Car parking will remain

informal on a gravel surface.

Every effort has been made to retain as much grassed area as possible.

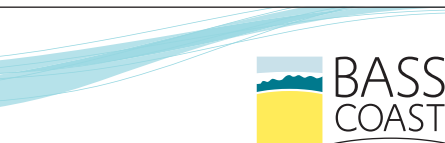
The master plan document also notes future Regional Roads Victoria plans to upgrade the Forrest Avenue-Phillip Island Road intersection with a dual-lane roundabout dictating that the improvements to the park need to remain within the existing boundary.

The works are estimated to cost between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000. If council adopts the new plan, the project will go into final planning and design for it to be 'shovel ready' ahead of funding advocacy.

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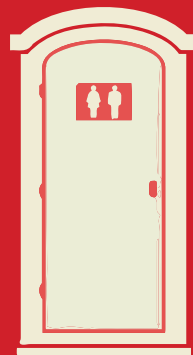
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Back to the future for Queen Street Wonthaggi with a dirt road

By Bruce Wardley

PLANS to rip up road asphalt at the end of Queen Street, Wonthaggi and return it to gravel have made local residents hopping mad.

“We’re only 600 metres from the CBD,” said Queen Street resident Peter Carden.

With the Bass Coast Shire Offices at one end of Queen Street leading into McBride Avenue angry residents say the road is a major thoroughfare.

A letter sent to Queen Street residents this week advised the road surface in Queen Street between Merrin and Broome Crescent will be removed and returned to gravel.

A dust suppressant seal applied to Queen Street between 2005 and 2007 has failed creating large potholes at the corner of Queen Street and Merrin Crescent.

“Queen Street is not the only road to be ripped up in Wonthaggi,” said Mr Carden.

“Eleven roads are to be returned to gravel.”

According to a letter from Bass Coast Shire dust suppressant material applied in 2005 has deteriorated beyond intervention levels and will be removed and replaced with crushed rock.

Council has an interim dust only treatment option for property owners if their street is not forecast to be considered for a full street road and drainage upgrade project within the next five years.



Queen Street resident Peter Carden. B20_1125

Interim dust-only treatments, funded by the property owners themselves, include minimal pavement upgrade and asphalt seal, traffic calming treatments to slow vehicles down, and slow-down or dust warning signs.

Work on removing the asphalt in Queen Street is expected to start in May.

Mr Carden said traffic on Queen Street has increased since traffic counts were last done in 2023.

“Tradesmen use the street and it’s a shortcut to the CBD,” said Mr Carden.

Residents say water cascades down the street in winter during heavy rain.

The condition of the road has deteriorated substantially over the last 12 months.

“The rear laneway in Merrin Crescent is also used by residents and tradesmen, dragging gravel onto Queen Street,” said Mr Carden.

“Worst case, leave it as it is.”

Helen Carden says asphalt has got to be better than a gravel surface and dust.

Nearby resident Julie Dunn agrees “better than a lot of country roads.”

“Much better than being ripped up.”

“Roads that get ripped up become the worst possible street you could live in,” said Ms Dunn.

“Ideally re-seal it, like they did with Broome Crescent,” said Mr Carden.

The northern side of Broome Crescent now has concrete kerbs and bitumen all the way to the council offices.

Julie Dunn wants to know what the thinking was behind this decision, as residents highlight construction nears for four new townhouses on the corner of Queen Street and Merrin Crescent.

“We’re 10 minutes walking distance from the CBD,” said Mr Carden, who claims the southern side of Broome Crescent has been forgotten while hundreds of thousands of dollars are being spent elsewhere.

“The new subdivision is 700 metres from the CBD and the address is Queen Street.”

Concrete crossovers and stormwater drains for the new development were installed only last week leading to what will become a gravel road.

Mr Carden said council workers admitted it was all going to be ripped up.

Council has 300 legacy roads in the Shire and Queen Street was expected to be attended to in 30 years.

Ms Dunn has questioned how Council has the money to rip up eleven roads.

Community Hospital to open by year-end

THE Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA) have confirmed that construction is progressing well on the Phillip Island Community Hospital and is due to be completed by the end of the year.

The much-anticipated development will provide care for non-emergency injuries like bumps, cuts and bruises, as well as delivering more healthcare services.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale confirmed that the increased range of health services will include an expanded urgent care, dialysis, day chemo, general medical and specialist appointments, mental health, AOD, family safety and crisis support, allied health and more.

“As a growing community where we also welcome thousands of visitors over the holidays and throughout the year, having access to a brand-new community hospital will mean people get the care they need sooner.”

The Community Hospital will provide onsite car parking with accessible spaces, to ensure easy access to the hospital for people with disabilities or those who are elderly or frail.

“Whilst decisions around parking fees are a matter for Bass Coast Health, there is currently no paid parking anywhere in the Bass Coast including at the Wonthaggi Hospital and I would expect this to align here, and parking be free,” said Ms Crugnale.

Managed by Bass Coast Health, the Phillip Island Community Hospital will take pressure off Wonthaggi Hospital, allowing staff there to focus on critical care and acute health issues, emergency care and more complex surgeries and procedures.



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Emergency food relief volunteer Samiro Douglas (left) helps Anglican Deacon Erena Norfolk pack shelves with food ready for opening on Wednesday, March 26.

New emergency food relief for San Remo

EMERGENCY food relief will be available in San Remo one morning a week starting on Wednesday, March 26.

Those experiencing food insecurity are welcome to come to St Augustine's Anglican Church Op Shop, 111 Marine Parade, every Wednesday from 10am to 1.30pm, for basic food items such as pasta, rice, long life milk and tinned goods.

Months in the planning, the project is the brainchild of two San Remo residents Samiro Douglas and Jane Ross.

"We aren't church members but, with the increasing cost of food and other bills, we thought it would be difficult for people in San Remo to access emergency food," they said, "so on one day a week, they won't have to leave town to seek such help."

"The church Op Shop area seemed the ideal setting."

The Anglican Parish of Bass/Phillip Island is the responsible body, while Samiro and Jane will act as volunteers.

The parish council has decided on a three-month trial and, depending on the need, may seek donations from the community and local businesses.

"Everyone we've spoken to in the last few months supports the idea. As the project is community-driven, we feel confident of its success," the duo said.

Anglican Deacon the Reverend Erena Norfolk is pleased with the initiative.

"Sharing the Op Shop with emergency food relief is a wonderful way for the church to extend its service to the community," she said.

"As the coordinator of the PICAL pantry in Cowes, I know there is a great need for food support throughout our communities."

The Rector of the Anglican Parish of Bass/Phillip Island the Reverend Ruth Hanlon added, "I am thrilled that we can partner with community volunteers to offer emergency food relief through St Augustine's."

Noting it ties in with a nationwide Anglican initiative called Hope25.

Anderson Inlet dredging option for Inverloch

SILVERLEAVES on Phillip Island will receive emergency funding for critical dune and asset protection work by Easter while Inverloch continues to wait for design works to be completed.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale said design works at Inverloch would be followed by the repair and extension of the existing geotextile container wall and safe access to the surf beach.

Key stakeholders from the Inverloch Tourist Association (ITA), Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club (SLSC), and South Gippsland Conservation Society (SGCS) came together last week for their fifth meeting with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Bass Coast Shire.

Based on feedback from stakeholders, consultants have recommended that sand for the reconstruction works should be sourced from Anderson Inlet rather than offshore.

It is estimated around 110,000 cubic metres of sand will be dredged from the Inlet.

Modelling for the sand dredging at Inverloch was done for both inlet and offshore nourishment using the latest data from December 2024.

Inlet sand was found to be much coarser and better able to protect the existing dunes with stakeholders advised that sourcing the sand offshore may compromise an underwater Telstra cable and extensive exclusion zone.

Ms Crugnale said Inverloch stakeholder groups are very much at the table taking an active role in preparing community messaging and involvement.

Community engagement opportunities using pop-ups, drop-in sessions, and printed materials were scheduled for February, but this timetable has been adjusted based on discussions with stakeholders and direction from consultants and DEECA.

"I want to reassure our community that this adjustment has not pushed the project back and the delivery timeline is still set for spring," said Ms Crugnale.

"We are very much looking forward to sharing with the wider Inverloch community the designs and renders for the dune reconstruction project once they are finalised and what to expect during the project period itself."

"Can I take this opportunity



Jordan Crugnale MP, Jeremy Neilson, Cass Philippou, Tracey Miller-Armstrong, and Darrin McKenzie Gippsland Regional Director of DEECA, Principal Coastal Engineer for Water Technology Elise Lawry, Bass Coast Shire Council representative Simon Woodland with stakeholders Trevor Forge, Philip Heath and Ed Thexton President SGCS, Paul Douglas and Glenn Morris President ITA, and Steve Duncan and Kim White ISLSC meeting at the Inverloch SLSC last week.

to thank our respective communities, local groups, organisations and councils once again for their advocacy and the team at DEECA putting together this very important package of statewide projects," Ms Crugnale added.

The works planned for Inverloch are expected to include dune stabilisation and extensive re-vegetation work.

Water Technology Principal Coastal Engineer Elise Lawry presented conceptual designs and preliminary renders for the dune reconstruction program at last week's meeting of Inverloch stakeholders.

Funding for erosion mitigation works at Inverloch have to date primarily been focussed on protecting the surf club and providing safe beach access to complement large-scale dune reconstruction in spring.

Silverleaves announcement

Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos and Jordan Crugnale MP stated in the video on Friday, March 7 that Silverleaves would be the first cab off the rank for coastal erosion works explaining that early protection work will be completed before the Easter high tides.

Ms Crugnale said with designs completed and funding approved for immediate emergency works at Silverleaves, DEECA, Bass Coast Council and contracted consultants can now work through 'on-the-ground' plans to start protection measures.

Silverleaves is expected to have a geotextile bag wall installed by the end of August.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead welcomed the investment at Silverleaves and Inverloch.

"Coastal erosion is a significant issue, and we are pleased to see the Victorian Government taking action."

"We are so thankful to Jordan Crugnale (Member for Bass) for her advocacy, and the Minister – it is going to take a lot of anxiety out of our community."

Mayor Halstead said the funding would be a vital step in protecting the coastline.

"The weather events in Queensland and northern New South Wales are a timely reminder of the importance of this work for our communities and we look forward to work starting on these urgent works as soon as possible," said Mayor Halstead.

Bass Coast Councillor Meg Edwards also welcomed the funding.

"Well done everyone," posted Cr Edwards on Facebook.

"Things are moving in the right direction."

Natalie Gray from the Silverleaves Coast Action Group acknowledged the good news.

"The key will be how much," said Ms Gray.

The Silverleaves Coast Action Group is still waiting to see the final costings on the temporary work to be completed before Easter and the installation of geotextile bags.

Following the video, a spokesperson for DEECA said work will commence at Silverleaves and Inverloch Surf Beach in the coming weeks to address critical coastal hazards with emergency works at Silverleaves to be completed by Easter.

"DEECA will work with land managers to determine the most effective way to deliver these projects and ensure communities are informed throughout the process."

Design works and enhanced protection and access for the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club are now planned to commence in July.

Initial emergency works at Silverleaves to protect the dunes from further erosion and private assets from inundation

and maintain safe public access to the beach will commence next month with major works expected to commence in June.

Silverleaves survey

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action recently provided an update on the Silverleaves coastal adaptation project.

Two hundred and six respondents opted for a physical buffer at Silverleaves to protect the natural and built environment in the Silverleaves adaptation values and aspirations survey, whilst providing habitat for flora and fauna also received overwhelming support from survey respondents.

Among the responses was a warning of permanent inundation and destruction of the whole of Silverleaves and Woodland Avenue within months.

"Trees and bush-covered sand dunes are eroding up to a metre per week and hundreds of homes will be lost within months if urgent engineering is not undertaken."

Another respondent was concerned at the loss of vegetation and mature trees along the foreshore creating greater wind impact for the rest of Silverleaves.

Several respondents also raised valid concerns about additional hazards impacting the coastal environment including rubbish and pollution along the foreshore, biodiversity loss, and vegetation degradation.

When asked for their suggestions on how the Silverleaves foreshore could be made more resilient the majority of respondents asked for immediate action to address erosion and protect the foreshore.

There was mixed support for engineered solutions such as rock walls or groynes compared to more natural solutions such as sandbagging and revegetation.

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Inverloch surf beach abandoned ahead of Easter king tides

INVERLOCH's Foreshore Action Group has slammed the State Government for what it claims is wilful inaction not to protect the fast-disappearing Inverloch foreshore from coming Easter high tide storm surges.

Despite the State Government being allocated \$3.3 million in federal funds nearly three years ago, the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group says no permanent protective works have been undertaken and hundreds of homes are now at serious risk.

"They have been sitting on the allocated \$3.3 million while Inverloch's foreshore has continued to suffer severe erosion to the extent that vital community assets are now in imminent danger of being lost," said action group member and former shire engineer Keith Godridge.

Not one item of remedial engineering work has been undertaken by state instrumentalities according to Mr Godridge. The relocation of sand to shore up the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club and other works have been undertaken and paid for by Bass Coast Council.

"That is to say that we, local ratepayers, have paid for it," said Mr Godridge.

The Action Group welcomed the State Government's announcement that emergency funding had been provided to immediately undertake critical dune and asset protection works at Silverleaves on Phillip Island.

"This is good and welcome news for the residents at



Former Liberal Leader Alan Brown addressing the Inverloch beach rally in January. B22_1125

Silverleaves, and the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group congratulates them on their long-running campaign to have the State Government act to save their foreshore and homes," said Mr Godridge.

"We fully understand the urgency to act now before the coming Easter high tides and storm surges because Inverloch is in exactly the same situation."

The recent joint announcement by Steve Dimopoulos and Jordan Crugnale did not disclose the exact funding amount but it is understood that it is meant to cover additional emergency funding for the Victorian coast including Silverleaves, Tooradin and Inverloch.

Critical details such as how this funding is broken down

into its component parts still has not been released for public scrutiny. This won't be lost according to the Foreshore Action Group or the near 700 people who attended a major public rally on the Inverloch Foreshore in January where a motion was unanimously carried calling on the State Government to act immediately to restore and permanently protect the Inverloch foreshore and vital community assets.

To add to the confusion Mr Godridge said the impact of Cyclone Albert has muddled the waters with the subsequent increased call on consulting and engineering resources being stretched beyond normal.

"That no permanent protective works are to be undertaken before Easter is an outrage.

Three years after the allocation of funds to address coastal erosion issues in Bass Coast all the State Government has done is hold gabfests and continuously waste taxpayers' money," claimed Mr Godridge.

Almost five years ago the State Government established a Cape to Cape Resilience Committee with a budget exceeding \$1 million to meet and make recommendations to address the critical erosion issue at Inverloch.

"The Government stated last week that 206 respondents at Silverleaves opted for a physical barrier to protect their foreshore, yet when 700 people called for immediate permanent protective works to be undertaken on the Inverloch foreshore their pleas for help were totally ignored."

The Inverloch Foreshore Action Group along with hundreds of community members, want a genuine community consultation process open to all people who wish to make representations and have an input.

"Anything less will be another manipulated sham process," Mr Godridge stated. "Sandbags and temporary sand renourishment are band-aid solutions."

"Kicking the problem down the road and manipulating current outcomes will no longer be tolerated and will be called out.

"The people of Inverloch are watching, and the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group will hold them accountable," concluded Mr Godridge.

When you're on a good thing...

BASS Coast Shire's policy of registering all short stay accommodation providers is doing a good job of reducing "neighborhood amenity issues" so why change it?

That in a nutshell is the message in a report to this week's Bass Coast Shire Council meeting seeking councillors support in advocating to the State Government and short-stay platforms for the policy to stay in place.

"On July 22, 2022, Bass Coast Shire Council adopted Local Law No. 1 Neighbourhood Amenity 2022, which introduced registration and management requirements for short-stay rental accommodation operators to protect neighbourhood amenity and ensure a standard of management across the Shire.

"Since the introduction of the Short Stay Rental Accommodation Local Law, Council has seen a significant reduction in the number of neighbourhood amenity issues in relation to short stay rental accommodation properties in the Shire, and Council continues to work with operators and neighbours to ensure that all short stay rental properties are registered and managed appropriately."

Recently council moved to deregister a short-stay property at Corinella for persistent breaches.

Council has the power to cancel the registration of a short stay rental property after three substantiated complaints over a 12-month period, a single substantiated complaint of such severity as to warrant cancellation, or breach of any other legislation that impacts the safety of occupants."

From January 1 this year, the state government applied a short stay levy of 7.5 per cent to all short stay properties in the state and at the time said all other such levies would not continue.

As part of the motion recommended for support at this week's council meeting, Bass Coast would advocate to the Victorian Government and short-stay rental accommodation platforms, including Airbnb, "to strengthen cooperation with and support for Councils in implementing local short-stay rental accommodation regulations".



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South Gippsland Shire Council News

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid training is now available for booking on Council’s website.

Brought to you by Live4Life, South Gippsland Shire Council and Mental Health First Aid Australia, Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed for adults who teach, care for, or support young people.

This training equips participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise and respond to signs of mental health issues in young people, providing crucial support and guidance.

If this training would benefit you in your career or volunteer position, we encourage you to participate.

Additionally, refresher courses are available for those whose certificates are nearing expiration (certificates are valid for three years).

This is a great opportunity to stay updated and continue supporting youth mental health in our community.

For more information and to book your spot today, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/YMHFA



Mark it in your calendars, South Gippsland Shire Council’s annual Jobs Expo will be happening **Thursday 20 March!**

This is a FREE event where you can connect with employers from a variety of industries that are currently recruiting.

This event is for everyone, whether you are looking for a job, a career change or training opportunities.

For more information, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/JobsExpo

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Details will be available on Council’s website:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

COMMUNITY GRANTS

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

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

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

For more information and to apply, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Applications close 31 May 2025.

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

RFT/439 Swimming Pools Maintenance

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 10 April 2025.

Documentation is available from Council’s e-Tendering Portal

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

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Community contributes to shaping South Gippsland

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council's 'Shaping South Gippsland' community engagement concluded last month with 688 people providing feedback.

The consultation provided an opportunity for the South Gippsland community to contribute suggestions on the development of a new 2025 - 2029 Council Plan and on the existing 2040 South Gippsland Community Vision.

From late January until the end of February, 22 engagement events were held including councillor 'pop-ups', community and stakeholder events, and a deliberative engagement.

Through this campaign 17 townships were visited and over 1100 suggestions for the Council Plan were provided.

The most strongly supported priority in the Community Vision was 'A Healthy Connected and Engaged Community' with 92 per cent of community members supporting healthy lifestyles opportunities.

Community feedback identified the lack of availability of a range of key health services as a concern.

Some of the key themes identified within the Council Plan were focused on, but not limited to:

- Roads, including road safety, quality and maintenance.
- Weeds, from increased weed control on Council roads, to additional education.
- Advocacy, seeking council's public support on a wide range of requests including volunteer support, public transport and more reliable electricity.

Councillors will now consider the feedback as they work on creating the new Council Plan.

Once complete, the draft plan will be released for further community engagement.

Mayor John Schelling expressed his appreciation to all community members who contributed their ideas.

"Your input provides valuable insights that will guide our decision-making as we work to shape the future of South Gippsland," he said.



South Gippsland Shire's Simon Dean and Christian Stefani at the recent Coal Creek Summer Session with council's Shaping South Gippsland – Council Plan 2025-2029 and 2040 Community Vision. C55_0525

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling

EVEN though a federal election hasn't been called yet, campaigning is well-and-truly ramping up.

Council has been very busy advocating on our community priorities to all election candidates and we are pleased to see the response to our requests. So far, South Gippsland has received the following funding commitments which are, of course, dependent on the result of the election:

- Upgrades to Walter J Tuck Reserve in Mirboo North.
- Upgrades to the Fish Creek Football Netball Club.

I'd like to thank all Councillors and staff for their continued efforts and also thank Councillors Scott Rae, Clare Williams and Brad Snell, as well as Director Sustainable Infrastructure Tony Peterson for attending these announcements.

I also had a very productive meeting with the Federal Labor candidate for Monash, Tully Fletcher. We covered a lot of topics in our time together, and I appreciate him stopping by to hear from us.

While not an election announcement, it's another one of Council's advocacy priorities – roads. It is exciting to hear that the Victorian Government is investing in works that will be starting soon on the South Gippsland Highway at Stony Creek. This stretch of road was fixed previously but has since failed and is in desperate need of this work. Let's hope this is the start of further road improvements on state-managed roads in our region.

Everything I have spoken about with the candidates, and the announcements we have heard so far would not have been possible without Council's strong and consistent advocacy on these issues. There are some things that Council is not in the position to action for a number of reasons, including it being outside of our responsibility, so it is important that we make it known what we need to make South Gippsland the best it can be.

South Coast Community Leadership Program Launch

On Saturday, Councillors attended the launch of the South Coast Community Leadership Program. Held at the Korumburra Community Hub, it was great to see this years' cohort come together for the first time and start to build those connections.

The Program is being delivered alongside Bass Coast Shire Council, and I look forward to hearing feedback on the Program from the 25 participants.

This is just one of the amazing opportunities Council provides to build knowledge and skills in our local community.

Rain glorious rain but has it broken the big dry

STEADY soaking rain falling consistently across South Gippsland over the weekend came just in time for Bass Coast farmers short on feed and low on water.

The heaviest falls were recorded north of the Strzelecki Ranges but south towards the coast rainfall dropped from the mid 30mm's in Warragul to 19mm at Yarram, 9mm at Yanakie, 8.4mm at Pound Creek and 6.6mm at Wilson's Promontory.

Steady light rain fell over the Bass Coast for 24 hours with Rhyll recording 4.8mm.

Wilson's Promontory was pounded by wind gusts of over 100 km/h with similar conditions overnight at Pound Creek experiencing

wind gusts of up to 63 km/hr, Yanakie 57 km/hr, and Yarram and Rhyll 44 km/hr.

Rainfall so far this year has been close to average in the wetter parts of South Gippsland with Yarram receiving a total of 122mm and Wilson's Promontory 151mm.

Rainfall totals in Bass Coast and the drier parts of South Gippsland have been well below average with Yanakie receiving 57mm to date, Rhyll just 30mm and Pound Creek 17mm.

With many farmers holding off selling stock until the first good autumn rains the store sale at Koonwarra this week should tell us how widespread that good rain has been.



The Parks family enjoyed a family picnic despite the rain at Guide Park Wonthaggi. B14_1125

GSHS forums show support for voluntary merger

COMMUNITY forums about the future of healthcare in the South Gippsland region have found widespread support for a voluntary merger of local health services.

Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) recently held open community meetings in Leongatha and Korumburra to update local residents about health reform.

GSHS and Bass Coast Health (BCH) will merge with Alfred Health, Kooweerup Regional Health Service and Peninsula Health to form a new health service from January 1 next year.

GSHS CEO Lou Sparkes said those attending the meetings had questions but supported the merger plan.

"Our community had some questions about the details which we are still working on, but they understood that services will not only be



Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) held a community health forum to keep residents informed.

protected but will be enhanced under the merger."

The new health service has a working title of Bayside Health and Ms Sparkes said it would improve healthcare access for South Gippsland residents while reducing

administrative duplication.

"All current services at GSHS will continue, and additional specialist support and resources will be available through our merging partners," she said.

"The merger will remove

barriers, creating a seamless healthcare pathway."

The GSHS name will be retained and local healthcare services at GSHS will remain available, along with aged care and community health services. All existing employees will transfer to the new health service, maintaining their existing terms and conditions.

Ms Sparkes said the merger would lead to faster access to specialists and better referral pathways, reduced wait times for appointments and treatment and more coordinated and efficient healthcare services.

The forums were part of GSHS's ongoing commitment to community consultation.

"We received some great ideas about how we can continue to communicate with the community," Ms Sparkes said.

South Gippsland Jobs Expo

The South Gippsland Jobs Expo will be taking place at Memorial Hall Leongatha on Thursday 20 March from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

Come along to this free event and chat with employers who are actively looking for new people to join their teams. There is also a Jobs Board with other vacancies.

As one of the region's biggest jobs expos, if you're looking for work or thinking about a career change, this is an event not to be missed. For more information, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/JobsExpo

Community Events

Stony Creek Racing Club's Cup Day was back again last weekend. It was a great event with a healthy crowd on what was quite a warm day. It was also great to see the South Gippsland Garlic Festival back in a new location and still extremely popular. A number of Councillors attended the event and shared how busy Korumburra was on the day, including Coal Creek. Thank you to everyone who has supported these and any other community events in the region, and the volunteers that make them happen.

To check out more events, please visit: visitsouthgippsland.com.au

South Gippsland Shire Council enlists MAV in emergency levy battle

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council will continue its fight against having to collect emergency services taxes on behalf of the State Government, also advocating for the applicable levy to be fairer than what is proposed, particularly for Victorian farmers.

Councillors appear certain to vote at their Wednesday meeting to submit a motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria on the subject at MAV's May 16 State Council Meeting.

The MAV will be urged to call on the State Government to make changes to its Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund that will replace the Fire Services Levy.

The motion calls for the State Revenue Office to collect the new emergency service tax, not council.

As previously reported in the Sentinel-Times, that is intended to prevent the administrative burden that would be imposed on councils and to make it clear the levy is a State Government charge, not one imposed by council.

Furthermore, the motion asks for levy rates to be revised, with consideration to be given to the impact the proposed tax reforms will have on ratepayers, and particularly on Victorian farmers who will experience the highest levies.

Council will also encourage the MAV to ask the Victorian Government to commit to further engagement with local government prior to the introduction of tax reforms that will impact rates notices and increase the administrative burden on councils.

Liberal candidate gets the nod as Nationals drop out of the race

THE Nationals have narrowed the field for the seat of Monash with a last-minute decision not to nominate a candidate for the forthcoming federal election.

Announcing the decision late yesterday Victorian State Director for The Nationals Lyndel Feery said Liberal candidate Mary Aldred had the full support of the coalition.

The field of candidates for Monash was thrown open when Russell Broadbent failed to win Liberal Party endorsement for the seat he had held since 2004.

The departure of Russell Broadbent from the Liberal Party to sit on the crossbenches as an independent cleared the way for the Nationals to field their own candidate in a multi-cornered contest between Liberal, Labor, The Nationals, Greens and Independents.

The Nationals' closed nominations for the Federal Division of Monash on Australia Day.

Independent Deb Leonard has been campaigning hard with a declared cash box of almost \$700,000 in donations saying the support she had received from Climate 200 in no way impacted her status as a genuine independent.

Endorsed Liberal candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred believes that with the backing of the next coalition government her focus for Monash will be to deliver real, local outcomes for infrastructure, health, and community.

Russell Broadbent is running again in Monash as an independent. "I am not, and never have been a



Liberal candidate Mary Aldred gains full coalition support for the seat of Monash. B25_1125

yes man," said Mr Broadbent.

Referring to what he called unfinished business Russell Broadbent said he had spoken to many people from Monash who had called on him to stand for the seat of Monash in 2025, and that is exactly what he intends to do.

The ALP selected third generation Gippslander Tully Fletcher from Kilcunda as the Labor candidate for Monash.

Educated at public schools in Wonthaggi, Dalyston, and Leonagatha Tully Fletcher spends sum-

mers with his family at Wilsons Prom and works in business and government as an adviser to ministers, CEOs, and communities.

"If you don't want Dutton, you must vote Labor," said Mr Fletcher.

The Greens candidate for Monash is Terence Steele a semi-retired teacher from Kardella South who is ready to inspire change within the local community.

"I'm ready to step up for Monash and fight for what matters," said Mr Steele.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation party has announced Kuljeet Kuar Robinson, a mental health nurse from Cranbourne as its candidate for Monash.

Kuljeet Kuar said she is committed to protecting Australian jobs, industry, agriculture and manufacturing and is stepping up to ensure regional communities like those in Monash receive the attention and investment they deserve.

Trumpet of Patriots (UAP) is yet to announce a candidate for Monash.



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12 | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES



Phillip Island and San Remo now have improved water services with the \$5.9M upgrade to pipelines under the San Remo - Phillip Island Bridge complete.

Improved waterways on Phillip Island and San Remo

RESIDENTS and businesses on Phillip Island and San Remo now have improved water services following a major upgrade to water pipelines under the San Remo - Phillip Island Bridge.

Westernport Water has completed the \$5.9 million project which involved the full refurbishment of drinking water and wastewater pipelines under the bridge.

The works have been completed over the past year, with suspended scaffolding used so workers could safely access the pipes while minimising impacts to traffic and the community.

The underbridge pipelines are a critical piece of water infrastructure, supplying drinking water to Phillip Island, and transporting wastewater from

San Remo to the Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The first drinking water pipe was installed in 1969 during construction of the San Remo - Phillip Island Bridge.

"We would like to thank the local community for their support throughout this project, which has secured reliable water and wastewater services into the future," Managing Director of Westernport Water Dona Tantirimudalige said.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale explained, "This upgrade will ensure our community has access to clean, healthy drinking water and reliable sewerage systems, improving our health and quality of life on Philip Island."

In the early 1990s, Westernport Water added a second,

smaller water pipeline as well as a sewer pipe to transport sewerage from San Remo to the wastewater treatment plant on Phillip Island.

Due to their exposure to the harsh coastal environment, the brackets, fixtures and fittings connecting the pipelines to the underside of the bridge were in need of repair.

Significant stakeholder consultation, planning and approval took place to minimise impacts to water customers, visitors, the economy and the local environment.

"This project was one of Westernport Water's most complex projects to date, and its success is a testament to the skills and expertise of everyone involved," Minister for Water Gayle Tierney said.



Chris O'Leary Store Manager and Nathan Dare Fresh Produce Manager Michael's IGA Leongatha. B10_1125

Bananas back for kids lunches

YES, we have plenty of bananas at IGA in Leongatha and they're available at bargain prices.

As ex-tropical cyclone Alfred makes its way inland the temporary shortage of bananas at local supermarkets has made way for new stocks of bananas priced to sell quickly.

"Some supermarkets were running out of stock," said Chris O'Leary, Store Manager from Michael's IGA in Leongatha.

During the height of the cyclone, many stores were out of bananas by late afternoon.

Grapes of all varieties as well as Victorian plums are in plentiful supply, and tomatoes from South Australia are back in store after a scare with tomato fruit virus which affected supply and pushed up prices.

Severe weather conditions in Queensland impacted Cavendish bananas for a short period, however, other varieties sourced from Coffs Harbour have kept the kiddies happy.

Apple season is in full swing with IGA Leongatha recommending

freshly picked new season Pink Lady apples.

Figs are a seasonal delicacy for the well-heeled diner pairing beautifully with salty cheeses like feta, ricotta, and gorgonzola, or grilled with a drizzle of honey and served alongside prosciutto and almonds for a great gourmet appetiser.

Late season plums are a highlight of the stone fruit season, whether sweet or slightly tart they're fantastic in salads, desserts, or simply enjoyed fresh.

Try roast plums with cinnamon for a delicious topping on yoghurt.

Pumpkins are in good supply if you are not growing your own, try air-fried pumpkin chunks with rosemary and olive oil for a simple vegetarian side-dish.

Locally grown leafy greens are great value for money, versatile and nutritious steamed, sautéed or stir-fried with garlic and oyster sauce for a quick and nutritious meal.

Buy seasonal and shop carefully is the best advice if you're watching your pennies.



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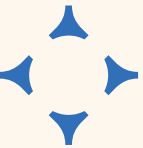
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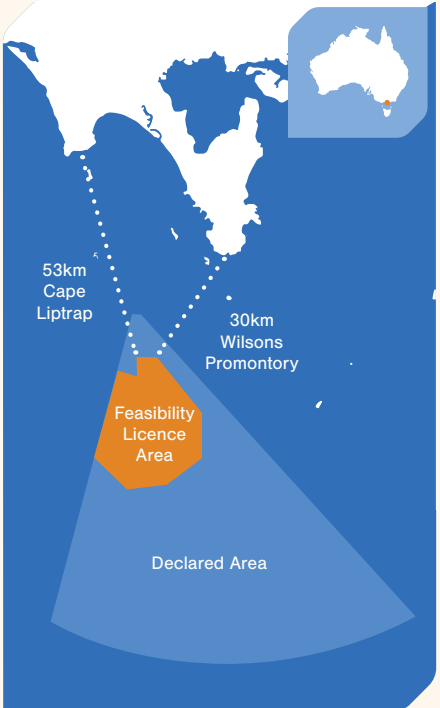
**GIPPSLAND
SKIES** OFFSHORE WIND

Harnessing the power of offshore wind together.

The Gippsland Skies offshore wind team invites you to attend our March community consultation session in Tarwin Lower.

Come along to meet the team, share your feedback, and learn more about the planned marine investigations and offshore survey locations. We will discuss how health, safety, environment and infrastructure integrity will be managed.


It was great to meet and listen to community members at our initial drop-in sessions in July 2024 and February 2025 and we look forward to seeing you again in March.



53km Cape Liptrap
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COMMUNITY DROP-IN INFORMATION SESSION

TARWIN LOWER
Tues 25 March, 4pm-6pm
Tarwin Lower Memorial Hall



Can't make it in person? Scan the QR code to visit our website and learn more about Gippsland Skies.

The benefits of polarised lenses

IN the rolling hills and open roads of South Gippsland, protecting your eyes from harsh glare is essential. Whether you're driving through bright country roads, fishing on the Tarwin River, or enjoying a round of golf, polarised lenses can make a world of difference to your vision and eye comfort.

Polarised lenses are designed to reduce glare caused by light reflecting off flat surfaces like water, roads, and glass. Unlike standard tinted lenses that simply darken your view, polarised lenses contain a special filter that blocks intense reflected light, enhancing clarity, contrast, and overall visual comfort.

One of the biggest advantages of polarised lenses is improved safety, particularly when driving. Glare from the road or other vehicles can be blinding, making it difficult to see obstacles or sudden changes in traffic. By eliminating this glare, polarised lenses enhance depth perception and reaction time, making for a safer, more comfortable driving experience.

For outdoor enthusiasts, polarised lenses are a game-changer. Fishermen can see beneath the surface of the water, reducing the reflective glare that obscures their view. Hikers and cyclists benefit from sharper vision, making it easier to navigate trails and roads. Golfers can track their ball more easily against the bright sky or green fairways. Simply put, polarised lenses allow you to enjoy the outdoors with greater clarity and reduced strain on your eyes.

Beyond comfort and performance, polarised lenses also contribute to long-term eye health. Continuous exposure to intense glare can lead to eye fatigue, strain, and discomfort. Over time, excessive UV exposure may contribute to conditions such as cataracts and macular degeneration. High-quality polarised sunglasses offer UV protection, reducing these risks and keeping your eyes healthier for longer.

While polarised lenses are ideal for many activities, they may not be suitable for all situations. Some digital screens, such as certain car dashboards or LCD screens, can be difficult to read with polarised lenses. However, for the majority of outdoor and driving conditions, they offer unmatched benefits.

At Leongatha Optometrists, we believe in providing tailored eyewear solutions that enhance both vision and lifestyle. If you're looking for clearer, more comfortable vision and superior protection from glare, visit us to explore our range of polarised sunglasses and prescription lenses. Our team is here to help you find the perfect fit for your needs.

See the difference with polarised lenses — your eyes will thank you!

For a limited time only, receive a free polarised upgrade on your second pair when you buy any single-vision prescription glasses. Give us a call on 5662 3485 or head to our website leongathaoptometrists.com.au to book an eye test. Terms & Conditions apply, see in store for more information.

Penguin burrows safe from Cape Barren Geese for the moment

OVERGRAZING by a fast growing population of Cape Barren Geese on Phillip Island is not an immediate threat to penguins according to ongoing research from the University of Melbourne.

"We don't have the data yet," said PhD researcher Vincent Knowles.

Several sites on Phillip Island have been exposed to high levels of browsing pressure leading to degradation of seabird habitat.

Preliminary results of trials to evaluate commercially available deterrents and exclusion strategies to reduce browsing pressure on native vegetation have indicated current deterrents are ineffective at reducing the impact from Cape Barren Geese and wallabies threatening to cause the collapse of Little Penguin and Shearwater burrows.

"Cape Barren Geese are breeding faster than anticipated and stripping away native grasses," said Mr Knowles.

A three year tagging and tracking project funded by the University of Melbourne and Phillip Island Nature Parks aims to improve the understanding of Cape Barren Goose movements, behaviour and grazing on Phillip Island.

Around 300 geese are being fitted with tracking or identification collars to allow the movement and behaviour



University of Melbourne Cape Barren Goose researcher Vincent Knowles at Fisher's Wetland on Phillip Island. B01_1125

of the geese to be tracked in various habitats such as farm paddocks, conservation reserves and the outskirts of residential areas.

The project is being run in collaboration with La Trobe University, Phillip Island Nature Parks and the Bunurong Land Council.

An active bird watcher all his life Mr Knowles has a particular interest in large waterfowl such as Cape Barren Geese, Shelducks and Black Swans.

Growing up in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs Knowles now finds himself travelling to Churchill Island at least once a week to

monitor geese behaviour.

Fisher's Wetland on Phillip Island has a large population of wild birds which is unusual so close to Melbourne according to Mr Knowles.

Introduced to Phillip Island in the 70s and 80s Cape Barren Geese have extended their range much further than expected with tagged birds identified in Venus Bay, Coronet Bay, Corinella and Jam Jerrup.

Once threatened with extinction Cape Barren Geese can fly up to 100 kilometres or longer to explore new territories.

"Four tagged birds have

flown from Summerlands on Phillip Island to Shallow Inlet and Yanakie," said Mr Knowles.

The risk of overgrazing is very real according to Mr Knowles.

"Four geese can consume the equivalent of what a sheep can eat."

Moving from conservation areas to surrounding farmland the geese are starting to cause significant financial loss to some farmers.

An estimated 3500 geese are thought to call Phillip Island home producing clutches of one to five eggs and a maximum of eight goslings at a time.

The breeding season extends from May to December.

Vincent Knowles advises visitors to Fisher's Wetland and Phillip Island not to feed Cape Barren Geese as they only eat grass, and to keep their distance when the geese have young chicks.

Mr Knowles said innovations in tracking technology have enabled researchers to gather detailed data that now allows them to see deep into the previously hidden private lives of the Phillip Island Cape Barren Goose.

To report collared geese or to get involved as a fieldworker, volunteer, or landholders that would allow access to researchers to catch and tag geese on your property, email vknowles@student.unimelb.edu.au.

It pays to recycle and support a circular economy



SINGLE-USE drink containers are a major source of litter in our environment, polluting waterways, harming wildlife and costing millions in clean-up efforts each year.

But there's good news – container deposit schemes across Australia and the world are having a significant impact on litter reduction. Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic) was launched less than 18 months ago and participation continues to grow, reducing litter and boosting recycling rates.

The scheme is a recycling program that gives back to the planet, your community and your pocket. Keen recyclers are collecting and returning eligible drink bottles, cans and

cartons at local return points for a 10-cent refund per item. While it might not sound like much, it quickly adds up. Drink containers are processed to make new products, working towards a circular economy.

With the Easter holidays approaching, Victorians have another chance to cash in big while keeping their communities clean.

Visit cdsvic.org.au to learn more about the scheme and find your nearest refund point.

LEFT: Twin brothers Sonny and Lennie, pictured with Rebecca Cowan, Executive Director of the Good Friday Appeal, have raised hundreds of dollars.



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PROJECT
UPDATES



GIPPSLAND OFFSHORE WIND DAYS

We’ve teamed up again with other Gippsland offshore wind projects to host information sessions in March. Come along to talk with us and share your feedback.

- 

SALE

Saturday 22 March, 10 am – 2 pm

Nakunbalook Sale Botanic Gardens
- 

LEONGATHA

Thursday 27 March, 4 pm – 6 pm

Leongatha Memorial Hall



You can also find us at:


- **South Gippsland Jobs Expo** - Thursday 20 March
- **Cultivating Communities (Yarram)** - Friday 18 April

Get all the details at southerlyten.com.au

PROJECT PLANNING

This year we’re working to finalise an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which documents how Star of the South will be constructed, operated and eventually decommissioned, responsibly and in line with stringent federal and state environmental requirements.

The EIA is informed by consultation, scientific data and expert advice. It includes 25 technical reports which examine key topics including whales, birds, community, fishing, agriculture and heritage.



Do you want to share an idea, feedback or local knowledge with us? There are lots of ways to get involved. We look forward to hearing from you.



Underwater camera surveys

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Progress sought by Closing the Gap

By Dr Bev Munro

THIS Thursday, March 20, is Closing the Gap Day. Closing the Gap Day was meant to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to assist them share in 'the good life' by removing systemic barriers. In 2025, we find that rates of suicide, child removals, early childhood development and adult incarceration have deteriorated since the establishment of a new baseline in 2018/19.

Since 2008, Australia's main way to improve the lives of Indigenous people has been through the Closing the Gap strategy. The main goals related to health, education, jobs, child mortality and life expectancy.

As a result, all Australian governments and the Coalition of Peaks agreed to update the Closing the Gap agreement. This update included new targets and a commitment to involve Indigenous communities more. In addition, cultural elements of importance to Indigenous communities, such as language and connection to land were included for the first time.

The reform agenda included creating formal partnerships, building the community-controlled sector, transforming government organisations and sharing access to data at a regional level. However, the Productivity Commission found that by 2023 only four out of the 19 targets were being met.

Despite governments' responsibility to reform governance to achieve the agreement's objectives, the Productivity Commission found the commitment to shared decision-making has rarely been achieved in practice; government policy does not reflect the value of the community-controlled sector; the transformation of government organisations has barely begun; governments are not enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led data; performance reporting provides only a partial picture of progress; and accountability for delivering on the commitments in the agreement is lacking.

There have been several analyses – references available – of Closing the Gap.

One found the characterisation of the problems faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people did not listen to their voices or needs. It treated the disadvantages as personal issues rather than recognising larger problems like racism or discrimination. This deficit approach effectively blames the individual for their struggles, suggesting they were 'dysfunctional' and could not change without help.

This kind of thinking does not consider what truly matters to our communities, like Country, family and cultural connection.

Many authors pointed out that strategies like Closing the Gap assume all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the same, which is not true. Each community or individual has different needs.

Successful solutions often come from programs created by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people.

The issues of Indigenous poverty and disadvantage are complex, and are closely linked to lack of opportunity, racism and disconnection from culture and Country.

These include factors which have been identified by Maggie Walter, a Palawa woman and sociologist, as 'absence', 'disregard' and 'dispossession'.

Although these systemic factors impact the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, there is still strength and determination throughout the community.

Many Elders and other community members view their circumstances from a strength perspective based on their pride in culture and Country and a strong commitment to maintaining, enhancing and passing on their ways of knowing, being and doing.

Real progress on the National Agreement reforms must acknowledge these systemic factors. The focus must shift to self-determination, which will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to take control of their lives and families, find their places in the mainstream economy, and develop practice models that reflect their priorities and cultural values.

As stated by the Productivity Commissioner and Gungarri man Selwyn Button, the repeated failure of governments to effect change to address these issues meets 'the definition of insanity'.

Leongatha Knit and Natter group raises \$3,200 for RFDS Victoria

THE Leongatha Knit and Natter group has once again demonstrated the power of community spirit, raising \$3200 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria through a partnership with APT Travel Group's OneTomorrow Charitable Fund.

On February 28, members of the Knit and Natter group were celebrated for their heartfelt contributions at an event held at the Leongatha RSL. The group knitted 80 handmade beanies, which were sold to APT guests in 2024, raising \$1600 – a sum that was generously matched by OneTomorrow, doubling the total amount raised. These funds will provide vital support for RFDS, enabling them to deliver essential health care services across Victoria.

The beanies were sold on tour by Tony and Linda Goodlet, dedicated APT driver guides, who added a personal touch to the fundraising efforts. The Knit and Natter group was founded over a decade ago by Marion Cook, Linda's mum, and has since blossomed into a beloved community initiative.

In a touching gesture, Jill Carmody from Travel Associates Leongatha presented the group with \$500 worth of premium wool on behalf of OneTomorrow to further support their ongoing work.

"It's incredible to see how something as simple as knitting can bring our community together for such an important cause. This is such a wonderful development from APT to have their OneTomorrow Charitable arm support causes like this here in Australia, as well as others overseas," Jill said at the event.

Elise Wiggins from RFDS Victoria expressed her gratitude to the attendees, stating,



OneTomorrow, RFDS, Linda and Tony, Marion and Jill (Travel Associates) and Beck (Ambulance Victoria) with the Certificate of Appreciation.



APT tour group wearing the beanies.

"Community-driven support like this enables us to continue providing essential health care to those in remote and rural areas. The efforts of the Knit and Natter group, alongside the ongoing support of APT's OneTomorrow Fund, make a real difference to the

lives of many and we can't thank this group enough for their hard work."

The event featured the presentation of an RFDS Certificate of Appreciation to the group, a display of their beautifully crafted knitted items, and a delicious

local lunch supplied by APT's OneTomorrow Fund and Leongatha RSL for the group.

It was certainly a day of celebration, community spirit, compassion, and the profound difference that grassroots initiatives can make.

Red Cross morning coffee raises over \$1600 for community support

THE Leongatha Red Cross branch hosted a successful Morning Coffee on Tuesday, March 12 at the Woorayl Golf Club, raising over \$1600 to support Red Cross initiatives.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious morning tea prepared by the Leongatha Red Cross Ladies while learning about emergency preparedness through a presentation by Wendy and Adele from the local Red Cross Emergency Services team.

Their presentation focused on what is known as the RediPlan challenge – encouraging individuals to be ready for emergencies by following four key steps: Understanding the types of emergencies that could affect them and knowing where to find support; building connections with people around them; organising essential information, including medical details, next of kin, insurance, and pet care; and finally, preparing an emergency kit to take if evacuation is necessary.

The presentation was reinforced by personal insights from Sandy and her husband, who recently faced an emergency during the fires in The Gurdies.



Red Cross members at the most recent Red Cross morning coffee fundraiser, held at the Woorayl Golf Club.

A raffle, coordinated by Pam, featured prizes generously donated by local businesses. The Woorayl Golf Club also played a vital role, providing use of their venue free of charge.

Leongatha Red Cross Unit Secretary, Cathy Curwood, expressed her gratitude to

everyone who contributed to the event's success.

"The support from the community and local businesses was wonderful. It allows us to continue helping those in need," she said.

Donations for communities affected by Cyclone Alfred can be made online or through

Red Cross members during their May raffle.

The Red Cross Morning Coffee not only raised funds but also strengthened community awareness about emergency preparedness, echoing the Red Cross's mission to support vulnerable communities in times of crisis.



Bass Coast Reconciliation Network will be hosting their own Ngangga following many successful events over the last couple of year's including the Bridge Walk for Reconciliation in 2022.

Ngangga NAIDOC celebration on Milawul (Phillip Island)

BASS Coast Reconciliation Network is proud to be working to Close the Gap across the region and is excited to announce the first Ngangga on Milawul (Phillip Island) – a free event celebrating NAIDOC Week on Sunday, July 6, 2025.

The event, run in partnership with Community, will see First Nations-owned stallholders, volunteers, community organisations, musicians and artists come together to celebrate Culture through fun activities, games, live music, deadly information and support, arts, crafts and more.

Aligning with the 2025

NAIDOC theme of Next Generation, Strength, Vision and Legacy, Ngangga aims to empower young people and families to celebrate, experience and learn more of our shared history.

The one-day festival will run from 12pm - 7pm at Berninnet in Cowes starting with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. Everyone is invited to come along and be part of the activities and family fun across the day that will be followed by an evening performance from Uncle Kutcha Edwards (tickets required) in the theatre at Berninnet.

The Network is currently

seeking expressions of interest from First Nations stallholders and performers to take part in Ngangga.

You can now register your organisation, business, and/or Community group's interest to be a stallholder, provide a live performance, or lead a cultural activity at the event by completing the online form on the Bass Coast Shire Council website/Reconciliation.

Applications close Sunday, April 6.

Ngangga (meaning to hear, to understand, to listen in Boonwurrung language) welcomes First Nations Peoples together with our allies and

supporters, residents and tourists to share our history; celebrate our culture, ancestors and Elders; elevate the voices and visibility of First Nations Peoples and create an exciting future for next generations through empowering and supporting our young people to work towards self-determination and economic prosperity.

Bass Coast Reconciliation Network has run many major reconciliation events including a Bridge Walk for Reconciliation in 2022 where over 1000 community members walked across the bridge from San Remo to Milawul.

GERF stretched by unprecedented disasters

LOCAL charity, Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF), was called on to assist Gippsland residents over four natural disasters in less than twelve months.

The charity's recently released 2024 annual report highlighted that GERF provided a total of \$619,500 of aid to 244 families during recent fire, flood and storm emergencies. People were helped in all six Gippsland local government areas.

"This is the first time in GERF's 45-year history that we have been called upon to support this frequency of natural disasters," said GERF Vice President Nigel Browne.

"However, our disbursements exceeded incoming donations and we had to use our reserve funds to ensure all essential referrals for assistance could be met."

Mr Browne said the all-volunteer charity was hoping the generosity of Gippsland individuals and organisations would once again help build up the reserve funds so GERF would be well placed to assist in future disasters.

"We are lucky to have received wonderful support over the year from a range of community organisations, companies and individuals," said Mr Browne.

"However, the increasing frequency and severity of bushfires, floods and storms from climate change will challenge GERF and the Gippsland community."

"We need to be ready for natural disasters."

The annual report also highlighted the organisation's increasing community engagement with GERF volunteers attending local farmers markets and other events. A new members newsletter was introduced.

More information on the work of GERF as well as their annual report is available on their website gerf.org.au. Tax deductible donations can also be made through their website.



Ngangga

To listen
To hear
To understand

SAVE THE DATE:

NAIDOC WEEK COMMUNITY EVENT

SUNDAY, 6 JULY 2025 | BERNINNET (COWES)

CALL OUT FOR CREATIVE MOB

ARTISTS | PERFORMERS | PRESENTERS
MUSICIANS | MAKERS | CREATORS

We invite First Nations owned businesses, volunteers and community organisations to be a part of Ngangga.

Use the QR CODE or link below to register your interest by Sunday 6 April
<https://forms.office.com/r/rV3pM9JfsV>

QUESTIONS?
Get in touch to have a yarn:
Email community@penguins.org.au or call 0429 989 773




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ROSE LODGE FETE

Come and join the fun and support your local community

Saturday, March 29

9am-1pm

Fete held in upper Activity room, courtyard and café.
Entry from Baillieu Street or Court Street.

- Devonshire Tea available
- Sausage Sizzle • Books
- Cake Stall • White Elephant Stall
- Raffles • Plants Stall
- Arts & Crafts

Net proceeds from the fete are dedicated to the purchase of equipment to support the wellbeing of all our residents at Rose Lodge.

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Where do they go?

- Recycling in Plastic Bags

It is extremely common for people to put their recycling in a plastic bag before putting it in their Recycle (yellow-lidded) Bin. We get it, you don't want any leaking cans or bottles making a smell in your home.

However, if you put a plastic bag full of recycling materials in your Recycle Bin, it is considered contamination.

Plastic bags can't be recycled, so the entire bag would be removed and directed to landfill, causing a loss of recyclable resources. Plastic bags can also damage equipment at sorting facilities and present a safety risk to staff.

In South Gippsland, recyclable materials in Rubbish (red-lidded) Bins makes up approximately 12.48% of Rubbish Bin contents by weight. What's more unfortunate though is that these materials are lost to landfill and don't get the opportunity to be remade into something new.

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

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



Top Tips

- * Put your recycling in your **Recycle (yellow-lidded) Bin** loose.
- * If you've used a plastic bag, it must go in your **Rubbish (red-lidded) Bin**.
- * Wipe down your indoor recycling spot frequently to avoid any nasty smells.



Small acts make a big impact.

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

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

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





Best customer vehicle winner Trevor Male receiving his award from Leongatha Rotary Club's Jim McNiven. Ns42_1125



Best paint award went to Leigh Smith. Ns44_1125



Best Aussie vehicle winner Alan Rogers. Ns43_1125



President's choice went to Tim Said. Ns46_1125



Best Japanese vehicle awardee Tyler Goodwin. Ns45_1125



Entry of the Show was awarded to Laura Barbagello for her stunning 2022 Ford Mustang coloured pink. Ns47_1125



Don't 'bait' the Holden! Ns52_1125



There were still a number of incredible vintage and classic cars on display. Ns49_1125



The King was a stand out among the rare beauties. Ns50_1125



The Ford was a crowd-pleaser. Ns51_1125

Show 'n' Shine revs on

DESPITE wet weather this year's Show N' Shine and Swap Meet by the Rotary Club of Leongatha was still a successful day with plenty of vintage and classic cars on display.

Renowned for its high-quality entries and judging, the day didn't disappoint motor enthusiasts with rare Holdens, Fords and everything in between on display.

Food trucks helped keep bellies warm and full while the swap meet was up and running despite the down-pour.

Awards were given out for categories such as 'Best Aussie', 'Best Japanese' (a new category), 'Best Custom' as well as the usual 'President's Choice' and 'Entry of the Show'.

Chairman of the Show 'N' Shine committee Jim McNiven thanked all for attending, praising the high-quality entries and award winners for their effort.

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SN: W102030



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

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Corolla Ascent Sport Hybrid
23,990 DRIVE AWAY

127,843kms, CVT auto hatch
SN: W102031



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2021 Toyota RAV4 Cruiser
43,990 DRIVE AWAY

99,437kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: W102027



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2019 Mazda CX-5 Maxx Sport KF
30,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



7 SEATER

2019 Kia Sorento SLi
25,990 DRIVE AWAY

145,117kms, 8 speed sports auto SUV
SN: W102028



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Toyota Hilux Workmate
25,990 DRIVE AWAY

83,070kms, 6 speed sports auto cab
chassis SN: W101995



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2015 Hyundai Santa Fe
23,990 DRIVE AWAY

118,880kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV
SN: W102003

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2023 Mitsubishi
Outlander Aspire ZM
47,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2016 Mitsubishi ASX LS XB
15,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Toyota
Landcruiser Prado GXL
51,990 DRIVE AWAY

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SUV SN: L101294



HYBRID

2019 Toyota Camry Ascent
30,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Ford Ranger XLT PX MkIII
44,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Toyota Corolla
Ascent Sport Hybrid
18,990 DRIVE AWAY

229,014kms, CVT auto hatch
SN: L101307



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Ford Mustang GT FN
60,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Toyota
Landcruiser Prado GXL
63,990 DRIVE AWAY

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

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The Poowong Community Garden will host the Community Garden Gathering which will feature four exceptional speakers.

Poowong to host state Community Gardens Gathering

THE POOWONG Community Garden will be hosting the annual Community Gardens Gathering, usually a South Gippsland event which has fortuitously turned into the state Community Gardens Gathering.

Looking for a venue to host the Victorian event, National President of Community Gardens Australia Naomi Lacey approached her father, Poowong Community Garden member Damien Lacey.

Of course, Poowong eagerly agreed when asked.

On Sunday, March 23 from 10am to 3pm four speakers will be filling the days schedule, followed by mini workshops and a garden tour with morning tea and lunch included.

James McLennan, a professional gardener who featured on the first of this year's ABC's Gardening Australia program, will present on the topic 'Farm My School.'

Farm My School is a groundbreaking model of food education started by James, that transforms unused land within schools into regenerative market gardens that feed, educate and connect communities.

"Students learn how to propagate and grow and sustain a commercial operation and they also produce goods for the local community," explained Damien.

Chelsea McNabb will be talking about inspiration for broadening the scope of community gardens and Naomi Lacey will be presenting on social media hacks for your garden.

The event provides an opportunity for individuals, groups, schools and anyone interested in gardening to learn new techniques, gain some ideas, network with other gardeners or even join a community garden.

Being part of a community garden provides a way of connecting with others in the local community, while having a good time and growing some vegies.

Community gardens also offer any excess food that has been grown to the community, with their catchphrase being, 'Take what you need and give if you can'.

Tickets to the Community Gardens Gathering are available via Humanity and the QR code or available at the door, but people are encouraged to register before the event.

Community Gardens Gathering will be held on Sunday, March 23 from 10am – 3pm at the Poowong Hall, 2-4 Nyora Road. Everyone is welcome and the venue is fully accessible.



Rose Lodge residents presented Bass Coast Children's Centre's three-year-old kindergarten group with their kinder kits on Wednesday, March 12. W04_1125

Generations connect for Bass Coast Children and Rose Lodge residents

SIXTEEN children from the Bass Coast Children's Centre's three-year-old kindergarten group shared a heart-warming morning with five residents from Rose Lodge Aged Care Facility on Wednesday, March 12.

The visit, which marked the continuation of a long-standing relationship between the two centres, saw Rose Lodge residents gift each child a 2025 Kinder Kit provided by the Victorian Government Department of Education. The Kinder Kits are designed to support play-based learning and include books by Australian authors, educational toys, and activity guides for families.

Dina McMaster, Coordinator at the Bass Coast Children's Centre, said the bond between the children and the aged care residents is something truly special.

"We've had a really long association with Rose Lodge. Our visits began in 2015, and they have continued up until today. It's been a beautiful partnership," she said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the two groups would



Bass Coast Children's Centre's Lauren with three-year-old Charlotte who received her kinder kit earlier, along with Rose Lodge resident Rae Haines. W03_1125

regularly visit each other's facilities. Although in-person visits were restricted during the pandemic, the connection never faded, with the centres staying in touch through Zoom meetings.

But now, the visits have resumed in person, with children from the centre visiting Rose Lodge monthly and hopes that residents will

continue returning to the children's centre in the future.

"It's made a huge contribution to our programs, as well as the beautiful connections the children have formed with the residents of Rose Lodge," Ms McMaster said.

The intergenerational program offers benefits for both young and old, fostering a sense of respect and

appreciation between generations.

"It teaches our children a level of respect and appreciation for our elders, and they actually learn from each other while building these beautiful connections and relationships," she said.

Ms McMaster recalled one touching moment when the children performed a concert for Rose Lodge residents, and one resident remarked, "It makes me feel young again."

Over the years, the connection has led to memorable exchanges. One resident who bred stick insects gifted an enclosure to the children's centre, while another donated knitwear for the children to wear.

"It's one of the most special connections I have witnessed for our children. It's such a wonderful opportunity to share joy between intergenerational relationships," Ms McMaster said.

The visit concluded with a shared morning tea for the residents, where both children and residents continued to bond over stories, laughter, and the excitement of the new Kinder Kits.

Geological history examined on Walkerville beach walk

MORE than 60 people met at Walkerville North Beach on a perfect summer's day on Sunday, March 9.

The occasion was a geological beach walk in memory of late Fish Creek local and geologist Gary Wallis.

Gary's daughter Shari and other family members were present, and Gary's vast knowledge of local geology was on hand in his booklet Walkerville Coastal Geology – A Walk from Walkerville North to Bird Rocks, which Prom Coast Ecolink was able to reprint and distribute for this event thanks to a grant from South Gippsland Shire Council.

In clear and simple language, Gary's words, diagrams and photos guided the attendees along the very special beach and revealed an amazing geological history.

Bass Coast palaeontologist Mike Cleeland gave a wonderful introduction to the geology under their feet and the landscape formations, explaining the complex geology and helped by rock samples and dinosaur fossils.



More than 60 people went on a recent geological beach walk at Walkerville North Beach. Photo credit: Karli Duckett.

From this spot, amazing geological changes through history become visible, from the most ancient sedimentary rock layer to the more recent coral fossils and pebble deposits of ancient, shallow tropical seas.

Mike answered the many questions from the fascinated audience before guiding them along the rocks of the beach to South Walkerville, where they could look closely for themselves and discover coral

fossils and more.

Fittingly, Gary's daughter Shari was the first to find a fossil at the Bird Rocks fossils site.

The attendees learned that Gary discovered Prom granite has clear joins of different granite, which demonstrated a very complex geological process, and that he had discovered the fossilised mega wombat footprints on a rock on Cape Liptrap.

Attendees saw clear evidence

of ancient geological changes in the Waratah Fault Zone and the layered and folded older section of the cliffs.

Through the cave near Magic Beach, with its fabulously vaulted ceiling, sculpted by water at the greenstone outcrop on Magic Beach, Mike said greenstone was highly prized by the Indigenous peoples for its balance of hardness, weight and ability to maintain a sharp edge.

He added a likely reason this outcrop hadn't been mined was that it is of inferior quality.

Everyone appreciated Mike's knowledge and enjoyed the delicious biscuits provided for afternoon tea.

With the perfect weather, many took the opportunity to have a swim after the walk.

Gary Wallis' booklet Walkerville Coastal Geology – A Walk from Walkerville North to Bird Rocks is available at the Hand-makers Store in Fish Creek and the Stockyard Gallery in Foster.

Find further information about Prom Coast Ecolink events and subscribe to the newsletter at promcoastecolink.org

Downsize smart in Wonthaggi

IF YOU'VE been considering a lifestyle change, now's the perfect time to act. Park Lane Living's Wonthaggi community has just released its highly anticipated Stage 4, with only 11 sites available.

Two brand-new homes starting from \$315,000 are already under construction and set for completion mid-2025, while the remaining nine sites are available to secure off-the-plan. It's an exciting opportunity to downsize without compromise and join a vibrant, welcoming community designed for over-55s.

Park Lane Living isn't just about homes, it's about freedom, community, and smart living. Their No Exit Fee policy means when it comes time to sell, you keep 100 per cent of your home's value, including any capital gains. Unlike many communities that charge a Deferred Management Fee (DMF) of up to 20 per cent on the sale price, Park Lane Living believes your investment should stay

yours – no strings, no surprises.

The benefits don't stop there. With discounted electricity rates, reduced maintenance costs, and no council rates or water usage charges, living costs are significantly lower. Plus, the land lease model – where you own your home and lease the land – offers a modern, cost-effective approach, with many residents paying around \$72 per week after rent assistance and savings.

Park Lane Living is also pet-friendly, so your furry friends are more than welcome. With well-maintained grounds, friendly neighbours, and shared facilities, life here is as social as it is secure.

Don't miss your chance to be part of Wonthaggi's thriving community. Call Donna on 1300 300 425 today to learn more and secure your ideal site in Stage 4.

Life's better when you feel financially free – and your four-legged friend agrees!



Home is where the heart (and paws) are! At Park Lane Living Wonthaggi, your furry friend is always welcome, making downsizing feel like an upgrade.



With brand-new homes in a welcoming over-55s community, you can enjoy the perfect blend of luxury and affordability.



Margaret Murray and Lois Thornton, just before they underwent the greatest shave to help raise money for the Leukemia Foundation. ob07_1125

Strzelecki House staff and residents shave for a great cause

TWO RESIDENTS and three staff members of Strzelecki House in Mirboo North underwent a major transformation last Friday and shaved off their hair, joining the World's Greatest Shave.

The initiative began when resident Lois Thornton mentioned to the hairdresser that she'd done the World's Greatest Shave many years ago and wouldn't mind doing it again.

"Because I've lost too many friends and family through cancer, all different kinds of cancers," explained Lois.

That got the rolling the ball and when fellow resident Margaret Murray got wind of it, she decided she would shave her hair as well.

"I've also lost a lot of family members (to cancer). My husband lost six of his siblings to cancer. So, every little bit helps," said Margaret.

Lois and Margaret commented that they weren't daunted by having their heads shaved but were worried about upcoming cold days and the winter ahead, but are well prepared with lots of beanies.

They are now in competition with each other to see who can grow their hair out the quickest.

Three staff members, Libby Barker, Miriam Drzycimski and Helen Groen also decided to get on board with the cause.

Miriam with long blonde locks plaited her hair so it could be cut off and sent to be made into wigs for people with cancer.

Staff member Julie Littlejohn also joined in the cause, dyeing her long brown locks a rich shade of mahogany.

Other residents and staff in the aged care home were sporting temporary shades of green, pink, blue and multicoloured hair, joining in the fun.

The goal was to raise \$2500 and at last count online on Friday, the amount tallied to \$2253. However, there were also four tins around Mirboo North and one at Strzelecki House which was reportedly heavy and quite full – "chockas" – so the count is estimated to have exceeded their goal.

"Just because you're old doesn't mean you can't keep making a difference," said Margaret.

Staff and residents at Strzelecki House expressed their gratitude to everyone who donated.

Korumburra leads the way in world-class aged care model

A SOUTH Gippsland medical centre has expanded its workforce, attracting new healthcare professionals into the region, with its promise of offering older Australians a unique, fully integrated service that meets their health and care needs while allowing them to stay in their own homes.

Atticus Health acquired Korumburra Medical Centre in October last year, bringing in Mark & Sylvie's Home Care, which it describes as the "gold standard" of looking after ageing patients.

It has now hired two new health professionals to help it deliver the world-leading integrated care.

After moving to Korumburra with her family, Melanie joined the clinic as a Practice Nurse and Home Care Manager, co-ordinating all the local home carers.

She said it has been rewarding to be the link between health and home care for patients, allowing them to stay



A game-changing approach to aged care, Atticus Health is making waves in South Gippsland with the newest healthcare heroes delivering top-tier, home-centred care.

healthy at home rather than needing to go into care or hospital.

Physiotherapist Lakshmi has also moved to the area to take up a new role at Korumburra, working with patients both in the clinic and at home.

Atticus Health founder Dr Floyd Gomes said he is excited to have been able to welcome two new healthcare

professionals to South Gippsland.

"It can be challenging for healthcare providers to attract new professionals to regional areas," said Dr Gomes.

"But both Melanie and Lakshmi were keen to move into their new purposeful roles to be able to help deliver this unique, pioneering care to the South Gippsland community."

As both State and Federal Governments grapple with an aged care crisis and an under-pressure health system, Atticus Health said its care model is a solution.

Called the Simple Emotive Aged Care Model (SEAM), it puts patient's needs at the centre and ensures all service providers are working together, including GPs, specialists, and home care.

The fully integrated health and social care model is the same as what is used in Varde, Denmark – a region with a worldwide reputation for dignified, patient-centred aged care.

"We have visions of Korumburra being known for having the best-integrated care not just in Australia, but the world, rivalling even Varde!" said Dr Gomes.

For more about this unique health and care model now available in Korumburra, make sure to pick up the next issue of South Gippsland Sentinel-Times.



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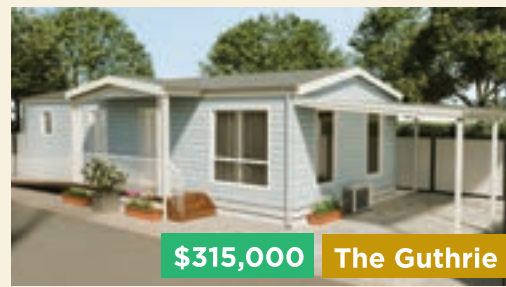
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Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island's onsite library to escape into a world of stories.



Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island's indoor community space for a game of pool or a social gathering.

Discover the perfect retirement lifestyle at Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island

IF YOU'RE over 50 and looking for a coastal, secure, and community-oriented retirement, then Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island in Cowes, offers an over-50s lifestyle village nestled in a convenient location; residents are encouraged to keep active and focus on their social well-being. Managed by the friendly caretakers Caroline and Colin Wright, Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island boasts a range of homes to suit different needs and preferences. From cosy two-bedroom homes to spacious options with study areas, residents can enjoy modern living in a peaceful, relaxed

environment. Whether you're living independently or need accommodation for carers or family, Palm Lake Resort provides flexible living arrangements to suit everyone's lifestyle. "At Palm Lake Resort we support independent living but provide a safe environment for those needing in-home care," said Caroline. Life at Palm Lake Resort is about much more than retirement, "we have over 50s who are still working full time but love the idea of the wide variety of first-class amenities." The lifestyle village includes the following features: Heated Pool – Perfect for a

relaxing swim or water aerobics. Cinema – Watch the latest films with friends and neighbours or invite the family. Library – A quiet space to read, relax, and enjoy a good book. Pool Tables, Darts, and Table Tennis – Plenty of activities for those who enjoy a friendly competition. Gymnasium – Keep fit and healthy with gym equipment for regular exercise. Community Bus – Convenient transport options for getting into town. Dog Park – Your furry friends are welcome, with a dedicated space for them to play.

Golf Driving Net – Perfect your swing or enjoy a fun round of golf with friends nearby. (Private golf cart ownership is welcome). Barbecues and Caravan Storage – Enjoy outdoor dining with family and friends, plus plenty of space to store your caravan for those road trips. At Palm Lake Resort, your safety and peace of mind are a top priority. The village is gated, with secure access and 24-hour surveillance for your protection. "You'll have the freedom to enjoy everything the resort offers, knowing you are safe and secure at all times." Whether you're looking to embrace a more active lifestyle,

relax in a tranquil environment, or be part of a welcoming community, Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island offers the perfect mix of comfort, convenience, and fun. Come and experience why so many people are choosing to make this beautiful lifestyle village their home. Managed by the caring and dedicated Caroline and Colin Wright, you'll find a supportive community that feels just like family. Ready to take the next step toward your ideal retirement lifestyle? Visit Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island and see how you can make this vibrant community your new home.

Discover your new lifestyle

Experience vibrant resort-style living at Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island. Perfectly positioned between the Cowes Golf Course and Lawn Bowls Club, the resort offers quality facilities including a heated indoor pool, bowls, gym, yoga, a Grand Hall with theatre, games room, and elegant dining.

Whether it's Saturday night barbecues, catching up over footy, or staying active, every day is full of connection, fun, and relaxation. With weekly complimentary meals and a warm, welcoming community, Palm Lake Resort Phillip Island is where retirement feels like a permanent holiday. Book a private inspection today.

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Enjoy your Retirement

Empower your life with better hearing care

ABC Hearing in Wonthaggi aim to raise awareness about the importance of ear and hearing care. This year they are focused on changing mindsets: 'empower yourself to make ear and hearing care a reality for all!'

Audiologists Braden Betley and Grant Hill invite individuals of all ages to empower themselves to ensure healthy ears and hearing for themselves and others. This campaign aims to inspire behaviour change to protect hearing from loud sounds, prevent hearing loss, check hearing regularly, use hearing devices if needed, and support those living with hearing loss.

"Empowered individuals can drive change within themselves and in society at large," Braden said.

"How we hear in the future depends on how we care for our ears today as many cases of hearing loss can be avoided through the adoption of safe listening and good hearing care practices. For those living with hearing loss, early identification and access to timely rehabilitation are essential to achieving their highest potential."

You can take steps today to ensure good hearing health throughout life.

The objective is to educate people of all ages about the crucial role that good hearing health plays in their overall well-being. Hearing is a vital sense that helps us to connect with the world around us, and hearing loss can have a profound impact on a person's quality of life. People with hearing loss are more likely to suffer from social isolation, anxiety, and cognitive decline.



Audiologists Grant Hill and Braden Betley raise awareness on the importance of hearing, providing hearing assessment and rehabilitation.
Z01_1125

Despite this, many people neglect to take care of their hearing and delay seeking help until it is too late. Hearing Awareness Week is aimed to change this by promoting the importance of regular hearing checks and providing information about the various treatment options available for hearing loss.

"It's never too late to start taking care of your hearing, and there are several simple steps you can take to maintain good hearing health," said Braden.

"Regular exposure to loud noise is one of the leading causes of hearing loss, so it's important to protect your ears from loud noises. You can do this by wearing earplugs or earmuffs when you're exposed to loud noises, such as concerts or sporting events.

"Another important step is to avoid using cotton swabs to clean your ears, as this can push wax further into your ear canal, causing blockages and potentially damaging your eardrum. Instead, use a warm cloth or damp cotton to clean the outer part of your ear."

Finally, if you suspect you may have hearing loss, it's essential to seek help from a hearing healthcare professional. Hearing loss is a treatable condition, and early treatment can prevent it from worsening and impacting your quality of life.

"By taking simple steps to protect your hearing and seeking help, you can maintain good hearing health and enjoy all that life has to offer."

Call About Bass Coast Hearing on 5672 5598 to see Braden or Grant for independent advice.

Enjoying retirement in Bass Coast and South Gippsland

RETIREMENT in Bass Coast and South Gippsland is anything but quiet – this stunning coastal and countryside region offers a vibrant, active, and fulfilling lifestyle for retirees of all interests. Whether you're looking to learn something new, stay fit, or connect with like-minded people, there's no shortage of opportunities to make the most of your golden years.

For those keen to keep their minds sharp, local Neighbourhood Houses and U3A (University of the Third Age) groups provide fantastic learning and social opportunities. From art classes and technology workshops to language courses and history discussions, there's something to spark everyone's curiosity. With Neighbourhood Houses scattered throughout the region, including in Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Korumburra, Phillip Island, Corinella, Bass Valley, Foster, Venus Bay and Leongatha, it's easy to find a class or group that interests you.

If staying active is a priority, you're in the perfect place. The Bass Coast and South Gippsland regions are home to some of Victoria's most scenic

walks and hikes. Stroll along the George Bass Coastal Walk, take in the dramatic views at Cape Woolamai, or explore the lush beauty of Grand Ridge Rail Trail. For something more relaxed, there are plenty of flat, scenic paths perfect for a gentle walk, such as the Inverloch Foreshore Walk or the Great Southern Rail Trail.

Community groups and social clubs also provide fantastic opportunities to stay engaged. Join a men's shed or a gardening club, take up a new sport like lawn bowls, golf, or tai chi, or enjoy weekly meetups with craft or book clubs. Many local cafes and community centres also host regular social mornings, making it easy to connect with others.

Of course, there's always the joy of simply embracing the laid-back coastal lifestyle – fishing, bird-watching, or even just soaking in the fresh sea air at one of the many picturesque beaches.

Retirement in Bass Coast and South Gippsland is about choice – whether it's learning, exploring, or simply enjoying the community spirit, there's something for everyone.

YOUR LOCAL,
PERMANENT AND
INDEPENDENT
HEARING CLINIC IN,
AROUND AND
ABOUT THE
BASS COAST.



Visiting
Inverloch,
Cowes and
Frankston



For
appointments
with Braden
and Grant:

5672 5598

ABOUT US:

- Opened in Wonthaggi 2007
- **Independent, local** and not aligned to any manufacturer so you can be assured of the best advice and a complete choice of devices with the latest hearing technology and comprehensive service
- Our clinicians are not paid a commission or incentive on sales
- Accredited to provide the Australian Government Hearing Services Program
- Braden and Grant are WorkSafe accredited
- Free assessments for eligible DVA and Pension card holders*

* Conditions apply to clients under the Commonwealth Hearing Services Program

Open: Monday to Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm

Shop 5, Plaza Walk Arcade, 23 Murray Street, Wonthaggi
(opposite the new Bass Coast Library)

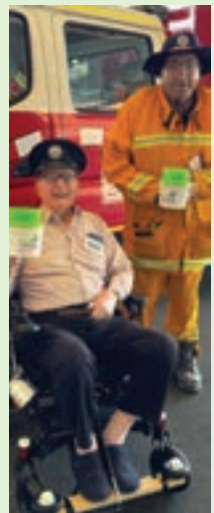


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- Gym
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- Library
- Keypad Security System



Here at Prom Country Aged Care
We believe that people age better
when they lead their care and are
supported in making life choices

Woorayl Lodge is on the search for volunteers, are you one of them?

Are you looking for a rewarding way to give back to the community? Do you have a passion for supporting others and making meaningful connections? If you're empathetic, compassionate, and enjoy engaging with older people, Woorayl Lodge would love for you to join their dedicated team of volunteers at Woorayl Lodge Inc. and help enhance the lives of its residents.

Woorayl Lodge is a not-for-profit aged care facility nestled in the lush, rolling hills of South Gippsland in the township of Leongatha. The Lodge has 41 private rooms in the residential aged care section and 29 independent living units and is proudly community-owned and run.

So why volunteer?

- Make a positive impact: Your time and support can bring joy, companionship, and engagement to Woorayl Lodge's residents.
- Build meaningful relationships: Form lasting bonds with both the residents and staff, becoming an integral part of the close-knit community.
- Learn and grow: Gain valuable experience in aged care, health-care, and community service. Volunteers receive training and ongoing support.
- Flexible commitment: Woorayl Lodge offers a variety of roles and shifts to suit your availability. There are three different types of volunteer opportunities available.

Volunteers have the opportunity to assist with a range of social and recreational activities designed to enhance residents' wellbeing. Whether it's leading arts and crafts sessions, organising games, or accompanying residents on outings, these activities play a crucial role in helping to promote residents' social and emotional wellbeing.

Spend time with residents, engage in conversations, and provide residents with friendship, as a companionship volunteer. Whether enjoying a cup of tea together, taking a stroll or sharing stories, Woorayl Lodge's companionship volunteers help reduce loneliness among the residents.

And last, but certainly not least, is the Woorayl Lodge Auxiliary. Help raise funds to provide extras that enrich residents' lives and assist with hosting special morning teas and other engaging activities.

To apply for a volunteer position, you must be over 18, willing to have an annual influenza vaccination and undergo a police check.

For information or to complete the volunteer application form, please visit the Woorayl Lodge website at woorayllodge.com.au/volunteering.

If you'd like to speak with Woorayl Lodge directly, please call Jodie Bennett-Wood on 0400 553 902.

Seaside living made easy at Frenchview



Enjoy stunning foreshore views, a friendly community, and modern, low-maintenance homes at Frenchview Lifestyle Village.



Affordable homes, a friendly community, and excellent facilities, including a saltwater inground pool, what is not to love about Frenchview Lifestyle Village.

LOCATED right on the Western Port Bay foreshore, Frenchview Lifestyle Village offers beautiful, low maintenance homes in a friendly, like-minded community environment. We also love pets, so your four-legged friends are more than welcome!

We have quality, affordable brand new two-bedroom homes from \$179,000 with various layouts available, along with "off the plan" options that allow you to customise your new forever home on a site of your choosing. We also have pre-loved homes available in the village from time to time.

Residents of our established community love Frenchview's quiet atmosphere and community feel.

Being right on the foreshore, there are plenty of lovely places nearby to relax and enjoy the view with a coffee, take a short walk or enjoy a meal at a local café.

Within close proximity to Phillip Island and the greater Bass Coast and only 25 minutes from Wonthaggi, the village really is the perfect sea-change for those looking to downsize but still remain within 90 minutes of the Melbourne CBD.

Village residents enjoy a number of excellent facilities, such as our saltwater inground pool, BBQ areas, large off-leash dog area, community facility and tearoom and plenty of access to the foreshore.

Contact our Village Manager on 5678 8232 for more information, or to organise a tour of our lovely village – we can't wait to show you the Frenchview Lifestyle Village lifestyle!



Founded in 1956 by the Leongatha Rotary Club Woorayl Lodge is a community owned Not-For-Profit Aged Care facility. We are a diverse team who work together to ensure our residents are treated with respect and receive the best care available to them while being happy and at home in their *new home*.

Woorayl Lodge is a My Aged Care Certified 4 Star which achieved: 5 Star Compliance, 4 Star Resident Experience, 4 Star Quality, 3 Star Staffing



Woorayl Lodge has 41 beds, 40 for permanent residents and 1 respite bed, we also have 29 Independent Living Units for seniors looking to downsize but not ready to enter permanent care.

Woorayl Lodge gratefully accepts donations from businesses, associations, groups, and individuals with all donations over \$2.00 being tax-deductible.

We would be lost without the tireless efforts of our wonderful volunteers and Auxiliary members who have been offering assistance and fundraising for us since 1972. Being part of an Auxiliary in a small community is a very rewarding experience and any help you can offer would be welcomed.




If you are interested, please see our administration staff.

Want to join the Woorayl Team? We have casual shifts available in all areas, so please email your Resume and cover letter to enquiries@woorayllodge.com.au

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Enjoy your Retirement

Care how and when you need it most

LEWIS Martin's Fuller Life Physiotherapy car may be more familiar than his face around town, buzzing between clients, but that is just how he likes it.

"When I came to Australia in 2017 there was a big issue with, and still is, regional accessibility to allied healthcare," Lewis explained.

"Whilst there is a growing number of mobile and community physios in the cities, there is less so in regional areas.

"A huge segment of people either don't want to or cannot get to normal clinic settings, which is what Fuller Life aims to address. We are the only dedicated home and community physio service provider in Bass Coast.

"Additionally, community therapy has its own unique style of physio, where assessments are extremely thorough and person-centred within their own environment, and treatments can be far more effective from a functional way, keeping people more independent at home."

Originating from England, and working with clients in remote countryside locations, Lewis brought this experience and knowledge to Bass Coast in 2018, where he has since grown the business to a diverse team with a combined experience of over 25 years.

"Seniors want to stay at home, be independent, and there is no better way to manage their physio



Lewis Martin's Fuller Life Physiotherapy is Bass Coast's only dedicated home and community physio service, helping seniors stay independent, NDIS participants reach their goals and individuals return to their fullest.

than at home."

For Lewis, working as a mobile physiotherapist perfectly aligns with his passion for helping people, allowing him to bring care and support directly to those who need it most; it's a three-fold reward.

"Firstly, I get to work with fantastic physios, and I enjoy working in a small team.

"Secondly, when I get feedback from one of our senior community members that they're happy, can remain at home, and have the mobility to access their house, their community and feel stronger and safer, it's hugely rewarding,

I've had patients in tears – they've avoided falls, injuries and needless hospital admissions.

"Thirdly, the NDIS. It's really joyful for me to see people reaching their NDIS goals – even having to make new ones because they've blasted past them. Seeing them live fully – returning to hobbies, work, and community life – is tremendously rewarding."

A background in disability, both learning and physical, and raising two neurodiverse daughters, Lewis also has significant experience in the mental health space.

"I did mental health physiotherapy (in the UK) for two years,

which drew me into an awareness of mental health and how it correlates with wellbeing. I developed a significant understanding of mental health and how that affects chronic pain, mobility, and independence at home, in society, and within communities."

Working with Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV), Lewis is also helping raise awareness and address regional and rural healthcare challenges, particularly for Victorians, while supporting the local public healthcare services.

Fuller Life Physiotherapy specialises in working with older adults and Home Care Packages

(HCP), while experienced therapists also provide expert care for NDIS participants, particularly in neurological rehabilitation and disability support.

"We offer a range of services across Bass Coast and South Gippsland with minimal waiting times, including pre- and post-surgery rehabilitation, physio hydrotherapy, and more. By working extensively with senior citizens through HCP and government funding, we help individuals stay safe and independent at home. Additionally, we support both younger and older adults on the NDIS, helping them achieve their mobility and lifestyle goals."

Physio Box is another service offered by Fuller Life Physiotherapy across both Bass Coast and South Gippsland. Designed for post-surgery recovery, it provides patients with a curated box of rehabilitation equipment and telehealth physio sessions to aid their progress.

Fuller Life Physiotherapy offers a special service in Bass Coast for people over 65 years old with a GP referral, where patients receive up to five referred appointments that are bulk billed with no gap.

Lewis is also working to reintroduce their successful OT services in the near future once they find an OT therapist.

Accepting both self-referrals and GP referrals, reach out to Fuller Life Physiotherapy and live your fuller life today.

Discover a world of titles at Ramalama



DON'T miss out – they're walking out the door! At Ramalama Book Exchange in Wonthaggi, popular titles are barely hitting the shelves before they're snapped up.

Whether bestselling authors Lucinda Riley, Ann Cleeves, Michael Robotham, Trent Dalton, or Chris Hammer tickle your fancy, or must-reads 'It Ends With Us', 'A Court of Silver Flames' and 'Daisy Jones and the Six' are more your thing, there's plenty on offer inside the walls of the old historic corner.

Looking for a gift for the teenagers, children and adults in your life, there's a fantastic selection on the shelves plus the all-time classics that are plentiful.

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March deadline approaches

COMMENCING for the 2023–24 income year, more than 100,000 non-charitable not-for-profits (NFPs) with an active Australian business number (ABN) are now required to lodge an annual self-review return to notify of their eligibility to self-assess as income tax exempt.

The new reporting requirement was introduced in the 2021–22 Federal Budget to enhance transparency and integrity in the tax, super and registry system by ensuring only eligible non-charitable NFPs access that income tax exemption. The law hasn't changed but the reporting of eligibility has.

The ATO has extended the due date for the 2023–24 income year self-review return until March 31, 2025, to help NFPs lodge their first return. Future self-review returns will be due by October 31 annually.

Charitable NFPs registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) are not required to lodge the self-review return.

CONVERSATION
with Claire



Empowering communities through leadership
By author **Claire Chitty**

IF YOU'VE ever been a part of a sporting team, community organisation, or charity event, you'll know just how hard it is to attract volunteers and even harder to retain them. Why is that? People may be time poor, have clashes with other obligations, be afraid to make an ongoing commitment, unsure of expectations, deal with personality differences, or face other constraints. Yet, being part of something bigger than yourself can be incredibly rewarding. There are numerous opportunities within our region to make a positive difference, whether it's a passion, an interest, or something you want to see occur.

And that's where the South Coast Community Leadership Program (SCCLP), a collaboration between South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Councils, comes into play. This initiative was offered for the 2025 intake, a six-month program for 25 selected applicants, aimed at nurturing leadership skills and fostering community engagement.

Participants applied through an online selection process followed by an interview and met for the first time last Saturday at Korumburra. Being an active member of my community, I was blessed to be chosen. Walking into The Hub, it was wonderful to see a widespread representation of volunteers both in the community and civic employees.

Held at various locations around the region, each session features fun and engaging workshops and activities designed to develop leadership skills. I love hearing different perspectives as we share our involvement in groups, that we are passionately interested in.

Effective communication, conflict management, delegation, meeting objectives, and improving relationships are on the agenda in future months. Public speaking may initially make many of us nervous, but I'm sure that by the end of the program, we will display additional confidence and fine-tune our skills for community leadership.

This may bore you, but ultimately, the leadership skills that we learn will have a positive flow-on effect for our communities, of which many of you are involved in. The SCCLP is more than just a program; it is a stepping stone towards building stronger, more resilient, and dynamic communities.



In 1985 16 students graduated from Newhaven College and 40 years on, 10 of those students returned to reconnect, reminisce, and share memories of their school days. Back Row: Carol Olsen, Lisa Huitson, Tresna Cuttriss, Robert Gresham, Darren Ayling. Front Row: Jacqui Zuidema, Mikaela Power, Anita Dikkenberg, Cheryl Dowson, and Ellen Cheeseman.

Reflecting and welcoming at Newhaven College open day



Newhaven College students Abby Papas, Eve Oakley, Jasmine Crooks and Thomas Scott were tour leaders during Newhaven College's Open Day on Saturday, March 15.



Class of 2015 Reunion – A decade on, past students Fraser Carlson, Ethan Slade and Matthew Sheppard reunite to reflect on their journeys and reconnect with old friends at Newhaven College. Matthew made his way from his home in Darwin for the event.



Class of 2005 Alumni, Nicola Canil (with Chloe), Sam Onley (with Harvey), Jade Potter (with Sadie), Kaytlyn, Arnika Martin and Kasey Dickie return to Newhaven College with the next generation, celebrating the tradition of learning as their children follow in their footsteps.

NEWHAVEN College's stunning 83-acre campus was on full display last Saturday, as they hosted their annual College Open Day. As one of the busiest Open Days ever, hundreds of prospective parents and students streamed through the gates throughout the day, to experience this fabulous event. Graduates from years 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015 were also welcomed at Alumni reunions.

Numerous family groups visited the College for the Open Day and enjoyed guided tours led by current student leaders, who enthusiastically shared their knowledge and love for the school. The professionalism displayed by the student leaders, some as young as year four, was truly remarkable.

Highlights included the Equestrian display located near the Year 9 Environmental Centre, where families watched some of Victoria's best junior riders show off their skills. MTB Bike Academy students also displayed their skills showing off the specially designed MTB track built last year by students and volunteers. The gym was home to fun sporting activities, as well as displays on the school's surf and tennis academies.

Visitors were treated at every location around the campus: enjoying the soft vocals of the Junior and Middle School choirs, always a highlight. Children participated in the Product & Design Trade Centre making little wooden cars and sampling delicious cookies at Food Tech. Science staff also provided fun activities such as making ice cream with liquid nitrogen. Budding artists were inspired by making clay sculptures in the Specialist Wing and were serenaded by some of the school's top performers in the Performing Arts Wing. That's just to name a few of the fun interactive activities dotted across the day's program.

The focus on Newhaven College's House structure and pastoral care was well received by visitors. Many visitors enjoyed watching footy practice matches between Phillip Island and Mount Evelyn on the expansive College oval.

For those unable to attend, Newhaven College tours can be arranged through the College's Admissions team, contact Bec Anderson at admissions@newhaven-col.vic.edu.au, 5956 7505 or book online through the Newhaven College website.

Alumni Reunion

The school was delighted to welcome back alumni from the classes of 1985 (40 years), 1995 (30 years), 2005 (20 years), and 2015 (10 years). They gathered for morning tea in the Senior School, reconnecting with long-term staff before embarking on a guided tour of the campus with teacher Melinda Kelly. For many, including the more recent graduates, it was exciting to explore the new and impressive facilities. For some, it was their first time visiting the Phillip Island Road campus. Everyone enjoyed the chance to reunite, reminisce and catch up.



Fire twirlers will be part of the entertainment at the Southern Lights Festival.

Southern Lights Festival return confirmed

SOUTHERN Lights Festival returns to Coal Creek, South Gippsland on Saturday, June 7, with all the action taking place in the top section of the park.

Tickets are now on sale.

Continuing their signature Lights Music Food Fire and more, the festival's lead producer Shirley Arestia said this year's festival will be as comprehensive, engaging and entertaining as the 2023 event but it will be easier for people to get around as we are just utilising the top section of the park.

There will be two stages, the main one in the rotunda and the second one near the Mechanics Institute, that will feature a line-up of South Gippsland talent, including CJ Commerford, The

Supertones, and Jungle Jim Smith to name a few.

There'll also be fire twirlers, giant bubbles, and other magical roving entertainers as well as facepainting on offer.

A great variety of food vendors will ensure everyone is well catered for along with a makers' market and fire drums placed throughout the park to keep you warm.

Coal Creek's buildings and shop windows will be decorated and lit, with lighting installations throughout the park's treed areas, incorporating lasers and fireworks.

"We'll utilise the entire upper park including the glade area, and on some of the little paths we'll do beautiful lighting designs," Shirley said.

\$30,000 of State Government funding through

Tourism Victoria and \$20,000 of South Gippsland Shire Council Grants are a major boost in helping cover the expenses of the event.

Friends of Coal Creek (FOCC) who have stepped up to auspice the event, are excited about its return.

FOCC are managing the distribution of grant funding, arranging the necessary insurance and seeking support from sponsors.

"It's something Friends see as a great way to promote the use of the park, and that's part of our remit to protect, preserve and promote," said Roger Powell, FOCC President.

Southern Lights greatly appreciates the support from the State Government, South Gippsland Shire Council and FOCC, as it has ensured the

continuation of the Festival which is a significant draw card for visitors to our region.

"The Kings Birthday Long Weekend will be a great opportunity to experience Southern Lights, the Loch Food and Wine Festival on Sunday, June 8 and just immerse yourselves in all the wonder beautiful South Gippsland has to offer," said Shirley.

Ticket sales are capped at 2500 suggesting that with the immense popularity of the 2023 Southern Lights Festival it's advisable to book early.

Visit southernlightsfestival.com.au for tickets, with adult tickets \$25, concession \$20, junior (3-16 years) \$15 and family tickets \$80 for two adults and three children.

World Day of Prayer celebrated in Leongatha

THE Christian World Day of Prayer was celebrated in Leongatha at the Salvation Army on Friday, March 7 at a morning and an evening service. People from the Anglican, Catholic, Christian Reformed, Christian Revival Crusade, Seventh Day Adventist, Salvation Army and Uniting churches joined together for worship and fellowship.

The service was prepared by a committee from the Cook Islands. The worship space was suitably decorated as a scene from the Cook Islands. Four prayer stations were used during the services - featuring water, a world map, the human body (wonderfully made) (Psalm 139:14) and the Cook Islands. The video of the Bible Society project was viewed.

The project will focus on trauma healing (especially from family violence) and learning more about the



Leaders and Readers: Heather Scott, Joan Spencer, Judy Stokes, Anne Maree Ippel, Cpt Amanda Hart, and Robyn Allen.

Bible (especially for women and children). The services concluded with a monetary collection for the work of the project and the commissioning of next year's hosts.

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's

initiative that commenced in 1920. It is organised under the motto 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action' and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

The movement aims to

bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. It began in Victoria in 1931 and in Leongatha in 1962.



In the spirit of Shrove Tuesday are Blaire Davey and Head of Drouin Junior School, Rowan van Raay.

Syrup and smiles make for a flip-tacular Shrove Tuesday

Students at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's Drouin Campus had a flip-tacular time celebrating Shrove Tuesday.

Educators engaged students in lively discussions about the history and meaning of Shrove Tuesday before the fun really began.

The 'yummy' part everyone had been waiting for arrived as Junior School students dove into the pancake-making process. They followed the recipe, mixed the batter and quickly turned it into a friendly cook-off to see which group could make the best pancakes. Each group carefully flipped their creations to perfection before smothering them with an array of delicious toppings.

Even the ELC students lent a helping hand with the pancake-making, enjoying the tasty results of their efforts.

It was a day full of fun, smiles, syrup, and, of course, plenty of pancakes, making this inaugural Shrove Tuesday at the new St Paul's Drouin Campus one to remember!



Finn McDonald and Jackson Melrose enjoying their pancakes.



Cruze Phelan getting ready to enjoy a syrupy pancake.

Sentinel-Times
COMMENT

Is this how we want
San Remo to be?

Comment by Michael Giles

HAS 'Melbourne' officially become 'Naar-m' now?

We know the Aboriginal name for Phillip Island is 'Milawul' but 'Wunmarrinh'? Did you know that is the indigenous name for Western Port Bay?

If you read the 'Introduction and Context' to the Draft San Remo Structure Plan, which is out now for public comment until April 28 this year, you'll see that the Bass Coast Shire Council has included the old names for Melbourne, Phillip Island, and Western Port as reference only (in brackets).

The Bunurong name, however, is front and centre, included no fewer than 89 times in the 131-page document.

Also of interest to many will be the draft Vision for San Remo, supposedly how we would like the place to be by 2045, just 20 short years from now.

Here (in full) is the proposed Vision for San Remo that the shire wants you to comment on by survey, submission and at a community consultation session on Wednesday, March 26 or forever hold your peace:

"The 20-year vision for San Remo identifies the values and priorities of the community across all the various themes in the Structure Plan. By 2045, San Remo is a thriving and vibrant district centre in Bass Coast where the rich heritage of the area, including Bunurong bio-cultural values, is interwoven into the daily life of residents and visitors. Crucially, the Bunurong people's rights to self-determination will be realised through transfer of relevant decision-making powers, so they can shape the future of their Country, waters and culture. Bunurong traditional and living knowledge will inform planning and management, ensuring protection of the area's unique attributes, while the broader community deeply values and respects Bunurong cultural values, cultural heritage, places of significance, and connection to Country.

"Community life is centred around a community hub and the urban form has gently developed to continue to meet the changing needs of residents. As the town has developed, new buildings and infrastructure are climate-responsive, hazard-responsive, adequately accommodate the expected growth, give residents pride in their town and opportunities to rehabilitate natural habitats have been identified and acted upon.

"The local economy is robust and supports both residents and tourists year-round through services, goods and employment supported by a well-functioning transport network which provides both adequate capacity for all users and realistic alternatives to the private car that are more environmentally friendly."

Is that the 20-year vision for San Remo? Really?

The two most important things about San Remo are its people and the absolute privilege of having a town so magnificently sited on the coast.

Therefore, you'd think that the vision for San Remo over the next 20 years would be, front and centre, about practical ways to improve the lifestyle of its residents and the amenity for visitors, while also enhancing and protecting the town's greatest asset, its close relationship with the coast.

If the planners want the community's support for having "Bunurong bio-cultural values interwoven into the daily life of residents and visitors" and to "transfer relevant decision-making powers to the Bunurong people" within the next 20 years, they'll need to do a better job of educating the community about our Bunurong heritage and why these issues should receive the high profile they do in a plan that's supposed to be about the present-day and future needs of a growing community.

Vox Pop

What do you think of the bail laws?



Ryan
Leongatha

"I think if you're a repeat offender you shouldn't be allowed out. If you keep reoffending you've proved you're not responsible enough."



Tom
Mirboo North

"They're about right, but if they're repeating what they're doing they need to make it harder (to get bail)."



Kristy
Mirboo North

"They need to be stronger."



Carina
Mirboo North

"I think they're terrible. I've heard juvie is like a holiday camp for kids, often it's better for them than living at home, so why not re-offend and get let out on bail 40 times?"

Council won't talk
to senior cits, they say

RUSSELL Broadbent recommended that the Senior Citizens move forward and talk to council. That's the problem, for nearly two years now the council has arrogantly refused to talk with them.

They have talked at them, inferring they were being stupid. Never stopping to listen.

They had fully researched the claims of a 'Deed of Trust', it doesn't exist. They must be feeling pretty stupid when a group of senior citizens suddenly say, "here it is, we found it, no trouble".

Plus, another 940 pages of documentation that the council denies even exists.

Is it any wonder they are hiding and only appear when the streets are empty.

The senior citizens have been forbidden to speak with their elected councillors except through their team of defensive lawyers, afraid to come out of hiding.

Harry Prosser, Member of Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre

Cycling, road safety and
human empathy

TO ALL those intellectual giants hiding behind social media (cowards' corner) who unleashed a tirade of abuse and invective towards cyclists around Loch last Monday.

You obviously don't know the road rules, are so privileged driving your four wheeled ego extensions that you don't consider cyclists deserve a place our roads.

In fact, you don't appear to consider cyclists as legitimate road users or humans, just an inconvenience clogging up the road.

You don't see them as wives, husbands, sons, daughters and loved ones.

Do you really think it's ok to mow them down with your bull bar or run them off the road?

You are disgusting! Shame on you, have some consideration and respect for others! Get a life, get off social media (more like social cancer) and get a bike!

Graham Clements a cyclist, Meeniyan

Hands off our DVA

I AM a veteran, I also spent several years as a volunteer veterans pension officer, now called advocates, and have some experience dealing with DVA.

The article where RSL members ask local Liberals to keep their hands off DVA, if they are elected, is timely indeed.

Not long after Trump decided to chain-saw the US Public Service, the leader of the Liberal opposition opens up the same songbook and earmarks 36,000 pub-

lic servants employed by the Labor Government for the same treatment without thought.

The article is timely because Trump has not spared the US Department of Veterans Affairs and has made deep cuts in that department, which is reportedly already affecting American Veterans.

If Dutton gets the "Lodge", I would anticipate similar medicine for DVA. So, any concerns or note-gathering exercises by Mary Aldred and Keith Wolahan reported in this paper should be treated with a grain of salt. If elected to government, they will fall in line.

As pointed out by senior RSL members at the meeting, DVA needs staff.

From experience, I know they are so far behind that Pharlap could not make up ground. It has been a perennial problem for them for years. I recently received a letter from DVA apologising that after two years, they are now looking at my pension reassessment. Not uncommon.

Recently things looked like they were changing with the employment of additional resources but any reduction will be a great disservice to veterans, particularly if experienced delegates are sacked.

Finally, to Keith Wolahan, a veteran, some advice, don't tell other veterans you are speaking with that this country is worth fighting for. We already know.

Rod Gallagher, Inverloch

Not giving up on stolen
mayoral chains

IN FEBRUARY 2024, Cr Rochelle Halstead blew the whistle on Bass Coast Council's decade-long cover-up of the theft of the mayoral chains and robe, a theft estimated to exceed \$100,000.

Watching Rochelle's positive and forthright response to this matter, I really had great hope that she might be willing to pursue the matter and bring justice for our community.

Here's some of what Rochelle said in February 2024: As custodians of this historically and financially significant property this council should be taking action.

She had personally made enquiries about the robes and chains, only to be waved off and laughed at as if it were no big deal.

Council can no longer sweep this issue under the carpet and needs to address it.

When Rochelle was chosen as mayor following last year's council election I thought now might be the time for her to put her words into action.

So, last month I wrote to Mayor Halstead pleading that her Council now properly and fully report the theft to Victoria Police. Unfortunately, Rochelle has now changed her view and advises that she is satisfied that all available options to bring closure to the matter have been exhausted.

So, with my hopes dashed that Rochelle would properly and fully report the theft to police, my endeavours to pursue justice from within Council are also exhausted.

To this end, I will be writing to our local Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale. I will also write to other MPs, on both sides of the chamber. I acknowledge that success is unlikely.

But surely out there somewhere, must be a leader to properly pursue justice in a matter of major theft of public property.

Kevin Griffin, Inverloch/Wonthaggi

Check her out for yourself

WITH reference to the article published last week titled "Beware of Fake News" I would urge voters to do their own independent research on the candidate they wish to vote for.

A great place to start would be to take a look at the website of community Independent Deb Leonard where they can not only read about her policies, but they can also see where every single dollar supporting her campaign has come from.

Donations to other parties are not displayed until after the election and I think it is of high importance to know exactly who is donating to each candidate before they get our vote.

As the current sitting member, our outgoing candidate receives substantial funding and paid staff. It is a little bit disingenuous for him to cast doubts about other candidates' funding when I failed to see any mention of the sources of his funding on his website.

Julie Spithill, Inverloch

Keep us informed

SENTINEL Times March 4 story, "Eviction from Tarwin Fuel Supplies..." and the new business owners dispute with the property owner over water inside one of the tanks, then the March 12 Letter to Your Paper, with back up of problem from Dean of Venus Bay that he states goes back at least five years.

I sure hope your paper, my local newspaper, keeps us informed of the outcome, please?

Michael Quinn, San Remo

The 'Sentinel-Times' encourages readers to write with issues of interest or concern but letters that have a local reference point will be given priority. Writers are also urged to be brief where possible. Letters may be edited for space and legal reasons, and must be submitted with the author's name and contact details of which only the name and town location will appear.

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

Discover the exciting activities coming up at Milpara Community House.

Curious About Your Digital Legacy? Have you ever wondered what happens to your digital presence after you pass away? Join our free information session on Thursday, March 20 at 11am to explore this intriguing topic. Plus, learn how to create and manage your passwords securely. Don't miss out on this valuable session!

Hand-Sewn Plush Toy Workshop. Get ready for a fun-filled workshop on Saturday, March 22, from 10am to 2pm! Learn how to create your very own hand-sewn felt plush toys. In

this hands-on session, you'll discover how to cut and pin patterns, and master different hand-sewing techniques to bring your plushie to life. Open to all, but participants should be old enough to handle sewing needles and pins. \$40 includes all materials.

Autumn Clothes Swap. Refresh your wardrobe just in time for the new season! Join us on Saturday, March 29, from 10am to 12.30pm for our Autumn Clothes Swap. Bring in five items (washed and in good condition) that need a new wearer, swap them, and go home with a new outfit! Any clothes not claimed will be

donated to local op shops.

Burra Board Gamers have postponed their scheduled game day to a new date. Join in on Saturday, March 29, from 10am to 2pm for fun weekend session playing modern board games, featuring favourites such as: Pandemic, Azul, Ticket to Ride, Codenames, Carcassonne and Scythe

Our regular classes and activities are running throughout the week. Check out our Term Program online at milparacommunityhouse.org.au or pick one up at the Milpara Community House Office. You can also give us a call at 5655 2524.

Come join us for these

exciting events and make the most of what Milpara Community House has to offer.

The Emergency Food Bank is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm or by appointment. Please bring your own bags.

Our Services Australia agent is at the house Mondays & Thursdays 10am to 1pm, Tuesdays & Wednesday 9.30 to 2pm.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

LEONGATHA Community House is thrilled to announce a fantastic lineup of programs and workshops over the coming months, offering something for everyone in our community.

Join us for the Positive Living Free Info Sessions on April 3, and May 1, facilitated by Gippsland Southern Health Services Dietetics Service. These sessions focus on healthy living, nutrition, and lifestyle tips to help you make positive changes in your life.

If you're looking to stay active, our Over 60s Exercise Classes and Zumba are held every Tuesday at the Dakers Centre.

These low-impact classes are a fun way to improve fitness, meet new people, and stay healthy!

For those interested in unleashing their creativity, we have an Introduction to Watercolour Workshop on April 12, from 10am to 2.30pm.

Beginners' sewing is back! We are excited to share that we have enlisted a new tutor who is an experienced and well-respected dressmaker to run the new program every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm in four-week blocks.

Additionally, we're offering Be Connected Tech Programs with

a focus on Online Safety. Join us for our free Online Safety Workshops on March 28 and April 11. These workshops are designed to support individuals in using technology safely, providing essential tips and practical advice to ensure safe and secure online experiences.

We also have some exciting Bus Trips coming up, including a visit to the Robert Gordon Pottery and Berwick Pottery place on April 1 as well as a trip to the KaBloom Tesselaar in the magnificent Dandenong Rangers on April 22 at the start of term 2. As usual we offer a Personal Day Bus Service every

Wednesday with a small fee for pick-up/drop-off from Leongatha, Korumburra, and surrounding areas.

If you're interested in making a positive impact and learning new skills, we're looking for volunteers! We need bus drivers to assist with our exciting trips and volunteers to support our daily operations. Join our team and contribute to making a difference within the community.



16 Bruce Street, Leongatha PH: (03) 5662 3962 www.leongathacommunityhouse.org.au

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

CARE to dine with us at Mitchell House? There is a delicious communal lunch on Wednesdays, made from fresh and healthy seasonal produce, which is planned and prepared by the talented Emma and her trusty crew. Not only that but there are lots of people who have booked in over the years to enjoy these wonderful communal lunches. And you can too by ringing Mitchell House or emailing us at reception@wonthaggi-neighbourhood-centre.com. If possible, we would appreciate a gold coin donation. Lunch starts at

12.30pm.

Now while our kitchen is the hub of our Community Lunch, it is also working to produce frozen meals, we also have our freezer working overtime with storing a significant quantity of donated bread. These meals and bread are available to those in need. Just pop into Mitchell House during office hours and our friendly staff and volunteers at the front counter will be happy to assist.

We also have our Community Pantry or Free Food Shelf to help those who are doing it tough. This is made possible

by the generous support of many individual community members and volunteers. We also have local supermarkets and garden groups in the region who help out too. If you feel able to add to our pantry, we would really welcome donations of unopened, non-perishable and in date items. Just drop them off at Mitchell House reception or out the front.

After a wonderful meal and good company has come to pass. You may like to stay around and get your arty juices going with our Art Group. Just bring your paints and a

canvas, or maybe some rocks or other material you would like to paint. (Perhaps an unpainted garden gnome ~ just a thought.) The group is welcoming to all, whatever skill ability. Enthusiasm is the key and a desire to 'have fun!' Do it over a cuppa and chat. It's on Wednesdays, 1.45pm to 3.30pm.

Looking forward to seeing you here at the WNC.



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3731 www.wonthaggi-neighbourhood-centre.com

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

ONE of the most challenging things a person of post-school age can do is say, "I need help with reading and writing." It takes a lot of guts.

BCAL recognises that everyone is an expert at something, and everyone needs help with other things. Sadly, there is still a stigma attached to needing help with reading and writing when it is in no way a reflection on someone's intelligence or work ethic.

Reading, Writing, and Maths for Life is one of BCAL's highest priority courses because these skills provide the foundation for all other learning and life skills. The course is open, friendly, and lots of fun, with exercises and examples relevant to the real world.

The course is open to all ages

and all stages. People can join at any time and keep coming as long as they need to.

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

The trick at this time of the gardening year is to see beyond the dry, brown leaves and tired soil, to the potential of next season's plantings.

Community garden volunteer, Kevin, has renewed the garden's two potato plots and Lorraine is nurturing parsley seedlings at home, ready to plant in a shared space after rain.

There are also plans for a plot devoted to mixed flowers, to brighten the garden's en-

trance.

And in the meantime, there are still bright spots to be found, with a few pumpkins, some sweetcorn and persimmons looking promising.

To find out more about garden activities and how to get involved contact tgordon@westnet.com.au or call BCAL on 5672 3115. You can also visit the garden on Thursday mornings when the volunteers get together.

WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

On Saturday, March 1, the Woodies held their annual awards with a ceremony at the workshop. There were two awards for wood crafting and two more for overall contributions.

The Okke Huitema award for the best object went to Craig Charles for a cutting board made of intricate segments.

The Harry Oates award for best piece made by a novice went to Jeff Rippingale for a small bowl.

Dave Carlos won the President's award for the most improved member, and the George Hill award for outstanding overall contribution as presented to John Harmer.

The judging was very close this year. Members will now be considering what they might enter for the next awards.



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

Non-compliant businesses go to monthly GST

THE Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has announced that from April 1, 2025, it will be moving around 3500 small businesses with a history of non-payment, late or non-lodgement, or incorrect reporting from quarterly to monthly GST reporting to improve their compliance.

Moving to a monthly reporting and payment cycle can help small businesses to keep on top of their obligations and remain viable. Small businesses that report monthly will be better able to address their past unmet tax obligations in a structured way, rather than falling further behind.

The ATO will contact small businesses and their tax professionals when their GST reporting cycle is changed from quarterly to monthly. Changes to reporting cycles will remain in place for a minimum of 12 months as part of the ATO's 'Getting it Right' campaign.

Small businesses that voluntarily moved their GST cycle to monthly have found it easier to manage their cash flow and meet their obligations with smaller, more manageable payments. Small businesses struggling to meet their tax obligations need to not ignore the problem but act early, whether that's seeking assistance from their registered tax professional, a business adviser or the ATO.

FAITH FACTOR

The cost

By Pastor Karen Evans, Wonthaggi Christian Life Centre

EASTER is fast approaching and for a lot of people it means chocolate, hot cross buns, easter bunnies and public holidays.

For Christians, Easter means so much more than food and the holiday. This is a time where we remember what Jesus, our Saviour, did for us so that we imperfect people can have access to a perfect Heaven.

What did He do that was so significant over 2000 years ago that we are still talking about it today? Let me tell you.

Everything comes at a cost, food, roof over your head, money in the bank. Even things that are given for free have come at a cost to someone. When people break the law and are found guilty there is a cost. Maybe jail time, fines, insurance premiums go up, damage to people's property but there is a cost. Someone has to pay this cost.

It's no different if we want to go to Heaven as our final destination. Heaven is perfect and we are not. We have all broken multiple laws that God has put in place and on that final day we all will be found guilty. What will the cost be then?

Well for Christians, we are no different, we too have broken God's law multiple times just like everyone else but Jesus paid the cost for us. It wasn't a financial cost it was life for life cost. On the cross this is where His life was given up for ours, so on that final day, all our law breaking, has been paid for by Jesus. He paid the cost in the form of an excruciating death on the cross, it really was life for life.

The cross was the worst form of torture that the Romans had perfected, and this was how Jesus died to pay the cost. This is why Easter is significant to Christians because it doesn't matter how much love, charitable deeds or kindness we show to one another there is still that cost that must be paid because let's face it, no-one is perfect no matter how nice or hard they try.

*This is only an important fact to those who would want Heaven to be their final destination.

For those who are interested, a question to think about. Why did God the Father let his son, Jesus go through the torture of the cross if there was another way to get to Heaven?

If you want to know more about why Jesus had to pay the cost in the first place, get to church and ask.



Lara Campbell from Paperplay Inverloch with The Invy Baker's new book Bring Home the Bakery. B12_1125

Bringing home the bakery to Inverloch library

INVY Baker Grego Montalbán Sánchez and wife Hanna Löfgren attracted a near sell-out crowd to the Inverloch library for the launch of their new book *Bring Home the Bakery*.

Already a sales success in the United States *Bring Home the Bakery* has attracted book lovers and sourdough devotees alike from around the world with more than 200,000 followers on Instagram.

The book is based on the Scandinavian tradition of sourdough baking.

Hanna Löfgren said she first met her future husband Grego while travelling in Spain.

"Grego was working as a chef."

The couple spent a year living in Sweden where Grego trained as a sourdough baker.

"We lived across the bridge from Copenhagen."

Moving to Inverloch in 2013 Grego had a dream to start a bakery; the original

idea was for Grego to work just three days a week.

The Invy Baker was launched during COVID with a micro-bakery built on the side of their Inverloch house and Grego making bread deliveries door-to-door.

"We also have a stall at the Inverloch Market," said Hanna.

Five years later with social media followers as far away as South Korea and Brazil the Invy Baker is now a runaway success.

"It's all about people," Hanna and Grego explained.

"We love the business the way it is."

The couple were first contacted about writing a book by Page Street Publishing based in Boston.

Distributed by Pan McMillan, *Bring Home the Bakery* went on sale in the United States just prior to Christmas and sales have been growing ever since.

"We're still just a small

family business," said Hanna.

The first manuscript for *Bring Home the Bakery* took six months to finish.

"Grego's notes were in Spanish."

Hanna and Grego praised South Gippsland photographer Kylie Duckett.

Kylie's stunning photographs and Grego's easy-to-follow recipes for sourdough pastries are a stand-out feature of the book.

"Grego's sourdough pastries are unique."

Whether you're an experienced baker or just getting started 'Bring Home the Bakery' reveals the tips, tricks, and joy of making delicious, crusty loaves from scratch.

Bring Home the Bakery is available from Paperplay Inverloch or you can order online from paperplayonline.com.au.

The Invy Baker can be found on Instagram @the-invybaker.



David Wall Sponsorship Manager, Peter McMillan presenter, Nic Velissaris Station Manager and Tony Gibbs presenter South Coast FM. B05_1125

The best songs, the best stories, the best of everything at South Coast FM

THE big team of volunteer staff and presenters at South Coast FM have one thing to say about their new Station Manager Nic Velissaris, they just don't like him, they love him.

Whether it's Bill Ten Eyck's Breakfast Club Mondays from 6am to 9am or It's Already Wednesday from 9am to 12 noon, Peter McMillan's Thirsty Thursdays from midday to 3pm, Drive 3pm to 6pm Monday to Friday with Chris 'Doc' White, Astro Boy on Saturdays from 12 noon to 2pm, Listen to Tim with Tim Smith Monday mornings from 9am to 12, or Tony Gibbs' Turn Up Your Radio Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 8pm, the big team of volunteers at South Coast FM all love community radio.

Operating on a shoe-string budget the station totally relies on membership subscriptions, sponsorship and donations to stay on air.

"We can't even afford shoestrings," said Sponsorship Manager David Wall.

Appointed Station Manager in January Nic Velissaris has hit the ground running.

"First we visited our sponsors," explained Nic.

South Coast FM's sponsors and presenters come from throughout Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shires including Foster, Korumburra, Inverloch, Cowes, Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Meeniyan and Mirboo North.

With a background in media studies at Deakin University and more recently the Melbourne Theosophical Society Nic Velissaris moved to San Remo last year.

"Managing South Coast FM was an opportunity to work in the radio industry and an opportunity to be part of the local community," said Mr Velissaris.

"South Coast FM wants to be at the heart of the community."

Impressed by the level of professionalism and really good radio at South Coast FM Nic Velissaris quickly set about finding out what to do and how to do it.

A recent outside broadcast at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island to acknowledge the end of the Vietnam War 50 years ago and the history of Australia's Vietnam War refugees has been a highlight.

"We reached out to a whole new audience of veterans and the Vietnamese community."

Mr Velissaris would like to hear more about people's lives in Bass Coast and South Gippsland in the future.

"I would really like South Coast FM to

be a resource for the whole community."

Nic is looking forward to the station's 40th anniversary, noting they started broadcasting 38 years ago.

Still operating from a make-shift portable studio in White Road, Wonthaggi South Coast FM recently invested in extensive alterations to the studios, doorways and a new entry ramp to meet disability access requirements.

The long-term legacy will be a radio station for everyone, including young listeners.

South Coast FM is looking to grow its work experience program and build micro-studios in Foster and Cowes to be used by younger presenters and groups such as the local Lions clubs.

The current audience for South Coast FM is predominately an older demographic.

Former Triple M breakfast host Tim Smith presents on Monday mornings from 9am to midday. This Great Country can be heard on Saturday mornings from 9am to noon, and Doc White presents the Drive shift Monday to Friday.

The Monday morning handover between Bill Ten Eyck and Tim Smith is worth tuning in for according to Mr Velissaris.

"They're both passionate about what they believe in."

Listeners say they want more country music and live overnight presenters for the insomniacs.

"We have a 70-year playlist with plenty of country music," said Nic.

"Music from the 50s to 2020s."

South Coast FM is trying to grow the youth market by playing local music.

"We have lots of great venues such as Archie's Creek, Meeniyan and the Westernport Hotel in San Remo and local artists like singer/songwriter Mark Howard from Phillip Island."

South Coast FM offers membership for individuals, families and organisations with two membership drives planned for this year in June/July, and September.

Fundraising events include an annual trivia night, twice weekly Bingo at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club and a series of farmer's markets at Inverloch during January.

"We're open to more fundraising," said Nic.

South Coast FM broadcasts on 88.1, 89.5 and 89.1.

Search for South Coast FM on Instagram or Facebook or go to southcoastfm.au.

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SCAN ME

Shorts film festival returning for 2025

THE Bass Coast Shorts Film Festival is set to return in April 2025, bringing an exciting lineup of local, national, and international short films to the Bass Coast.

Now in its third year, the festival has continued to grow, doubling its submissions from 40 in its first year to 80 this year.

Festival Director John Frohlich said the event is somewhat unique for an area like Bass Coast, reflecting its growing artistic reputation and overall appeal as a destination.

"It's a genuine community event. We work with the Archies Creek Art Collective, the Phillip Island Film Association, and the Wonthaggi Library, among others," Frohlich said.

The festival showcases films across seven categories: Open, Local (for entries from Bass Coast and South Gippsland), Schools/Under 18, Animation, Documentary, Music Video, Coastal Life, and Environmental.

Awards are given for Best Film in the Open, Local, and Schools/Under 18 categories, along with special awards for Best First Nations Film, Best LGBTQI+/Inclusivity Film, the People and Place Film Award, Best Emerging Talent, and Best Screenplay.

This year, environmental themes are expected to stand out, with films like Steve Dunn's piece on the impact of sea urchins on seagrasses.

International submissions have also heavily contributed to



Award winners from the 2024 Bass Coast Shorts Film Festival, Riley Jones, Kate Matheson and Sam Hickman.

the diversity of the festival's program, with entries from Norway, France, Germany, and the United States also being shown.

The 2025 festival will run across several venues in Bass Coast, kicking off with a sneak peek on Thursday, April 24, at Archies Creek Hotel. The opening night screening will be held at Berninneit on Friday, April 25, followed by screenings, a free forum, and the awards night on Saturday, April 26. The festival will conclude with a closing screening at Archies Creek Hotel on Sunday, April 27.

Beyond screenings, the festival offers a chance for filmmakers to learn and connect. A workshop in March will feature industry

professionals helping local filmmakers refine their ideas, production styles, and editing techniques. Visiting filmmakers and experienced industry figures will also attend the festival, sharing insights on breaking into the film industry and discussing their work.

Frohlich encouraged aspiring filmmakers to prepare for future festivals by keeping their films concise, usually around 10 to 12 minutes, prioritising strong storytelling, and working with actors rather than relying on friends and family to fill the roles in their films.

"Having actors makes a huge difference," he said.

"Most people who want to build

a career in this industry start with short films to show their ability and get a portfolio together," added Mr Frohlich.

With 12 to 15 short films in each screening, the festival promises a mix of thought-provoking, emotional, and entertaining films. Frohlich hopes the event will continue expanding to more locations in Bass Coast in the future, making it even more accessible to local audiences.

For film lovers and aspiring filmmakers, the Bass Coast Shorts Film Festival offers a rare chance to experience high-quality short films and engage with the industry right in their backyard.

For more information visit asff.net.au/bass-coast-shorts.

Mount Best Maestro brings harmony and love to community

MOUNT Best has been home to Dr Tom Chalko since 2001, and he has brought a touch of magic to our area through his incredible talent and passion for classical guitar.

Dr Chalko is an engineer with a PhD in laser holography, but his love for classical guitar shines bright. He is a gifted performer, composer and arranger.

Every year for two decades, except during the pandemic, Dr Tom performed classical guitar concerts at the Mount Best Community Hall.

What makes Dr Tom's concerts so special is the diversity of his programs. He doesn't limit himself to playing classical guitar solo. He expands his repertoire and enhances the audience's enjoyment by playing with his own cyber-orchestra.

Dr Tom's concerts are not just events; they are unforgettable experiences that connect us through the universal language of music.

The last time Tom went FAN-DANGO... In his next concert on March 23, Tom presents "Sounds of the centuries".

He begins in the 13th century, ~500 years before Bach, and plays some of the greatest hits in the history of music. Visit mtbest.net for the full program.

Sounds of the Centuries

Guitar Concert by Tom Chalko

♥ Mt Best Community Hall, Sunday 23 March 2025, 2pm ♥

followed by light refreshments

Some melodies in music history are so beautiful and memorable that their popularity does not fade with passing centuries. Tom will play many such melodies in his concert to celebrate the timeless beauty of music.



We begin in the 13th century, about 500 years before Bach, and conclude in the 21st century.

The program will showcase some of the most iconic compositions that reshaped the course of music history and elevated guitar to a prominent place on concert stages around the world.

Among these masterpieces is Concierto de Aranjuez (II Adagio), a symbol of the guitar's emotional depth and global appeal. Discover the full

program at mtbest.net/concert23march2025/ and join us for an unforgettable afternoon of music.

Best wishes from Mount Best and welcome !

Tickets \$10. Please make a booking, the number of seats is limited and we need to plan catering.

RSVP: pnewby@bigpond.net.au

or text Trish Newby on 0402 893 475 . The Hall opens at 1:30

BASS COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRIVIA NIGHT

Test Your Brain, Taunt Your Friends and help raise money for community projects

Saturday 22nd March 2025
at Wonthaggi Workmen's Club
75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

Doors open at: 06:30pm
Game starts at: 07:00pm

\$20 per person or **\$120** for a Table of 8
Pizza slice supper included.

Book now through Trybooking:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CXNDF>
or us the QR Code
For more information email info@bccf.org.au or call 0493110802

Reconnect, recharge, and celebrate at the Inverloch Equinox Festival

IT'S almost upon us, the Inverloch Equinox Festival, bringing a weekend of nature, wellbeing, and unforgettable experiences from March 21-23. Whether you're stretching by the sea, stargazing under the night sky, dancing to live music, or discovering the healing power of horses, this festival has something for everyone.

Kickstart your festival weekend with movement, music, and magical outdoor experiences. Watch the sun dip below the horizon during a free Beach Bootcamp or ease into the evening with a Flow Stretch Class led by Body and Flow's Sophie Jo.

After dark, grab a torch and join expert guides for nocturnal walks, stargazing, and after-dark tours – Inverloch's nightlife isn't just for humans! If poetry and a crackling fire are more your style, head to Wattle Bank Farm for bush poetry by the fire with horses. Or, for some good old-fashioned fun, why not try Barefoot Bowling under the stars?

Rise and shine on Saturday



Do not miss the fire twirling show at The Glade.

with an Early Morning Flow Class on the foreshore – stretch, breathe, and soak up the morning light. Then, explore Inverloch's newest gem, the Screw Creek Interpretive Trail. This two-hour guided walk takes you through stunning coastal landscapes, complete with rich Indigenous history and incredible wildlife. The festival's Wellbeing Expo at The Hub is a must-visit, offering a sanctuary of relaxation with sound healing, tarot readings, remedial massage,

and more. Don't miss the Deeply Transformative Evening Experience, blending movement, sound, and meditation for an unforgettable close to the day.

Saturday night, The Glade transforms into a buzzing hub of free live entertainment and festival fun. The evening kicks off at 4pm with Zennith Paradox, a talented local youth band, before the electrifying Ganga Giri takes the stage with didgeridoo beats and modern fusion sounds. Expect Ozone Street's swampy

blues, a breathtaking fire performance, and party vibes from Hot Tub Cover Band!

Plus, kids (and big kids) will love Mr Marvel's Circus Show, giant bubbles, face painting, and interactive activities. Hungry? Food trucks and market stalls have you covered!

Start your Sunday with a serene meditation session with horses at Wattle Bank Farm – an experience like no other. Then, bring the family along for a Rock Pool Ramble, discovering Inverloch's incredible marine life with expert guides. Or, take a final wander through the Screw Creek Trail, soaking up its natural beauty before the festival bids farewell for another year.

Slow down, tune in, and celebrate the beauty of the world around us. Whether you're here for adventure, relaxation, or simply to enjoy great music and food, there's no better way to welcome the new season.

Check out the full program and grab your tickets at inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au. See you there!

What's On... This Week

Australian Open Blokart Championships

Thursday, March 20 –
Monday, March 24
Waratah Bay

Wonthaggi International Film Festival Opening Night

Friday, March 21, 7.30pm
The Union Theatre, Wonthaggi

Inverloch Equinox Festival

Friday, March 21, From 6pm
Events running all weekend
Various Locations.

Penrite ProMX Championship

Saturday, March 22 – Sunday, March 23
Wonthaggi Motocross Track

Trivia Night – with a cause!

Saturday, March 22, 7pm
Wonthaggi Workmen's Club

Kongwak Retro Vintage Market

Sunday, March 23, 10am – 2pm
Kongwak

Vic Community Gardens Gathering

Sunday, March 23, 10am – 3pm
Poowong Hall

Sounds of the Centuries – Classical Guitar Concert by Dr Tom Chalko

Sunday, March 23, 2pm
Mt Best Hall

ArtCubes at Venus Bay

Until April 28

Bass Coast Fine Film group and Bass Coast shire presents: "Grand Tour"

THE Bass Coast Fine Film Group and the Bass Coast Shire is proud to present 2024 Cannes Best Director winner, "Grand Tour", as the Opening Night feature of the Wonthaggi International Film Festival.

In Rangoon, Burma, 1917, British civil servant, Edward, attempts to escape an unwanted marriage to his long-standing fiancée, Molly, who doggedly pursues him across East Asia, amused and determined to get married.

Directed by award winning Portuguese director, Miguel Gomes, "Grand Tour" is a cinematic journey that defies conventional storytelling. The film, which blends fiction and documentary, invites viewers into a world where reality intertwines with the whimsical, showcasing Gomes' unique directorial style.

Through a series of vignettes set against the backdrop of Asia's stunning landscapes, the narrative explores themes of nostalgia, identity, and the passage of time.



Join Bass Coast Fine Film Group as they present Miguel Gomes' award-winning film Grand Tour as it opens the Wonthaggi International Film Festival with a captivating tale of love, loss, and adventure.

Gomes employs a meditative pacing, allowing the audience to immerse themselves in each scene, rich with symbolism and cultural references. The characters, portrayed with a mix of humor and poignancy, navigate their personal histories while reflecting broader socio-political landscapes. This duality

enriches the viewing experience, as the film serves both as a personal exploration and a commentary on national identity.

Visually, "Grand Tour" is a feast for the eyes, with each frame meticulously crafted, showcasing Gomes' attention to detail. The cinematography captures the essence of East

Asia, from bustling urban settings to serene natural vistas, enhancing the emotional depth of the narrative.

While some may find the film's unconventional structure challenging, "Grand Tour" ultimately rewards viewers with its introspective nature and artistic ambition. It's a reminder of cinema's power to evoke thought and reflection, making it a noteworthy addition to Gomes' oeuvre.

Screening as the opening night film for the Wonthaggi International Film Festival, at 7.30pm Friday, March 21 at The Union Theatre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

BCFFG members entry free, with general public welcome at usual box office prices.

To find out more, visit the website: basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com/current-season, and follow the links to the film.

The Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proudly sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire.



Zucchini and feta fritters with minted yoghurt

By Meg Viney

Ingredients

- 1 large zucchini; grated
- 80 gm Greek feta, crumbled
- 2 tablespoon chopped dill (or 1 of dried)
- ½ cup plain flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- Oil for deep frying
- ¼ cup Greek yoghurt
- 2 tablespoons thickened mint sauce

Method

Place the zucchini in a tea towel and squeeze hard to remove excess liquid.

Place in a bowl with feta and dill. Add the flour and baking powder, stir to combine and then whisk in the lightly beaten egg and a few shakes of white pepper.

Heat the oil – to check the temperature is high enough, drop little bread to ensure it browns well. Then drop the mixture – a tablespoon is about right, into the oil.

Turn once then remove to a plate with paper towel.

Serve with the minted yoghurt.

Nice for breakfast or any time of the day.



7.30pm Friday 21st March

OPENING NIGHT WONTHAGGI
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

GRAND TOUR

Winner Best Director, Cannes 2024.

In Rangoon, Burma, 1917, British civil servant, Edward, attempts to escape his long-standing fiancée, Molly, who doggedly pursues him across East Asia, amused and determined to get married.

General public welcome. Members Free Entry!

@ THE UNION THEATRE
96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Check the website for more info:
basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com



WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★



Anne was creating wool following the shearing session at the Korumburra Working Horse and Tractor Rally on March 15. Ns1_1125



Loch Fire Brigade members Andy and Colin enjoyed the tractor rally. Ns2_1125



Bill and Raelene braved the hot conditions for the tractor rally. Ns3_1125



Bill and Kath had plenty to see at the tractor rally. Ns4_1125



Brian showcased his extraordinary creations that he taught himself to make at the tractor rally. Ns5_1125



Ronnie with his miniature steam train. Ns7_1125

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the Korumburra Working Horse and Tractor Rally, Inverloch Running Festival and Leongatha Show n' Shine.



Lions Club of Leongatha members Sue, Marius, David and Mike were busy keeping the food coming. Ns6_1125



Nadia and Eliza of Sweet Machines kept the treats coming. Ns8_1125



Rotary Club of Korumburra members Shelley and Bev gave a helping hand at the tractor rally. Ns9_1125



Gerard and Chanelle were ready to have a go at the Inverloch Running Festival on March 15. Ns10_1125



It was a family affair for Marcus, Matilda, Anna and Daniel at the running festival. Ns11_1125



Dakin family spending a day on the farm at Glen Forbes. B24_1025



Event organiser Andrew Haug couldn't have been more pleased with the festival's turnout. Ns12_1125



Lawson, Megan and Bronte gave the family run a crack. Ns13_1125



Charles and Trent embraced the running spirit. Ns14_1125



Narelle and Nicole of Tilly's Cup kept the coffee coming at the Leongatha Show n' Shine and were even kind enough to gift a free one to the Sentinel-Times! Ns15_1125



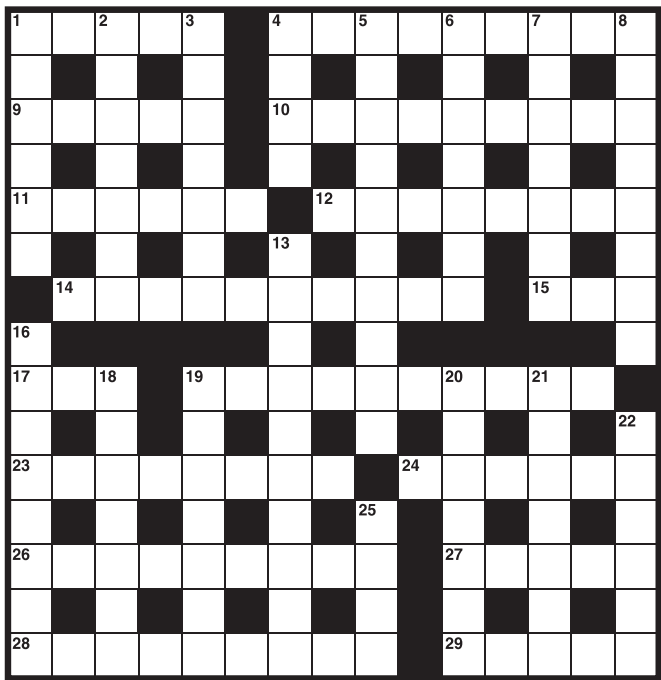
Michael had the slushies coming also kindly handing out a freebie to the Sentinel-Times at the Show n' Shine. Ns16_1125

Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888

CROSSWORD

No. 272



- ACROSS
- 1

Foot covers (5)
- 4

Pleasure (9)
- 9

Purchaser (5)
- 10

Verification schedule (9)
- 11

Purpose (6)
- 12

Fearful (8)
- 14

Speed up (10)
- 15

Snow runner (3)
- 17

Mediator (abbr) (3)
- 19

Self-centred (10)
- 23

Wedlock (8)

- 24
- Telemarketer (6)
- 26
- Kept up (9)
- 27
- Taut (5)
- 28
- Indigestion (9)
- 29
- Acting parts (5)
- DOWN
- 1
- Surrender (6)
- 2
- Difficult to understand (7)
- 3
- Odd (7)
- 4
- Cope, – it (coll) (4)
- 5
- Stated an argument (10)
- 6
- Trying (7)
- 7
- Newspaper executives (7)
- 8
- Begins a voyage (4,4)
- 13
- Personal items (10)
- 16
- Pledged (8)
- 18
- Woodlands (7)
- 19
- Realm of an independent Islamic chieftain (7)
- 20
- Farm vehicle (7)
- 21
- Forbidden by law (7)
- 22
- Complimentary (6)
- 25
- Notion (4)

9-LETTER

No. 272

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

Today's Aim:
18 words: **Good**
27 words: **Very good**
37 words: **Excellent**

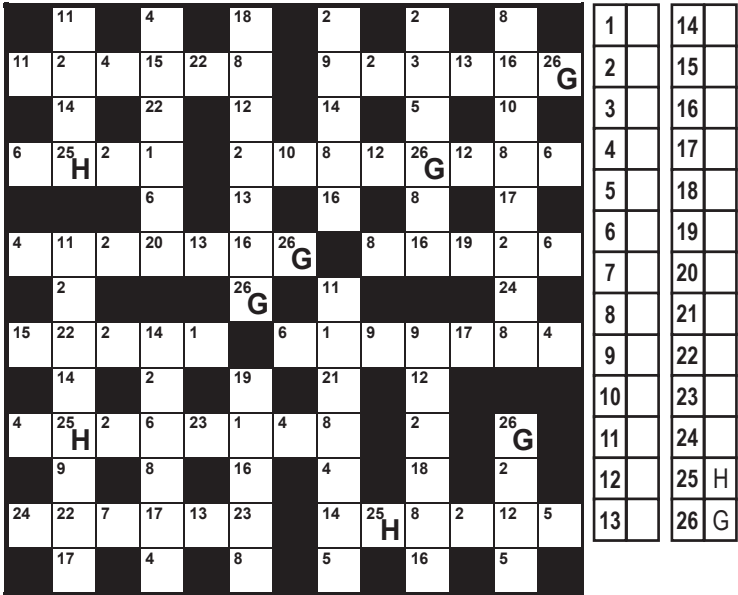


SOLUTION
ashore, hair, hare,
harries, harsh, harsher,
hash, hears, heir,
hero, hers, hire, hires,
hoarse, hoars, hoarse,
hoarser, hoses, horse,
HORSEHAIR, hose,
hostler, rash, rasher,
rehash, rhea, shah,
share, shayer, shea,
shear, shier, shire, shirr,
shoe, shore

CODEWORD

No. 262

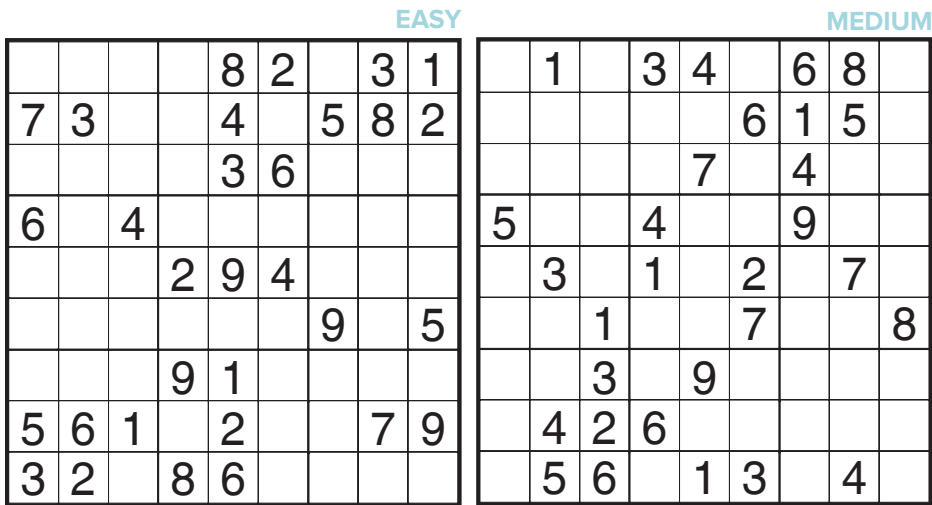
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

No. 271

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



QUICK QUIZ

1.

Martin Scorsese's (pictured) 1985 film *After Hours* is a re-imagining of which novel by Franz Kafka?
2.

Is Fitzroy Island closer to Townsville or Cairns?
3.

An American darter is a type of what?
4.

Who painted the oil composition *Irises* in 1889?
5.

True or false: wicker baskets are made from the wicker plant?
6.

Hartford is the capital of which state in the US?
7.

What is the name of the pet dinosaur in *The Flintstones*?
8.

Which English king was known as Lionheart?
9.

In what year did the Eureka Rebellion occur?
10.

White nougat is made by combining egg whites, sugar, nuts and what other ingredient?



ANSWERS: 1. The Trial 2. Cairns 3. Bird 4. Vincent van Gogh 5. False 6. Connecticut 7. Dino 8. King Richard I 9. 1854 10. Honey

WORD SEARCH

No. 182

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- ALTAI
- ARABIAN
- BAN-EI
- BARB
- BOER
- BRUMBY
- CASPIAN
- DØLE
- FALABELLA
- FELL PONY
- GALICEÑO
- GIDRAN
- GOTLAND
- HEQU
- IOMUD
- JUTLAND
- KABARDA
- KAZAKH
- KISO
- LOKAI
- LOSINO
- MESSARA
- MISAKI
- MORAB
- MOYLE
- MUSTANG
- NOMA
- PAINT
- PINDOS
- PINIA
- POLISH
- KONIK
- QUARAB
- SANHE
- SUFFOLK
- TOKARA
- TORI
- VYATKA
- YANQI
- YILI



143.1 acres of grazing land

OFFERED for sale by Expressions of Interest, is this approx. 143.1 acre grazing property, ideal for dairy or beef cattle.

Located just eight kilometres from Inverloch, 21 kilometres from Leongatha, and 18 kilometres to Koonwarra Saleyards, it features excellent access and infrastructure. While the property is in need of some work and improvements, it offers solid foundations for a productive agricultural venture.

Property Features:

- Nine main paddocks for efficient grazing
- Watered by seven dams
- Bitumen road frontage
- Shelter belts providing protection for livestock
- Stockyards (in need of repair)
- Three-bay hay shed
- Flat, though rough land offering potential for development

This property offers great potential for those willing to invest in its development and improve its infrastructure, making it a promising option for those in the agricultural industry. For more details or to arrange a private inspection, contact Selling Agent Barry Redmond on 0477 622 292.

Expressions of Interest Close Friday, April 11 at 5pm.



Grazing Approx 143.1 acres

Lot 2, 380 Pound Creek Road,
Pound Creek
EOI Closing April 11
Agent Nutrien Harcourts
Barry Redmond 0477 622 292



Bass Coast and South Gippsland will grow by at least 290 dwellings with approval for 278 homes in January according to new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Photo: Luke Besley, Unsplash

New data reveals housing growth locally

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data for January 2025 shows continued growth in dwelling approvals locally across Gippsland – South West, highlighting a steady demand for housing in the region.

The Gippsland – South West region, when referencing these statistics, includes Foster, French Island, Korumburra, Leongatha, Phillip Island, Wilson's Promontory, Wonthaggi and Inverloch.

A total of 290 dwellings were approved, including 278 new homes and 12 other residential buildings, with the value of new houses alone reaching \$152.46 million. The total value of residential building approvals, including alterations and additions, hit \$199.51 million, underscoring the ongoing investment in the local housing market.

While Gippsland - South West is seeing positive results, the picture across Victoria is more mixed.

In January, seasonally adjusted data shows total dwelling approvals in the state fell slightly to 4417 units, down 1.5 per cent from December. Private sector house approvals also dropped by 1.2 per cent, with 2688 new homes given the green light.

On the national front, Australia saw a 6.3 per cent rise in total dwelling approvals, with 16,579 units approved in January. This increase was driven by a 12.7 per cent rise in private sector dwellings excluding houses. While the national growth is encouraging, the value of non-residential buildings dropped by 20.7 per cent, perhaps indicating a shift in focus towards residential construction across the country.

Looking closer at some of the local hotspots, Wonthaggi-Inverloch, Phillip Island and Foster lead the charge. Wonthaggi-Inverloch together saw 153 new dwellings approved, with a combined value of \$97.62 million. Thirty new homes were approved in Foster to the tune of \$16.729 million, with alterations and additions adding an extra \$8.335 million. Leongatha recorded 20 new homes, worth \$18.47 million, while Korumburra approved 21 new dwellings. Phillip Island, a favourite for holidaymakers, had 56 new houses approved, valued at \$47.58 million.

No new homes or other residential buildings were applied for on French Island.

Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha

FOR SALE

Lot 2, 380 Pound Creek Road, **Pound Creek**

For Sale **By Expressions of Interest**

Closing 5pm on April 11, 2025



Approximately 143.1 acres
Subdivided into 9 main paddocks
Watered by 7 dams
Bitumen road frontage
Stockyards in need of repair

Fenced shelter belts
Only 8km to Inverloch
Only 21km to Leongatha
Only 18km to Koonwarra Sale Yards
Inspections by Appointment Only



Barry Redmond E barry.redmond@nh.com.au
M 0477 622 292 W nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha

HN1238

A fantastic 34-acre sustainable lifestyle property



5 3 6 34 Acres

1810 Korumburra-Wonthaggi Rd,
Lance Creek
For Sale \$1,650,000
Agent Nutrien Harcourts
Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449
kellie.thomas@nh.com.au

SET on 34 picturesque acres of flat to undulating land, this unique and sustainable property offers the ideal rural retreat but also an excellent dual living opportunity while still being conveniently close to key amenities. The tree-lined driveway sets the tone, winding through the property and leading you to the heart of the home, where nature and modern living blend seamlessly.

The home:

- A beautiful four-bedroom, two-bathroom rendered straw-bale home, with a double carport and wrap-around verandahs that provide breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape.
- Spacious open-plan kitchen, dining, and living area with a cosy wood fire and ceiling fan for year-round comfort with second living area/study.
- The kitchen is a chef's delight with a timber benchtop, quality 900mm lve gas stove (LPG), pressed metal splashback, and LG dishwasher.
- The master suite offers a private sanctuary with French doors to the verandah, a walk-in robe, and a spacious ensuite with dual vanity.
- Three additional bedrooms, all with built-in robes, plus a family bathroom with a freestanding bath, separate shower, and toilet.
- Double-glazed windows and doors, a passive thermal design, and a solar hot water system,

with LPG gas backup ensure energy efficiency and comfort all year round.

The home is completely off-grid with a 6kW solar system and 48-volt battery system (replaced three years ago) for efficient power storage. An 8kW petrol generator provides backup power during winter months, whilst NBN connectivity allows you to work from home with ease.

Outside a five-bay machinery shed with two bays has been converted into a versatile studio space/habitable outbuilding with a small kitchen, dining, bathroom, laundry, two bedrooms and living area. A four-bay machinery shed with two concreted bays, is currently used as a workshop. One bay is currently set up for calf rearing.

A set of stockyards and 11 main paddocks with excellent electric fencing are ideal for livestock or horses with a medium hay/storage shed and calf shed.

Two large water tanks (100,000L) for human consumption, a dam with a petrol pump, and gravity-fed troughs are in each paddock, while a vegetable garden, fruit trees, chook pen and secure dog run complete the picture.

This is a rare opportunity to secure a sustainable, off-grid home with ample space, privacy, and endless potential with minimal outgoings. Contact Kellie Thomas today to arrange an inspection!

Leongatha

We make it possible

47 Bair Street (03) 5662 2292
nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha

FOR SALE

88 Acres

INVERLOCH 4 2 4
Stunning Lifestyle Property

- Spacious brick veneer open plan living home.
- Double garage, solar power and great stockyards.
- Approx. 88 acres of fertile land with panoramic views.

\$1,850,000 - \$1,890,000

FOR SALE

MIRBOO NORTH 3 1 2
Tranquil Living on 2.4 Acres

- Private country style home on approx. 2.4 acres.
- Well appointed kitchen with plenty of storage.
- Lovely gardens, wrap around verandah, great location.

\$799,000

FOR SALE

TOORA 4 2 1
Your Own Slice of Paradise!

- Solid brick veneer home on approx. 3.6 acres.
- Spacious bedrooms, master with WIR and ensuite.
- Undercover alfresco area, shed and workshop.

\$750,000

NEW PRICE

LEONGATHA 3 2 4
Charming Period Style Home

- Stunning 1940's art deco home on approx. 1,200m².
- Older style, well appointed kitchen.
- Alfresco area, 3 bay shed, separate studio/office space.

\$615,000

JUST LISTED

NERRENA 3 1 2
Charming Renovated Home!

- Fully renovated family home on approx. 2.8 acres.
- Open plan living, modern kitchen.
- Massive 14m x 12m shed with roller doors & power.

\$810,000

JUST LISTED

MIRBOO NORTH 3 1 2
Location! Location! Location!

- Lovely weatherboard cottage on approx. 1,157m².
- Functional kitchen with large walk in pantry.
- Lock up shed with roller door.

\$550,000 - \$580,000

JUST LISTED

FOSTER 3 2 2
Family Home with an Elevated Outlook!

- Modern brick veneer home on 604m² block
- Master bedroom with ensuite and a generous WIR.
- 2 car-lock up garage, great location.

\$690,000

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 2 2
Stunning Home!

- Modern family home in established court on 871m².
- Master suite boasting ensuite and generous walk-in robe.
- Lock-up shed with studio, double lock up garage.

\$950,000

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 2 2
Immaculate Family Home!

- Immaculate home on spacious 973m² block
- Master suite boasting ensuite and walk-in robe
- Lock up shed for trailer/boat/caravan

\$720,000

Barry Redmond
Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292

Kellie Thomas
Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449

Monique Wightman
Marketing & Administration
(03) 5662 2292

Skye Clothier
Sales Associate
(03) 5662 2292

38 | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Lifestyle oasis with income potential

WITH nature as your playground and the township of Leongatha just 10 kilometres away on a sealed road, this 19.5-acre property is a true South Gippsland masterpiece overlooking some of the most stunning views of surrounding farmland.

The home

An open plan family home has been built to capture the mesmerising views from almost every room! The open plan living/dining/kitchen area boasts a large island bench, 900mm oven, dishwasher, reverse cycle air conditioner and solid fuel heater with heat transfer to the master bedroom keeping the whole home warm in winter.

The master bedroom has arguably the best views in the house overlooking both the vineyard and farmland. It features a reverse cycle air conditioner for year-round comfort, walk through robe and ensuite with double vanity and double shower. The second bedroom is a fantastic size. The second living room could double as a third bedroom if needed. There is a central family bathroom and a separate laundry with plenty of bench space. There is a double carport for car accommodation and a separate art studio with viewing deck.

The BNBs

Are you looking for a property with earning potential? Look no further! This property boasts not one, but two BNB cottages. Both are separate and in a very private location

making guests feel like they are in their own peaceful sanctuary. They are complete with a kitchenette, well equipped bathroom, and reverse cycle air conditioning ensuring comfort at any time of the year.

The vineyard

Attention all wine lovers – this property comes with the added bonus of a fully functional vineyard and winery, with both pinot and shiraz varieties. The fully equipped winery is located underneath the house and also has a cellar! Simply enjoy the wine for yourself or use this as yet another income generating project. As well as the vineyard, there is an extensive orchard with almonds, peaches, pears, apples, fig, quinces, lemon and an olive grove just to name a few varieties.

The land and infrastructure

Currently home to a flock of sheep, the land is gently undulating with a central spring dam. Some of the land has been planted out with several varieties of gum trees. There are multiple sheds with a workshop, woodshed and machinery shed as well as under house storage.

The gardens surrounding the home are well established with stunning native trees and an abundance of plant varieties.

There are just too many features of this property to list – an inspection is highly recommended and will not disappoint.



4 4 2 7.9 ha

585 Leongatha Yarragon Road, **Wooreen**
For Sale \$1.48 - \$1.595m
Agent Ray White Leongatha
Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196



Ray White Leongatha
03 5662 5800
15 Bair Street, Leongatha
raywhiteleongatha.com.au

Michael Hanily

Dave Trotman

Kasey Bowman

For Sale
15 Vale Court, **Leongatha**
MOVE RIGHT IN!

- Stunning 5yr old modern home
- Multiple living zones and outdoor ent.
- Spacious master bedroom with ensuite
- Great size allotment is quiet location

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756
\$750,000-\$780,000 4 2 2

For Sale
44 Radovick Street, **Korumburra**
CHARACTER & CHARM

- Popular location, close to shops
- Open plan living, great for entertaining
- Updated and stylish kitchen
- Low maintenance yard with carport

Dave Trotman 0418 589 805
\$590,000 3 1 1

For Sale
10 Gray Street, **Leongatha**
A REAL SURPRISE PACKAGE

- Updated home with period features
- Modern kitchen and outdoor ent. deck
- Access through carport to lock up shed
- Neat fully fenced yard

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196
\$515,000 3 1 3

OFI: Saturday March 29: 11am-11.30am

For Sale
175 Denhams Road, **Hallston**
STUNNING 2.6 ACRE LIFESTYLE RETREAT

- Potential yoga/wellness retreat
- Lake views and established gardens/trees
- Eco design, mud brick/corten steel ext.
- Massage room, colourbond shed & more

Dave Trotman 0418 589 805
\$1,550,000 4 3 2

For Sale
770 Outtrim Leongatha Rd, **Outtrim**
SPACIOUS FAMILY RESIDENCE

- Substantial home on 5.26 flat acres
- Plenty of living space and outdoor ent.
- Gge plus shed space for vehicles & boats
- Midway to L'gatha, K'burra and Inverloch

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196
\$1,100,000 4 2 4

For Sale
245 Garvies Road, **Nerrena**
PEACE, PRIVACY & POSITION

- Renovated 4 bedroom home on 6.5 acres
- Established orchard and vineyard
- Rural views and large dam
- 20x8.5m shed, double carport and solar

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756
\$950,000 - \$1,050,000 4 2 4

For Sale
7 Cahills Outlet Rd, **Kardella Sth**
HOUSE ON THE HILL

- Luxury 4 BR home with 3 living zones
- Fantastic outdoor ent. area with kitchen
- Ducted RC & solar power with batteries
- 4.7 acres with 4 paddocks and a dam

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756
\$1,450,000-\$1,550,000 4 3 4

For Sale
520 Clear Creek Road, **Mirboo**
START YOUR FARMING VENTURE HERE!

- Modern & charming homestead
- Dairy transformed into further accomm
- 231 acres over 2 titles
- 2 sets of cattle yards & plenty of shedding

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196
\$2,650,000 5 2 2



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Trevor Aplin

8-14 Hade Avenue, BASS
basscoastseedsupplies@gmail.com

0418 359 517

HM8924

ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS

Paul Vassil

(Formerly Vassil Electronics)
38 Lower Gordon St, Korumburra
0408 515 184

JA21217

SMALL ACREAGE CULTIVATION

- Pasture mulching
- Slashing
- Hoeing & ripping
- Seeding
- Spraying
- Fertiliser spreading
- 10m² Tipper hire



V0159

MR AGRI

ALL AREAS • Phone Greg 0419 393 375

CLEARING SALE

**Friday, March 21
at 10am**

A/c DP Pearce

2310 Grandridge Road, Hallston, 3953

Items include, but not limited to:

Kubota M125x 2005 3470 hours, Powerlite Tractor driven generator 56KVA-80kw, Kubota M105x 2005 3600 hours, Can Am defender pro 2023 1750 kms, Krone VarioPack 1500 Multicut-done 20,000 bales, Krone Swadro 421 rake, Krone Swadro 461 rake, Krone KW 5.50 4x7 tedder, Krone AM 243 S, Kverneland 2324 M mower, Kubota R900 RTV, Chisel plough, Various used tyres, Suzuki King Quad 400, Conner Shea coil tyre seed drill, Hand made smudger, Hustler SL700X trailing hay feeder, Challenge Hydraulic Grader blade, Peerless Air Compressor, Multiple Spray Knapsacks, Welding trolley, Numerous tools, Husqvarna Chainsaw, Multiple poly pipe fittings, Stihl 034 chainsaw, pine fence posts, pine timber, Stock Crate, concrete water-troughs, hay rings x 7, Bale-up Hay feeder, square bale feeders x2, various size steel gates, milk test buckets, calf feeders, fence reels, Land Cruiser with hand made canopy and sundry items too numerous to mention.

Outside Vendors: 2.1m Berends mulcher, 2.4m Kverneland rotera / rotavator, 3 point linkage backhoe, 3point linkage wood splitter, Motorised post hole borer, Qualis metal lathe, 200 amp CIG arc welder, Travelling effluent irrigator, Pedestal grinder, Pole saw, Line trimmer, Bike/ UTV Loading ramps, Motorised RAT barrow, Hustler Unrolla LX 104, Kuhn Speed rake, Bale Carrier rear mounted, Paton 1.5 tonne pellet feeder, Bulldog soft hands, Massey Ferguson 6 disc mower.

TERMS: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS on day of sale. GST applicable.

Number system & Photo ID for registration.

www.nutrienagsolutions.com.au/clearing-sales

& Facebook-Nutrien Leongatha
- South Gippsland Livestock
Light refreshments available



For further details contact:
Tom Hanrahan: 0437 718 055

JA22926

National food security strategy welcomed by top-rated Jersey breeder

By Bruce Wardley

WONTHAGGI Jersey breeder and third-generation dairy farmer Daryl Hoey has joined Farmers for Climate Action in welcoming a \$3.5 million commitment from the Federal Government for the national food security strategy Feeding Australia.

Farmers for Climate Action (FCA) representing more than 8000 farmers across Australia have applauded the government for calling out climate change as one of the key factors affecting Australian farming and food security.

Describing himself as a climate realist Daryl Hoey has been a dairy farmer all his life.

"I started in Queensland and moved to Shepparton initially as a share farmer."

Daryl and Lani Hoey purchased their own farm nine years later.

A third-generation Jersey breeder Daryl Hoey's herd is highly regarded.

Three-year old Beulah Gislev H Bouy 83 bred and owned by Daryl and Lani Hoey was ranked the number two cow for 2024.

The top two BPI Jersey heifers Beulah Star D Fairy 2 and Beulah Star Fairy were also bred by the Hoey's.

Welcoming the Federal Government's announcement to develop a national food security strategy Daryl Hoey is passionate about climate change.

"Modelling 20 years ago identified changing rainfall patterns," said Mr Hoey.

"Ryegrass growth patterns were changing along with temperatures and evaporation rates."

One of the reasons Daryl and Lani Hoey moved from Northern Victoria to Wonthaggi was a week of 45-degree temperatures in the northern Victorian region, Daryl worried about where that was heading.

"It is absolutely clear human intervention and fossil fuel production have had a dramatic effect on CO2 and carbon.

"A rise in global temperature



Dairy farmer and top-rated Jersey breeder Daryl Hoey.
B03_1125

was predicted in the 70s and 80s.

"The Paris Agreement aimed to restrict rising temperatures to below 1.5 degrees which we have already surpassed.

"Global temperatures are now projected to be 2.7 to 3 degrees higher if we don't reduce our emissions.

"Every month for the last six months it has been above 1.5 degrees."

Farmers for Climate Action has been encouraged by the establishment of an independent National Food Council comprised of experts from industry and the community to ensure the \$3.5 million food security strategy is non-partisan.

FCA CEO Natalie Collard said the plan to work with farmers and industry experts while addressing the growing impact of droughts, fires, and floods worsened by climate change is to be applauded.

"Food security is about national security," said Ms Collard.

"Farmers grow our food, and farmers need a stable climate.

"A strategy that incorporates practical, science-backed solutions including support for regenerative and climate-smart agriculture is a great start.

"A focus on greater food supply, stronger food security, and sustainable agriculture will help

safeguard farmers' livelihoods and provide greater certainty for consumers."

South Gippsland had four of the wettest years on record when Daryl and Lani moved to Wonthaggi and their farm flooded.

"We were aware that the farm flooded but four years in a row was a bit challenging."

Daryl said shorter springs and later autumn breaks could be more of what the future holds.

"The last time we had 20ml of rain in Wonthaggi was the last week of September.

"This year there was no sub-soil moisture to keep the grass growing through Christmas."

Milking through summer Daryl started feeding out silage in the first week of December noting "we never got the storms they had in Leongatha and Korumburra."

With his farm and Jersey herd up for sale, Daryl is looking to retire.

"You can't keep farming the way we did. We have to adapt to be profitable and sustainable."

Knowing climate change is happening Daryl is not sure research is keeping up with the pace of change.

There is a level of denial amongst policymakers, farmers and industry organisations according to Mr Hoey.

He believes climate change

should be one of the top one or two issues people base their voting decisions on but accepts most people will vote in the here and now.

"Cost of living will be a high priority but a fair proportion of the rise in cost of living is a result of climate change."

Mr Hoey, who is now relying on water pumped from the Powlett River, said Bass Coast is reliant on natural rainfall.

"You need adequate feed supplies to get you through and feed your cattle properly."

Beulah Jerseys was ranked number one among Jersey herds for 17 years on genetic merit.

Milking up to 300 cows twice a day and rearing 100 calves each year Daryl says he is more than ready for retirement.

"We're selling the whole herd and the farm."

When asked what was next for the Hoey's, Daryl had a simple answer.

"Family.

"My passion for politics and climate action will remain," said Daryl.

"I will look for some community projects that align with my values."

Mr Hoey is grateful to the government for supporting a bipartisan approach to food security.

"The cost of living is just going to get harder. Fuel prices, the cost of insurance, wages and electricity are all going up.

"With the cost of production going up, the price of milk and cheese in the supermarkets will have to remain where it is or go up even more," said Mr Hoey.

"The consumer wants to buy products that are sustainable and not from overseas, but farmers need to be compensated for their commitment to providing that product."

Daryl Hoey may be looking forward to retirement but his foresight and passion for a sustainable future for the next generation of dairy farmers will be sorely missed.

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High-quality cattle sell well at Leongatha VLE

WHILE cattle numbers were little above 2000 at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, there were some excellent quality animals available, the prices for Angus steers from Fish Creek's M & M Standfield among the highlights.

One of those pens, containing 17 steers weighing an average of 377 kilos fetched \$1590 a head at an excellent \$4.21 per kilo, another 17 steers averaging just three kilos less went for \$1550 each at \$4.14 a kilo.

The other pen of Standfield cattle made \$1660 a head, the 18 steers weighing 426 kilos on average, equating to the strong price of \$3.89 per kilo.

"They sold really well," Mark Standfield said, having hoped to achieve \$4 a kilo but averaging \$4.08 across the three pens.

He attributed the strong prices largely to the high-quality genetics of the cattle, achieved by breeding with bulls from Holbrook stud Dunoon Angus, north of Albury.

"They're always well fed and looked after," Mark said of his steers, which were praised by SEJ auctioneer Jimmy Kyle for their outstanding quality.

That agency had 800 head up for grabs on Thursday.

Jimmy spoke of the exceptional line-up of vendor-bred steers at the Store Sale.

"A lot of cattle in the first run of steers are making 10

By Andrew Paloczi

or 15 cents a kilo either side of four bucks," he said, estimating that applied to 80 to 90 per cent of that run.

Along with the Standfield's steers, those of Woodside's P & J Boddy also impressed.

"Pete and Jo Boddy had that excellent run of younger weaners," Jimmy said.

Eight pens of Boddy Angus steers went above \$4 per kilo, highlighted by 16 animals weighing an average 301 kilos that sold for \$1300 a head at \$4.31 a kilo.

A couple of other Boddy pens went for just under the \$4 per kilo mark with \$3.74 a kilo for 15 steers weighing an average of 246 kilos that sold for \$920 each the lowest per kilo price achieved by the Woodside cattle.

Grandeur Bordeaux of Yallourn North provided a pen of 21 Angus steers that went for \$1,060 a head, having an average weight of 251 kilos, equating to \$4.22 per kilo, another pen of 20 steers commanding \$1180 a head at \$4.08 per kilo, with an average weight of 289 kilos.

Overall, Jimmy said prices for steers were about what was expected.

He expressed optimism regarding the much-anticipated Spring break.

"We're only a couple of weeks away from good rain in the area; it always rains in South Gippsland, it's only a matter of time," he declared.



SEJ livestock agent Zack Redpath and Fish Creek's Mark Standfield whose cattle achieved impressive prices on Thursday. A01_1125



Jimmy Kyle of SEJ sells steers on Thursday. A02_1125



Attendees at Thursday's Store Sale follow proceedings as Jimmy Kyle of SEJ sells. A03_1125

Australia's food market entering new normal

AUSTRALIA'S food market appears to be "normalising" after a "chaotic" five-year period – impacted by factors including COVID, supply chain disruptions and inflation – Rabobank says in a newly-released report.

However, it is a "new normal", characterised by altered consumer-purchasing behaviour and extensive structural change to the market and supply chains, the agribusiness banking specialist says. And primary producers and food and beverage manufacturers operating in the Australian consumer market are having to respond to this evolving "food ecosystem".

"As result, we saw a period of reduced food and ingredient availability, multi-decade high food price inflation and changes in consumer behaviour, including a switch away from out-of-home dining to eating in," Report author, RaboResearch senior analyst – consumer foods Michael Harvey said.

"All of this happened amid an unprecedented decline in real disposable incomes for Australian households, which changed food-purchasing behaviour, particularly among lower-income younger Australians."

The operating environment has been challenging for all players in the food market – from primary producers and manufacturers to retailers and food service operators, Mr Harvey said. And these challenges have reshaped the landscape for all stakeholders in the Australian food market.

"The food market environment appears to be normalising in 2025. However, behind the scenes, there has been extensive structural change to the market and supply chains across the food service and food retail sector," he said.

"These changes are creating opportunities for suppliers, driven by evolving consumer preferences and tastes. And all food and beverage suppliers will need to understand the implications of these changes for their respective businesses in order to respond."

Lardner Park Calf Market Report Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$17 to \$30
Friesian Bulls	\$32 to \$56
Beef Bulls	\$42 to \$240
Beef Heifers	\$32 to \$120
Number of Calves: 127	
Number purchased to rear: 48	

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA	LEONGATHA	WARRAGUL	FOSTER	WONTHAGGI	PAKENHAM
David Ryan 0408 311 895	Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager 0408 176 063	Neil Darby - Livestock Manager 0418 595 265	Dick Faulkner 0408 595 174	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager 0408 595 183	David Setches - Livestock Manager 0409 443 473
	Jack Curtis 0427 762 670	Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816	Brian Vuillermin 0429 436 040	David Holden 0428 749 390	Glenn Barwick 0408 975 476
		Jordan Sim 0448 058 435		Alan Bolding 0419 723 255	Morgan Croucher 0457 001 877
		Mark Malacarne 0418 654 590		Dale Atherton 0428 888 300	Tim Gibson 0420 306 599
		Georgie Snell 0417 100 657			Imogen Price 0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA	LEONGATHA	MELBOURNE LAND
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	Andrew Newton 0402 940 320	Matt Koster 0474 781 711
	Peter Dwyer 0428 855 244	COWES
	Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299	Greg Price 0419 337 441
	Tony Giles 0407 528 192	Maree Malloy 0408 316 715
	Dan Huther 0418 334 801	Chase Watters 0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE	WARRAGUL	VENUS BAY
Brian Silver 0407 347 509	Alan Steenholdt 0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie 0417 631 252
Angus Hall 0466 326 487		Sue Lawrie 0419 885 489
INVERLOCH	PAKENHAM	KOO WEE RUP
Marni Lee Redmond 0403 525 413	Tom Gibson 0438 574 472	Angus Hall 0466 326 487
BERWICK	LANG LANG	
Tom Gibson 0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	

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MARKET REPORT

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Prices lift for quality

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded 2000 head at Thursday's VLE Leongatha store sale in another good offering which included a couple of annual drafts.

A similar size field of feedlot buyers and graziers operated in a market that was 10 – 20 cents dearer for the better quality lines of feeder and heavy weaner steers, and firm for the lighter weights and the middle run.

There were less lines of heifers and Xbred steers and heifers on offer than the last sale and sold to good competition to be fully firm with some sales dearer.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Mar. 13, 2025

Steers

A&P Lew 11 Angus	589kg	\$3.97	\$2340
H & S Logan 13 Angus	588kg	\$3.90	\$2300
R & D Chisholm 10 Angus	582kg	\$3.98	\$2320
S Anderson 12 Hereford	573kg	\$3.76	\$2160
Camilleri 13 Angus	557kg	\$3.85	\$2150
Carlter 13 Angus	545kg	\$4.09	\$2230
Randall 13 Angus	535kg	\$4.07	\$2180
HR&SK Logan 14 Angus	528kg	\$3.86	\$2040
B&I Gale 20 Angus	512kg	\$3.81	\$1950
Roberts 16 Angus	510kg	\$4.01	\$2050
Bracecamp 10 Angus	502kg	\$3.78	\$1900
Randall 13 Angus	496kg	\$3.87	\$1920
Hooper 19 Angus	489kg	\$3.76	\$1840
Peacock Rural 21 Angus	487kg	\$4.00	\$1950
B Svenson 18 Angus	475kg	\$3.97	\$1890
J&D Muldoon 17 Angus	465kg	\$4.04	\$1880
D & D Fairbrother 16 Hereford	464kg	\$3.83	\$1780
E&S Gloster 17 Angus	460kg	\$3.47	\$1600
GM Kensley 17 Angus	455kg	\$4.00	\$1820
B Svenson 14 Angus	447kg	\$3.98	\$1780
Ranleigh Downs 12 Mixed	441kg	\$3.28	\$1450
B Svenson 14 Angus	440kg	\$4.03	\$1780
D & D Fairbrother 24 Hereford	437kg	\$3.90	\$1710
Ponderosa 19 Hereford	431kg	\$4.00	\$1730
Standfield 18 Angus	427kg	\$3.88	\$1660
Ranleigh Downs 20 Angus	419kg	\$3.81	\$1600
GM Kensley 17 Angus	416kg	\$4.15	\$1730
C & S Vagg Holdings 14 Angus	416kg	\$4.03	\$1680
D & D Fairbrother 22 Hereford	415kg	\$4.11	\$1710
J & S Kelly 16 Angus	415kg	\$3.97	\$1650
K & L Holmes 12 Hereford	407kg	\$3.94	\$1610
Ranleigh Downs 20 Mixed	404kg	\$3.56	\$1440
D & D Fairbrother 14 Hereford	400kg	\$3.77	\$1510
Ranleigh Downs 14 Angus	390kg	\$3.33	\$1300
E & S Gloster 22 Angus	369kg	\$3.79	\$1400
Derrick 14 Angus	362kg	\$4.11	\$1490
Kimray 14 Angus	362kg	\$4.02	\$1460
J & D Muldoon 21 Angus	350kg	\$4.21	\$1480
Lucas 10 Angus	326kg	\$4.35	\$1420
DG Clark 17 Angus	316kg	\$3.75	\$1190
Boddy 16 Angus	301kg	\$4.31	\$1300
Grandeur Bordeaux 20 Angus	289kg	\$4.07	\$1180
Boddy 18 Angus	287kg	\$4.24	\$1220
Jakschik 20 Angus	257kg	\$3.89	\$1000

Heifers

Malabar 13 Angus	459kg	\$3.68	\$1690
Malabar 10 BB	436kg	\$3.69	\$1610
Camilleri 12 Angus x	425kg	\$3.38	\$1440
K & L Holmes 10 Hereford	369kg	\$3.22	\$1190
White 23 Angus	339kg	\$3.48	\$1180
DG Clark 14 Angus	307kg	\$3.28	\$1010
Minaminkah 16 Angus	302kg	\$3.07	\$930
C & S Vagg Holdings 11 Angus	300kg	\$3.39	\$1020
H & J Bland 22 Charo	291kg	\$3.77	\$1100
Minaminkah 20 Angus	271kg	\$3.06	\$830

XBred Steers

Taylor 16 Angus x	552kg	\$3.38	\$1870
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The carriage rides were a popular treat at Nyora. Ns36_1125

35 years marked by tractor rally



STEAM bellowed and engines hissed as the Korumburra Working Horse and Tractor rally celebrated another successful year.

Celebrating its 35th year, there was something for all to enjoy with children's activities, horse and carriage rides, roaring tractors and vintage machinery.

Chloe the Shearer held demonstrations throughout the event showcasing sheep shearing and woodchopping displays certainly caught the crowd's attention.

There were also many displays of steam-powered engines with one attendee, Brian Palmer, showcasing his incredible hand-made creations some of which could generate electricity and a miniature water heater that would provide heat to homes before modern conventions.

LEFT: Chloe's shearing demonstrations were enjoyed by all. Ns34_1125



The wood-chopping demonstration was a crowd favourite. Ns33_1125



Brian Palmer with his hand-made creations. Ns32_1125

PINORA ANGUS FEMALE DISPERSAL SALE

TUESDAY 1ST APRIL 2025

On property - 455 Dawson Road, Heyfield
Commencing - 1:00pm Light Lunch Provided

120 ANGUS STUD COWS WITH JULY /AUGUST DROP CALVES AT FOOT - PTIC



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Of the 69 HBR Angus Bulls that were on offer a total of 51 sold at the Bowman Performance Genetics 2025 Autumn Bull Sale at an average of \$7294. ob02_1125

Bowman Performance Genetics 2025 Autumn Bull Sale

BUYERS turned up early to inspect the 69 HBR Angus Bulls, bred with elite high-performance genetics, that were on offer at Bowman Performance Genetics ‘Crystal Brook’ property, in Neerim South last Thursday.

The bulls were Bowman Performance Genetics best draft yet, offering extra muscle, doing ability and performance, with up to 50 of these being suitable for heifers/cows.

Both existing clients, who’ve been with Bowman Genetics for many years, as well as a few new clients, turned out for the auction which Stud Principal, Glenn Bowman found encouraging.

“We thought yesterday went quite well, considering the season – everywhere is so dry; but clearance was probably slightly down on

what we would have liked, but the averages held up well.”

Of the 69 HBR Angus Bulls that were on offer, a total of 51 sold at the auction.

The top price on the day was \$17,000, which was also encouraging for other sellers, as it is one of the higher prices they’ve had for a few years.

The average was \$7294, comparable to previous years.

“The rewarding part for me, is to be able to still maintain a decent sort of average, considering everyone is sort of contracting cows and herds, just waiting for rain, in an uncertain period,” said Mr Bowman.

Being a reliable and trusted source of high-performing bulls, saw a good crowd in attendance, with

strong bidding.

“They know the genetics and they needed the bulls, and they know they’re going to perform and get our backup support,” commented Mr Bowman.

“As one of the few studs to offer full parentage and genotyping, we are attracting progressive buyers, who want to take their herds to the next level.”

Buyers also commented to Mr Bowman that they were the best-presented bulls they’d seen.

“The new and exciting phenotypes I’m using and the consistent bloodlines are starting to come together very nicely.”

Bowman Genetics will be looking to hold their next sale in the spring, likely to be around mid-September. There will be approximately 51 bulls up for auction at that sale.

Pilot program helps farmers beef up carbon capture

AGRICULTURE Victoria has partnered with South Gippsland farmers Jenny and Paul O’Sullivan to find profitable and sustainable ways to reduce emissions on their sheep and beef properties.

Based at Malabar Farm near Walkerville, the O’Sullivans participated in Agriculture Victoria’s On-Farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot.

This program helped nearly 250 farmers across the state understand and act on their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The pilot was launched in 2022 under the State Government’s \$20 million Agriculture Sector Emissions Reduction Pledge that invested in flagship trials of leading research, and development of tools and services helping farmers to reduce emissions while maintaining productivity and profitability.

Agriculture Victoria emissions specialist Alison Kelly worked with the O’Sullivans to develop

a customised on-farm emissions action plan to reduce their GHG and sequester and store carbon.

“Reducing emissions through efficient production and carbon storage is top of mind for farmers in this pilot like the O’Sullivans, who are passionate about sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation,” Mrs Kelly said.

“Determining the environmental impact of your farm’s production through a process called ‘Know Your Number’ is now something that governments and the whole supply chain increasingly demand.”

As part of the program, Mrs Kelly worked with the O’Sullivans to determine their ‘number’ – a net farm annual emissions footprint estimate – via an existing Greenhouse Gas Accounting Framework calculator for beef and sheep enterprises.

She said the O’Sullivan’s tailor made action plan

helped them to apply for a government grant to implement some of the opportunities from the plan such as the establishment of 1.7 kilometre long and 10 metre wide plantation – which will provide carbon sequestration, biodiversity and livestock shelter benefits –, and support to follow up on benchmark soil sampling to monitor changes in soil organic carbon levels across several paddocks and organic treatments using a blend of animal manure and chicken bedding litter.

As well as revegetation and land improvements, the O’Sullivans continue their farm GHG emissions with a 7kW solar power system for their, workshop, fences and pumps.

They are also screening their bulls for feed conversion efficiency and hope to learn from feed additive research to see how they can apply benefits to their grazing operation to possibly further reduce emissions.

VLE - LEONGATHA

STORE SALE

3000 CATTLE 3000

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Ballywarra, Modella (ESB)
70 Angus Steers, 16 -18 mths, Western District bred

A/c P & G Shankland, Lang Lang East (ESB)
45 Angus steers, 18-20 mths

A/c V & D Vickers, Mirboo North (ALEX SCOTT)
17 Angus steers, 18 mths
17 Black Baldy steers, 14 mths
GF & ABF

A/c Blackrange Angus, Ryanston (ALEX SCOTT)
31 Angus steers, 18 mths, Sired by Absolute Angus & Banquet Bulls, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred

A/c J Goode, Flinders (ESB)
30 Angus steers, 24 mths

A/c White Pasture, Arawata (ELDERS)
14 Angus steers, 2 yo, Leawood blood
14 Angus steers, 2 yo, Temania blood
GF & ABF

A/c K Murton, Shoreham (ESB)
22 Angus steers, 16 mths, East Gippsland Bred

A/c T Elder, Nyora (ELDERS)
14 Charolais steers, 18 mths
8 Red Roan Shorthorn steers, 18 mths

A/c G & H Damon, Clyde (ESB)
21 Angus steers, 20 mths, One Mark

A/c Wattleglen Farm, Arawata (ELDERS)
20 Angus steers, 20 mths

A/c H Henderson, Rhyll (ELDERS)
17 Angus steers, 2 yo, Banquet blood, GF & ABF

A/c Mrs J Smith, Flinders (ESB)
16 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, One Mark, Pure Table Top blood

A/c P&L Duncan, Hazelwood Nth (Elders)
15 Angus steers, 2 yo

A/c T Brusamarello, Glen Forbes (ELDERS)
14 Angus steers, 18 mths, Harris blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Denereaz & Brewer, Tooridan (ELDERS)
12 Angus steers, 20 mths, GF & ABF, very quiet

A/c D & R Jones (ALEX SCOTT)
12 Angus steers, 18 mths, Monaro Bred

A/c E Fleming (ALEX SCOTT)
12 Angus steers, 18 mths

A/c P & R Vodica, Arthurs Seat (ESB)
11 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, One Mark, Yea District bred

A/c J & K Coulson, Poowong (ELDERS)
10 Angus steers, 16 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c L & L Milner, Yannathan (ESB)
10 Speckle steers, 24 mths

A/c Rosebank Farm (ELDERS)
8 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, Western District bred, very quiet

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c D&G Hunter Trafalgar (ELDERS)
21 Angus Heifers, 15-18 mths, By Stucky bull

A/c Gairnshiel Shorthorns, Carrisbrook (ALEX SCOTT)
10 Shorthorn heifers, 18-20 mths, PTE, VB

WEANERS

A/c Camoola, Sunbury (ESB)
180 Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-10 mths, VB & GF, Landfall blood, yard weaned

A/c Camoola, Lang Lang (ESB)
160 Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-10 mths, VB & GF Table Top & Landfall blood, yard weaned

A/c Volpaia Park, Drouin South (ESB)
95 Angus steers, 14 mths, Vaccinated with Bovilis MH+ IBR

A/c Ingle Park, Tuerong (ESB)
90 Angus mixed sex weaners, 12-13 mths, VB, Pure Table Top blood, yard weaned December 2024

A/c “Eaton Park”, Kerrie (ALEX SCOTT)
70 Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-11 mths, By stud Barwidgee Angus bulls, weaned 10 days, drenched at 5in1 vacc, VB

A/c Yanakie Past, Foster (ELDERS)
52 Angus heifers, 12 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c L & J Murphy, Berrys Creek (ELDERS)
50 Red Angus mixed sex calves, 6 mths, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred

A/c R & C Jackson, Strzelecki (ELDERS)
41 Angus steers & heifers, 12-14 mths, Battersby blood, VB, GF, ABF

A/c BD&MM Walpole (ELDERS)
40 Poll Hereford steers, weaned, 10 mths

A/c Oamaru Stud, Red Hill South (ESB)
40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 11 mths, VB.

A/c Mirawah Pty Ltd, Wattlebank (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, by stud Fernleigh bulls, weaned, drenched and vaccinated

A/c 365 Grazing (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Hereford & Black Baldy mixed sex weaners, 12 mths, Mawarra blood, very quiet

A/c “Blue Haze Farms”, Woori Yallock (ALEX SCOTT)
26 Angus steers, 5-7 mths , VB, By stud Absolute Angus bulls, Ex “Jamecca Plains” bred Angus cows, Drenched and 5in1

A/c Bona Vista Holdings, Boisdale (ELDERS)
25 Angus steers, 14 mths, GF & ABF

A/c Chesapeake, French Island (ESB)
24 Angus mixed sex weaners, 6-8 mths

A/c C & N Downie, Ripplebrook (ALEX SCOTT)
23 Poll Hereford mix sex weaners, 12 mths, By Wanrua & Red Rocket bulls, weaned 6 weeks, drenched & 2 x 7in1

A/c Groves Estate Jam Jerrup (ELDERS)
22 Angus mix sex weaners, 7 mths, weaned banquet blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Hurley Famliy Angus, Dargo (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus steers, 9-11 mths, by stud Millah Murrah bulls, weaned 5/1/25, drenched Eprinex & 2 x 5 in 1 vaccine, multimed

A/c G Sharp, Tyers (ELDERS)
20 Angus mix sex weaners, 10 mths

A/c P Fleming (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus & Black Baldy steers, 12 mths, Rosskin & Injemira blood

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A/c S & M Dakin, Glen Forbes (ALEX SCOTT)
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A/c Vuiller Poll Shorthorn, Yanakie (ALEX SCOTT)
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A/c Mr R Gower, Tyabb (ESB)
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A/c D & E Fleming (ALEX SCOTT)
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DEATHS

CRIMP, Leanne Shirley:

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From all at Wandilla - Glenn, Robert, Heather, Steve, Noel and Matt.

Joy, Light, Love.

DEATHS

HARDEMAN (O'Brien), Dorothy:

30.11.1942 - 15.03.2025.

Passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family.

Much loved mother and mother-in-law to Jenny and Russell.

Wonderful nana to Sarah and Michael, Jessica and Dale, Carley and Tim and Emma and Michael.

Adored Nana Dot to Hayden, Eva, Liam and Jobe, Cooper, Zac and Oliver, Spencer and Eddie and Noah.

Our wonderful mum and nana now at rest. Reunited with Linnie and Keith.

DEATHS

McKENZIE, Robert:

04.09.1937 - 10.03.2025.

Bob passed away peacefully at his cherished home of over 60 years in Bass.

He is now reunited with his beloved wife Maureen.

Sending love and heartfelt blessings from Glenn and Jayne and his adored grandchildren, Rachael and Aaron.

DEATHS

McKENZIE, Robert (Bob):

04.09.1937 - 10.03.2025.

Loved second son of Morgan and Myrtle.

Loved brother of Ken, Nancy, Rose (all dec.), and Ron.

Brother-in-law of Julie, uncle of Angela, Wade, Stacie, Guy, Narelle and Amanda.

DEATHS

McLENNAN, Ian:

Passed away peacefully at home on March 7, 2025.

Partner and friend to Jenny.

Loved brother to Bruce, Andrew, Steven, Russell, Ivan, Paul (dec.), Howard (dec.), Margaret, Carrol, Leila (dec.) and Virginia.

Rest in peace.

DEATHS

OLLINGTON, Lynn Desmond:

Passed away peacefully after a life well-lived and well-loved.

Devoted life partner and traveling companion of Beatrice.

Proud father of Debbie, Sue, Barry, and Wendy.

Cherished grandpop to Josh, Kate, Justin, Kelly, Luke, and Chloe.

Great grandpop to Delilah and Rose.

Loved father-in-law of Allan, Colin, Michael, and Debbie.

A passionate veggie gardener, expert at "saving it for later", and always up for an adventure.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

DEATHS

OSBALDESTON, Dennis:

14.09.1952 - 16.03.2025.

Beloved husband of Kerri.

Loved father of Tylah, Jack, Tenille, Danny, Shane (dec.), Sarah and special friend to Hannah.

Adored Pa to Aelah, Harry, Kaleb and Ryder.

In our hearts forever.

Den, married for 35 years - best friends forever.

Love you to the moon and back.

--Love Kez.

DEATHS

OSBALDESTON, Dennis (Den):

Not I, nor anyone else can travel that road for you. You must travel it by yourself. It's not far. It is within reach, and you have travelled it courageously!

Rest peacefully.

Son-in-law of Julie and Graeme.

Brother-in-law and uncle of Jo and Rick, Matt and Zoe, Jesse, Gayle and Steve (Dec.), Gabby and Zac, Mollie and Dan, Luca, Archie, Em and Badge, Khya and Charlie, Saige.

DEATHS

WILLIAMS, Lindsay:

Born on July 27, 1938.

Passed away March 9, 2025.

Passed away peacefully at the age of 86 in South Gippsland Hospital, Foster SUNDAY, March 9, with his loving family by his side.

Devoted husband to Anne.

Proud father to his 3 boys Tony, Grant and Simon.

Father-in-law to Sue, Colleen, Andrea and Kimberly (dec.).

Loving grandfather to Rachel, Tamira, Tommy, Lucas, Karla, Jason, Tyler, Kaellan (dec.), Kayley, Zac, Cody and Zoe.

Loving great grandfather to Baily, Tanner, Maggie, Holly, Heidi, Ben, Allannah, Oakleigh and Porter.

A great presence that will be dearly missed.

FUNERALS

McKENZIE:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Robert 'Bob' McKenzie will be held at the graveside, Grantville Cemetery, Bass Highway, Grantville on Thursday, March 20, 2025, commencing at 11am.

Please wear neat casual attire.

FUNERALS

McLENNAN:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Ian McLennan will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi TODAY TUESDAY, March 18, 2025, commencing at 11am.

A Private Cremation will follow.

FUNERALS

OLLINGTON:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. Lynn Ollington will be held at Leongatha Football Club Rooms, 54A Roughhead St, Leongatha on Friday, March 21, 2025, commencing at 1pm.

Lynn's service will be live streamed. To view the service please go to www.handleyfunerals.com.au

FUNERALS

OSBALDESTON:

Funeral Prayers for Mr. Dennis Osbaldeston will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi on Thursday, March 20, 2025, commencing at 2:30pm.

A Private Cremation will follow.

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46 | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

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V02046

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VV0242



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Nestled in the heart of Cowes, Banfields Aged Care is a family-owned residence providing exceptional care to 90 residents, with a commitment to excellence in ageing-in-place programs.

We are seeking motivated and compassionate Registered Nurses to join our team, with AM, PM and Night Duty shifts available across a 7-day roster.

What You'll Do:

- Deliver high-quality nursing care under the guidance of the Director of Care and Clinical Care Manager.
- Manage medications, oversee clinical practices, handle documentation, and provide wound and palliative care.
- Lead, motivate, and educate your team to ensure the best possible outcomes for residents.

Essential Criteria:

- Current Registered Nurse qualifications and AHPRA registration with no limitations.
- Previous experience in residential aged care.
- Strong communication skills (written and verbal).
- Team player with leadership qualities.
- Ability to travel to Cowes, Phillip Island.

Additionally, you will need:

- Current influenza vaccination
- Three COVID-19 vaccinations
- Current Police Check

If you're passionate about making a difference and being part of a close-knit team that feels like family, we'd love to hear from you.

Forward your resume to Leanne at lianson@banfields.com.au

HW12188

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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

How to be an... Emergency Nurse



Emergency Department Clinical Nurse Educator Liz Friswell, right, practises Advanced Paediatric Life Support at Wonthaggi Hospital.

LIZ Friswell is a skilled and caring clinician and an integral member of the busy Emergency Department team at Bass Coast Health's Wonthaggi Hospital.

She's also a Clinical Nurse Educator, teaching nurses the latest in Emergency Nursing techniques, and helping them to practise their resuscitation and other emergency skills to help them to provide best practice care during an emergency.

But what does it take to perform this vital role in our community?

What can a shift involve for you?

"Every day is different; looking after new babies through to the elderly. We never know what will come through the doors."

How do you manage the variety of conditions you encounter?

"Through experience and teamwork. We communicate with each other, ask for help and use many resources available to us to care for the many varied presentations we see."

How do you juggle priorities in the Emergency Department?

"We use the Australasian Triage Scale. This tool allows us to quickly assess why each person has presented based on their clinical presentation. Our senior nurses are at triage and their experience allows them to assess clinical urgency."

How do you manage the stress involved with the role?

"This is different for everyone. It is a very fast-paced job, and it can feel overwhelming at times. It is important to be able to go home and not think about work."

"In the Emergency Department, we have a big focus on staff health and wellbeing. We debrief with each other, take time off regularly and reinforce that nursing is a 24-hour job and we work together as a team to care for our patients and families."

What do you enjoy about your role?

"That it is always different and challenging. We can make a real difference to our patients and their families."

What type of personality is suited to work as an Emergency Department Nurse?

"We all have different personalities in the Emergency Department. But we have to work fast and keep moving as it can be very busy. You need to be able to think critically and make decisions quickly."

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

"Emergency nursing is very challenging and it is not for everyone but it is also very rewarding and I love it."

To learn more about career opportunities at Bass Coast Health, go to: basscoasthealth.org.au/careers.

Landcare grants

THE Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien is encouraging local volunteer groups to put their hand up for a share in \$3.55 million to help protect or improve our local environment.

Mr O'Brien said grants of up to \$20,000 are available to local environmental volunteer groups for projects aiming to enhance or protect natural assets such as native vegetation, native fauna, waterways, wetlands and soils.

"These grants are a crucial source of funding for many of our local volunteer groups and their efforts to improve or preserve our environment," Mr O'Brien said.

Mr O'Brien highlighted that there are three streams of funding on offer that provide up to \$20,000. There are also grants of up to \$500 to assist with costs such as insurance, incorporation and operational needs.

For more information on these grants including what may be funded and how to apply visit environment.vic.gov.au/grants.

Mr O'Brien encouraged Gippsland South based volunteer groups wishing to make an application to contact him at danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au to arrange a letter of support. Applications close April 16.

Lots to celebrate and ponder at Woorayl Probus gathering

WOORAYL Probus' 34th Annual Meeting in March was a special occasion with long time members Pat and Albie Rodwell celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary and still active member Natalie Roy turning 99.

However, there was a serious side to the gathering as attendees heard about the experiences of guest speaker Luke Atkin.

He grew up in Leongatha but has worked in many countries and is currently embarking on community projects in Israel and Gaza.

After completing his nursing, Luke specialised in oncology in Melbourne hospitals and paediatric oncology in Scotland.

After finishing a Masters in Public Health back in Melbourne, Luke undertook projects in countries that border the Caspian Sea.

His task was to improve nutrition levels in small communities with an emphasis on the growing and exchange of food.

After two years and six projects, it was time to return to Melbourne and design initiatives as part of the Quit Program to suit various communities here.

Working in Primary Health in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, Luke participated in diverse programs to assist people in understanding health problems caused by overcrowding, isolation, poor nutrition and lack of appropriate medical care.

Travelling to Bucharest, Romania, where he worked with Ukrainian refugees, Luke met the CEO of Project Rozana.

The organisation's mission is to promote cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis in the field of healthcare.

Working in Jerusalem, finding common ground amid so much conflict is often hard work.

However, health care provides opportunities to work together, to look at common problems and the use of health professionals to give support, organising patient transport, providing palliative care, clinical psychology and other services.

People like Luke offer hope that places of conflict and low economic growth can improve their health outcomes, with his audience amazed to hear what he has achieved.

The Probus members learned that Project Rozana recently lost its American funding.

Yarram celebrates new AV branch

AMBULANCE Victoria's (AV) new state-of-the-art ambulance branch in Yarram is officially open.

AV Acting Gippsland Regional Director Paul James last week joined the Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh MP to officially open the new multi-million-dollar facility.

The branch on Lawler Street was custom-built with modern and safe facilities paramedics and first responders need to assist with their job and respond to life-threatening cases in the community. The facility has been operational since November last year.

It features a three-bay ambulance garage, two rest and recline areas, longer term accommodation facilities, training equipment, a fully equipped kitchen, as well as improved security and carparking.

Mr James said the new building would significantly benefit the local crews.

"The former branch had served its time but was no longer big enough to accommodate the increasing number of staff and training for our paramedics and first responders," he said.

"The new purpose-built branch will help our crews easily access the community by being close to local businesses, sporting and community facilities, and schools.

"We recently celebrated 100 years of ambulance services in Yarram and these improved facilities will allow us to continue providing best care to the community for many years to come."

The new branch is home to eight paramedics and five Ambulance Community Officers (ACOs), who provides care to towns such as Yarram, Woodside, Alberton, Port Albert, McLoughlin's Beach, Port Welshpool, Welshpool, Won Wron, Stacey's Bridge and Jack River.



Bass Coast Specialist School received 20 bikes from the children's charity Variety on Monday.

Children's charity Variety donates bikes to Bass Coast Specialist School



TWENTY bikes in five different sizes have been gifted by the children's charity Variety to the Bass Coast Specialist School in Wonthaggi.

Using grant money from the Andrews foundation the high-quality bikes will help students in their annual bike riding camps as well as access bike trails in the local area.

Grants from the Andrews Foundation seek to improve the quality of life of local communities supporting organisations with innovative ideas that help create a positive and long lasting impact.

Among the programs the foundation gives preference to are projects which are designed to create and improve educational opportunities

and training for students who are disadvantaged or disabled.

Teacher Jack Malzinskas said Bass Coast Specialist School students are constantly learning about their health and wellbeing, and the importance of exercise and gaining skills to help them stay active.

School captains Hope Tyrone and Alicia Ross greeted representatives from Variety and delivered a speech to say thank you for the bikes.

School Principal Robert Sands also thanked Variety staff along with a member of the School Council who was also in attendance.

"The students were all very excited and grateful," said Mr Malzinskas.



Olive Justice Place Mural by Erian Chapman.

Have your say: Build the future of art in Bass Coast

BASS Coast is home to the arts, with many talented artists and the Bass Coast Shire Council is asking the community to help shape what public art looks like over the next decade.

Bass Coast has a deep connection to the arts in public venues. Many may have encountered Collide by James Voller in Kernot Reserve, inspired by the area's heritage architecture, Excuse Me Mr Seagull by Paul Jesse, a nod to San Remo's fishing history, or the rib-like steel forms of Love and Precious Things by Joe Donahue in Cape Paterson.

Looking to the future, the shire needs your input into their new Public Art Strategy to help guide public artworks that could take many forms, from sculpture and murals to immersive installations over the next 10 years.

Public art is proven to enhance the aesthetic appeal of public space, it provides a gathering point for communities and offers sustained employment and professional growth for artists.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Ro-



Corinella Public Art. "The Shape of Nature" by Joe Donahue.

chelle Halstead encourages the community to have their say.

"We have some really beautiful artworks around Bass Coast and I'm excited to see what the future brings for public art in the area," Cr Halstead said.

"We recently had community workshops to participate in the newest piece of public art for Cowes and these were a great opportunity to get everyone involved in art."

"If you have ideas about what public artworks should look like in the future or where they could go then this is your chance to have your say!" Cr Halstead said.

"Bass Coast is home to a thriving arts community, but we don't just want to hear from the arts community, public art is for everyone so it's really important that we hear from a diverse range of people."

A survey is currently open where you can provide your thoughts at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/arts-bass-coast.

[vic.gov.au/arts-bass-coast](https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/arts-bass-coast).

You can also have your say in person at:

- Corinella – Saturday, March 8, 8am – 1pm, Corinella Market, Harold Hughes Reserve.
- Cowes – Tuesday, March 11, 1pm – 5pm, Berninnet, 91-97 Thompson Avenue.
- Wonthaggi – Sunday, March 16, 2.30pm – 6pm, Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, 96 Graham Street.

SGB Swimmers dominate Gippsland Championships

GIPPSLAND swimming was on display at Warragul over the long weekend, as 112 SGB swimmers joined the rest of the region's swimmers in the three-day championship. The weekend saw swimmers aged seven to 51 years of age compete in a range of distances.

Competition was fierce, with three of the top 10 regional swim clubs at the event, there were no easy wins, but certainly plenty of smiles after the events, with many SGB swimmers in heats with club mates.

Heats were held in the morning and the fastest eight returned at night to swim in finals and team relays.

SGB showed their depth, fielding up to 10 teams in some relays and coming away with several medals.

The SGB swimmers gave their best in warm conditions. For many, it is the final meet of the year before the autumn break, where many have a few weeks off competition, so it is a fantastic chance for them to see how much they have improved on their times since the start of the Long Course season back in October. There were plenty of happy faces as times came through, seeing their reward for their efforts.

During the presentation ceremony, several SGB swimmers were worthy recipients of awards.

Jedda Taggell was awarded the Jane Mitchell Encouragement award for females, finishing in six finals for the meet.

The Alan Harlow Trophy for the most points by an under 14 female was won by Emily Croatto with a total of 54 points.

The Jewell Family trophy was won by Rahni Matheson for top female with 87 points.



Girls A and B team Medley relays second and third place. Bec, Izzy, Harper, Bel. Front: Sienna, Maggie, Tayah and Holly.



Rahni Matheson, award winner with coach Dylan.

The Noelle Brajkovic Trophy for Outstanding Achievement Outside of Gippsland in the past season by a swimmer 14 years and under went to Archie Smyth for his performances at Victorian Countries and States in this season.

SGB is still hot on the heels of Traralgon, who won the Ken and Pat Hewat Premiership Trophy for the most points overall with SGB coming second for the seventh year in a row.

The team celebrated with

their annual Gippies Championships Dinner at the Warragul Industrials Clubrooms where parents could catch up and the swimmers could enjoy some downtime with friends.

Coach Dylan was pleased with their efforts.

"Some of our swimmers had huge swim loads, doing their age events and open events and to see them still medalling in both long into the meet was so inspiring for the little kids. I challenged the little kids to help

keep them motivated and cheering for an allocated senior swimmer and they really lifted," he said.

"We had several families juggling athletics, swimming and basketball, so it's been hard for them, but when they have been here the kids have given their all and that's all you can ask for. I want to thank the families for their support in getting the swimmers there and fed, timekeeping and helping around the club.

"We have had several of our older swimmers make finals or medals for the first time which was wonderful. Persistence pays off. Some are here for their fifth or sixth time and it was one of the highlights for me for the weekend."

Gippies is one of Coach Lorri's favourite events of the year.

"I just love seeing all the little kids having a go in the under eights and 10s events. It seems such a long way for them, and they are just so proud when they finish. When they do the relays, the whole club gets behind them, cheering from the sidelines. It's such a fun atmosphere."

For Coach Sam, who has been coming to the championships for many years, watching the kids she coached as juniors have success as older swimmers is always a joy.

"Watching their swimming journey, from little kids just making it down to the other end, to teenagers coming home with finals or national times. It's just so pleasing to see."

As the Long Course Season comes to an end, there is just the All Juniors Finals and the National Championships to go for the swimmers before a well-deserved break.

Newhaven College Divisional and District Swimming



Newhaven College Year 6 student Ethan Lynch was awarded Age Champion after an outstanding performance, securing first place in the individual medley event.



Year 6 Newhaven College students, Zen Dalli, Darby Smyth, James Lamaro and Ethan Lynch at the Divisional Swimming event.



Year 3 & 4 Newhaven College students, Eden Bennett, Mila Potter, Ruby Pirouet and Hazel Jones proudly sported their First-Place ribbons after the Divisional Swimming event.

Newhaven College in Sale for Primary Regional Swimming Championships



Newhaven College U9/10 Boys Freestyle relay – second Sam Phillips, Austin Lynch, Billy Kimber and Sebastian Ferretto.



Newhaven College U9/10 Girls Freestyle relay – second Eden Bennett, Mila Potter, Hazel Jones and Ruby Pirouet.

Sporting Club Grants Program closing soon

THE 2025 Sporting Club Grants Program is closing soon, with The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath encouraging local clubs to apply for this much-needed funding.

This year, a significant portion of the funding will focus on supporting the volunteers and officials who are essential to the success of community sport.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for projects that enhance the skills and

knowledge of volunteers, coaches, and officials, as well as initiatives aimed at improving volunteer retention.

Additional funding opportunities include:

- Up to \$4000 to support clubs in delivering new programs to the community
- Up to \$1000 for uniforms and equipment
- \$750 travel grants to assist clubs in attending competitions away from home

"Volunteers are the backbone of community sport across our region," Ms Bath said.

"Without them, our grassroots sporting clubs would not be able to function.

"With increasingly busy lifestyles, supporting and retaining our treasured volunteers is more critical than ever.

"I encourage local clubs to put forward initiatives that support their volunteers and members to help keep them

engaged in grassroots sport."

Previous recipients of these grants include the Inverloch Scout Group, Bass Coast Board Riders Club, Inverloch Bowling Club, Korumburra Badminton Association, Phillip Island Golf Club and Phillip Island and District Cricket Club Inc.

Applications close on March 27. For all information on eligibility and the application process, visit: Sporting Club Grants Program.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY March 18
3.34am 1.50m
9.36am 0.37m
4.13pm 1.59m
9.52pm 0.57m

WEDNESDAY March 19
4.00am 1.51m
10.07am 0.33m
4.44pm 1.61m
10.23pm 0.59m

THURSDAY March 20
4.29am 1.50m
10.38am 0.31m
5.14pm 1.61m
10.56pm 0.62m

FRIDAY March 21
4.59am 1.49m
11.09am 0.31m
5.46pm 1.59m
11.28pm 0.66m

SATURDAY March 22
5.30am 1.46m
11.40am 0.32m
6.23pm 1.54m

SUNDAY March 23
12.00am 0.71m
6.02am 1.42m
12.11pm 0.34m
7.05pm 1.48m

MONDAY March 24
12.33am 0.76m
6.37am 1.36m
12.43pm 0.37m
7.53pm 1.41m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

Buckley to give lifestyle tips at Farm World

LATROBE Health Services – a not-for-profit Gippsland-based health fund – is proud to host AFL great Nathan Buckley as guest speaker at Farm World 2025.

Emphasising the importance of self-awareness, seeking support and fostering a positive mindset to thrive every day, Nathan will share personal tips to overcome challenges, manage stress and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

“It’s not just what you eat but lots of little things you do every day which benefit your overall wellbeing,” Nathan said.

“If we want to support and care for people, we really need to take care of ourselves as well. I’ve learned the happier and healthier you are, the more you have to give to the ones you love. It’s important to monitor your health with regular check-ups, either at your GP or via opportunities like the free Shane Warne Legacy Health Checks, which will be available at Farm World.”

Latrobe Health has a passion for preventative health.

“We are proud to host Nathan Buckley in Gippsland, and look forward to the practical tips he shares, which will help to improve our health and wellbeing,” Latrobe Health Services CEO Ian Whitehead said.

Latrobe Health is the proud founding partner of the Shane Warne Legacy. More than 260,000 free Shane Warne Legacy Health Checks have been delivered on SiSU Health machines, nationwide in Priceline Pharmacies and at major events.

Once again, Latrobe Health is offering Shane Warne Legacy Health Checks across all three days of Farm World at site 82-83 in the Country Living Pavillion.

“As a not-for-profit health insurer, Latrobe Health Services wants to make a real difference to our members and community. We’re targeting better health outcomes for all Australians by delivering free Shane Warne Legacy Health Checks across Australia, as the founding partner of the Shane Warne Legacy,” Mr Whitehead said. “This initiative is one way we help our members and community, check if they are at risk. Gippsland has some of the worst heart health outcomes in Australia, so we are encouraging anyone over the age of 18 years to participate in an easy, non-invasive Shane Warne Legacy Health Check.”

Farm World is Victoria’s premier agricultural field day and will be held at Lardner Park from Thursday, March 27, to Saturday, March 29.

Health and Wellbeing for Every Day with Nathan Buckley will be held from 12pm to 1pm on Saturday, March 29.

This is a ticketed event.

Tickets are free for Latrobe Health members and \$5 for non-members. All proceeds will be donated to charity. Attendees must also have tickets to Farm World. To book tickets, head to trybooking.com/events/landing/1363361.

Free fishing information night

THE Wonthaggi Angling Club are hosting a free information night this Wednesday, March 19 from 6pm in their clubrooms at the Wonthaggi football oval.

Chris from the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) and Ben from Victorian Recreational (VR) Fish will attend as guest speakers. The evening will provide fishing enthusiasts of all skill levels to come together and engage in a supportive environment, whether it be to find out more about the VFA reform proposal or sign up as a member for exclusive access to workshops and seminars.

The evening is open to all, providing an opportunity to learn more about local fishing and related topics. All are welcome at this free event at 15 Stickland Street, Wonthaggi.



Laura Tomic from South Coast Athletics broke the 2000m steeplechase record at the Victorian Masters Championships in the 40-45 age group.



Ventnor’s Laura Tomic competing for South Coast Athletics.

Laura breaks state record

By Tayla Kershaw

SOUTH Coast Athletics’ Laura Tomic broke the Victorian record for the 2000m steeplechase at the Victorian Masters Championships over the weekend.

The Ventnor-based athlete had aimed to break the record in the 40-45 age group and successfully reached her goal by five seconds in Doncaster.

Her official time and the new state record is 7:19:77.

Laura has been running with South Coast Athletics for the last two years, inspired to get back into competing as her children took part in little athletics.

“I was always running around, chasing after them around the track. One of the mums was from South Coast and encouraged me to join,” Laura said.

“I’ve been running since I was a kid, but I hadn’t competed in a long time, and I really got back into it.

“I stopped (athletics) when I was a kid due to a serious injury, and then life happened, but I never stopped running. It’s awesome to be back and I’ll probably run for the rest of my life.”

Laura started her career as a six-year-old running for Ringwood in the little athletics.

She now competes in the Masters and has enjoyed every moment.

Laura said the 2000 metres steeplechase was her favourite event and breaking the Victorian record had been her ultimate goal.

“I really want to get that Victorian record,” Laura had told The Sentinel-Times prior to the weekend.

“I’m ranked fifth in the world for the steeplechase in the 40-45 age bracket. My future goal would be to be number one.”

Up until this weekend, her

best performance had been at Nationals in Tasmania last year, when she was five seconds off the record.

To be competition-ready, Laura trains six days a week.

She does two interval sessions, a long run and three easy runs.

Her training venue of choice is the Bass Recreation Reserve and the Bass Coast Rail Trail.

“I’ve always been very focused – you have to have a love for it,” she said.

“Training can be hard by yourself, but you just have to keep going.”

Laura is also coached online by James Hansen through an app.

She attends as many South Coast meets in Leongatha as possible, which has become a great family event.

“The kids love watching me and they love competing in the local meets,” Laura said.

“For me, it is a massive stress relief. I’m so incredibly busy, but I love the feeling of being fit. It makes me happy.

“I’ve also met the most amazing friends in the whole world through athletics. They are just awesome people, and South Coast is such a friendly club.”

Laura is now looking forward to cross-country season.

Most recently, she competed in the Pan Pacific Masters Games Tour on the Gold Coast in November.

“That was awesome. That’s on every two years and was a really good experience. I won all five of my events,” she said.

“It was disgustingly hot, and the long-distance runs started at 6am, but it was incredible.”

Laura actively encourages people to get involved in athletics.

For more information and updates about South Coast Athletics, head to the club’s Facebook page.

Phillip Island Pro QS 3000 and Pro Junior kicks off at Smiths Beach

AFTER a long season of events held across the Asia Pacific, the 2025 World Surf League (WSL) Challenger Series competitors from the region will be decided this week at the Phillip Island Pro Qualifying Series (QS) 3000 event which kicked off on Tuesday, March 17 and holds a window through to Saturday, March 22.

The event has attracted over 250 of the region’s best up-and-coming surfers to the Bass Coast as they all look to one day earn a spot at surfing’s elite level, the Championship Tour.

The Australia/Oceania region offers Challenger Series spots for seven men and four women, and five men and three women for the Asia region. The Phillip Island Pro will decide the final rankings for the 2024/25 season for both regions, making it one of the most exciting events of the year.

“This week is a massive one in the careers of so many surf-



Qualifying Series 3,000 event to decide 2025 APAC Challenger Series Competitors, kicked off at Smiths Beach on Monday, March 17 with Phillip Island’s Joe Van Dijk as one to watch. Photo: WSL/Robertson.

ers from the Asia Pacific region,” said WSL APAC Tour Director Ty Sorati.

“There are a lot of surfers in contention for qualification, and we have a great looking forecast meaning all competi-

tors should have plenty of opportunity to prove themselves and earn a spot up high on the rankings. I’d like to wish all of the competitors luck and can’t wait to see all the action unfold this week on the picturesque,

wave-rich Phillip Island.”

Local competitors include: Men QS: Chad Garrett, Codie Jeffery, Joe Van Dijk, Steve Noble, Blake Green, Ash Easton

Women QS: Sophie Fletcher, Nikki Van Dijk, Abbey Clarke, Lannia Fostin

Men Pro Junior: Tate Russell, Rye Cicero, Jarrah Cicero, Blake Green, Sam Patterson, Angus Kennedy, Toby Davies, Eddie Maier, Tyler Duell, Lachlan Eastwood

Women Pro Junior: Scarlett Rennie, Abbey Clarke, Evie Iutz, Savannah Bennett

The event will also launch the 2025 Australia / Oceania Pro Junior Series, with over 100 of the region’s best 20-and-under talent expected to compete in the inaugural Phillip Island Pro Junior, which will run within the same window this week.

The 2025 Phillip Island Pro QS 3000 will run until March 22. For more information, please visit worldsurfleague.com.

Local businesses back South Gippsland Hospital 2025 Murray to Moyne team

CORNER Inlet district businesses are backing South Gippsland Hospital's Moovers team at this year's Woody's Murray to Moyne Cycle Relay on Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, 2025.

Foster Service Centre, Foster Tyre Power, Qube Energy, Evans Petroleum, Foster Cellarbrations, Johnoelec, and the Foster RSL are all major sponsors with donations ranging from \$1000 to \$3000.

This is the third year in a row that the team members will be wearing the set of smart red, black and white cycling jerseys and vests the Foster Service Centre supplied to them in 2023.

Foster Service Centre proprietor Clint Hilder said that he and his wife Hannah and their staff were proud to continue their association with the SGH Moovers.

"It's great being able to help this team of dedicated cyclists with their ongoing efforts to raise funds for the South Gippsland Hospital," he said.

Evans Petroleum wholesale and distribution sales manager John Schelling said the fuel supply company was also glad to assist the SGH Moovers again.

"The hospital really is such an important part of our local community, and we're happy to get behind such a worthy cause," he said.

The Murray to Moyne is a charity ride that begins from either Mildura or Echuca on the Murray River in northern Victoria and finishes in Port Fairy at the mouth of the Moyne River on the State's southwest coast.

The event was founded by the late Graham "Woody" Woodrup, a competitive cyclist from Port Fairy who set many long-distance records during his career, such as the Perth to Sydney, and the world 24-hour tandem.

Woody and his wife, Hester organised the first Murray to Moyne Cycle Relay in 1987 to raise funds for hospitals, health services and



Training for this year's M2M last week, were Mick Doran (Community Member), Mick Manassa (Team Captain), Trish Steele (SGH Social Worker), and Matt Smart (Foster Ambulance Officer).

health-related charities, and this year will see the 37th iteration of an activity that has generated some \$20 million to date.

The SGH Moovers have taken part in the Murray to Moyne every year since 2011, and last year the cyclists raised nearly \$20,000 for the South Gippsland Hospital.

This year the SGH Moovers team consists of nearly 20 cyclists led by team captain Mick Manassa, together with a support crew of half a dozen or so.

"Even though training for the Murray to Moyne is hard work, we all have a lot of fun on our rides and while having a coffee together afterwards, because it's as much as a social thing as it is about working towards a common goal," he said.

The team includes South Gippsland Hospital staff and volunteers, Foster Medical Centre representatives, and members of the Corner Inlet district community.

The SGH Moovers will divide into smaller teams of four or five cyclists, who will take turns to cover a total of 520 kilometres in two days.

They will leave Echuca first thing on Saturday morning, with each team cycling for an hour and resting for two hours, before arriving at Hamilton soon after midnight, where all of the riders will have the chance to sleep until daybreak.

Then the whole team will set off from Hamilton early on Sunday morning to ride the final 95 kilometres to Port Fairy together.

South Gippsland Hospital chief executive officer Paul Greenhalgh said both the Hospital and the SGH Moovers appreciated the generosity of all sponsors, large and small.

"Even though the event is just around the corner, the SGH Moovers are keen to hear from any other local district and Gippsland regional businesses, corporations and community

groups as well as individuals who would also like to be part of this major fundraising campaign."

"We will spend the proceeds from this year's Murray to Moyne on the Acute Ward upgrades. A bequest from the late Mr Jeffrey Cox covers the project for the most part, however we need a bit more to ensure the rooms get a full makeover" he said.

"We are so grateful for the staff and volunteers riding for SGH to raise money once again, and we'd like to thank previous, current and potential sponsors for getting behind this year's SGH Moovers team."

For more information about the South Gippsland Hospital and the SGH Moovers' 2025 Murray to Moyne team relay, and how to become a sponsor or make a donation, contact SGH CEO Paul Greenhalgh on 0427 093 058 or see southgippslandhospital.com.au.



Mathias Twomey and James Harman were set and ready to compete at the Victorian State Title Championships that kicked off on March 7.

Inverloch SLSC shines at state championships

INVERLOCH Surf Life Saving Club is celebrating the outstanding achievements of James Harman and Mathias Twomey at the Life Saving Victoria State Championships in Warrnambool over the March long weekend.

"We are beyond proud of James Harman and Mathias Twomey representing Inverloch at the Life Saving Victoria State Championships in Warrnambool" said Club Captain David Morris.

"This was James and Mathias' first carnival alongside 630 competitors from across the State. The young men represented the Club tremendously displaying determination and an eagerness to learn and experience what the sport has to offer."

It was an amazing effort by James who placed a medal winning third in the U19 two kilometre run with Mathias placing fourth.

James went through the elimination rounds in U19 beach flags, finishing fifth in the final round. Mathias finished a respectable 10th in the U19 Surf Swim event.

The second day of competition saw James and Mathias placed fourth in the two x one kilometre Team Event and James finishing fifth in the U19 100 metre sprint event.

ALLAMBEE MIRBOO AND DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION SEMI FINALS

Section 1: Inverloch 5.36 defeated Korumburra 1.11, Westernport White 5.42 defeated Koonwarra 3.37

Korumburra had no answers for Inverloch in the Section 1 Semi Final. Paul Ramsbottom and Ekala Moore won a tiebreaker – the only set for Korumburra. This match didn't require all sets to be played because there was already a result. Well done to Inverloch on your win. Westernport White and Koonwarra had some terrific rallies, with a really respectful and high-quality match. This match was much closer than the other Semi Final.

Section 2: Outtrim 5.61 defeated Leon-gatha 4.55, Korumburra 9.64 defeated Baromi 0.40

Korumburra came to play in Section 2, winning all sets against Baromi. However, Korumburra didn't have it all their way, with three tiebreakers being played – one in the mens, one in the ladies and one in the mixed. Well done to both teams on the quality of the tennis played. It is great to see Korumburra through to a Grand Final.

Outtrim v Leongatha was a close match. Outtrim won two mens and two ladies sets and went into the mixed with a lead of 10 games. Leongatha won the first and second mixed, but Outtrim still had a four-game lead into the final set. In the end, Outtrim won by six games.

Next week is the Grand Final. The matches are as follows:

Section 1: Inverloch v Westernport White
Section 2: Outtrim v Korumburra.

All players are asked to arrive at 12pm once again for photos and to commence promptly at 12.30pm. The Presentation Night will follow at Space 47 at 7pm with a buffet dinner. Tickets are available now, simply contact the Secretary Nicole de Longville for details – make sure you bring some cash on the night for the raffle. Clubs please be sure to bring your raffle prize for the night and give to a member of the Committee either at the Grand Final or on arrival.

Moe are victorious in the Riverside Tennis mixed section one grandfinal

Riverside Grand Final Results:

Section 1 Mixed: Moe 7-49 def Drouin Maroon 2-37

Riverside Semi Final Results:

Section 1 Singles: Moe White 2-4-32 def Moe Blue 1-2-24, Moe Red 2 - 4 - 27 def Trafalgar 1 - 2 - 22

Section 2 Mixed: Warragul White 5-42 def by Neerim District 4 45, Hallora 6-43 def Warragul Blue 3-27

Section 2 Singles: Trafalgar 1-27 def by Neerim District 5-45, Warragul 3-41 def Drouin Gold 3-34

Preliminary Finals on Saturday March 22:

Section 1 Singles: Moe Blue vs Moe Red

Section 2 Doubles: Warragul White vs Hallora

Section 2 Singles: Trafalgar vs Warragul



Riverside Tennis Association Section 1 Grand Final Team Greg Wiggins, Geri Stephens, David Guthrie, Debbie Griffith, Garyth Mullett, Sharon Madeley, Kellie Dabkowski, Dean Illingworth and Dean Sturk.



The Ladies March Committee Tournament – sponsored by O'Donnell Optical – was won by the Phillip Island team of Glenda Grazules, Julie Pora and Lynn Rogerson at the Korumburra Bowls Club.



The best last game of the Korumburra Match Committee Tournament – sponsored by O'Donnell Optical – was the Meeniyen team of Dawn Poletti, Deanna Donchi and Rita Richardson.



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners at Lang Lang on Thursday were Peter McWilliams (3), Brenda Moloney (2), Amanda Bozelle (L) and Michael Dady (S).



Pauline Sammon, Christine Corrigan (skip) and Chris Nevill were the Thursday social bowls winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



The Friday winners at Breakaway Bowls were Brian Newman, Linda Newman and Chris Rose with +17.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

EVEN a public holiday was no deterrent to the intrepid members, with another solid turnout enjoying a day of laughter and fun.

The winners were Marg Ford, Linda Newman, Les Stanbury and Jenny Baker with a score of +3 – well done to you all.

What a day it was for indoor bowls on Friday.

It was too hot to be outdoors, but just right for indoor activities.

The winners were Brian Newman, Linda Newman and Chris Rose.

They won with +17 – great effort.

FISH CREEK

THE summer bowls season is almost over with still a few Turkey Triple days to come with the last event at Fish Creek on Thursday, March 27.

Last week, the club lost a valued sponsor, supporter and friend in Lindsay Williams.

Over the years, the Williams family support to the club has been greatly appreciated.

The club would like to extend all its condolences to the Williams family.

The 21 and 100 up competitions are progressing well, but need to be completed by March 31.

The next club event is the Fred McLaughlin Memorial on Sunday, April 6.

With numbers filling quickly, please get your entries to Bill Symmons.

On Friday, April 11, the club has its presentation evening, which will celebrate the successful season.

Please book your seat early.

To conclude the year, the annual general meeting will be held at 4pm on April 15 and all members are encouraged to attend and provide thoughts and ideas for next year.

FOSTER

LAST Thursday was the March Monthly Triples.

Teams were down slightly due to sickness and holidayers.

It was still all action and a great day out on the green.

Sponsors for the day were Ray and Judy Prain and Williams Tracy Associates.

There was only one team that won all four games.

Well done to the Toora team of Terry Corcoran, Don Lawson and Ian Rogers.

The runners-up had three wins and a draw.

Prizes went to the Foster team of Maureen Taylor, Noleen McGlead and Mark Taylor.

The 'Best Game' wine prizes donated by Foster IGA went to the Fish Creek team of Bill Symmons, Don Cripps and Dave Christie.

Club drink vouchers for the encouragement prize went to the Yarram team of Ned and Desley Tindale, and Theo Tymensen.

Saturday social bowls will now be held every Saturday.

Everyone is welcome.

Please pre-enter by turning up or ringing your name in by 12.30pm for a 1pm start. The phone number is 5682 2061.

Next week, March 25, is the Roffey and Paragreen Triples Day.

There is still room for teams.

Foster now has one more Monthly Triples on April 10, and then Bev and Charlie's Six Player Medley Tournament on Sunday, April 13.

There's still room for teams there too. Phone Noleen on 0427 928 542.

Foster is running a huge Easter raffle over the coming weeks with five great prizes.

Look for the club down the street or call if you'd like a ticket.

It will be drawn on Easter Sunday at the Car Boot Sale.

Have a clean out and book a site for that too on 0408 369 298.

Check out Foster's Facebook page for more details.

INVERLOCH

DON'T forget that members' night is on Friday, March 21.

The jackpot is growing.

Thursday's social bowls saw 36 bowlers split into 12 teams of Triples with everyone bowling three bowls.

There were three teams that won two games.

These teams had to be separated by points and shots up.

The hard luck story finishing with two wins, 31 points and eight shots up was the team of Daryl McStravick (skip), Joy Brown and Jill Edwards.

Runners-up finished on two wins, 31 points and 13 shots up was the team of Chris O'Donnell (skip), Joan McStravick and Sally Brothwell.

The winners finished with two wins and 32 points.

This team consisted of Christine Corrigan, Pauline Sammon and Chris Nevill.

It was great to see so many new faces having a roll this week.

Get excited, the next Monthly Triples is on March 19.

There is a \$30 entry fee per team.

Autumn Ivy Bowls is an eight-week competition of 28 teams of pairs.

It is held from 7pm to 9pm with an entry fee of \$10 per person.

Dates are April 1, 8, 15 and 29, and May 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Register quickly or miss out.

Contact John Sutcliffe.

Celebrate Equinox at Inverloch Bowls Club.

This event is open to the public on Friday, March 21.

The gates open at 7.15pm with games running from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The cost is \$12 per game. Sunset is at 7.27pm.

It is a fun event for family and friends.

KORUMBURRA

THE club had a busy day last Friday, beginning with the Ladies Match Committee Tournament sponsored by O'Donnell Optical of Wonthaggi and Cowes.

There were 14 teams competing in great conditions.

Winners of the day were the Phillip Island team of Glenda Grazules, Julie Pora and Lyn Rogerson.

Runners up were Lyn Thomas, Joy Brown and Jaye Ellen-Dale with best last game going to Dawn Poletti, Deanna Donchi and Rita Richardson from Meeniyen.

Thanks go to all who participated and Denis and Sue O'Donnell for their sponsorship.

On Friday night, the club had a counter meal prepared by Tracey Pepperell and crew with 70 people enjoying the meal. Members are reminded to put their names down for presentation night on Friday, March 28, so come along and support your club.

Social bowls are on every Saturday names in by 12.30pm start.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

WHAT a great day the bowlers had at Lang Lang on Thursday.

So many of the family of bowlers turned up at Lang Lang to once again fight it out for team of the week.

The weather certainly dipped a bit, with temperatures in the mid 20's expected.

The green was in sparkling condition thanks to Neville, who also set it up for the players.

All players were welcomed in by Pauline and Vern while Peter arranged the teams.

Out on the green, it was great to see such happy faces and so much laughter and friendly chatter.

There were a few wrong bias shots over the day – many thanks to these charitable individuals, the Royal Children's Hospital appreciates it.

Vern did an excellent job filling in for missing President John.

The club hopes he will return next

week.

This week's winners on a superb score of 36 were Peter McWilliams (3), Brenda Moloney (2), Amanda Bozelle (L) and Michael Dady (S). Runners up on a score of 32 were Peter Thorley (L), Laurie Bell (3), Frank D'Univerville (2) and Tony Heppleston (S).

Best one game winners on a score of 19 were Mark Hanrahan (S), Alan Mofum (L) and Neil Andreatta (3).

The club would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who are so much loved by all for their hard work throughout the day.

Special thanks go to Marianne and Colin for all the work in the bar for the thirsty bowlers, and Aggie for her hard work in the kitchen, as well as those who cleaned up in the hall and outside.

Next week, the bowlers will meet up at Corinella, where they will fight it out for team of the week.

Till then, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS a quiet week at the club after the end of the Pennant season.

The club had social bowls on Wednesday and Saturday.

Wednesday was called off due to Turkey Triples at Phillip Island, plus the weather was simply too hot.

Thursday's social bowls saw a very good number of bowlers enjoying the fine, mild morning conditions.

Saturday saw Strzelecki North and South Saturday and Midweek Division 1 winners play off for the chance to represent the region at the State Championships in May at Wonthaggi.

Wonthaggi played Trafalgar in the morning on a perfect day for bowls.

The first half was very close on the scoreboard with nothing between the two teams.

Trafalgar was able to gain an advantage in the latter half of the match and maintained that margin to take the title.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 48, Trafalgar 59.

The Saturday Pennant team played Traralgon after lunch, also in perfect conditions to showcase their skills.

Wonthaggi was a little slow to get into the match.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 47 Traralgon 64.

Bowls this week: Wednesday: Social bowls at 1pm. Thursday: Social bowls at 10am. Friday: Coaching at 10am. Saturday: Social bowls at 1pm.

Don't forget about Friday night's roast pork dinner plus a choice of two sweets.

There is a sign-up list in the clubhouse, so please add your names.

Congratulations to Kathleen, Sylvia, and Glenys, the happy meat tray winners.

The skins event is nearly full, so if you would like to enter a team, please get in touch with Fred.

March 29 is the Basket Cabaret night, once again featuring a live band and good music.

Only \$10 per person for a great night out. Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THE bowlers have expressed how lucky they are to belong to such a warm and friendly club.

Each week, they get together to play bowls and enjoy each other's company.

There were 49 players this week.

Tuesday's winners with a plus 12 were Jeannie Slocombe, Teresa and Allan Ireland, and Jim Wilson.

Runners-up on plus eight were Jenny Bakker, Fred Demenech and John Rook.

Friday saw another competitive day with the winners on an amazing plus 31.

They were Fred Demenech, Mary Spooner and John Rook.

Runners-up on plus seven were Betty Huitema, Jean Wylde, Robert McLaren and Jim Wilson.

KORUMBURRA

Ladies

THE women played in the Richie Beecroft 4BBB Memorial Scratch and Handicap event last Wednesday.

A big shout out too Barney Beecroft – nephew of Richie – for sponsoring the day.

Thank you for the wonderful prizes, which were vouchers from local bookstore The Hare and Tortoise.

For many who don't know Richie, he was a past greens-keeper of the golf club.

Barney's father also worked in the bar for many years.

Back in the day, Richie lived onsite near the 12th Men's Tee in a little shack, playing golf weekly.

He was well known for being a great golfer and an all-round larrikin.

Well done to the 12 pairs who played and congratulations to the winners.

Scratch winners: Merrissa Cosson/Kim Enbom 79.

Runner up: Johanna van den Heiligenberg/Lyn McIvor 81 net.

Winners: Colette Pearl/Trudi Mantell 65 net.

Runner up: Lyn McIvor/Johanna van den Heiligenberg 66 net c/b.

NTPs: first Judy Webb, seventh Lyn McIvor, 10th Beryl Brown and 13th Kim Enbom.

LEONGATHA

NO Tuesday results due to greens being cored.

Thursday, March 13: Burra Brewing 4BBB Stableford.

Thursday's event was a 4BBB Stableford event with 73 members/guests taking to the course, teeing off with a shotgun start at 8.30am off the blue tees.

Thank you again for the excellent sponsorship from Burra Brewing.

Overall winners:

1: Ian Miller (28) and Ashleigh Hutton (14) with a score of 47 points.

2: Will Norden (19) and Ken Smirk (14) with a score of 46 points.

Great score from David Child with an eagle on the third hole.

NTP fifth second shot: Craig Hutchinson, 14th: Andy Bassett, 16th: Andy Bassett.

Saturday, March 15: Stableford.

Saturday was a Stableford round with a field of 75 members/guests take to the course.

Overall winner: Mark Wilson (10) with a high score of the day of 44 points.

A Grade winner: Mark Wilson (10) with a score of 44 points.

A Grade runner up: Tony Morganti (8) with a score of 37 points.

B Grade winner: Gordon Allan (15) with a score of 37 points.

B Grade runner up: Gerry Carcour (18) with a score of 34 points.

C Grade winner: Mick Reinhard (24) with a score of 40 points.

C Grade runner up: Marianne Leaver (26) with a score of 39 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Alison Strong, 14th: Phil Douglass, 16th: Craig Hutchinson.

MEENIYAN

TUESDAY was Whiskey Day sponsored by Phil Hutcheson

with a very happy Mike Steele taking it out with a 74 net.

Runner-up was Will Bullock 75 net.

DTL went to Mat Vanboven 75 net, Brian Dewar 75 net, Daryle Gregg 78 net and Brian Erving 78 net.

NTPs were pro pin second Peter Riddle, eighth Peter Wilson and 14th Brian Dewar.

Saturday was round two of the Club Champs sponsored again by Meeniyam IGA.

The club thanks Meeniyam IGA for its generosity.

The day's winner was Reg Hannay 69 net.

Runner up Scott Browne 71 net.

DTL went to Peter Riddle 71 net, Paul Robinson 72 net, Shane Bright 73 net and Phil Hutcheson 73 net.

NTPs were second Peter Riddle, eighth Brett McKnight, 11th Damien Burge and the pro pin on 14th Brett McKnight.

Leaders after two rounds:

A Grade: Ryan McKnight 160 gross, Brett McKnight 164 gross and Andrew Logan 174 gross.

B Grade: Scott Browne 169 gross, Mat Vanboven 176 gross and Damien Burge 177 gross.

C Grade: Phil Hutcheson 194 gross, Daryle Gregg 201 gross and Dylan Zuidema 204 gross.

MIRBOO NORTH

SUNDAY, March 9: 3BBB.

Men's winner: Tom Traill, B. Pinner and J. Taylor, 79 points.

Ladies' winner: W. Gervasi, D. Kidd and M. Beruldsen 84 points.

DTL:

Ladies: M. Thompson, B. Stimpson and J. White.

Men's: G. Shandley, D. Jeram and S. Beitz.

NTP: fourth J. White and S. Bietz, sixth J. White and P. Draper, 13th M. Thompson, and 16th B. Stimpson and J. Robbins.

Monday, March 10: Mixed American.

Scratch: D. Trengrove and B. Sutton 86 net.

A Grade: S. Marriott and B. Marriott 74.75.

B Grade: Tom Traill and M. Beruldsen 72.5.

DTL: S. and J. Bietz 74.375, and J. and D. Kidd 75.25.

NTP: fourth B. Marriott and I. Gibson, sixth J. White and G. Fowles, 13th D. Taylor, and 16th B. Keily and B. Spokes.

Men's overflow: S. Woodall 38, B. Spokes 35, G. Wilson and D. Woodall 34.

Eagles: A. Liebe fifth.

Tuesday, March 11: Stableford.

A Grade: P. Woodall, (9) 36 points.

B Grade: S. McKenzie (20) 38 points.

DTL: I. Blencowe 36, M. Payne, 34 and D. Woodall 33.

NTP: fourth G. Dawson, sixth I. Blencowe, 13th J. Smeriglio and 16th T. Whitelaw.

Birdies: 13th J. Smeriglio.

Saturday, March 15: 4BBB Championship (round one).

Leaderboard:

S. and P. Woodall 46, N. Rutledge and M. Richter 46, S. Evison and J. Taylor 44, and B. and T. Bradshaw 44.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: March 13, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-

hole.

Winner: Ian Hack 44.

Runner up: Chris Wilkinson 39.

Ball sweep: Peter Magnusson 38, Ian McNish 37, Jim McEachern 36 and Frank Huber 36 C/B.

Results: March 13, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Bob Cornelis 20.

Ball sweep: Kevin Bayley 17, Keith Ridout 17 and Ken Cuman 17 C/B.

Results: March 15, S. R 71.

Competition: Stableford.

A Grade: Rod McBride 40.

B Grade: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 43.

C Grade: Cooper Lindsay 39.

Balls down the line to 38 C/b: Mark Nicholson 42, Ian Gilmour 39, Dio Apostolopoulos 39, Secondo Tiziani 39, Miles Foster 39, Mat Johnson 38, Norm Burne 38 and Bryan Cole 38.

Eagle: Eric Van Agtmaal 11th.

NTPs: Rod McBride second, Andrew Hooton-Shandley fourth, Ian Baker propin eighth, Sam Horvath 13th and Stephen Jud money hole 17th.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was a qualifying round of 4BBB Par for the 2025 Rita O'Connell Board Event.

There were 14 pairs and some of them had no difficulty with the hot conditions and the drier course with its unpredictable bounces happening.

Top qualifiers were Simone Lindsay (27) and Donna Brosnan (29) +6, runners up were Patsy Britt (27) and Irene Walsh (25) + 5 on c/b Chris Hamilton and Jan Beaumont.

The fourth pair to qualify into the semi-finals was Marg Ryan and Anne Poulton.

These four pairs play off next week to determine the finalists.

Other BDLs were given to Geraldine Prentice and Carole Sartori.

NTP second Dawn Judkins, eighth Kaylene Hodgetts and 17th Catherine Bolding.

WOORAYL

Ladies

IT WAS another early start on Wednesday due to the warm conditions.

The event was the second round of the Dianne and John O'Connor board event.

The format was 4BBB Stableford.

Sponsor for the day was Claire Williams - International Women's Day.

The winners of the day were Inge Giliam and Sharyn Rayson with a great score of 48.

Runners up were Kath Davis and Lyn De'Laney with 43.

BDL: Sherrill Winkler and Linda Forrester 43.

NTPs: eighth Pauline Lancaster, 11th Sherrill Winkler and 17th Kath Davis.

There was much excitement when Sharyn Rayson had an Eagle on the ninth.

Sharyn was presented with a special pin from Captain Janet Thompson.

The winners of the Dianne and John O'Connor Board Event were Sherrill Winkler and Linda Forrester – 47, 43.



Winners of the Dianne and John O'Connor Board Event were Sherrill Winkler and Linda Forrester at the Woorayl Golf Club.



Woorayl Golf Club's daily event winners Sharyn Rayson and Inge Giliam.



Runners-up of the daily event at the Woorayl Golf Club Kath Davis and Lyn De'Laney.



Runners-up Irene Walsh and Patsy Britt with top qualifiers in Wonthaggi Golf Club's 4BBB Par for the 2025 Rita O'Connell Board Event Donna Brosnan and Simone Lindsay.



The competition at the Leongatha Golf Club on Thursday, March 13, was the Burra Brewing 4BBB Stableford Round. The winners were Ken Smirk, Will Norden, Ashleigh Hutton and Ian Miller, and they were pictured with event sponsors Phil and Tim from Burra Brewing.



Korumburra RB 4BBB Handicap Winners Colette and Trudi (absent). Scratch Winners Kim and Merrissa.



On your marks, get set! The two-kilometre run before it kicked off on Saturday. Ns17_1125



The two-kilometre run saw dozens of families join in. Ns19_1125

Running festival takes over Inverloch



First to finish the two-kilometre run. Ns21_1125



Finishing the gruelling five-kilometre run with a smile. Ns22_1125

THE inaugural Inverloch Running Festival was hailed as an overwhelming success with more than 1000 participants. Held at The Glade over the weekend, the running festival was the first of its kind encouraging everyone from families to avid runners to partake. The run featured a 14-kilometre, five-kilometre, two-kilometre, half-marathon and marathon with live music, food trucks and stalls all helping make the event a success. Organiser Andrew Haug said they had more than 1400 runners registered. “We wanted to bring something like this event to the

community and run it over two days. It’s really not about the run it’s about bringing the family and community to the region,” he said. “We’ve got the two-k dash for the kids, the five-kilometre run, but then a lot of people just come down and immerse themselves in all the community activities.” Mr Haug thanked supporters such as Bass Coast Shire and Destination Gippsland and couldn’t be more excited for next year’s event. “We’ve got a three-year contract with council and are looking forward to growing that each and every year,” he said.



Before the start of the five-kilometre run. Ns29_1125



Aliesha and Quinn finished strong together. Ns27_1125



‘Bazza’ clocked an incredible run time finishing the five-kilometre run in under 18 minutes and coming first.



Handing out the medals during the five-kilometre run.



Korumbura’s own, Kyle Webster, to defend his MX1 title this weekend

WONTHAGGI’S high-flying status as the opening round in the Penrite ProMX Championship continues this year, with the spectacular track once again kickstarting hostilities in Australia’s premier motocross series.

All attention will turn to the Gippsland-based venue for an extended two-day round on the weekend of March 22-23 as it hosts the ProMX opener for the fifth successive year, featuring classes: MX1, MX2, MX3, MXW and MX85.

For reigning MX1 champion Kyle Webster, Wonthaggi is also his home round as he lives just up the road in Korumburra and he will once again be racing with Honda.

Last August, Webster and the Honda Australia Factory Racing Team extended their contract beyond this year, solidifying a long-term agreement.

“I have been with Honda for seven years and we have achieved some terrific results. Yarrive and I have a great relationship; we communicate so well and share the same goals. The bike is great, and the team is focused on winning. I appreciate the trust they have in me, and it’s mutual,” said Webster.

Webster leads the Australian Motocross Championship in the MX1 class and enjoyed a sensational 2024 with victory in the premier class and also winning the Motocross of Nations for Team Australia alongside with Jett and Hunter Lawrence. He’s now chasing a third Australian motocross title.

“My aim is to win, but nothing fazes me. I do my work during the week and feel well-prepared. It’s going to be a fight till the end, and I love it. I really love racing and battling,” said Webster last season.

He will be joined by Wilson Todd on the starting gates, who had an injury-riddled 2024 and he is keen to come back strongly.

“Last year was tough as two



Reigning MX1 champion Kyle Webster, from Korumburra will be chasing his third Australian motocross title with the opening round of the Penrite ProMX Championships at Wonthaggi this weekend.

injuries kept me sidelined for over eight months,” Todd said. “I appreciate the team sticking by me.

“I’ll be at Wonthaggi, but with less than three weeks on the bike, I’ll need to race myself back into fitness and speed.”

Brodie Connolly and Alex Larwood will again line up in Pirelli MX2, the former looking to continue his dominance from last year which saw him clinch the title by an astonishing 90 points.

“The team is great, training is going well, and I’ve got a new off-bike trainer who’s making a real difference,” Connolly said. “I feel much better prepared for this season.”

Charli Cannon will continue in EZILIFT MXW as she prepares to chase an unprecedented fourth consecutive championship.

The 19-year old won all but one moto in 2024, exercising her authority as the rider to beat and made a stance as arguably the toughest competitor in ProMX.

“Last year we were strong,

but I had weaknesses to address,” she explained.

“Fitness has been my main focus – I don’t just want to win in Australia, I want to be ready for any overseas opportunities.”

The biggest change to the lineup is in the Maxxis MX3 class, with Kayd Kingsford replacing Jake Cannon who’s off to contest the EMX250 Motocross European Championship. Finishing third in the championship last season, the 17-year-old will look to establish himself as a title contender and prove he still has what it takes to fight at the front of the field.

“I was pumped to get this opportunity,” he said.

“Honda’s MX3 program is proven – it won with Parker Ross and backed it up with Jake Cannon.

“Its MX2 success also gives me confidence that I’m on the best bike with a great team and I’m ready to chase this championship.”

Wonthaggi has not only become one of the blue-chip rounds in the ProMX Championship because of its spectacular layout

but its picturesque surroundings, wide-ranging hospitality and service options across the region help to make it one of the most accommodating venues on the calendar.

As is the case with the start of every new season, the anticipation will be intense as all riders – some in new teams and surroundings – start with a blank canvas as the battle to become Aussie motocross champions begins in earnest.

Run by the Dandenong Motorcycle Club, the schedule includes practice, qualifying and racing all in two jam-packed days on Saturday and Sunday with action from Australia’s best riders.

The action and excitement aren’t limited to the track, with the chance to meet your favourite riders and grab a bargain in Trade Alley.

The 2025 ProMX Championship will be held over eight rounds and six months, starting in Wonthaggi and concluding at Queensland Moto Park (QMP) on August 2-3.

In between, the championship will visit Appin (NSW) on April 13, Gillman (SA) on April 27, Traralgon (Vic) on May 25, Warwick (Qld) on June 22, Nowra on July 6 and Toowoomba (Qld) on July 27.

Traralgon, Warwick and Nowra will be making their ProMX debuts in 2025, while Appin is returning after a one-year absence. Wonthaggi, Gillman, Toowoomba and QMP are all now ProMX Championship staples.

Presented by AMX Superstores the Penrite ProMX Championship is supported by the Victorian Government via its Significant Sporting Events Program and the Bass Coast Shire Council.

The Penrite ProMX Championships will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 22 -23 from 10am to 4pm at Wonthaggi Motocross Track, 220 West Area Rd, Wonthaggi.

Tickets available from bit.ly/3FtNTsw.

Paula honoured with encouragement award

IN A heartwarming moment at this year’s Phillip Island Bridge Club annual general meeting, Paula Davidson was honoured with the Richard Mears Encouragement Award.

Despite having only played competition bridge with the club for six months, Davidson has shown remarkable improvement. After retiring, she sought mental stimulation and found it in the game of bridge.

An ad in the local paper led her to the club, where she underwent lessons and supervised practice sessions before diving into competitive play.

Davidson describes bridge as a challenging yet rewarding game, with the thrill of winning a hand being the highlight of her experience.

She also praises the camaraderie at the club, noting the many new friendships she has formed.

The Phillip Island Bridge Club, known for its welcoming atmosphere, holds competition bridge on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

New members, regardless of experience, are encouraged to join.

For more information, potential members can contact the club’s president Caroline Shaw on 0418 369 557.

Results for this week:
Monday, March 10:

Duplicate with 5.5 tables:
First: Paul Waylen and Anne Ferrari 59.72 per cent.

Second: Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour 57.87 per cent.

Third: Deb Anglim and Shirley Stewart 53.24 per cent.

Wednesday, March 12:
Nationwide with 5.5 tables:

First: Moya Crowley and Caroline Shaw 61.46 per cent.

Second: Marion Wellwood and Anne Ferrari 58.85 per cent.

Third: Graeme and Wendy McKergow 56.25 per cent.

PHILLIP ISLAND TENPIN BOWLING

Phantom: 1st place on 46pts Nailing it, 2nd place on 44pts ASYMBOL and 3rd place on 43pts Love Muscle.

2s Company: 1st place on 11pts King Pins, 2nd place on 11pts Him & Her and 3rd place on 10pts Palms.

ABL: 1st place on 76pts Storm, 2nd place on 69pts Dreamers and 3rd place on 67pts Pinpals.

Business Early: 1st place on 14pts Balls Deep, 2nd place on 11pts Woolly Rollers, 3rd place on 10pts Turkey Slappers and 4th place on 9pts NTC.

Business Late: 1st place on 13pts City Lights, 2nd place on 9pts Team Rich, 3rd place on 8pts S&R Clarke Auto and 4th place on 4pts Balls of Fury.

Top scores:
Men: Scott Lynch 223, Matthew Clarke 207 and Steve R Clarke 203.

Woman: Penny Wolswinkel 161, Kerri Lambert 148 and Lynda 147.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE RESULTS

MARCH 11 at Wonthaggi RSL – six tables competing

In a closely fought contest, master point winners were

First Deb Anglim and Faye Rowlands with 58.85 average board score

Second Bronwyn Sund and Mike Dooley 57.29

Third Alan Johnston and Lois Dwyer 56.25

Fourth Ken McKenzie and Marie Sands 55.21

Fifth Phillip and Nev Chapman 54.17

March 14 at Inverloch – another good attendance with nine tables competing.

Results unavailable at time of printing.

Wonthaggi Club Under 15 cricket 2024/2025 award winners



Angus Benetti – Cricketer of the Year and Bowling Award (15.71 bowling average).



Jed Caddy – Batting Award (34.44 run average with a total of 310 runs).



Heath Crump – Coach’s Award.

FOOTY TIPPING



7

BEN FISHER

Hawthorn

Collingwood

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



81 Commercial Street,
Korumburra
5655 1024



8

MATT ROBERTSON

Hawthorn

Collingwood

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



119 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1027



7

CARL LINDSAY

Hawthorn

Collingwood

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



145 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1137



7

ALEX GEYER

Hawthorn

Collingwood

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

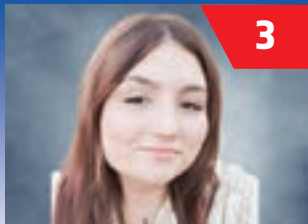
Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



Wonthaggi 5672 5522
Leongatha 5662 2941



3

JAE DAVEY

Hawthorn

Western Bulldogs

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



62-64 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
0421 162 530



8

DARRYL MCGANNON

Hawthorn

Collingwood

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



1 Roughead Street,
Leongatha
5662 2327



6

KRIS BAKER

Carlton

Collingwood

Essendon

Port Adelaide

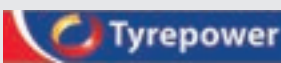
St Kilda

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



78-80 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5760



7

RYAN SHANE

Hawthorn

Western Bulldogs

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

North Melbourne

Sydney

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



Leongatha Toyota

7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5662 2302



6

**CRAIG FARRINGTON
DARREN TILEY**

Hawthorn

Collingwood

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



6/5 Cyclone Street,
Wonthaggi
Darren 0405 603 569
Craig 0415 641 845



8

ADAM WARE

Hawthorn

Western Bulldogs

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



2/88-98 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
1800 358 131



7

JUSTIN CAPORALE

Hawthorn

Collingwood

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



41 McCartin Street,
Leongatha
5662 2529



8

LEIGH DONOHUE

Hawthorn

Western Bulldogs

Essendon

Port Adelaide

Geelong

Brisbane

Melbourne

Sydney

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



Wonthaggi
0400 001 465

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5672 1722

LEADERBOARD
AFTER ROUND 1

Phil Hardy	10
Hayden Poppe	9
Adam Ware	8
Brad Hodson	8
Darryl McGannon	8
Leigh Donohue	8
Liam Sawyer	8
Matt Robertson	8
Peter Fort	8
Aaron McGregor	7
Alex Geyer	7
Ben Fisher	7
Carl Lindsay	7
Dylan Clark	7
Justin Caporale	7
Keith & Eddie	7
Ryan Shane	7
Craig & Darren	6
David England	6
Kris Baker	6
Warren Stewart	6
Brett Jacobs	5
Jae Davey	3



6

WARREN
STEWART

Carlton
Collingwood
Adelaide
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



Wonthaggi Toyota
346 Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi
5632 3503



10

PHIL
HARDY

Hawthorn
Collingwood
Adelaide
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Sydney

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 8



Bass Coast LIGHT ENGINES
317 White Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4017



7

DYLAN
CLARK

Hawthorn
Western Bulldogs
Essendon
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



1 A'Beckett Street
Inverloch
5674 1432



6

DAVID
ENGLAND

Hawthorn
Western Bulldogs
Essendon
Port Adelaide
St Kilda
Brisbane
North Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



3/45-61 McKenzie St,
Wonthaggi
9701 7388



8

PETER
FORT

Hawthorn
Collingwood
Essendon
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



47 Station Street,
Korumburra
0417 332 141



7

KEITH
KELLY EDDIE
CHANDLER

Hawthorn
Collingwood
Adelaide
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



54 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1311



8

LIAM
SAWYER

Hawthorn
Collingwood
Adelaide
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



16 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
5672 1007



7

AARON
MCGREGOR

Hawthorn
Collingwood
Essendon
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



24 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 5906



8

BRAD
HODSON

Hawthorn
Collingwood
Essendon
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



15/17 Murray Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5878



5

BRETT
JACOBS

Hawthorn
Collingwood
Essendon
Port Adelaide
Geelong
Brisbane
Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



28 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4770



9

HAYDEN
POPPE

Carlton
Collingwood
Essendon
Port Adelaide
St Kilda
Brisbane
North Melbourne
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



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Hear firsthand stories from these iconic footballers and esteemed sportsmen as they share insights and memorable moments from their legendary careers.

Enjoy a delicious lunch (included in the price of the ticket) while being entertained by live music from Mystify.

Take part in exciting auctions, raffles, and win door prizes throughout the day.

A bar will be open and offering drinks at affordable prices.

Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early to secure your spot.

VIP tickets are available which guarantee a front-row seat, plus a meet and greet and a photo opportunity with the Daicos family.

It also includes lunch, an open bar from 12pm to 4pm, and access to all entertainment, auctions, and raffles.

Children's tickets are also available and include lunch, one free drink, entertainment and access to the whole event. Only available for children up to 16 years of age and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are limited, so don't miss your chance to be part of this exciting event.

Daicos Delight will be held on Sunday, March 23 from 12 noon to 8pm, at the Lang Lang Memorial Hall, 135 McDonalds Track, Lang Lang.

Tickets are available at bit.ly/nfnc-daicos. For more information contact Sam on 0478 424 212.

Be mouthguard safe this footy season

WITH 100,00 sport-related concussions occurring in Australia each year, Aussie parents and local athletes are urged to be 'mouthguard safe' ahead of the 2025 junior and amateur AFL and rugby seasons.

This gives athletes the best chance of avoiding serious head or oral injuries.

The warning comes amidst research suggesting there is one concussion every 5.7 games in youth Rugby League.

Separate studies from the Australian Dental Association suggest sports-related injuries account for nearly 40 per cent of dental injuries, yet only 36 per cent of Australians wear a mouthguard when playing contact sport.

Head dentist at Bupa Dental Dr Cathryn Madden said a properly fitted mouthguard is a player's best defence against serious sports injuries like broken jaws, fractured teeth and even lacerated tongues, which can be involuntarily bitten during an unexpected hit.

"Whilst less expensive over-the-counter boil and bite mouthguards are certainly better than zero protection, they run a significantly higher risk of being dislodged or not protecting all essential areas, which increases the risk of sustaining a serious injury for players," Dr Madden said.

"A custom-made mouthguard will be designed to fit a player's individual mouth shape and dimensions, providing a player with the protection they need on game day or training, and a parent with valuable peace of mind when watching from the sidelines."

Local representation in Gippsland Power Under 18 Girls squad

MEENIYAN Dumbalk United's Melissa Diggerman, Wonthaggi's Baia Pugh, and Siena Lane of the Bass Coast Breakers have made Gippsland Power's Girls Under 18 squad.

Diggerman represented Korumburra-Bena last season in the Youth Girls Division 2 competition managing 14 games and 15 goals, featuring in the Giants' premiership side and being the Division's Best and Fairest Player.

She was one of a string of midfielders whose class stood out in the Grand Final, applying immense pressure to the opposition and booting an important goal in Korumburra-Bena's seven-point win over Woodside.

"She's probably one to watch going forward," Giants coach Tyson Findlay said of Diggerman after the Grand Final triumph, noting at the time she still has another season of Under 18 footy ahead.

He praised her work ethic, clearance work and kicking efficiency.

She's returned to MDU where her junior footy journey began.

The onfield physicality of footy and the strong friendships formed through the game are a couple of the things Diggerman loves about Aussie Rules.

Pugh was until recently a Korumburra Basketball representative as well as having played netball for Wonthaggi last season in B Grade, C Grade and 17 and Under games, being the club Best and Fairest at the latter level.

Illustrating her all-round sporting prowess, she has an athletics background competing in distance running up to State level.



Baia Pugh is excited to give footy a real crack this year with Gippsland Power, having enjoyed a variety of sports. Photo: Josh Chadwick AFL Photos

In 2025 her entire sporting focus will be on footy, having played Aussie rules at junior level for Wonthaggi and also representing Bass Coast College.

The Pughs are a well-known footy family in Wonthaggi.

"My pop can't wait to see me out there, he's pretty keen," Pugh said.

While she has limited footy experience, she is confident her sporting background has prepared her well.

"The way you fend off defenders, getting around them to get in a good position, that's something I have found is really handy in football, just

manoeuvring because you have to do that to get the ball in basketball and netball," Pugh said.

She's played mostly through the midfield, also spending time on the wing where she can use her speed from athletics, her love of running standing her in good stead for footy training.

While unsure where Gippsland Power will play her once the season gets underway, she had a taste of being part of the midfield rotation at a training camp.

When chatting to the Sentinel-Times, Pugh wasn't yet sure which local footy side she'll

represent, the 17-year-old having recently started uni in Melbourne studying a Bachelor of Marketing and Business.

Bass Coast's Lane is entering her third season with Gippsland Power, looking to bounce back from a 2024 campaign plagued by injury and illness.

She managed three games for Power and one for the Breakers for the season.

That followed an excellent 2023 campaign for the Breakers in which Lane asserted herself during the finals and was recognised by the club as its player on the rise and voted Best in Finals, with Bass Coast playing Division 1 footy in the then AFL Southeast competition at that stage.

Bass Coast Breakers president Ella Angarane outlined Lane's string of attributes.

"We see her as a really exciting talent and she's very athletic, strong, good down low and not scared to get tackled or tackle people, can really take the game on and is explosive and quick," Angarane said.

While Lane has tended to play in the midfield for the Breakers, she has the versatility to play elsewhere at Gippsland Power if the coaching staff desire.

"She'd probably be a really good winger, back flanker, one of those positions where you can run and carry with the ball," Angarane said, keen to see how those in charge at the Power choose to use Lane and hoping the young talent gets an injury free run.

Lane comes from a basketball background, having played at representative level for Korumburra and bringing valuable skills to her footy.

Local representation in Gippsland Power Boys squad

BASS Coast Shire footy clubs are well represented in this year's Gippsland Power Under 18 Boys squad, most notably Phillip Island which had three players selected, underlining the club's junior depth, Inverloch-Kongwak with two.

Finn O'Brien, Zac Walker and Yianni Caffieri are the trio of Bulldogs selected.

Seventeen-year-old Caffieri had a taste of footy at this level last season, pulling on the Gippsland Power jumper in August against the Dandenong Stingrays.

He played 20 WGFNL Senior matches for Phillip Island during the year, being part of the Grand Final side that finished runner-up to Nar Nar Goon and managed five games for the Bulldogs' Thirds.

His jam-packed season also included taking the field during the Gippsland Interleague Carnival and playing for Newhaven College in Division 2 of the Herald Sun Shield.

O'Brien is the same age, a Newhaven College teammate of Caffieri and managed six games for Gippsland Power last year, also featuring in five Senior and 10 Thirds matches for the Bulldogs.

Walker, another Newhaven



Willem Duursma in his final year at Gippsland Power will be sought after in this year's AFL draft. Photo: Josh Chadwick AFL Photos

College student, was a Grand Final teammate of Caffieri's in the 2024 Senior Grand Final, compiling 16 games at that level for the season, along with five matches in the Bulldogs' Thirds, and saw action in the Junior Interleague Under 18 competition.

Jobe Scapin and Archie Terlich are the Inverloch-Kongwak players picked in the Power squad.

Scapin, another 17-year-old,

has had a couple of seasons with Power, for which he appeared 12 times last campaign, and also represented the Sea Eagles Seniors twice, along with two matches in the Thirds.

Also 17, Terlich represented Gippsland Power nine times last season, managing 10 Senior games for the Sea Eagles including a couple of finals.

Wonthaggi's Thomas Macmillan had a good taste of Senior

action last campaign, including a couple of finals, also representing the club's Fourths and managing two games for Gippsland Power in its Under 16 outfit.

Shifting focus to South Gippsland, Foster's Willem Duursma continues to prepare to join his brothers in the AFL, the 17-year-old entering his third and final season with Power for which he played 15 games in 2024 booting as many goals.

He squeezed in three matches last season with Foster's Seniors, slotting two goals on a couple of occasions, including against eventual Premier Fish Creek, and also represented Vic Country in the AFL National Championships for Under 18s.

Hamish Gill is Leongatha's only Gippsland Power representative, with Clancy Snell achieving that honour for Mirboo North.

Sixteen-year-old Gill played a couple of games for Power's Under 16s last year, having a mixture of Thirds and Fourths footy for the Parrots.

Snell managed an Under 16 game for Power in 2024, representing that age division for both Traralgon and Mirboo North.

Matt Stevic does us proud in milestone game

Leongatha's own Matt Stevic celebrated his 500th AFL game, taking charge of the Melbourne versus Giants contest at the MCG.



FORMER Leongatha Secondary College student and South Gippsland Umpires Association product, Matt Stevic has capped his status as Australia's premier AFL umpire by officiating at his 500th game on Sunday at the MCG.

He joined fellow 500-gamer and regular grand final partner Simon Meredith passing the incredible milestone previously only achieved by two

others, current games record holder Brett Rosebury, who is on track to reach 550 in round 17, and Shane McInerney who was the first to reach the figure in 2019 but has since retired.

Since Stevic and Meredith umpired their first grand final in 2012, they've gone on to umpire a further seven together (2014, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024), Matt Stevic umpiring 12 season

finales and Meredith nine.

The South Gippsland Umpires Association panel was quick to post its thoughts online.

"Congratulations to Leongatha's own Matt Stevic, who will officiate his 500th AFL game this Sunday when Melbourne takes on GWS at the MCG.

"Since making his AFL debut in 2004, Matt has umpired 12 AFL Grand Finals

and earned nine AFL All-Australian selections, building an incredible career over more than two decades.

"500 games at the top level is an extraordinary achievement. Congratulations to the GOAT."

Stevic has always been free with his time back in South Gippsland regularly attending season launch events and professional development events locally.

Mid Gippland Football Netball League 2025 season preview

AN EXTRAORDINARY amount of movement in the off-season has set the foundation for a most intriguing 2025 MGFNL season.

The 2023 and 2024 premiers Fish Creek are aspiring to do what only three other clubs have managed to achieve in the history of the competition, and that is to win three successive premierships.

Only Newborough 1988, 89, 90, Yinnar 1969, 70, 71 and Hazelwood in 51, 52 and 53 can lay claim to such an extraordinary achievement.

The Kangaroos have once again presented very well in their pre-season and appear to be the benchmark in the upcoming season, but as round one looms all coaches are confident that they too are well placed for an improved 2025.

Fish Creek – Jarrod Walker

Not a huge amount of player movement which helps, we just have to keep the fire burning.

We have lost a couple of defenders and an on-baller, but we feel as though we've replaced what we've lost and there might be some positional changes.

Our build up has been good and our locals have been excellent, our thirds as a standalone team is great news.

Our Melbourne players are doing what is needed and we will play two practice games against Korumburra and Yarram.

The replay of the Grand Final to start the year is great,

By Rob Popplestone

the competition is so even and looks like it will be tough work again.

Foster – Sam Davies

I am going around for another year and have identified we probably needed more depth and more speed which I think we've done pretty well.

Towards the end of last year, a couple of injuries really tested us, but this year's preseason has been great with some really good numbers and some great leadership from returning players.

It is probably our best preseason for a few years, we play Yallourn-Yallourn North at Foster in a practice game, and we have a bye in round one before we meet up with Newborough in the second round.

MDU – Rhett Kelly

I have a family connection with the club my Dad had a long time involvement.

After coaching the Leongatha reserves this position was ideal for me when it opened up.

I feel as though as they needed some on field leadership and attracting some players from the Parrots I think will be good and the juniors here at the Demons are also quality.

Preseason has been outstanding with about thirty, and off-field the club is really well set up which means I can concentrate on coaching.

We have practice games against Dalyston and Korumburra, but our focus now is on

round one against Newborough on their home deck.

Mirboo North – Damian Turner

The boys are up and about, and we are happy.

We needed fitness first of all, last year we were a bit behind but this season we are on track.

We are still a young side and have secured some midfield depth and key position players, so we have some down the line strength and support.

Ninety per cent of our boys are local which helps our training and our under eighteens are now starting to show a bit.

We play Churchill in a practice match, Thorpdale as well and then its Hill End first up on their home ground.

Stony Creek – Troy Shepherdson

I have been at Stony for the past two years and I am looking forward to taking the reins in 2025 really wanting to improve fitness, game sense, what to do when we have momentum and importantly also what to do when we have not.

We have two practice games against Poowong and Longwarry, our younger kids are coming along with more exposure to senior football which is important and then it is Boolarra first up for us, getting off to a winning start is crucial for us and then so it's a great way to start the season.

Tarwin – Lachie Jones

I'm a Wonthaggi boy through and through and my family is

very much involved with the Power, but an opportunity presented itself at the Sharks and here we go.

Coaching has always had me curious and although last year the depth of the club fell away, if we can improve the bottom six of our senior squad, that would be key.

We identified it was mainly forwards that we needed and pressure to keep the ball in there also.

Troy Harley and Jordan Staley are great pick-ups for us.

Nathan McRae as a key position back and ruckman and tops off a good trio of players that engages the squad.

A practice match against Longwarry will be good for us.

Toora first up in round one who gave us a touch up late last year is a good start.

Toora – Jai Accardi

Jack Weston (2024 coach) is still very much, hands on which is great for the club, we identified a couple of areas we needed to improve on and I think we have.

Gus Gordon as ruckman will be back after basically a year off, Mick Bezene and Sam Smart as mid-forwards, Lachie Smart in key position and Jordan French as a half-back are all great pick-ups.

We had a good group training at Mornington as well as here at Toora, a preseason practice match against Nyora and an intra-club will be enough before a really tough start to 2025 meeting Tarwin, followed by Fish Creek and Yinnar.

Two Bass Coast clubs represented in Gippy Power U16 Boys squad

A PAIR of Wonthaggi juniors and one from Phillip Island are part of this season's Gippsland Power Under 16 Boys squad.

Billy Wyhoon and Archie Jobe are the Wonthaggi representatives, with Charlie Fischer the squad's other player from a Bass Coast Shire team.

Wyhoon represented Gippsland Rising Stars last season against East Rising Stars, also playing for the Southern Gippsland Under 15s in the Gippsland All Stars competition.

He managed 19 matches in Wonthaggi's Fourths during 2024 including a final, regularly featuring on Power's best players list, and booted 16 goals.

While a smaller player, he's strong and competes fiercely at stoppages, tough to beat one on one and able to break tackles when he has the footy or make them stick when his opponent is in possession.

He looks likely to spend time in the midfield for Gippsland Power but is a capable small forward and accurate set shot, having impressive pace.

Jobe also lined up for the Gippsland Rising Stars and the Southern Gippsland All Stars last year, he and Wyhoon both featured in the 2024 V/Line Cup competition in which they played for Gippsland Power at Under 15 level.

Jobe appeared 18 times for Wonthaggi's Fourths, including a taste of finals action.

He's generally a backman, something that is likely to continue with Gippsland Power but has the versatility to fill other roles.

His dad Glenn Jobe coached Archie in Wonthaggi Under 16s, commenting, "He's a pretty good two-way runner," he said of his son's ability to run with the footy or apply defensive pressure as needed.

Fischer featured in the same representative sides as Wyhoon and Jobe, also taking the field for the World Team against the Flying Boomerangs.

He was part of the Phillip Island Fourths side that was beaten by Warragul Industrials in last year's Grand Final, making 16 appearances for the Bulldogs at that age level during the season.

While Fischer tended to play off half-back at Phillip Island, he appears earmarked for forward duties at Gippsland Power, being skilful and fast with the spring in his step to take terrific marks, being tough to match up on.

Trio of locals in Gippsland Power U16 Girls squad

A COUPLE of Phillip Island players and one from Meeniyian Dumbalk United are in this year's Gippsland Power Under 16 Girls squad.

Gemma Fischer and Ruby Kent-Ford are the chosen Bulldogs, with Ellison Bickerton flying the flag for MDU.

Bickerton played a full season of netball for Leongatha last year at 15 and Under level being joint runner-up in the club's Best and Fairest, and also represents Leongatha Lightning's Under 16 basketball side.

She also squeezed in a couple of games of footy for the Gippsland Power Under 16 side last year as well as representing Mirboo North in Under 14 mixed competition.

"She's a head down, get the ball kind of player with good skills," Mirboo North Under 18s coach Brett Guy said.

Fischer played for Phillip Island Youth Girls, the Phillip Island Bulldogs Under 14 Girls and a mixed Phillip Island Under 14 side during a busy 2024.

"Gemma's a little pocket rocket, she's a powerful athlete, can run and jump and has good skills both sides of her body," Phillip Island Football Club president Chris Ross said.

Kent-Ford featured in the West Kimberley Football League last season, representing Broome Towns Sports Club being a part of the action in the Grand Final against the Cable Beach Greenbacks. She had an early setback at Gippsland Power, suffering a concussion in a practice match, so those at the club are looking forward to seeing what she can do on her return to action.

C GRADE DIVISION 1

Nerrena 0/87 d Town 76
Town – 1st INNINGS: T Cashin 13, A Aeschlimann 2, H Livingstone 5, T Strybosch 35, P J Kallookkaran 2, D Wilson 2, K Oates 0, J Aeschlimann 6, C Smith 3, H Aeschlimann 1*, J Cashin 0
Bowling: S Murphy 1/7, E Berryman 1/16, C Baudinette 4/6, C Marinou 0/18, J Donohue 1/14, D Grigg 1/10, B Salmon 1/0, B Gannon 1/1
Nerrena – 1st INNINGS: B Trotman 40*
W Cocksedge 30, D Grigg 9*
Bowling: T Strybosch 0/22, P J Kallookkaran 0/21, H Livingstone 0/9, D Wilson 0/9, J Aeschlimann 0/11, C Smith 0/7

OMK 2/64 d Phillip Island 62
Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: B Marshall 0, T Blackwell 1, T Hornsby 18, A Williams 1, L Ferrari 5, D Ivey 8, D McCausland 19*, S Di Falco 2, Z Hughes 0, J Marshall 0, L Cleary 0
Bowling: R White 1/7, T Nicholas 1/10, J Myers 2/24, J Greenwood 1/16, B Hayes 2/4
OMK – 1st INNINGS: R White 1, C Hart 18, B Hayes 35*, M Nicholas 8*
Bowling: J Marshall 0/11, L Ferrari 1/10, A Williams 0/17, S Di Falco 0/10, T Hornsby 1/1, T Blackwell 0/9, L Cleary 0/4

Club 102 d Korumburra 101
Club – 1st INNINGS: W Speed 6, C Fraser 23, J Caddy 4, T Dubas-Jacobs 14, J Licis 8, B Harvey 6, M Chisholm 4, L McRae 1, L Borne 15, A Babu 13*, M Sharp 2
Bowling: D Scott 4/19, G Edwards 0/15, P Beadel 2/31, H Jefferis 2/9, S Harland 2/15, M Foote 0/9
Korumburra – 1st INNINGS: S Harland 12, J Wrigley 12, I Riddell 18, P Beadel 1, D Scott 22, R Gallagher 4, T Morrison 0, G Edwards 4, L Gallagher 0, R Butler 16, H Jefferis 2*
Bowling: L Borne 0/11, C Fraser 1/8, B Harvey 1/31, J Licis 0/12, S Liddle 6/21, L McRae 0/7, A Babu 0/7

Kilcunda Bass – BYE

C GRADE DIVISION 2

OMK 1/205 d Phillip Island 4/204
Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: P Francis 82, J Manning 65, S Niven 26, D Mani 15*, R Hughes 0, W Paterson 3*
Bowling: Private Player 0/1, J Battersby 0/30, M Whiteside 1/30, L Maskell 0/32, R Waytt 0/21, M Whiteside 1/38, A Halliwell 0/25, M Walker 1/24
OMK – 1st INNINGS: M Walker 108*, D Wylie 54, C Walker 2*
Bowling: S Sirirathnage 0/43, D Mani 0/40, P Francia 1/15, R Hughes 0/30, J Parry 0/28, J Manning 0/13, R Paterson 0/25

Glen Alvie 4/177 d Koon L/RSL 174
Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS: J Pickersgill 31, D Hanily 2, G Matthies 21, R Collins 9, D Isgro 26, J Hawkins 0, S Paterson 55, A Piksons 2, D Yuthmika 2, N Botha 9
Bowling: J Hynes 0/16, G Luff 1/42, N Luff 2/30, T Bolding 3/16, L Ton 0/30, C Andersen 0/20, W Bridle 1/12, O Luff 1/2
Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS: K Andersen 1, C Andersen 49, J Cuttriss 10, I Thorn 73*, O Luff 12, L Ton 15*
Bowling: T Lund 2/18, S Paterson 0/20, D Yuthmika 0/35, J Hawkins 1/36, A Piksons 0/32, J Pickersgill 0/29

MDU 8/133 d Inverloch 7/132
Inverloch – 1st INNINGS: D Harris 33, W Stewart 9, J Foote 16, W Rankin 29, J Smith 17, M Asbury 12, M Woods 2*, I Richardson 0, A Parker 1*
Bowling: K Brown 0/15, L Webb 2/42, K Sinclair 0/16, C Hooper 2/14, C Fisher 0/16, S Riley 3/23, T Cocksedge 0/3
MDU – 1st INNINGS: C Fisher 3, K Sinclair 4, T Cocksedge 39, C Hooper 43, M Martin 9, T Bright 1, S Riley 10, L Webb 1, G Webster 11*, K Brown 6*
Bowling: I Richardson 2/30, W Rankin 1/12, A Parker 0/38, J Smith 3/18, M Asbury 2/29, W Stewart 0/5

Nyora – BYE



Phillip Island’s John Manning stays steady. Ns61_1125

Red Caps share in another victory

C GRADE DIVISION 1

C1 MINOR premier Nerrena issued one final slaughter ahead of the finals with a clear-cut victory over Leongatha Town.

Town hosted Nerrena, and the home side won the toss and chose to bat.

In a team effort, which saw seven bowlers share in the glory, Nerrena made its way through Town’s batting order.

Tim Cashin opened for Town and put 13 runs on the board.

Fourth bat Travis Strybosch top scored with 35 runs, but these were the only notable scores in the innings.

Nerrena’s Cameron Baudinette led his team to victory by taking 4/6.

Single wickets were taken by Shem Murphy, Eamon Berryman, Jack Donohue, Daniel Grigg, Brendan Salmon and captain Brian Gannon.

Town was bowled out 10/76.

Nerrena batsmen Billy Trotman and Wayne Cocksedge claimed the win.

Trotman made 40 not out and Cocksedge made 30 runs before he retired not out.

Grigg polished off the innings with nine runs.

Nerrena’s winning score was 0/87 from 15 overs.

Club scrapes past Korumburra by one

A CLOSE battle was waged between Wonthaggi Club and Korumburra, with Club ultimately coming out on top by one run.

Club went into bat first and, despite 23 runs made by Chris Fraser, the top of the order was wiped out by Korumburra’s Darren Scott.

Scott claimed 4/19, but Korumburra wasn’t done there, as Fraser’s 23 was the top score of the innings.

Trae Dudas-Jacobs made 14 runs before he fell victim to Scott, and Luke Borne and Alan Babu made 15 and 13 runs respectively at the tail end of the innings.

Korumburra bowlers Patrick Beadel, Hudson Jefferis and Shayne Harland claimed two wickets each, bowling out Club at 10/102.

The pressure was on for Club to defend its score.

Captain Sam Liddle made a great response on behalf of his team, claiming 6/21.

Scott made Korumburra’s top score of 22 runs, with Iain Riddell making 18 runs and Rhys Butler finishing off with 16 runs. Club’s other wicket takers were Fraser and Bailey Harvey.

Club just made it, bowling out Korumburra 10/101.

OMK finishes strong

OMK ended the home and away season with a win against Phillip Island.

Playing at the Cowes Recreation Reserve, Phillip Island won the toss and chose to bat first.

A hiccup to start left it up to third bat Tony Hornsby to put a score on the board.

Hornsby made 18 runs before he was caught by Toby Nicholas off the bowling of Jordan Myers.

Daniel McCausland later top-scored with 19 not out.

OMK bowler Brad Hayes went on a run to finish the innings, dismissing Jaxen Marshall for a duck and Zack Hughes and Liam Cleary (run out) for golden ducks. Hayes claimed 2/4 and Myers took 2/24.

Single wickets were taken by Russ White, Nicholas and Justin Greenwood.

Phillip Island’s innings ended when it was bowled 10/62.

White and Craig Hart opened for OMK, with White dismissed early when his wicket fell to Lawrence Ferrari for one run.

Hart and Hayes were the next partnership in, making 18 and 35 runs respectively.

Hart’s wicket was taken by Hornsby and Hayes was not out at the end of the game.

Hayes saw out the innings with Mitchell Nicholas, who made eight runs.

OMK’s final score was 2/64.

Kilcunda-Bass had the bye.

The C1 semi-finals will be played this Saturday.

Semi-final one will be between Nerrena and Korumburra, and semi-final two will see Wonthaggi Club take on OMK.

C GRADE DIVISION 2

Stingrays hold onto minor premier title

ALTHOUGH MDU upset Inverloch on Saturday, the Stingrays maintained the top of the ladder to see out the home and away season.

MDU won the toss and chose to let Inverloch bat first.

David Harris made a strong start to the innings with 33 runs.

A further 29 runs were added by fourth bat Will Rankin.

For MDU, Stephen Riley had the best bowling figures taking 3/23.

Lochlan Webb and Craig Hooper claimed two wickets each.

Inverloch played out its 35 overs and made 7/132.

MDU’s opening partnership of Clayton Fisher and Kurt Sinclair was quickly dismissed, but that opened the door for Tyler Cocksedge and Hooper to step in.

Cocksedge made 39 runs and Hooper made 43 runs – scores that would make all the difference.

Inverloch bowlers Jason Smith, Michael Asbury, Isaac Richardson and Rankin ensured MDU’s scoring opportunities were limited from then on.

Smith had Inverloch’s top bowling figures, taking 3/18.

However, MDU just got itself over the line, making 8/133 before the end of its innings.

Walker’s century powers OMK

PHILLIP Island recorded some excellent scores on Saturday, but it still couldn’t match OMK.

The Sharks travelled to Digger Park, where they won the toss and chose to bat first.

Peter Francis and John Manning opened for Phillip Island, making 82 and 65 runs respectively.

The score was 1/109 when Manning’s wicket was the first to fall, taken by Matt Whiteside. Steven Niven stepped up and added 26 runs to the tally.

Deane Mani added 15 not out, Ryan Hughes was run out for a golden duck and Wade Paterson

made three not out.

For OMK, wickets were also taken by captain Michael Whiteside and Mathew Walker.

Phillip Island was ready to defend 4/204, but OMK had other plans.

OMK sent out Walker and Donald Wylie to open, who made 108 and 54 not out respectively.

Wylie was dismissed LBW by Peter Francis, which sent in Craig Walker.

Craig Walker had time to add two runs to the tally and was not out when OMK had the game.

OMK’s winning score was 1/205.

Bolding’s bowling and Thorn’s batting seal Glen Alvie’s win

GLEN Alvie celebrated a win against Koonwarra L/RSL at the Leongatha Velodrome.

Koonwarra L/RSL won the toss and chose to bat.

Captain Jordan Pickersgill opened with 31 runs.

Dan Isgro made 26 runs and the top score was made by vice-captain Shane Paterson with 55 runs.

Tai Bolding was Glen Alvie’s top bowler, taking 3/16, and Nate Luff claimed 2/30.

Koonwarra L/RSL was bowled out 10/174.

Tyson Lund put the pressure on Glen Alvie as he dismissed opening batsman Kent Andersen for one run and third bat John Cuttriss for 10 runs.

However, the partnership of opening batsman Charlie Andersen and captain Ian Thorn combined well to make 49 and 73 runs respectively.

Thorn was not out at the end of the match.

Lund took 2/18, with Jack Hawkins the only other wicket-taker.

Glen Alvie won with a score of 4/177.

Nyora had the final-round bye.

C2 will now be gearing up for finals with Inverloch facing Glen Alvie and Phillip Island playing against MDU.



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Inverloch's Walter Taberner delivered 14 overs against Nerrena. Ns64_1125

First place finish for the Red Caps

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

A 103-run haul from Loc Roberts saw Nerrena finish the home and away season on top of the B1 ladder.

Playing at Thompson Reserve in Inverloch, Nerrena was chasing Inverloch's score of 10/209.

Kade Berryman and Roberts were sent in to open the Red Caps' innings.

Berryman made 12 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Dean Cashin.

James Kelly entered and put 57 runs on the board.

Kelly was caught by Jay Mottram Carter off the bowling of Walter Taberner, and fourth bat and vice-captain Damien Symmons contributed 14 runs before he was dismissed by Brett Debono.

Joel Renden saw out the innings with Roberts.

Renden made 14 runs, and they were both not out when the game was won.

Nerrena's winning tally was 3/210.

Club crushes MDU, storms into finals

WONTHAGGI Club secured a massive victory to propel it into the finals.

Club was defending a very comfortable 7/369 at the Dumbalk Recreation Reserve against MDU.

Dale Thomas and Troy Sinclair were sent into bat first for MDU.

Sinclair was dismissed LBW by Club captain Sean Roche for 11 runs, which sent in Dylan Zuidema.

Zuidema top scored with 52 runs, while Thomas contributed 29 runs.

Tailenders Simon McRae and captain Tyrone Zukovskis added 30 and 24 runs respectively, with McRae not out at the end of the innings, but it wasn't going to be enough to catch Club.

Shaun Tessari had Club's best bowling figures, taking 4/38.

Three wickets were taken by Roche and two were claimed by Mohamed Ashik Mohamed Nizar.



Nerrena's Loc Roberts prepares for the shot. Ns66_1125

MDU was bowled out 10/177 after 46 overs.

OMK ends season in style

OMK celebrated the end of the season with a first-innings win over Korumburra.

The onslaught from the OMK bowlers left Korumburra stunned and bowled out 10/96 the previous week.

OMK then stepped in and made 4/150.

Coming into Saturday's match, OMK opted to declare and sent Korumburra into bat again for a crack at an outright win.

Trevor Allen and Caleb Turton opened Korumburra's second innings.

They contributed the best scores of the day with Allen making 57 and Turton 18.

Fifteen runs were added by third bat Jakeb Jorgensen.

OMK bowler Jake Cochrane took the most wickets with 2/34.

Singles were claimed by Nick Wylie and captain Adam Busana. Korumburra played out its 65 overs, resulting in a score of 5/144.

Phillip Island had the bye.

B1 now looks to the semi-finals where Nerrena will take

on Inverloch and Wonthaggi Club will come up against Phillip Island.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Foster overthrow Town

IN AN upset, Foster topped Leongatha Town in the 11th hour from the top of the ladder to be crowned the 2024/25 B2 minor premiers.

Foster and Town faced off at the Foster Cricket Ground, and Town was chasing Foster's 10/242.

Opening batsman Trent McRae was quickly dismissed for one run.

He was caught by Brett Gay off the bowling of Chris Ford.

The partnership of Mark Hardy and Colin Bruce had Town in better position, as they made 36 and 53 runs respectively.

Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe made 26 runs, but the Foster bowlers ensured the run rate was low for the second half of the batting order.

Ford took 5/33 and Jack Gay took 3/32.

Single wickets were taken by Neil Henry and Shaun Chaseling.

Town conceded defeat – and the top of the ladder – with a score of 10/153.

Nyora's nail-biting win

NYORA came out on top after a battle with Glen Alvie at the Nyora Recreation Reserve.

Glen Alvie went into Saturday's game looking to defend 10/204.

Nyora opening batsman Aaron Thompson had the ball rolling with 28 runs,

However, a slew of wickets taken by Glen Alvie bowler Ned Brown had Nyora in trouble.

A second wind saw Jake Henry and Benn Hayes make 27 and 24 runs respectively, and tailenders Colin Knox and Mitch Rowe finish off with 68 and 36 not out.

Brown claimed 3/39 and Glen Alvie captain Darcy Hale took 2/54.

Nyora won the game with a score of 7/208.

Imperials dominate

THE Imperials ended the home and away season on a high note with a comfortable win over Koonwarra L/RSL.

Koonwarra L/RSL had been bowled out 10/99 and the Imperials resumed their innings from 4/79.

Gary Sauvarin and James Forrester were at the crease.

While Forrester was dismissed for eight runs by Glenn Boxall, Sauvarin went on to make 57 runs before he was bowled out by Matthew Boswell.

Cooper Rickard and Martin Reidy added 13 and 18 runs respectively towards the end of the innings, with Reidy finishing up not out.

Koonwarra L/RSL's Louis Read took the most wickets with 3/23.

Boxall and Boswell took two wickets each.

The Imperials won with a final score of 10/192.

Kilcunda-Bass had the bye.

The B2 semi-final will play out this weekend.

Foster will challenge Koonwarra L/RSL and Leongatha Town will battle it out with the Imperials.



Patterson selected for 2025 World Athletics Indoor Championships

A POWERFUL blend of world champions, Olympic medallists and rising stars will represent Australia at the 2025 World Athletics Indoor Championships in Nanjing, China, from March 21 to 23.

Paris bronze medallist, 2022 world champion and former Leongatha local Eleanor Patterson will feature in the 20-strong line up.

Reigning champion and dual silver medallist Nicola Olyslagers will join Patterson in the international high jump campaign.

"The World Athletics Indoor Championships have long been a fruitful stage for Australian athletics," Australian Athletics general manager – high performance Andrew Faichney said.

"We have some fantastic athletes on this team, with no less than five global medallists and we are looking forward to seeing what this team can do, particularly as we inch closer to the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo this September."

The 2025 World Athletics Indoor Championships will be broadcast on SBS On Demand, and SBS Viceland.

B GRADE	DIVISION 1
OMK 4-d/150 d Korumburra 96 & 5/144 OMK – 1st INNINGS: A Busana 50, K Kerr 72*, R White 19, N Wylie 1, M Andrew 6, M Sawyers 1* Bowling: J Douglas 2/49, A Damon 0/24, N Belvedere 0/35, O Maskell 0/34, S McKinnon 2/7 Korumburra – 2nd INNINGS: T M Allen 57, C Turton 18, J Jorgensen 15, A Damon 0, Z Barrett 7, P Richards 7*, T Dole 10* Bowling: M Andrew 0/19, K Kerr 0/9, J Cochrane 2/34, B Maguire 0/7, N Wylie 1/24, A Busana 1/10, D Wylie 0/10, M Sawyers 0/6, M Sawyers 0/6, D Jeffries 0/1, P Fermanis 0/4	
Nerrena 3/210 d Inverloch 209 Nerrena – 1st INNINGS: K Berryman 12, L Roberts 103*, J Kelly 57, D Symmons 14, J Renden 16* Bowling: C O'Flynn 0/48, D Cashin 1/33, J Mottram Carter 0/27, W Taberner 1/44, C Butler 0/27, B Debono 1/21, N McMillan 0/3	
Club 7/369 d MDU 177 MDU – 1st INNINGS: D Thomas 29, T Sinclair 11, D Zuidema 52, C McCaughan 8, R Prosser 2, G Batten 0, M Olden 10, S Mcrae 30*, T Zukovskis 24, J Palmer 1, G Casey 0 Bowling: M A Mohamed Nizar 2/25, S Tessari 4/38, S Roche 3/60, B Evans 1/22, H Dobbie 0/25	
Phillip Island - BYE	
B GRADE	DIVISION 2
Foster 242 v Town Match Abandoned	
Nyora 7/208 d Glen Alvie 204 Nyora – 1st INNINGS: A Thompson 28, L Row 6, L Brock 3, J Knox 3, J Waixel 0, J Henry 27, B Hayes 24, C Knox 68*, M Rowe 36* Bowling: L McRae 0/19, D Hale 2/54, J Brown 1/31, N Brown 3/39, G Hynes 0/30, R Spiteri-Stevens 1/27, T Bais 0/7	
Imperials 192 d Koonwarra L/RSL 99 Imperials – 1st INNINGS: K Maskell 28, M Lafferty 13, K Gray 15, S Vagg 0, G Sauvarin 57, J Forrester 8, A Meyer 4, C Bruce 8, C Rickard 13, M Reidy 18*, J Jeffery 6 Bowling: G Boxall 2/22, M Boswell 2/52, L Read 3/23, N Arnup 1/28, K Thorne 1/40, C Riseley 1/13	
Kilcunda Bass – BYE	



Nyora celebrate the dismissal. Ns57_1125

Jack finishes the season with a ton

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

JACK Butcher's century saw Inverloch secure A2's minor premiership for the 2024/25 season.

Inverloch was chasing MDU's 10/84 and sailed to victory at Meeniyau Recreation Reserve.

MDU knew it was going to be a tough ask after it struggled through its first innings.

The home side had suffered at the hands of Lewis Rankin, who had claimed five wickets and contributed heavily to MDU's low run rate.

Butcher was at the crease with Rhys Newman on Saturday, who made 73 runs before he was caught by Zak Bright off the bowling of Tharidu Nuwan.

Dylan Clark stepped up next and made 57 not out.

Nyora smashes it outta the park

NYORA is going into the finals series with a spring in its step after a convincing win over Glen Alvie.

Glen Alvie was challenged with chasing 7/263 and was unable to build the momentum required to catch its opponent.

Glen Alvie was off to a slow start when it lost Archie Donohue for a duck.

Opening batsman Archie Moore was joined by Matthew Donohue at the crease, but Moore was caught by Jy Hull for 10 runs off the bowling of Reece Cordeux.

Glen Alvie then lost Matthew Dakin, captain Ben McRae and Harvey Smith for ducks at the hands of Cordeux and Aaron Kaddatz.

Matthew Donohue went on to make 23 runs, but this was Glen Alvie's top score.

Tailender Zack Scholz tried to salvage the score and added another 21 runs.

The game was called in the 42nd over with Glen Alvie bowled out 10/94.

Sharks snap victory

KILCUNDA-Bass triumphed over Foster at the Bass Recreation Reserve.

Going into Saturday having already made 1/75, Robert Wallace and Jaydan Tregear resumed the innings.

Wallace made 58 runs and Tregear made 24.

The top score was made by captain Matthew Grayson, who made 59 not out.

Todd Smith was also not out at stumps and made 26 runs.

Foster's best bowlers were Josh Toner with 2/23 and a private player with 2/30.

The only other wicket was taken by Andrew Pattie.

Kilcunda-Bass' winning score was 5/190.

A2 now turns its attention to the semi-finals.

The first semi-final will be battled out between Inverloch and MDU, and the second semi-final will be played out between Nyora and Kilcunda-Bass.



It's all over for Glen Alvie's Andrew Dakin after a perfect ball from Michael Lynch skittled the stumps. Ns56_1125



The second time round Nyora got ahead of themselves celebrating too early as the batter was not out. Ns58_1125



Tyler Perkins launches it down the pitch. Ns59_1125

A GRADE DIVISION 1

Phillip Island 6/239 d Town 236

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS

Lachlan Cleeland b: A Fixter	37
Kurt Lane c: R Hume b: J Hume	28
Brodie Johnston c: J Giardina b: J Hume	0
Daniel Mock not out	101*
Thomas Niven c: J Giardina b: M Madusanka	1
Jarrold Black c: B De Saram b: M Madusanka	19
Kohen Beaumont b: M Madusanka	41
Max Royal not out	7*
Extras (1w, 4nb)	5

Total 6 / 239 (59.2 Overs)

Bowling: J Hume 13-2-52-2 (1nb), R Hume 5-0-40-0 (2nb), A Fixter 2-0-17-1, M Madusanka 21-8-52-3, B Wakishta 7.2-1-28-0, B De Saram 3-0-7-0 (1w), R Abeyasinghe 4-1-13-0, E Smith 1-0-16-0 (1nb), DLMP Gallage 3-0-14-0

OMK 154 & d-3/92 d Korumburra 104

OMK – 2nd INNINGS

Clayton Quaife lbw: GSA Mudalige	30
Zavier Lamers lbw: S Dole	0
Ethan Lamers not out	33*
Koby Brann c: R Rangana b: T Crocker	25
Jacob Lamers not out	0*
Extras (1w, 1nb, 1lb, 1b)	4

Total 3 / 92 (35 Overs)

Bowling: M Nader 8-5-13-0, GSA Mudalige 6-1-13-1 (1w), T Crocker 2-0-11-1 (1nb), S Dole 8-6-8-1, L Dole 4-0-15-0, M Young 6-2-23-0, J Richards 1-0-7-0

Imperials d-9/187 d Koonwarra L/RSL 78

Imperials – 1st INNINGS

Campbell Reid c: B Smith b: J Kennedy	12
Jack Ginnane c: M Cooke b: J Kennedy	63
Aydan Williams c&b: J Rushton	31
Timothy Sauvarin c: M Cooke b: J Thomas	20
Nick Eddy c: J Kennedy b: J Thomas	0
Luke Rogers c: J Thomas b: J Kennedy	25
Rowen McLennan c: J Rushton b: J Kennedy	0
Lachie Wright c: J Rushton b: J Kennedy	0
Fill-in not out	3*
Isaac Bolge b: M Cooke	11
Extras (6w, 9nb, 2lb, 5b)	22

Total 9 / 187 (55.3 Overs)

Bowling: J Thomas 11-2-43-2 (6nb), B Smith 4-0-12-0, S Chadwick 6-2-11-0, J Kennedy 18-4-45-5, W Cashin 4-0-14-0, C Buckland 3-0-22-0 (6w), J Rushton 8-0-25-1 (3nb), M Cooke 1.3-1-8-1

Club 252 d Nerrena 151

Nerrena – 1st INNINGS

Jack Curtis c: M Thomas b: J Brann	5
Hayden Funnell c: J Sheerin b: F West	5
Tadhg Gannon b: J Brann	13
Darcy Berryman lbw: F West	5
Thomas Cameron c: J Sheerin b: J Brann	3
Mitchell Clark lbw: R Thomas	35
Mitchell Croatto c: J Sheerin b: M McCall	15
Timothy Wightman c: G Britt b: J Brann	25
Jarrold Hoy c: J Sheerin b: R Thomas	31
Archie Gannon b: R Thomas	4
Josh Trease not out	0*
Extras (5w, 5lb)	10

Total 10 / 151 (55.5 Overs)

Bowling: J Brann 19-7-29-4, F West 8-2-20-2, J Thomas 1-0-6-0 (5w), J Sheerin 13-2-52-0, M McCall 7-2-14-1, R Thomas 7.5-1-25-3

A GRADE DIVISION 2

Kilcunda-Bass 5/190 d Foster 188

Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS

Brad Wright c: M Jones b: A Pattie	6
Robert Wallace c: Private player b: J Toner	58
Jaydan Tregear b: Private player	24
Cameron Davidson c: M Jones b: J Toner	4
Matthew Grayson not out	59*
Ash Larcombe c: B East b: Private player	5
Todd Smith not out	26*
Extras (4w, 4b)	8

Total 5 / 190 (57 Overs)

Bowling: M Cooke 7-0-35-0, A Pattie 5-0-24-1 (4w), B East 2-0-10-0, O Rook 9-2-35-0, J Toner 14-6-23-2, Private player 14-4-30-2, E Smith 5-1-20-0, T Dyson 1-0-9-0

Nyora 7/263 d Glen Alvie 94

Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS

Archie Moore c: J Hull b: R Cordeux	10
Archie Donohue c: J Hull b: A Kaddatz	0
Matthew Donohue c: S Peatling b: A Kaddatz	23
Matthew Dakin b: A Kaddatz	0
Ben McRae b: R Cordeux	0
Harvey Smith b: R Cordeux	0
Andrew Dakin b: M Lynch	5
Edward Spiteri-Stevens c: A Kaddatz b: T Perkins	8
Wayne Luke b: T Perkins	4
Zack Scholz c: A Kaddatz b: H Dolphin	21
Archie Luke not out	9*
Extras (11w, 2nb, 1b)	14

Total 10 / 94 (41.5 Overs)

Bowling: A Kaddatz 10-3-19-3, R Cordeux 11-5-16-3, T Perkins 8-0-22-2 (7w), M Lynch 5-2-9-1 (3w), H Dolphin 4.5-0-11-1, D Esler 2-0-16-0 (1w, 2nb), S Peatling 1-1-0-0

Inverloch 2/249 d MDU 84

Inverloch – 1st INNINGS

Riley Harris lbw: S Browne	4
Rhys Newman c: Z Bright b: T Nuwan	73
Jack Butcher not out	101*
Dylan Clark not out	57*
Extras (3w, 3nb, 3lb, 5b)	14

Total 2 / 249 (88 Overs)

Bowling: S Bright 18-7-33-0 (1nb), S Browne 21-15-12-1 (1w), SC Lakshan 24-8-79-0 (3w), T Nuwan 13-1-54-1, Z Bright 4-0-18-0, S Arnup 6-0-30-0 (1nb), A Richardson 2-0-15-0



Former Inverloch-Kongwak, Leongatha and Gippsland Power player, Xavier Lindsay, made an impressive start to his AFL career last Saturday when he collected 22 possessions during a thrilling game against the Giants. Photo: Rob Prezioso. Congratulating Xavier in the rooms afterwards are proud parents Mark and Kate Lindsay of Inverloch.

Slashing debut by new Demon Lindsay

IF THEY didn't know who Xavier Lindsay was last week, the 200,000 people who play AFL Supercoach will all be scrambling to add the Inverloch dynamo to their teams this week after he collected 22 possessions and 86 Supercoach points on debut.

The 350,000 Melbourne supporters who were introduced to the former Inverloch-Kongwak, Leongatha and Gippsland Power talent on draft night Wednesday, November 20 last year, when Lindsay was taken at pick 11 now know they have a keeper.

Here's what the Demon supporters said about Xavier Lindsay after his impressive debut:

"Clean, classy and composed; Xavier Lindsay looked right at home at the top level. 22 disposals at 82 per cent efficiency, plus six tackles. We've got an absolute beauty here."

And Melbourne coach Simon Goodwin was just as pleased with what he saw from both the number six pick Harvey Langford and the number 11 pick, Xavier Lindsay.

"When you have two pretty high draft picks in Langford and Lindsay, you know they're natural footballers. They can play the game. They're talented, but they've been able to, through the preseason, establish a foundation of work that gives them the opportunity to play and we've got no limitations on our young players if they're ready to play, we'll play them, and they fit the team really well."

So, while Melbourne went down to Greater Western Sydney, by three points in gut-wrenching circumstances late in the game, the efforts of the club's five debutants on the night gave Goodwin

plenty to smile about.

"Yeah, there was a hell of a lot to like in the game. And clearly, we played five debutantes, and they all performed to a really high level. It gives you great confidence as a footy club, and it starts to build belief. And I'll say this a lot to the players, that you always win in some manner, and we won in a lot of manners today, and we'll certainly live in that space."

Travelling down for the game were Xavier's parents Mark and Kate and the whole Lindsay family with plenty of local supporters as well.

"It would have been great to win but we thought he played really well. We're very proud of his efforts of course. We had a fabulous day. It's been quite a ride," said Kate Lindsay this week of the whirlwind journey from

being drafted in November to playing in the first round on Saturday night.

Big weekend in football

It was a huge weekend in football for local sporting fans with former Inverloch-Kongwak and Gippsland Power player Archer Reid making his debut for West Coast Eagles.

In the context of a dominating performance by the Gold Coast Suns, Reid showed plenty of promising signs, collecting six possessions and playing time in the ruck, winning six hitouts.

At one stage, his strong contest at a throw-in produced an opportunity for his namesake Harley Reid who kicked a classy goal on the run when there were few highlights for the Eagles.

Archer's family including father Craig and mother Meagan,

made the trip west for the game.

Wonthaggi's Jack Hutchinson was one of the Eagles battling out against a winning Suns on-ball unit and gathered 12 disposals in a serviceable display but finished the match on the bench with hamstring awareness.

The weekend also featured a close game between Brisbane and Sydney at the MCG with Tom Hanily continuing his progress as a small forward, picking up 12 possessions including seven kicks, five handballs and a breakthrough goal in his second game for the Swans.

The other highlight of the weekend for local sports fans was the 500th senior umpiring game for former Leongatha Secondary College student Matt Stevic, now regarded as the game's greatest-ever AFL umpire with a record 12 grand finals to his credit.

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