

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024

Sentinel-Times

BRING IT ON!

Football and netball set to return in 2024

— SPECIAL 16-PAGE FEATURE INSIDE —



Writing on the wall for Ambos

Wonthaggi Ambulance Paramedic, Samantha Nichols, says ambulance officers are leaving the service at an alarming rate and it's not the pay that is the problem.

THE protest message scrawled on the side of one of the district's ambulances, by Wonthaggi Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedic, Samantha Nichols on Monday this week, says it all:

"Average lifespan for a Victoria paramedic is less than five years."

Given you need three years full time at an accredited university to undertake a Bachelor of Paramedical Science degree and several years on the job to get the requisite experience, many are gone before they're barely started.

To be losing qualified and experienced paramedics early, due mainly to compulsory overtime, is a tragedy – for us and them.

"It's not about the pay but the 3.3 per cent they've offered us is still below inflation," said Wonthaggi's delegate to the Victorian Ambulance Union.

"It's about trying to retain our workforce.

"When there's a problem that's driving highly qualified and competent people away from your industry, you've got to look at changing conditions," said Ms Nichols.

"You've got to allow people to have a life.

They're not going to stay if they are constantly turning up four hours late for important family occasions, especially when there are jobs with comparable salaries elsewhere.

"They're taking that valuable experience with them."

Ms Nichols said ambulance paramedics were currently contributing more than 800 hours of overtime-a-day to Ambulance Victoria, meaning the sector was heavily understaffed, and the ambos heavily over-worked.

Continued page 3

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After more than 70 years living in Wonthaggi, Betty Brown is confident enough to call herself a Wonthaggi local. "I came here when I got married so that's more than 70 years ago now, so I guess you could say I was a local," said the 96-year-old resident of Rose Lodge, flanked by Personal Care Assistant Brooke Hardy and Food Services Assistant Christian Edmonstone.

Happy days are here again for aged care workers

HUNDREDS of thousands of aged care workers are set to receive substantial additional pay corrections, representing wage rates boosted by around 30 per cent from a year ago in many cases, after a Fair Work Commission decision on Friday afternoon March 15.

On Friday, the Fair Work Commission (FWC) announced its decision on Stage 3 of the Aged Care Work Value Case, which was considering union's claims for a 25 per cent pay rise because aged care work had been

historically undervalued.

Many staff members at local aged care facilities, including Rose Lodge in Wonthaggi and Woorayl Lodge in Leongatha stand to benefit.

The decision awards hundreds of thousands of aged care workers with substantial top-up pay rises after last year's 15 per cent pay rise from the same case, with the decision awarding work value pay rises totalling up to 28.5 per cent in some cases.

A Cert III personal care worker now on level 3 – the most common level – will

see their wage rate rise from \$24.76 an hour in June last year to \$32.21 an hour after applying the additional eight per cent wage increase from Friday's decision – or a total cent increase of around 30 per cent.

It is expected that as well as rewarding the dedicated staff in the aged care sector now, it is also expected to boost recruitment into this all-important community care area.

"We welcome today's historic recognition that aged care workers are at the heart of quality care for aged care

residents, and should be paid accordingly," Carolyn Smith, Aged Care Director, United Workers Union, said.

"For too long the work provided by aged care workers has been undervalued, and it's great to see that recognised in up to 28 per cent total work value wage increases.

"When these substantial increases are included with last year's 5.75 per cent movement in award wages, aged care workers are in line for life-changing pay rises that finally recognise the hard work they do."

Writing on the wall for Ambos

From page 1

She said an independent study conducted by RMIT and Swinburne universities found that one in five paramedics planned to leave their job within the next year, a statistic that needed to be turned around, she said.

They want Ambulance Victoria to introduce and staff up to a level that would allow paramedics not to be called out for anything other than a Code 1 or important Code 2 in the last hour of their shift.

"Often, it's not because we're attending emergencies, it's because we're ramped in hospital corridors or organising a GP appointment for a low acuity patient.

"It's about being able to get off work around the time you are supposed to without being called out at the last moment for something other than a Code 1 or important Code 2."

Industrial action will include members writing slogans promoting work-life balance on ambulances in

liquid chalk, collecting billing details on paper rather than electronically and refusing to carry out tasks for hospitals.

"But none of these actions will place anyone in danger," said Ms Nichols.

"It's about awareness.

"So, if you see the writing on the sides of the ambulance or on the back door, you're welcome to ask us about it, in fact we'd encourage it."

Ambulance Victoria chief

executive Jane Miller said she respected paramedics' right to take protected action and assured Victorians they would not be impacted.

"If Victorians have an emergency and you need an ambulance, you will get one, and patient safety will not be impacted," Ms Miller said.

"AV continues to negotiate in good faith with employee representatives towards a mutually beneficial Ambulance Victoria Enterprise Agreement 2024."

Male rescued cliffs

A MALE in his 20s has been rescued from the Inverloch cliffs in a joint operation by firefighters and SES members after finding himself in trouble last Thursday around 11.20am.

Inverloch CFA responded to the location 200 yards from the car park to Inverloch where the uninjured man was approximately 20 feet down the cliff face.

Inverloch Second Lieutenant Williamson explained that the brigade initially got a radio to the male for communications purposes with the assistance of Wonthaggi CFA, Inverloch SES, Wonthaggi SES and Phillip Island SES before the arrival of FRV Morwell's 'Tech Rescue' Response Unit, who performed the extraction.

Once safely back on higher ground the male was checked by Ambulance Victoria paramedics and given the all clear.

Local police also attended and helped block the road whilst the rescue was undertaken.

Quadruplegic rescued

EMERGENCY responders came to the aid of a 42-year-old male from Glengarry, when his wheelchair became trapped in sand and seaweed on Thursday, March 14 around 12.18pm.

The alarm was raised by the male's carer along Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road (near the RACV Resort) as the tide had started coming in.

Wonthaggi and Inverloch Police attended, and Inverloch SES extricated the male.

Burglars smash, grab, disrupt at Newhaven

POLICE are investigating the circumstances surrounding several overnight break-ins and burglaries at the Big Wave Complex at Newhaven last Wednesday night into Thursday morning.

It follows the mess and destruction local business operators found, including Sal Fusca and Trish Fernandez at the popular Haven Espresso Café in Bluebird Court, on arrival last Thursday morning.

"It's the damage and disruption they've caused more than anything. If they had given me a ring I'd have given them the keys and told them to take what they want," said Sal last week.

He posted online on Thursday morning that the café would be closed all day, reopening on Friday morning, but by then, many had showed up for their morning fix of coffee and Sal and Trish were left with lots of good wishes, in person and online.


"We've got a great community here. Betty's Glass came straight away and put up the security screens, but it will be a while until we get the double-glazed window.

"Our customers have been great. Everything we have here is homemade. If you give them your best, they give you theirs back," said Sal.

The window at the Safflower Medical Clinic next door had also been smashed.

Police are seeking assistance with CCTV or dashcam footage from the area of Newhaven's Big Wave Complex last Wednesday night into Thursday morning, March 13/14. Contact Crimestoppers online at crimestoppersvic.com.au or phone 1800 333 000.

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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

TUE Mar 19 Showers increasing. Wind AM: N-NW 15-25km/h Wind PM: NW-SW 20-25km/h	WED Mar 20 Shower or two. Wind AM: SW 20-30km/h Wind PM: S 15-25km/h	THUR Mar 21 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: S 15-20km/h	FRI Mar 22 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: Light	SAT Mar 23 Possible shower. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h	SUN Mar 24 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h
18° 31°	12° 19°	10° 21°	10° 22°	12° 22°	12° 24°

IN BRIEF

On the road through South Gippsland

SERVICES Australia's Mobile Service Centre Blue Gum is travelling through the South Gippsland Shire, offering locals easy access to Medicare, Centrelink, National Disability Insurance Scheme, and Department of Veterans' Affairs services.

Blue Gum will visit: Tarwin Lower today (Tuesday March 19) opposite the service station, River Drive (9am to 4pm)

Meeniyana tomorrow (Wednesday, March 20) opposite Moo's Café, Whitelaw Street (9am to 4pm)

Mirboo North on Thursday, March 21, opposite the shire hall, Strzelecki Highway (9am to 4pm)

Leongatha on Friday, March 22, at the Woolworths car park, Smith Street (9am to 4pm)

Mobile Service Centres are 20 tonne trucks operated by staff from Services Australia, providing regional and rural Australians with friendly face-to-face service and tailored support. Staff on board this trip can help with:

- Centrelink claims,
- Medicare registrations, and
- accessing online services.

Information about National Disability Insurance Scheme and Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services will also be available.

For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/mob-ileoffice

Access and inclusion advisory committee

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is excited to announce Expressions of Interest for a new Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee is now open.

The formation of this Committee has come out of the South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2022-2025, which prioritises actions to ensure equal access for our community.

The Access and Inclusion

Advisory Committee's first priority will be the development of a comprehensive South Gippsland Access and Inclusion Action Plan.

The Committee will be comprised of up to 15 members, including a minimum of five individuals who have lived experience of barriers to access and inclusion. It will aim to address the unique challenges faced by different groups, fostering communities where everyone can lead active and engaged lives.

The Committee will provide necessary advice to Council on issues of access and inclusion, promote inclusive practices, and contribute to the development and implementation of policies, strategies and plans. Regular Meetings will be held at least four times a year to ensure an ongoing dialogue.

Council will be hosting five information sessions across the Shire and online during April to provide information to community members who would like to be part of this Committee.

For more information, please visit: yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/eoi-access-inclusion-committee

Postal officer smelled cannabis

A POSTAL officer at a Latrobe Valley post office alerted police to "the pungent odour coming from a package" that had arrived in a post office box, who subsequently found it contained 5gm of cannabis.

The marijuana had been sent in a traceable post pack to the recipient and police had no trouble tracking down the sender, a man of no fixed address from the Bassd Coast area.

But the court was told that nothing nefarious was going on.

The 65-year-old man who sent the package was responding to a call for help from a friend who had recently moved to the Latrobe Valley, concerned about her mental health without access to cannabis. No money was paid or received.

The Korumburra Magistrate

responded with an "adjourned undertaking", effectively taking no action other than ordering the man pay \$220 to the court fund. The cannabis has been forfeited and will be destroyed.

Blew .185 at Inverloch bottle shop

A 32-year-old Inverloch man who was breathalysed by police after leaving a drive-through bottle shop in the town ultimately blew .185 and lost his licence for 18 months.

The Korumburra Court heard that the man had been drinking from midday to 8 o'clock on Saturday, October 28 last year but he claimed to be shocked when he recorded such a high reading after being picked up by police.

He explained to Magistrate O'Donnell that he was taking serious medication at the time, following an operation the previous week, and wondered if this may have impacted the reading.

"The fact is you had been drinking that day and driving," Magistrate O'Donnell said.

The drink-driver had been issued with immediate loss of licence on the day back in October last year, but Ms O'Donnell confirmed the term of loss of licence as 18 months, reminding the offender that it wasn't just a matter of starting to drive again after the time was up.

He was also fined \$600 but no conviction was recorded against the man because it was a first offence, albeit with a big reading.

Found stolen church pew online

THE observant landlord of a Coronet Bay rental property, who saw a familiar piece of furniture for sale on an online marketplace, has had the item returned after reporting the matter to police.

The Korumburra Court heard last week that two co-accused, one of them the

18-year-old tenant of the house, and her 20-year-old partner, believed they had been given the all-clear by the landlord to dispose of furniture left by a former tenant and went ahead and sold some bedside tables and chairs.

But when the landlord's own church pew went up for sale online, for \$300, he saw red and called police who ultimately located the item, initially passed on to one person and then on-sold to another for \$250.

There was some confusion, however, about whether it had been made clear that the church pew could be sold by the tenants, with the 18-year-old telling the court, several other pews in poor condition, had been burnt.

Magistrate Julie O'Donnell decided to reinstate an earlier offer of diversion as the younger of the offenders had no priors and a conviction would impact her employment prospects.

Broke door getting father's ashes

A 21-year-old local man who visited his former home address to retrieve his father's ashes, was charged with breaking the fly-wire screen on the front door during an argument with the occupier.

The Korumburra Court was told that a claim of \$1000, as the cost of damage had been made to police, but the magistrate Julie O'Donnell said she had read the file and acknowledged the emotional circumstances.

Instead of reinstating a diversion order, that the man had failed to comply with, Ms O'Donnell placed the man on a good behaviour undertaking, without conviction, and ordered he pay \$250 to the court fund.

The offender told the court that he had complied with part of the diversion order by writing to police to apologise for his behaviour.

Danny O'BRIEN MP
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Harmony Week walk to enhance the significance of diversity

BASS Coast Adult Learning Centre (BCAL) led Monday's Harmony Week walk to emphasise the importance of celebrating diversity and inclusion in the community. Organiser Maddy Harford of BCAL deliberated the idea of organisations and schools coming together to celebrate diversity.

In a collaborative approach by BCAL, Refugee Sponsorship Group, Multicultural Women's Group, Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Reconciliation Group, and Friends of the State Coal Mine; together they welcomed the community to Wishart Reserve, Wonthaggi for a Welcome to Country smoking ceremony, before walking down McBride Avenue to Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre at Mitchell House for a multicultural lunch.

Maddy Harford officially thanked the community for their attendance, stating the significance of bringing something from their own cultural background to the multicultural lunch, and highlighting the importance of cultural exchange and appreciation.

Maddy then welcomed Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve for her address. Cr Le Serve shared what a great gathering of people. "We are here for Harmony Day, and this coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination."

"Harmony Day exists to promote a singular and unifying notion of "Australian-ness" within multicultural policy," said Cr Le Serve.

"We have experienced waves of new arrivals over many



The community gathered at Wishart Reserve, Wonthaggi for the Welcome to Country smoking ceremony. Z04_1224

decades. We are a kind and inclusive community, and I'd like to thank everyone for participating in this very important day."

Moo Kyi and her family moved from Thailand to Wonthaggi 12 years ago and on Monday afternoon, Moo shared part of her story, stating how welcoming the community at BCAL and Mitchell House have been for her and her family.

Moo was a student at BCAL where she studied to work in Aged Care.

"I have now worked at Rose Lodge for the past five years and am currently doing further study to become a registered nurse."

Moo's family still take classes at BCAL twice a week, and Moo is a member of the Multicultural Women's Group at Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre at Mitchell House where the group welcome

women of all cultures to join each Thursday morning from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

"Harmony Week is about bringing our cultures together," says Moo.

Stella Hitchin's of the Men's Shed led the walk with fellow community members and shared how grateful she is to be a part of a town that welcomes refugees.

"We have two refugee families that are a part of the local Wonthaggi Harvest Centre, and together they share their culture, their food and their stories, and it's wonderful to see our community embrace them," said Stella.

The ABC Back Roads program presented by journalist Heather Ewart were filming in Wonthaggi and may present the Harmony Week celebration as part of their story on migrants, among other narratives.

Celebrate in orange

Harmony Week is a celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

You can wear orange to show your support, or you can attend a Harmony Week event.

There will be plenty of celebrations occurring across the districts as schools, kinders and daycares dress in orange and host special events for students.

Events:

Thursday, March 21 at 10.30am: Salami Making the Traditional Way at Korumburra Library

Thursday, March 21 at 4pm: Painting Music at Inverloch Library

Saturday, March 23 at 11am: Author Talk with Joyce Agee at Wonthaggi Library

The Block brings huge cash injection to the Island

THE BLOCK is in full swing on Phillip Island and local people and businesses are reaping the economic benefits from the channel nine show.

While the value of the cash injection into the area can only be guessed at, for three to four months, 60 permanent film crew are staying on the Island, local trades are being employed and agreements with local services and businesses have been made.

Cast and crew have booked out the islands accommodation, including camera operators, sound assists, runners, admin and executive producers as well as hosts Scott Cam, Shelley Craft and judge Shayna Blaze.

In addition to this, 57 film crew stayed on Phillip Island for two days while making the official promo for The Block.

The promo showcases the Island at two locations – the National Vietnam Veterans Museum and Berry's Beach and will air six weeks before the show kicks off.

"I feel like we've had the warmest welcome that we've ever had anywhere making the show on Phillip Island," said Julian Cress, executive producer and creator of The Block.

"We're going to ensure that the program focuses on many



The Block has started filming on Phillip Island and Executive Producer and The Block Creator Julian Cress said they've had the warmest welcome they've received from anywhere, from people on the Island.

local attractions and businesses."

The Block have made official deals with local business and franchises including Island Building Hire, Flooring Extra, Tyde, Linen House, Flowers of Phillip Island, Offshore Design, Turn The Page Bookshop, Reece, Aldi, and Mitre 10, with more being added in the coming weeks.

Challenges that occur within the show, will also take place at tourist attractions around the Island, with locations still being locked in.

"We've partnered up with a lot of really interesting local businesses, local artists and community groups to work

with us on doing those challenges," said Julian.

"I believe that will really help the audience get an understanding of what a wonderful, diverse community there is on the island, and how many great attractions there are for people who haven't visited Phillip Island yet."

The main building group are Nine In Six who have subcontracted to nearly ten local trades.

Of the five houses that are being built, all have local trades working with them as well and contestants are encouraged to use local trades and services when and where they can.

Contestants are also encouraged to shop locally, and the crew are encouraged to dine out at local restaurants.

Host, Scott Cam, has already sampled the cuisine at Saltwater in Newhaven, and Cowes restaurants Pino Trattoria, Grenache, Hotel Phillip Island and Wing Lock Chinese.

"There's a real level of excitement amongst our crew for the time that they're spending, living and working on Phillip Island. Everybody's so far really enjoying meeting people in the local community. We're hoping to return that favour by making a really successful show that delivers lots of tourism for Phillip Island," explained Julian.

The Block's social media pages includes 348,000 Instagram followers and 710,000 Facebook followers and will be a billboard for Phillip Island with daily posts once the show starts and sponsor Domain will be running content on their platforms as well.

Once aired The Block goes to 170 countries around the world and gets dubbed into many different languages.

"I think Phillip Island will find that there'll be many tourists coming to stay come from some very far flung countries around the world because they watched it on The Block," said Julian.



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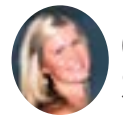
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Mayor's Message



Cr Clare
Le Serve



HELLO Bass Coast

Over the last week I participated in many events including a visit to the Anderson Street site where Council is doing great work to improve the playground and other facilities. It was wonderful to see how community influenced the design of this project and how valuable your contributions are.

I encourage you all to have your say on what we do across our region. Please visit Engage Bass Coast to help shape our community.

The designs of our four new playspaces being constructed this year are due to input from the community. Playspaces have an important role in keeping our youngest people active and engaged in play but also form an essential social connection and meeting point for families at a time in their lives where emotional well-being is critical.

On Thursday night a passionate community panel came together at Newhaven to co-design the upcoming engagement for the future of Graydens Reserve. It was great to hear so many wonderful ideas and we look forward to the wider community engagement later in the year to hear from more voices on this popular

reserve.

Open for feedback right now is our Housing and Neighbourhood Character Study and Housing Strategy. We are all aware now of the growth our area will experience over the coming years. This strategy aims to conserve the character of our neighbourhoods and towns that we are all so connected to. Also open for feedback now is our Fair Access Policy which aims to ensure equality across sporting clubs.

I wrote last week about the International Women's Day event where we heard from women in sport. The benefits of physical exercise and being part of a team was a big part of their conversation that day. We need to break down these barriers for women and everyone to participate in sport. As playgrounds connect our children and their parents, our sporting clubs can connect all of us. The Fair Access Policy also calls for women to be equally represented at a leadership level within community sports clubs. We want to understand your experience of community sport.

I look forward to seeing how we can all shape the future of Bass Coast.

'No wards for Bass Coast', says Cr Ellis

BASS Coast Shire Councillor Geoff Ellis was the only person who requested to be heard at an online public hearing last Thursday into the future structure of electorates (wards) in Bass Coast.

But he conceded, after the hearing, that his proposal for a wardless shire, that is one where all nine councillors represent the whole shire, is unlikely to get up.

"They said it was outside the scope of their review. They're only looking at the two models they've published, both with three wards like we have now but with boundary changes.

"I basically reinforced what I said in my submission, that any way they try to divide up the shire will disadvantage someone and in the case of Phillip Island in particular, their voting power will be severely impacted," said Cr Ellis.

"The stated intent of the VEC boundary review is to ensure that each vote is of equal value. This time round that can only be achieved by removing the boundaries entirely to create one Bass Coast ward with nine councillors," said Cr Ellis in his submission.

"The last review achieved an equitable result in terms of number of voters per councillor, but it created a geographic imbalance in the connection and community of purpose across Western Port Ward.

"Any redrawing of the current bound-



Geoff Ellis, seen here with colleague Brett Tessari, was the only councillor to make a submission into a review of Bass Coast shire voting and representation, and to speak at a public hearing last Thursday.

aries or even changing the number of wards to any number other than one will accentuate that geographic imbalance."

He said the size of the Western Port Ward, nearly double the area of the other two, made funding for such things as community hall maintenance a problem, with Westernport Ward having almost three times the number of halls as the other wards.

Cr Ellis said he probably favoured Model One, as the best of a bad lot, putting the whole of Phillip Island together in one ward, because while it devalued the Island vote, people on the Island

already contacted one of the Island Ward Councillors, even if they were actually lived in Western Port.

"There's an overwhelming community of interest there, but it means you'll potentially have 15,839 voters on the Island voting for three councillors while only 12,291 in Western Port also get three councillors. It's nowhere near 'one vote one value,' he said.

Local government activist Graham Jolly claimed in his submission to the VEC that it would be fairer to have four councillors representing Phillip Island and five representing Western Port (3) and Bunurong (2).

Phillip Island resident Natasha Crestani made a submission that also supported Model 1 for having the whole of Phillip Island together in one ward, not divided between Western Port and Island wards.

"Could we please join Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach and surrounding with the Island Ward please. Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach issues are specific and distinct to Grantville's issues for example. The representing councillors for what is called Western Port usually do not live on the Island, are is not properly across the issues here," she said.

The opportunity for feedback has closed and the VEC is expected to announce its decision soon.

Still no consistency on beach warning signs

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks has been praised for putting up a bigger, clearer warning sign at the entrance to the deadly Forrest Caves Beach, ahead of the March long weekend.

Although the new sign doesn't actually carry any authorisation from PINP.

And the various foreshore management agencies got together, we're told, to position Variable Message Signs (VMS) for visitors as they arrived in the area, warning about the risks that exist at local surf beaches.

That's good.

But the agencies stopped well short of what they have been directed to do.

This is what it says in the 2019 'Bass Coast Shire Coastal Risk Assessment' report, the key planning document developed for local foreshore management agencies, including the Bass Coast Shire Council, Parks Victoria and PINP under the Surf Life Saving Australia 'Beach Drowning Black Spot

Reduction Program' funded by the Australian Government:

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

Key words: uniform, consistent. There's no wriggle room there!

So, when the new sign went up at Forrest Caves, that same sign should have gone up at all similar sites, including the place where a man in his 20s drowned at Kilcunda while trying to recover his sunglasses in the surf, on Friday, January 12.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve applauded the efforts of foreshore managers and the community to respond to the tragic incidents.

"Knowing it was a long weekend and a heatwave, you may have noticed additional signage and communications around beach safety," said Bass Coast Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve.

"This will continue. With the Easter period not that far away, you may notice ramped up campaigns about how to stay safe at the beach and around heat health.

"I'd like to thank all our partners, including Phillip Island Nature Parks, Parks Victoria, Life Saving Victoria, other councils and of course the media and community organisations and individuals for helping spread the word on these important issues.

"Together, let's ensure everyone can enjoy their days away and go home with lovely memories for generations to come."

They might continue the response by putting up those large, clear messages at other beaches around the coast.

Councillor Information Session

Are you considering representing your community in this year's council elections?

We invite you to attend one of our comprehensive Councillor Information Sessions, designed to equip potential candidates with essential knowledge and insights into the responsibilities and rewards of being a councillor. The next session is being held:

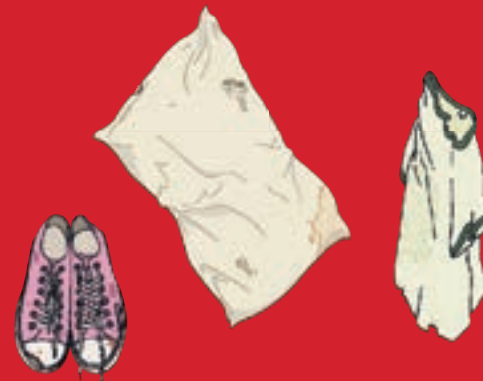
Tuesday, 26 March, 6.00pm -7.00pm

Wonthaggi Town Hall, 14 Baillieu Street East

The session, lasting approximately one hour, offers a unique "on the couch" experience, providing an informal yet informative setting where you can engage directly with Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve, current ward councillors and members of Council's Governance Team. This is a perfect opportunity to ask questions, seek advice, and understand the crucial role of a councillor.



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The changing character of Corinella, they say

RESIDENTS have expressed their concerns about the impact that the new development in their Corinella neighbourhood is going to make, directly identifying the safety issues, infrastructure problems, and the loss of character with the once rural township.

Duncan Watkins has lived in Bass Coast for over 40 years and is worried about the town's unique identity being lost, and his neighbour Jacky Veltman – a Corinella resident for the past 20 plus years has highlighted the lack of safety for new families.

Together the neighbours have assembled to raise their concerns about the absence of public transport and even the limited footpaths for families to safely walk to the foreshore and to and from school.

"Over-development on subdivided blocks will change the character of the place," said Duncan.

"As a community we need to speak up and emphasise the need to preserve open space and historical significance in our town."

The main subject of interest is the proposed planning permits for Hamilton Street, Corinella.

The first sub-division, 2-4 Hamilton Street is at planning stage with a proposal to subdivide the land into six lots.

The subsequent block is 6 Hamilton Street – with a prospective sub-division of three homes, and thirdly, 8 Hamilton Street – also proposing a further three homes.

"That's 12 houses on three blocks," said Jacky.

"Not to mention the lack of carparks – these streets are not wide enough to have residents and visitors lining the curb. This is a fishing community, the vessels need sufficient space – it's an accident waiting to happen," Jacky accentuated.

Jacky, Duncan and his wife Sandy Watkins with neighbour Anne Caulfield requested the Bass Coast Shire Council to address this issue – with Deputy Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead visiting the address to see the issue firsthand.

Anne shared that they are not asking council to stop development altogether, we're just



Corinella residents Jacky Veltman, Sandy and Duncan Watkins and Anne Caulfield request the Bass Coast Shire to stop over-development in Corinella Z01_1224

asking for them to put a stop to over-developing sub-divisions.

Anne wrote to council stating that the proposal of 2-4 Hamilton Street, Corinella needs further alternatives.

"Corinella has no public transport and the outcome of this is that all homes have two cars at least, depending on how many people are in each location! Then, some residents have boats and caravans!"

In this proposal, there is no thought given to the housing of these additions! In nearby Heritage Bay and Moorhouse Street, extra vehicles are permanently parked on roadway/nature strips.

"I would like the planning team to consider that this development should be a total of four larger allotments to cater for this," said Anne.

"Hamilton Street is a through road and is already very busy for a country road, catering for many pedestrians, with no footpaths! I am unable to support this plan as it is."

The Bass Coast Shire Council have recently released their Neighbourhood Character Study and Housing Strategy to help manage housing growth within the shire over the next 15 years and these residents are urging their community to stand up and have their say.

There is then the removal of native vegetation, that Jacky

expressed is devastating.

"We worry about the trees – also a part of the rural feel – what about the lorikeets nesting, the magpies, noisy miners and wood ducks that nest here every year – the removal of native vegetation is just changing the distinctive landscape of Corinella."

Jacky shared that she moved to Corinella for the rural appeal.

"There is no consideration for those who have lived here for 20, 30 and 40 plus years."

Cr Rochelle Halstead shared that it was lovely to have met residents in Hamilton Street to discuss their concerns with development in their street.

"Planning is heavily regulated by state government legislation and since my election I have been advocating for a Bass Coast Shire local Housing Strategy and Neighbourhood Character Study to provide Council with some tools to protect neighbourhood character that currently has little to no protection," Cr Halstead says.

"These two policies were held up while council awaited the outcome of the state government Distinctive Area and Landscape Policy that has still not been finalised by the minister," she said.

"Thankfully, council officers have been doing the work alongside the DAL in order that

these documents will be ready to go."

Cr Halstead addressed the lack of affordable housing in the shire, and said council adopted a higher level of officer delegation to streamline planning by now requiring 15 objections before an application can be presented to council. This, alongside the changes to state government legislation has seen a significant reduction in planning applications being presented to council.

"I will continue to advocate for the continued work and eventual adoption of the Housing Strategy and Neighbourhood Character Study that I see as two crucial documents that will outline the distinct characteristics of our towns and provide the tools to protect them."

In the Neighbour Character Study, Hamilton Street, Corinella falls under 'Minimal - Coastal Contemporary' which outlines that subdivision and multi-dwelling developments will be discouraged.

The character study is open for public consultation on the Bass Coast Engage website until March 24. Find out what is proposed for your property at Neighbourhood Character Study and Housing Strategy | Engage Bass Coast and have your say!

VCAT sides with Ruttle Estate residents

A DECISION has been made to protect open space in Inverloch's Ruttle Estate subdivision from development.

Residents have been speaking out against potential developments to preserve the wetlands for six years, and the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) opted to refuse the owners' development application last week.

Agreeing with Bass Coast Shire Council and Residents and Friends of Ruttle Estate (RaFoRE), VCAT decided that any proposed use and development of the land for a single dwelling would contravene the obligations in the Section 173 Agreement.

The agreement was entered into by the developer of the subdivision and sets out conditions on the landholder, including allowing and enabling access to the land and maintaining the area to protect and enhance any native vegetation and fauna.

The VCAT finding emphasised the approval of the original subdivision, which is located considerable distance outside of the Inverloch town boundary, was facilitated by an amendment to the planning scheme and that this agreement was prepared to ensure the ongoing maintenance and conservation of the reserve and wetlands to be maintained in perpetuity by the owner as a nature reserve and wetland.

RaFoRE chair Cait McMahon was pleased with the decision.

"We understand that council is in the process of considering a planning permit application for a dwelling on the northern part of the Reserve (lot 29)," she said.

"Given the recent VCAT findings, along with council's legal submissions that deem the construction of a dwelling on either lot to not be in accordance with the planning scheme, we cannot see a situation where this application could be approved."

Inverloch residents restless about path

THEY'VE waited and waited and now it seems the residents of Inverloch have waited too long for the Bass Coast Shire Council to complete the remainder of the 'Inverloch Shared Pathway' beyond Ozone Street.

The issue was the subject of a question to council recently by Terry Parkin that it was unable to secure consents and permits from authorities for a similar treatment for the path between Ozone and Goroke streets.

"This has resulted in the 3b section being limited to construction within the road reserve and reducing the amount of design options available to Council."

The council's Engage Bass Coast website offers further information: "Due to the extensive erosion impacting the Inverloch coast and State Government led work to manage erosion in this area, it is no longer an option to remove vegetation. As we are unable to remove any further vegetation outside of the road reserve there is not enough space to allow for a path, parking and two-way traffic."

So what now? Residents are threatening to call a meeting over Easter and asking councillors along (in an election year) to provide the answers.

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Cut'em down, says Cr Halstead

AFTER personal experience with the safety (or otherwise) of the old pine trees in the San Remo CDB, Cr Rochelle Halstead will move a Notice of Motion at this Wednesday's council meeting pursuing options for removing dangerous trees.

Among other things, Cr Halstead wants a report to council which reviews the condition of the trees, options for their removal and the possible use of timber in the San Remo structure plan.

Petition puts 'play' pressure on Council

AN 86-signature strong petition, signed by permanent residents, holiday home owners and visitors of Cape Woolamai, to be tabled at this week's council meeting seeks to put pressure on Council over the lack of open space for recreation in the settlement.

"The permanent population of Cape Woolamai is 2301, which includes 583 families. Or 24.7 per cent of the population, being some 568 people, are under the age of 19," they say in the petition.

"This is the highest percentage of residents under 19 in the shire, however, Cape Woolamai provides only one play space for these 2301 people. This is less than half the playspace to population ratio of any other area of Bass Coast Shire, despite the area having the highest proportion of young people.

Not over yet for Sunderland Bay

THE council might have stuffed up on the \$35 million road and drainage improvement scheme for the whole of Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay but now residents of some of the busier streets are looking for a piecemeal approach.

They've petitioned this week's council meeting asking for council to prioritise The Esplanade Sunderland Bay for appropriate road sealing and drainage project as too have the residents abutting Tolley Avenue, Surf Beach.

The residents of Dunvegan Crescent, Surf Beach would also like their street to be sealed but unlike the others, they're not offering a 'user pays' contribution.

Don't hold your breath waiting for action.

Permanent one-way for Cowes

THE Bass Coast Shire Council is set to make one-way traffic along The Esplanade, right and left from the end of Thompson Avenue, at the Jetty Triangle end, a permanent feature of the town.

And one-way traffic along the lower end of Thompson Avenue itself might not be far away.

The one-way section of The Esplanade east, between Thompson Avenue and Bass Avenue has already been embraced as a good idea by the community and it will be interesting to see how travelling one way works on the other side, between Thompson Avenue and Warley Avenue.

However, while making Thompson Avenue one way, from Chapel Street down was adopted in 2022 as part of the Cowes Streetscape Master Plan, there is no indication when that might eventuate.

Growing suburbs fund transforming San Remo & Wonthaggi

THE Victorian Government is delivering essential infrastructure for regional communities with investments provided through the Growing Suburbs Fund. The Growing Suburbs Fund is a \$435 million investment over nine years in critical local infrastructure and is helping local communities thrive.

Jordan Crugnale, Member for Bass was recently in San Remo to acknowledge the start of works for the \$617,000 Anderson Street Reserve Open Space Master Plan project, funded in partnership by the Victorian Government (\$517,000) and Bass Coast Shire Council (\$100,000). The Anderson Street Reserve Master Plan project will develop the greenfield site to meet the active and passive recreation needs of the growing San Remo community. Catering to the whole community, the plan includes a play-space, universal fitness area, rotunda, plantings for shade, accessible parking, and pathways to link the space together.

In addition to this, works to transform the historic Wonthaggi Railway Precinct have commenced which will make the area and adjacent museum a focal point for the popular Bass Coast Rail Trail. The Bass Coast Rail Trail Wonthaggi Precinct project will support the local community



Mark Robertson (Vice President & Curator of objects), Fay Guilford (President of Wonthaggi & District Historical Society), Clare Le Serve (Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council), Jordan Crugnale MP for Bass, Abbas Niazi (senior Project Manager BCSC) and Dom O'Connor (Project Manager TS Constructions) outside the Wonthaggi Railway Precinct.

and visitors by enhancing the precinct and providing opportunities to learn and share the community's rich history.

The project will transform the platform and museum entry creating an outdoor undercover community and exhibition space. The new space will be able to be experienced as a static display, providing the local community new opportunities to share their history. Other works include replacing concrete planks for the retaining walls and glazing the entire platform for community use and includes a new entrance.

This project is supported by a \$388,000 contribution from the Victorian Government's 2022-23 Growing Suburbs

Fund and \$50,000 from Bass Coast Shire Council.

The Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund supports local community connections and services, helping communities thrive and adapt to change. Since its establishment in 2015, the program has supported 346 projects representing a total infrastructure investment of \$1.227 billion and has created more than 11,340 jobs. The 2022-23 Growing Suburbs Fund is assisting other Bass Coast Shire projects such as the Bass Coast Rail Trail Wonthaggi Precinct (\$388,000) and Rhyll Foreshore Playspace Stage 2 works (\$235,000).

Other Growing Suburbs

Fund projects funded include the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre, Guide Park Regional Playspace in Wonthaggi and the Inverloch to Wonthaggi Trail.

"The Anderson Street Reserve Master Plan project will develop the greenfield site to meet the active and passive recreation needs of the growing San Remo community which is great news for locals and visitors alike," Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale said.

"The Wonthaggi Precinct works will create greater connections and social cohesion between Wonthaggi's established population, younger residents and visitors to the region."

Phillip Island humming with The Block's input



He's 'Haydn' from Channel Nine hit reality show, The Block, but outside of Phillip Island, he's not yet a household name but come August this year, when the Cowes-based show goes to air, Haydn and the Island will be splashed across out TV screens for weeks.

THE 20th anniversary edition of Channel Nine's hit reality show The Block isn't due to air until early August but it's already in full swing on Phillip Island.

It's been a case of spot-the-celebrity for weeks at cafés, restaurants and shops in and around Cowes in particular as contestants, the returning stars including Scott Cam and Shelley Craft, and the crew get out and about during the hectic work schedule going on up there in Justice Road at the moment.

Hadyn, one of the people yet to be officially revealed as a contestant, was more than happy to have a chat with locals while shopping for supplies up at Aldi last week.

"Yeah, it's pretty hectic. Sixteen-hour days aren't unusual. There's a lot going on," he told fellow shoppers outside the store, happy to pose for a selfie photo and enthusiastic in his praise for how welcoming the local community has been.

"Yeah, it's been great, everyone has been super friendly."

It's typical of the happy encounters lots of people have been reporting as filming and a power of work goes on at the site and around the region.

News from the site is that they have almost completely redeveloped the four townhouses and main residence of the former Island Cove Villas, allegedly purchased

for a tick under \$9 million, into a project that is totally unrecognisable, but with the communal pool, tennis courts and some other facilities remaining.

A crane has been permanently located on the site for the past few weeks, with local tradies scratching their heads about the daily cost of such equipment.

This week, sometime, we're told the contestants and stars will be hosted by Phillip Island Nature Parks at the world-famous Phillip Island Penguin Parade, a great chance from some nationwide publicity when the show hits our TV screens, likely after the Paris Olympics (also on Nine) which closes on Sunday, August 11.

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Course closed at Mirboo North

THE ONCE perfect greens of Mirboo North golf course and picturesque fairways lined with majestic, towering gums has been altered into an unrecognisable graveyard of trees.

Over 550 natives on the course were blown over, had limbs ripped off or were completely uprooted during the destructive February storm.

Massive stumps, branches, sticks and leaves litter the fairways in mountains of green waste, and bare patches of ground can be seen in many places.

It could be weeks if not months before the course is declared safe, cleaned up and is ready for teeing off once again.

"It's a bit devastating," said Robert Clark, President of the Golf Club.

Robert immediately called in a local contractor to help remove the biggest of the gum trees that had crashed onto the course, to try and protect the grass as much as possible.

Both the fourteenth and seventeenth greens sustained major damage and many club members spent hours clearing and removing trees, branches and debris.

Robert suggested the seventeenth green has been so badly damaged that in the worst case scenario it may need to be rebuilt, but that is yet to be ascertained.

Many of the Golf Club members are keen to get on the course and help with the clean-up, however that has to wait until the whole area has been declared safe.



Robert Clark, President of the Mirboo North Golf club said the damage to the course is devastating. ob05_1224

The course is partly owned by the club itself with the majority of the land being leased from the South Gippsland Shire Council.

There are dangerous hanging branches and unstable trees, and the Shire are, according to Robert, putting out tenders this week for contractors to do some of this work.

Following a declaration of safety, the members and others can also start to help out.

Support from golf clubs in West and South Gippsland has been offered, from help with the clean up

to opening their courses for free to Mirboo North Golf Club members until the course reopens.

The Trafalgar golf club are also running a play day fundraiser for the sporting community of Mirboo North.

Robert commented they are trying to maintain the grounds as much as possible with irrigation still going to keep it green in the drier weather.

He has some concerns that winter may also see some unstable trees topple during the wetter conditions and is wary that it may

take quite a bit of time before the course will be thriving once again.

The Golf Club house roof will also need repairing as the tin was lifted up in sections during the storm and battens have become wet and spongy, which will need replacing.

Fortunately, all other infrastructure at the club, besides some laser lights, remains intact and undamaged.

Robert is considering starting Friday night meals at the Club again to raise some funds until the course can be reopened again.

State Government slammed for sidelining regional voices on renewable energy

GIPPSLANDERS neighbouring renewable energy projects will have their views sidelined under new planning powers announced by the State Government.

Under these changes any renewable energy project, no matter how small, will be declared a "significant economic development" and able to gain planning approval in as little as four months under the Government's Development Facilitation Program (DFP).

The Nationals Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien said the changes represent a desperate attempt to silence regional voices and get the State Government's failing energy program back on track.

"The changes announced include removing the planning panel process as well as third-party appeals at VCAT," Mr O'Brien said.

"It was only by a community group taking the proposed Alberton wind farm to VCAT that significant failures by the proponent and the government were revealed. That avenue is now being removed and consultation trashed.

"I am very concerned that this process is deliberately designed to silence regional voices when it comes to controversial wind or solar projects in rural areas.

"We are talking about projects that could see the construction of 250-metre-tall turbines within two kilometres of your home. Communities impacted by these projects should not be given less say in them.

"It is astounding to me that the Premier is actively promoting these changes and touting the reduction of third-party input as a positive.

"What happened to consulting regional communities? What happened to ensuring social licence for the energy transition?"

Mr O'Brien said he is not opposed to renewable energy projects but that they need to be properly planned and implemented in consultation with local communities.

"Since 2014 the State Government has removed local councils planning powers for renewable energy, halved the buffer zone between wind turbines and homes while also banning wind farms from Melbourne and city playgrounds like the Yarra Valley, Bellarine Peninsula and Bass Coast.

"Once again, this is a decision of a city-centric Government to suit its own political agenda while silencing the voice of regional communities."

Financial hardship grants available for AusNet customers

AUSNET has announced it will provide hardship grants for eligible AusNet residential and business customers who were without power as a result of severe weather events on Tuesday February 13 and Thursday February 22, 2024, as part of its Energy Resilience Community Fund.

Grants of \$300 are being made available to cover losses that households experienced when refrigerated goods became spoiled due to power outages caused by the storms. No proof of loss is required. Grants are available to households who were without power for more than 72 hours but are not eligible for a Prolonged Power Outage Payment (PPOP) because their power was restored within a week. Proof of financial hardship can be verified simply with a healthcare or pension card.

Businesses grants of up to \$5000 are available to those

small business who can provide proof of specific loss. If businesses have received a PPOP, then they are eligible for the difference between the PPOP and the amount of loss incurred, up to the maximum grant amount (typically around \$2,000).

AusNet CEO, David Smales, said he has been struck by the strength of the community during the biggest storms ever experienced across the network last month.

"I know that recovery is still very challenging for some and with the cost of living being as it is, we wanted to do more to help people get back on their feet," said Mr Smales.

AusNet's \$10 million Energy Resilience Fund has already commenced the distribution of funds, with some of the first beneficiaries including the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund and food security charity

Sale Food Support Inc.

AusNet has donated \$100,000 to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF), which has been supporting the region after natural disasters for more than four decades.

AusNet will also provide funding for the purchase of a refrigerated food transport van to help Sale Food Support Inc supply fresh food to more Wellington Shire families and individuals in need. This will allow the safe transport of perishable food such as meat and dairy products to families in Sale and surrounding areas.

AusNet is also continuing to develop other elements of its Energy Resilience Community Fund, with further work underway to identify community infrastructure and resilience projects, and small business resilience projects. Further information on the application process for resilience projects

will be available in April and local government and community groups can register their interest by emailing ERCF@ausnet-services.com.au.

"We are committed to helping communities get back on their feet in the short term, but we also recognise the importance of working with local governments and their communities to strengthen community infrastructure and businesses and help ensure they are better prepared to withstand future weather events," Mr Smales, said.

Financial hardship grants will be open until April 30, 2024. Further information, including detailed eligibility criteria and how to apply, is available on AusNet's website: ausnet-services.com.au/ERCF. Eligible customers will also be directly sent an SMS over the coming days to alert them to availability of the grants.



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South Gippsland Shire Council News

Community Grants Closing Soon

Round two of South Gippsland Shire Council's Community Grants program is closing soon.

Community grants provide financial support for community, volunteer and not for profit organisations in South Gippsland.

Council has contributed funding to many projects over the years that have not only helped our not-for-profit organisations but have also benefited our wider community.

If you're wondering, "what could my group use a community grant for?" There are many possibilities. Community grants can be used to deliver projects, festivals and events, to purchase equipment or to undertake planning and development reports.

Recently, the Mirboo North United Football Club received funding that they put towards portable goals, the Meeniyan Progress Association is using their successful grant application to create murals throughout the town and the Poowong Community Consultative Committee are using their funding to celebrate the town's 150th Anniversary with an array of activities

Volunteers and community groups are the backbone of our region and Community Grants are here to provide support.

Applications close midnight Sunday 31 March.

For more information, please read the grant guidelines and apply by visiting:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Animal Registrations



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

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

Owning a cat or dog in South Gippsland requires registration to ensure they can be returned to you if they become lost, plus your fees go towards important services within the Shire such as animal control and community education about responsible pet ownership.

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

For more information, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/register-your-pet

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 20 March 2.00pm
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

Dates are also listed on Council's website at:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting-dates

To watch the 'open' part of the meeting live or when it suits you, visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Please contact the Governance Team for questions about Council Meetings

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Check out our current vacant positions here:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

NETWORK OUTAGE REVIEW PANEL

The Network Outage Review panel will be at the Baromi Centre, 38 Couper Street, Mirboo North on:

- Saturday 23 March and
- Sunday 24 March from

Time: 10.00am to 3.00pm
Panel presentations will be held at 11.00am and 1.00pm each day.

The panel welcomes the community and businesses to engage on the impacts of the power outage following the 13 February 2024 storm event. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions, please email:
networkoutagereview@deeca.vic.gov.au

REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

RFT/393 – Great Southern Rail Trail; Manufacture, Supply and Installation of Signage between Nyora & Yarram

Tender closes 2.00pm AEST on Tuesday 16 April 2024.

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

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Loch Community Development Association were joined by Scott Hardy from AusNet, Danny O'Brien MP, Cr Jenni Keeri, Cr Mick Felton, Cr Deputy Mayor Nathan Hersey and Tony Petersen, Director Sustainable Infrastructure South Gippsland Shire Council, at a recent community meeting.

Loch Village meets to deal with town issues

THIRTY six community members attended a public meeting in Loch village last week to discuss many of the issues impacting the residents of the village and surrounding areas.

The organisers, Loch Community Development Association (LCDA) were joined by Danny O'Brien MP, Scott Hardy from AusNet, Cr Nathan Hersey Deputy Mayor, Cr Jenni Keerie, Cr Mick Felton, and Tony Peterson, Director Sustainable Infrastructure South Gippsland Shire Council.

Power outages, an emergency hub, emergency telecommunications, road fatalities, traffic issues, police, and public transport were all discussed.

Many residents expressed their concern about the high number of planned power

outages that occur within Loch.

Mr Hardy from AusNet explained that due to aging infrastructure increased maintenance is required for safety, of which only sections can be done within a few hours each time.

He advised people to register their mobile phone number with their electricity retailer to receive text messages from AusNet about outages.

The importance and benefits of an Emergency Hub following major disaster events was discussed including the Neighbourhood Battery program, satellite phones, solar panels, and generators.

An LCDA project is in the pipeline to develop the Loch Village Hub located within the Loch Masonic Centre into an emergency hub with satellite

phone and generator when needed, which has the backing of the Shire.

Telecommunications issues were cited as a major concern, especially where the service is not available and emergency calls cannot be made.

As telecommunications are the responsibility of the Commonwealth, Cr Nathan Hersey mentioned that he and other councillors have been to Canberra to discuss these issues with the department and to advocate on behalf of South Gippsland for a more reliable telecommunications service.

Telstra and Optus are expected to upgrade facilities to ensure a more reliable service and generators can be made available for telecommunications towers at times but require clearance to get in after a storm; and there has even

been issues of theft of the generators in the past.

In regard to police presence in town, an announcement is expected by the end of March and Danny O'Brien is advocating on behalf of constituents to ensure South Gippsland has sufficient police resources.

Following the fatalities of three people in three separate accidents recently, at the South Gippsland Highway and Poowong Road intersection, it was announced that VicRoads will be reducing the speed limit down to 80 k/hr and will then assess the situation.

A TAC Road Safety grant application had been submitted by the Shire for analysis of traffic in the Loch Village and a response from the Minister of Transport is anticipated.

How the shire plans to protect its art collection

IN LIGHT of the recent controversy over the missing mayoral paraphernalia at the Bass Coast Shire, questions have also been asked by the community about what else went missing around the time of shire amalgamations in 1994.

What, for example, has happened to the art collection from the various shires that was assumed by the South Gippsland Shire Council?

According to the council, the South Gippsland Shire Art Collection consists of almost 250 objects and will be, in part, the subject of debate at the council meeting this Wednesday when a new 'Arts and Civic Memorabilia Collection Policy' and 'Public Art Collection Management Policy' is expected to be adopted.

The shire's art collection includes prints, paintings, certificates, honour boards etc.

"Along with the recent revision and updates to Council's Art Policy, currently being put to Council for comment and approval, we are looking to review objects in the Collection with the possibility of separating the Civic Memorabilia Collection items such as honour boards, into their own collection category



This painting by renowned Victorian artist, the late Ernest Buckmaster, a follower of the Heidelberg School and winner of the 1932 Archibald Prize, titled "Goulburn River, Thornton" was donated to the Poowong Community by the artist but stolen from the foyer of the Poowong Hall in 1994. How a new council arts policy would have protected such publicly displayed art is not known.

separate to art objects," said a spokesperson for the shire recently.

"We have a catalogue of objects. Many art collection objects are available to view on our Victorian Collections page - South Gippsland Shire Council (victoriancollections.net.au). Our Cultural Collections Management Officer is currently working to assess the collection and its legacy

records. This includes the updating of online records.

"The Art Collection items that aren't currently on display are in secure storage.

"Some works are viewable in libraries and halls around the shire. These include works in Foster and Leongatha library. Some works in the collection are in situ such as the stained glass windows at Foster War Memorial Arts Centre (Foster

Hall). The Korumburra Brass Band Leader's Mace is currently on display in the Korumburra Historical Society rooms in the Korumburra Hub.

"Early last year, works that hadn't had the opportunity to be displayed for some time were displayed as part of the successful Threads Exhibition held at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum including two tapestries by artist Ann Greenwood.

"We are looking to soon display these tapestries again at the Korumburra Community Hub," said the shire.

A new 'Public Art Collection Management Policy' has been drafted based on best practice principles for local government. The purpose of the draft policy is to provide a framework to assist Council to make considered decisions on public art, its funding, commissioning, installation, maintenance and de-accessioning; that is disposing of unwanted pieces by sale or other methods.

Listed as Item 3 on the agenda for this Wednesday's council meeting, in the chambers at 2pm, it is expected to attract comment and debate by council.

Mayor's Message



Cr Clare Williams



A DAY at the Stony Creek races was well attended, even with the sun beating down. People from all over South Gippsland and visitors to our region enjoyed the vibrant fashion and racing.

Community events such as this really bring us all together, especially sport. We rally around our favourite teams and use this opportunity to connect with each other. After such a difficult time for our region, these events provide a hint of normality.

Grant Opportunities

There are a number of external grant funding streams available right now including:

- TAC Road Safety Grants Program.
- Telstra Connected Communities Grant Program.
- Melbourne Water Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Grant Program.

To see the eligibility criteria for any of these, please visit the funders website.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Community Grants Program is also open for grants of up to \$10,000. Applications close March 31, 2024, so make sure you get your applications in. For more information and to apply, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

If you need support with your Community Grant application, please don't hesitate to get in contact with our Grants team by calling 5662 9200 or emailing grants@southgippsland.vic.gov.au.

Community Training

Council is hosting a suite of training opportunities for community members, volunteers, community groups and not-for-profit organisations. All of these sessions have been designed to help you discover new skills and enhance your knowledge.

One of the sessions that has recently been held was Governance 101, which had 25 people in attendance. The session covered all the must-know topics for people on Committees such as Constitutions, Consumer Affairs Victoria requirements, responsibilities and more.

To view all the upcoming training sessions, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

Network Outage Review

The Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action will be hosting two drop-in style sessions in Mirboo North. Community members and business operators are encouraged to come along to discuss energy, telecommunications, agriculture, private property vegetation management and vegetation on secondary roads, and on issues including vulnerable members of the community not being connected into the right government departments.

The drop-in sessions will be held on Saturday 23 and Sunday, March 24 from 10am to 3.00pm at the Baromi Centre, 38 Couper Street Mirboo North.

It is great to see this opportunity being extended to our community.

EV Chargers

Six electric vehicle fast chargers have been installed across South Gippsland. These chargers were funded by the Victorian Government through the Destination Chargers Across Victoria Program, as well as the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. They are located in Leongatha, Korumburra, Foster, Mirboo North, Meeniyan and Yanakie.

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

Council Meeting

The March Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

All community members are more than welcome to come along at 2.00pm to watch the meeting live either online or in-person at Council Chambers. You can also watch it when it suits you by visiting: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Shire’s Solar Savers

IN ANOTHER significant move towards addressing the climate emergency, Bass Coast Shire Council is proud to announce the local launch of Solar Savers, a collaboration between 16 Victorian local governments aimed at helping households and businesses install quality and affordable rooftop solar and batteries, and access government rebates.

By installing rooftop solar through Solar Savers, residents and businesses in Bass Coast can reduce energy bills and future-proof against increasing energy costs, while supporting the transition to clean, renewable energy.

Households and businesses can access free and credible advice about solar products, government rebates, and tips to reduce your energy bill. Solar Savers provides peace of mind about your solar system, by partnering with a trusted solar installer, chosen through a public tender process, with independent audits conducted on five per cent of all installations. Solar Savers makes installing solar:

Trusted: Local governments are working together to assist households and businesses to reduce energy bills and future-proof against increasing energy costs.

Easy: Solar Savers has done all the time-consuming work for you to recommend trusted installers with quality systems and workmanship for your home or business.

Affordable: Solar Savers helps step you through accessing government rebates and subsidies, to provide access to high quality equipment at affordable prices.

Quality: Solar Savers’ priority is ensuring that your solar PV system continues to work efficiently for years to come.

Accredited: Solar Savers only partner with accredited electricians and state registered installers and conduct independent audits for continued peace of mind.

Mayor, Cr Le Serve said, “Solar Savers is part of our commitment to tackling the climate and cost of living crises by empowering residents with affordable and reliable clean energy solutions. Council is delighted to be making solar more accessible to residents and businesses, ensuring a more sustainable future for our community.”

To see if solar is the right solution for you- visit solarsavers.org.au.

New buildings at KSC officially opened by Deputy Premier

KORUMBURRA Secondary College celebrated the official opening of their two new buildings last week, with Deputy Premier of Victoria and Minister for Education Ben Carroll attending.

The new buildings encompass a gymnasium, a performing arts centre and new classrooms with staff offices, a library, and a wellbeing hub for students.

The school’s administration area has also undergone a redesign, to create more centralised office spaces.

The project was undertaken with support and funding of \$12.6 million from the Victorian State government.

Principal John Wilson opened a whole of school assembly, held for the first time in the new ‘Bunji’ building.

Mr Wilson acknowledged the support of organisations and individuals who contributed to the project including Local State Member for Eastern Victoria, Mr Tom McIntosh, Danny O’Brien MP, representatives from the Department of Education, Korumburra Round Table, TAFE Gippsland, the LLEN, Korumburra RSL, Korumburra School Council, Burra Foods, Rotary, Karingal Women’s Club and the KCDA.

The Deputy Premier Mr Ben Carroll addressed the assembly and said he believes education is the most important public investment the Government can make for the future.

“And before me and what



Deputy Premier Ben Carroll cut the ribbon to officially declare the new buildings open at Korumburra Secondary College, in the company of Principal John Wilson, Mr Tom McIntosh, Local State Member for Eastern Victoria, and the school captains. ob01_1224

I’ve seen so far at Korumburra Secondary, we are making an outstanding investment in this great school and we know these student facilities will go a long way. We know how important they are on inspiring students on the importance and relevance of education.”

“This is such an important investment in the students and their wellbeing that are going to go on to live a life of purpose and go and do great things in this local community and go and do great things for the state of Victoria,” said Mr Carroll.

The schools Marrung Lead Iznaya Kennedy reminded the assembly that the school site had existed as a place of learning for many thousands of years.

“The Yallock-Bulluk people have learned from the rocks, from the trees, from the waterways, from the skies and from the animals and turtles that shared this land.”

“A new era of education in Korumburra embraces this understanding of what was here before us and acknowledges that learning has been valued and nurtured here since time began,” Iznaya said.

The College captains April, Jake, Lucy and Abbey, then spoke and commented that they are looking forward to embracing an exciting future in the new learning facilities.

“The wide variety of modernised classrooms promote flexible working environments, encouraging collaborative and one on one interactions to

accommodate for all learning areas.”

“Let the learning adventures begin,” they declared.

The ribbon was then cut by the Deputy Premier Ben Carroll in the company of Principal John Wilson, Mr Tom McIntosh, Local State Member for Eastern Victoria, and the school captains.

“It was wonderful to welcome the Deputy Premier, Mr Ben Carroll, along with local member for Eastern Victoria, Mr Tom McIntosh, to our school to officially open our amazing new buildings,” Mr Wilson said.

“We are incredibly grateful for all the support we have received to make this building project possible, allowing us to provide the best possible education to the students from our area.”



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Understanding the environmental roots of dry eye syndrome

DRY eye syndrome is a prevalent and uncomfortable condition affecting millions of individuals worldwide. In regional Victoria, where environmental factors play a significant role in daily life, the incidence of dry eye syndrome is noteworthy.

Regional Victoria's climate is characterised by its dryness and fluctuating weather patterns. Prolonged exposure to dry and windy conditions can accelerate tear evaporation, leading to an imbalance in tear production and causing dry eye symptoms. Additionally, seasonal variations, such as hot summers and cold winters, exacerbate these conditions, making individuals more susceptible to dry eye syndrome throughout the year.

The prevalence of allergens and airborne pollutants in our region adds another layer to the environmental factors contributing to dry eye syndrome. Pollen, dust, and other particulate matter can irritate the eyes, triggering inflammation and reducing tear film stability. Agricultural activities such as farming and forestry, also contribute to airborne irritants exacerbating symptoms, especially those with pre-existing sensitivities.

Moreover, the widespread use of air conditioning and heating systems in homes, offices, and vehicles further depletes ambient humidity levels also heightens dry eye symptoms. Indoor environments with low humidity levels can accelerate tear evaporation and worsen existing dry eye conditions, particularly during prolonged periods of exposure.

The environmental causes of dry eye syndrome in regional Victoria are complex and multifaceted so it's important to protect your eyes from harsh weather conditions, minimise exposure to allergens and pollutants, and maintain adequate indoor humidity levels to help mitigate dry eye symptoms.

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At the front of Wonthaggi Hospital, are, Graduate Nurses and Midwives, from left: Paige Wainwright (Registered Midwife), Amy Donald (Registered Nurse), Kyra Celebrine (Registered Nurse/Midwife), Danielle Peters (Registered Nurse), Stephanie Kolb (Registered Nurse), Bec Adams (Registered Midwife), Laura Lace (Registered Nurse), Edel Miskella (Registered Nurse), Luke Graetz (Registered Nurse), Elin Murray (Registered Nurse/Midwife), Lucy Cargill (Registered Nurse) and Elizabeth Bell (Registered Nurse).

Graduates choose Bass Coast Health to start their nursing careers

BASS Coast Health (BCH) has welcomed the newest recruits to its Nursing and Midwifery teams, who were attracted by the supportive culture and career opportunities on offer.

Our new Graduate Registered Nurses and Graduate Midwives will undertake six-month rotations in our Emergency Department, Haemodialysis Unit, Kodowlinun Acute Ward, Sub-Acute and Maternity Unit.

The Graduates include locals as well as staff who have come from as far as Melbourne, Ballarat and Queensland.

They learnt about BCH through our social media and meeting our team at the Australian College of Nurses Health

Expo in Melbourne last year.

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child said, "We're excited to welcome our newest intake of graduates and encourage everyone to make them feel welcome."

"They're here for our 12-month Graduate Program, with the hope they will continue on to participate in our Pathway to Practice and Transition to Specialty Practice programs moving forward."

"We are a teaching hospital and aim to provide the most positive learning environment so that junior staff want to stay on and work here as senior staff. Our close relationship with several Universities helps our nurses learn and grow."

Graduate Midwife Bec Adams is from the Bass Coast.

"I did most of my placements throughout my study at Melbourne and Warragul, and now being at Wonthaggi means I'm close to home and close to family," she said.

"It's a great learning opportunity here too."

Postgraduate Midwife Kyra Celebrine, from South Gippsland, has worked on our Medical/Surgical Ward since 2021.

"I love the team and the work culture, and being a part of the community," she said.

Graduate Nurse Laura Lace from Yannathan near Lang Lang has returned to BCH after positive experiences during her placements.

"I did a couple of my placements at BCH throughout my study and I just found that I was really well supported," she said.

"I would like to do postgraduate studies in Midwifery."

Graduate Nurse Edel Miskella is from Melbourne but was familiar with the Bass Coast as her family has a holiday house at Cape Paterson.

"I had been to the Wonthaggi ED as a patient and everyone was so kind and I just got a good vibe," she said.

"Everyone is just so supportive."

BCH is welcoming a second intake of Graduate Nurses in April. To learn more, go to: basscoasthealth.org.au/careers

Former aged care worker donates to GSHS palliative care unit

AS A former personal care orderly for elderly people, Jackie Bellis appreciates the need to feel comfortable and be close to your loved ones.

The former Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) employee and her family have made a donation to the Korumburra hospital's palliative care unit to recognise the care her late husband John received.

Mrs Bellis was a healthcare worker at Hillside Lodge for a short time in 2006 before moving to Alchera House until her retirement in August 2022. She had earlier worked for GSHS's Greenhills Hostel in Loch from 1990 to 2006.

She came from England in the late 1980s and studied for a change of career from being a hairdresser to becoming personal care orderly.

"I always found the stories of older people quite fascinating. When I came out to Australia, I'd left behind grandparents and I missed them and thought it would be nice to talk to elderly people," she said.

"I like to talk. I thought it would be another job where I could talk and not be told off," she joked.

It panned out well and she loved the work.

"The residents loved to talk and their stories were amazing;

like three kids going to school on a pony."

However, when it came time for her own family to use the services, the Bellis family got an even bigger appreciation for the local service.

"My husband was suddenly taken ill and taken to hospital in Melbourne," she said.

"We soon realised he would not recover so we tried to get him transferred to Korumburra Hospital for palliative care. Unfortunately, these transfers take time but with help from senior staff at Korumburra hospital, John arrived safely. This was wonderful because we could visit and

stay as long as we liked. Someone was with him all the time."

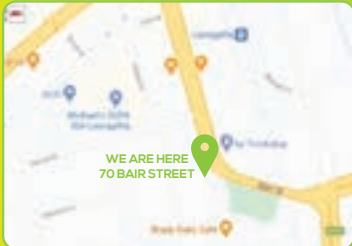
"The care that he got at Korumburra Hospital was just fantastic. All staff were considerate and helpful to our family."

Together with her daughter Madeleine and son Jason, Mrs Bellis has made a donation to the Korumburra palliative care room "to make it more comfortable and homely for when people pass away".

The donation has led to the purchase of bedspreads, comfort blankets, dried floral arrangements, bedside lamps, aroma diffusers and bottles of essential oils.

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The new electric minibus service connects Sandy Point and Venus Bay to vital services.

Improving community transport accessibility across Gippsland

RESIDENTS in Sandy Point and Venus Bay will benefit from new transport options to connect them to health care, local businesses, education and more, through a collaborative pilot community electric minibus service supported by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).

Through funding of \$249,450 from the DTP's Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program (FLTSP), the purchase of electric buses will help engage the two communities to reduce their carbon impacts as well as promote inclusion.

DTP Executive Director – Gippsland, Beth Liley said tailored local community projects, like the Gippsland E-Bus trials, are what funding from the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program is all about.

"Lack of accessible transport services can have a real adverse effect on communities, especially in regional Victoria, so we're doing everything we can to address this," Director Liley said.

The day-to-day operation and management of the services will be undertaken by the respective committees and local communities, with the pilot being supported by a two-year research project aiming to identify sustainable models to benefit remote communities.

South Gippsland Shire Council – Mayor, Cr Clare Williams said the project is innovative and community-led.

"It will create opportunities and social connection for residents in remote communities, by providing transport to neighbouring townships and important health, education and employment services," Mayor Williams said.

As well as assisting with the promotion and marketing of the new service, the research project will, through contributions from the DTP's Transport Research Team, La Trobe University and the iMOVE Cooperative Research Centre, investigate ways to make the community bus service efficient, financially sustainable and provide a model for other regional communities in Victoria.

iMOVE Program's Director Lee-Ann Breger said transport in regional areas is an ongoing challenge all over Australia.

"This collaboration brings the local community together with government and researchers to investigate an approach that provides immediate benefits for two communities, while also developing a framework that could be applied in many other rural areas," Ms Breger said.

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Industry Engagement La Trobe University, Professor Susan Dodds said the university has a long and proud history of advancing sustainability and the transition to renewable energy.

"We aim to support that transition through measures including public transport research and innovations that increase safety, accessibility and efficiency, such as electric vehicles," Professor Dodds said.

The funding from the Victorian Government is via the FLTSP which provides funding to local government and community organisations for small-scale transport projects, evidence-based transport studies, and funding to redesign and trial new ways in which transport services at a local level can be delivered across the state.

For more information on the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program visit the Department of Transport and Planning website.

Visitors flock to Newhaven College for picture perfect open



Newhaven College Principal Tony Corr was on hand to greet parents and students at the college's annual open day last Saturday, including the Jamieson family of Craig, Elyse, Edith, one of the tour guides, Arlo and Odin.



It was Newhaven College's annual open day last Saturday, a chance for prospective parents and their children to take a good look at the school and among those acting as tour guides on the day were Milla Jenkinson and Evie Hollings.

THE spectacular 82-hectare Newhaven College site was looking its absolute best for the college's annual open day last Saturday, with not a cloud in the sky, and prospective parents and students streaming in throughout the day.

And there was a lot to see from the performing arts wing and huge gymnasium/assembly hall added in recent times, to the more established parts of the college, including Year 9 Environment Centre, Senior School, trade centre, library and visual arts centre, plus the new developments taking place.

One of them is the new mountain bike pump track going in as part of a fully-supported program at the school, already with 272 metres of the track built with the help of parents, staff and a Year 9 Trail Building Project whereby the kids and helping to design and build the facility.

College principal Tony Corr was delighted with the interest shown and the public response to the day.

"It's a great opportunity to see the school and we have various activities going on during the day so that visitors can get a good idea how the various facilities work," Mr Corr said.

An added attraction this year were the footy practice matches between Inverloch Kongwak and Traralgon.

Despite the major develop-

ments in recent times, the college isn't resting on its laurels with the mountain bike track, new 'Little Haven' kindergarten and college observatory set to open soon.

And there are further significant projects in the planning stages as well.

For those unable to attend, Newhaven College tours can be arranged through the College's Registrar Belinda Manning at belinda.manning@newhavencol.vic.edu.au, 5956 7505 or book online through the Newhaven College website.

Alumni Reunion

Newhaven College is in the process of growing its alumni connections, so the annual reunion is the perfect place to get things moving. The school welcomed back students who graduated in 1984 (40 years), 1994 (30 years), 2004 (20 years), 2014 (10 years) and 2019 (5 years). They met for morning tea in our pavilion with some of our long-term staff before Head of Learning Mrs Karen Milkins-Hendry guided the group on a tour of the school. For many of these students, even the most recently departed, there were plenty of new and exciting facilities to share with the returning graduates. For some, it was their first time setting foot on the Phillip Island Rd campus. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and reminisce.

Great Fete wows in Inverloch, attracting thousands

THE Great Fete was a resounding success on Saturday.

In support of Inverloch and Kongwak Primary Schools, the fete attracted a bigger crowd than last year, with a conservative estimate of 2500 people enjoying the activities, market stalls and live entertainment.

A huge drawcard this year was the appearance from beloved television show character Bluey, who had many children up on their feet and involved in a closely contested game of Simon Says.

The silent auction also proved to be very popular, with all items receiving generous bids.

The items on offers were all donated by local businesses and community organisations.

Around 50 market stalls and plenty of activities – including the Dino Dig – also greeted fete goers.

"It was an awesome day," community liaison coordinator Virginia Hunt said.

"The organisation committee heard some wonderful feedback. It was an amazing effort, and the best part is all money raised will go towards both the Inverloch and Kongwak primary schools. The contributions of the wider community were incredible."

Funds raised during the fete will likely be used for play-spaces and general improvements at both schools for the students with preliminary calculations showing \$20,000 raised from the day.



Zac Brown, Jed Reiter, Sonny Reiter and Byron Smith enjoyed a sweet treat at the Great Fete.

Several councillors across Bass Coast and South Gippsland shire councils showed their support and attended the fete, as well as Bass MLA Jordan Crugnale.

The fete came together thanks to the hard work of the volunteers, but the organising

committee also thanked Inverloch Primary School principal Brett Smith and current principal Ben Soumilas for their efforts.

Mr Soumilas took over the role and became involved in the organisation of the fete in January and was blown away

by what had been achieved.

"As a Principal, I'll always be looking for ways to engage our school with the local community, enhance the student/family experience and provide some fun," principal, Ben Soumilas said.

"From a fundraising point of view, \$20,000 in one day is amazing. Our school council will be able to direct that into a project that makes a difference to our schools... More importantly than money, (the Fete Committee) showcased both of our schools and provide a wonderful opportunity for people to connect..."

"Our children, families and the community members deserve to be proud of their school and have really positive experiences and memories at the school."

The organising committee will now take a well-earned break before launching into preparations for next year's Great Fete.

"We are planning for next year's fete to be equally as big, if not bigger, than this year's," Virginia said.

"We are hoping for another great day like this one. The weather was really on our side and made the day that much more enjoyable."

"Our focus will continue to be community engagement and showcasing our wonderful schools. It's all about creating a sense of community and giving people the opportunity to connect with both of the schools."

Open mornings at Mary MacKillop

MARY MacKillop Catholic Regional College in Leongatha have been running Open Mornings and Meet the Principal programs, for a couple of years now leading up to their application and enrolment process.

The open mornings are part of a transitional program to help families and potential students gain an understanding of the schools culture, amenities and opportunities.

It also gives the schools leadership team the opportunity to meet with families and get to know the new students.

"It's really encouraging for us to know that our that people are considering us as a place for their children to learn and grow," said Principal John Freeman.

Of the scheduled session, about twenty families come through each time and being a regional college, Mr Freeman sees families come from as far away as Phillip Island, Foster and Mirboo North, and these smaller groups have benefits.

"It just means they (students) are going to have a better experience at some of the things they might be interested in seeing, whether it be the sport programs, or they all love to go to a food tech room and cook something, maybe they'll get to the technology areas or an art area, just to have a taster."

Mr Freeman said they aim to provide parents with the knowledge that their children will be in a safe environment, successful in their learning and relationships and cared for through opportunities and amenities.

After applications are made,



Explore the possibilities at Mary MacKillop through their open mornings. Year 12 leader Sophie with Year 7's Hamish and Xavier during the Year 7 Success Day.

interviews are held by the school primarily to gain an understanding of the students needs.

"We want to know what the kids good at. What they're perhaps enjoying, playing or doing as a hobby, or a sport. We also want to know if there's anything we need to support them, whether it be from a diagnosed cognitive or physical concern or other things," explained the principal.

Following this and as part of the transition program a day is held in December in which students are allocated into their home room groups.

They go to the school to meet their class mates and teachers and gain a sense of what their first day and year of secondary school will involve.

The next available Open Morning session will be held on Thursday March 21 and appointments can be accommodated by the school at other times.



Open Mornings are held for families and new students to tour Mary MacKillop College, and Principal John Freeman said they aim to provide a safe, successful and cared for environment for students. ob04_1224

Making things happen in Korumburra

THE KORUMBURRA Community are getting excited about the upcoming third Helping Hands – Korumburra Staying Strong – Community Forum.

The forum is to be held on Sunday March 24 at the new Korumburra Community Hub. It will kick off at 10.30 am and will finish at 1.30 pm.

The forum will focus on welcoming new members to the community, and will encourage and support local community members to work on taking the next steps required to implement some of the "ideas for Korumburra", collected from community members at the first forum held in October 2022.

Grace Couchman, who is a member of the Korumburra Staying Strong said, "The forum is a great opportunity for our community to gather together, especially after the recent storms and power outages, to think and talk about how we make things happen in our towns and communities. We have gathered a very long list of ideas for Korumburra from the community – and we are very keen to support and work with our fellow community members to get some of these ideas implemented."

One of the key activities will include gaining the knowledge, experience and wisdom from a panel of four community leaders who have successfully taken an idea through to implementation.

The panel will be facilitated by Councillor Nathan Hersey.

A number of members and volunteers from Korumburra's Community Groups will also be on hand to have a chat with fellow community members who may be interested in lending a Helping Hand in their community.

For more information regarding the Community Forum please contact Korumburra Staying Strong at korumburrastayingstrong@gmail.com or via the Korumburra Community website: korumburra3950.com.au



Grade 6 Activity Days 2024

Monday 22 April

Grade 6 Students St Laurence Leongatha and Our Lady Star of the Sea Cowes

Information will be provided directly to schools

Monday 29th April

Grade 6 Students from St Joseph's Wonthaggi and St Joseph's Korumburra

Information will be provided directly to schools

Monday 6th May

Grade 6 Students from St John's Koo Wee Rup and Government Schools

Visit our website for registration form

Mary MacKillop
Catholic Regional College

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



The men's shed on two wheels

DUBBED a men's shed on two wheels by rider Lozz, the friendly cruise will take you riding around the sweeping bends, cruising along the scenic roads and feeling the roar of an engine between your legs.

It's time to dust off the bike and hit the open road with friendly faces as part of Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club's monthly motorcycle ride.

"The last Sunday of the month we organise a ride for all the club members," ride co-ordinator Peter Mattea said.

"It's an incentive to get out there and use our bikes.

"The bikes are fairly old, so I keep it small and find different little ways to get to Korumburra, where we end up for morning tea."

After a bite and coffee in Korumburra it's a gentle ride home, back in time for lunch.

The Sunday rides have slowly gained momentum since starting 12 months ago, with new members keen to meet others in the area with similar passions.

"The more bikes we get the more events we can organise," club president Keith Tonkin added.

Members bring a variety of skills with them, and with a short course are encouraging riders to join them even if they are a bit nervous.

"We've had a couple of rides where we've had members with niggling electrical problems and on two occasions bikes have broken down, but between all of us we tend to have enough tools and knowledge that everyone has got home. We look after each other," Peter said.

"It's good therapy – get out there and enjoy a shared interest. Rather than riding from pub to pub, we ride from coffee shop to coffee shop," Lozz laughed.

The monthly Sunday cruise meets at Fincher Street in Wonthaggi behind Artspace at 9.30am for a 10am departure on the last Sunday of the month.

Keep your eyes peeled for a longer ride coming up towards winter too.

Historical cars take to Apex Park

BASS Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc will be showcasing the spectacular and superbly restored beauties within their club on March 30 as part of the Easter Display Day at Apex Park.

Formed in 2005, the Club provides a venue for people who have a passion for historical and classic cars including motorbikes, tractors, trucks and stationary engines.

Sponsored by AutoPro and Tyrepower the cars will be on display from 8am to 2pm, so pop on down, view the incredible lineup and grab a sausage from the Lions Club whilst you are at it.

New members are always welcome.



The Shannons' Best Custom Motorcycle winner David Foster of Tooradin with his Harley Davidson. Ns11_1224



South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club's Stephen Wilson and John Denbrok had the hard task of judging the entries. Ns12_1224

Leongatha shines for show n' shine



Chairman of Leongatha Show N' Shine Jim McNiven and Evans Petroleum 2024 'Entry of the Show' winner Leigh Smith with his stunning 1968 Chevy Impala named 'Marilyn'. Ns10_1224

THE Rotary Club of Leongatha's Show N' Shine and Swap Meet was a roaring success with more than 300 entries this year.

Crowds flocked to the Leongatha Velodrome on Sunday March 17 for the annual event, which is the biggest fundraiser for the club.

Chairman of the Show N' Shine, Jim McNiven, highlighted the judging keeps getting harder and harder due to the outstanding entries.

"The quality of the cars just seems to keep improving, it was really hard to choose," he said.

"We sent 10 judges out and they came back with their 10 different ideas so have to narrow that down."

Jim was full of praise for this year's sponsors highlighting without their support the show wouldn't be possible.

"They make it happen," he added.

"This year they've been particularly good, most of the prizes were a sponsored prize."

Leigh Smith's 1968 Chevy Impala took out the entry of the show award, which he bought five years ago.

Leigh explained his father had been a mechanic and it was 'in his blood'.

He purchased the Impala from a seller in Orange, NSW, who had previously owned it since the 1990s.



Leongatha SES deputy unit controller Dave, Leongatha CFA firefighter Tahlia and Nathan and junior SES member Shem (back) loved chatting with the public. Ns13_1224



The motorcycles were just as impressive as the cars. Ns15_1224

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Wonthaggi Toyota

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USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2016 Kia Sportage Si
19,990 DRIVE AWAY

120,179kms, 6 speed sports auto
SUV SN: W101734



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2012 Holden Colorado LX RG
23,990 DRIVE AWAY

134,406kms, 5 speed sports auto 4x4
Cab chassis SN: W101625



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Nissan XTrail ST-L N-Sport T32
27,990 DRIVE AWAY

78,773kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: W101547



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2017 Nissan Juke Ti-S F15 Series 2
20,990 DRIVE AWAY

107,554kms, CVT auto AWD SUV
SN: W101658



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2016 Toyota Hilux SR5
30,990 DRIVE AWAY

267,273kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4
double cab SN: W101729



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2021 Hyundai Tucson Elite N Line
39,990 DRIVE AWAY

33,496kms, 7 speed sports auto SUV
SN: W101733



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Mitsubishi Triton GLS MQ
30,990 DRIVE AWAY

138,377kms, 5 speed sports auto 4x4
double cab SN: W101546



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Toyota Hilux SR5
59,990 DRIVE AWAY

30,955kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4
double cab SN: W101707

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Hyundai Santa Fe Highlander
33,990 DRIVE AWAY

130,350kms, 8 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: L101130



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2021 Toyota Landcruiser Prado VX
51,329kms,
6 speed CVT
auto 4x4
SUV SN:
L101097
76,990
DRIVE AWAY



DEMO

2023 Ford Ranger XLT
63,990 DRIVE AWAY

15,391kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4
ute CID 687



DEMO

2023 Ford Ranger Raptor
98,990 DRIVE AWAY

16,721kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab CID 688



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2022 Ford Everest Trend
20,664kms,
10 speed
CVT auto
4x4 SUV SN:
L101132
66,990
DRIVE AWAY



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2023 Ford F-150 Lariat
148,990 DRIVE AWAY

15,040kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4
LWB crew cab CTS 244

Wonthaggi Toyota

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

Leongatha Toyota

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

Toyota Finance

Toyota Used Cars

OH WHAT A FEELING

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

Sentinel-Times
COMMENT

Why we're getting the Council we deserve

ACCORDING to the Third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, "the government you elect is the government you deserve", which doesn't say a lot about Americans right now.

But there's certainly an element of truth in that where your local shire council is concerned.

This year, 2024, is the one-in-four-years' election year for almost all municipalities across Victoria, including Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

And in Bass Coast at the moment, the shire is running several Councillor Information Sessions ahead of the October poll, although the Victorian Electoral Commission, (VEC), which runs the elections, will be doing likewise later on.

But the clock is ticking and if you either want to participate by voting in your local council election, or indeed, run for election as a councillor, you have to keep a look out for closing dates.

The voting roll, for example, closes at 4pm on Friday, August 30 and while you're likely to be on the shire roll if you voted here in the last State Election, it might pay to check if you are on the list.

You don't have to be a ratepayer to vote. Residents who rent locally are also eligible to vote.

However, while participation in voting is important, the key issue is the choice of candidates, and if you don't want to be choosing between Donald Trump and Joe Biden down here, we've got to find some good candidates to choose from.

And that's the point of the Thomas Jefferson statement, you may need to get actively involved if you want to see a council that better represents the community.

Would you, for example, have voted to build a \$31 million arts centre on Phillip Island, or fixed the old one for \$5 million, and put the rest towards a new aquatic centre on the Island?

And would you want to know how the cultural centre is performing and what it is costing you?

Would you put the emphasis on climate change or local services?

Would you bring back weekly rubbish collections in Bass Coast or do you like it the way it is?

Right now in Bass Coast, there's a majority left-leaning, effectively "green" council in place, which may be ideal for the environmental challenges we are faced with but have they neglected the basics of roads, rates and rubbish for blue sky?

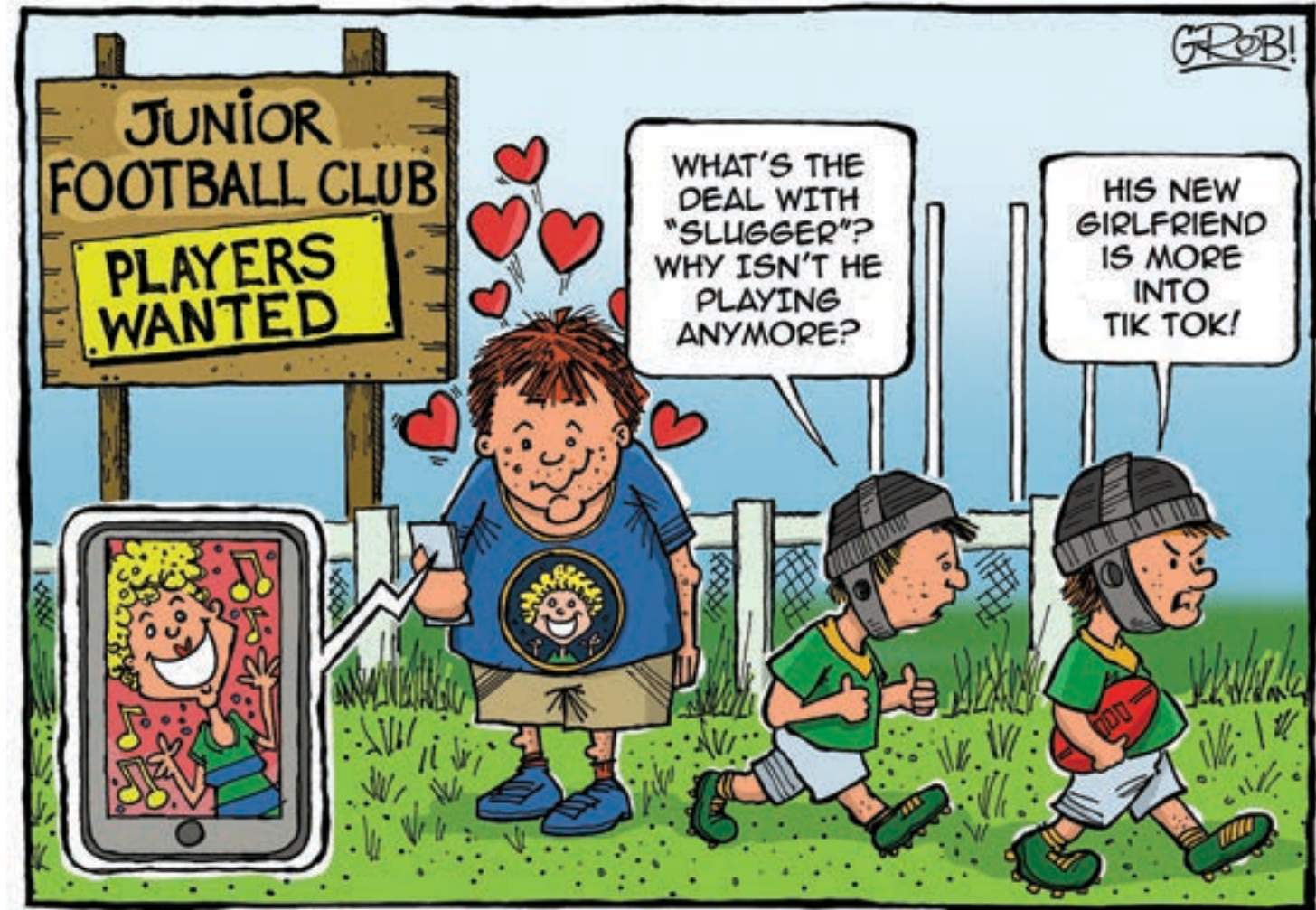
Would you rather see a more centrist council that has families, services, transparency, and value-for-money at its core?

If so, where are those representatives going to come from? Who wants to do it and who can afford the commitment of time required for an allowance of \$32,877-a-year, much of which would go in tax if you're already a salary earner?

Of course, it's not about the money, they'll tell you that and maybe there are some community-minded people who are retired and might have the time to devote to serving the community.

But what about a properly representative council which includes young women, recent arrivals to Australia, local business operators and members of community groups? Why aren't we getting these sorts of people to stand?

It makes you wonder if there is something wrong with the system, and whether you'd get better qualified and experienced people to stand if it was run more like a board of management than a chook raffle.



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grob' Robinson.



Eagles Nest rips

ON A school excursion two weeks I took these photos at Eagles Nest.

I am a member of both the Cape Pater-son and Wonthaggi Surf Lifesaving clubs and like everyone I'm concerned and frus-trated by the spate of recent drownings.

I watched as an Indian family headed to the stairs leading down to Eagles Nest beach and felt compelled to try and warn them of the dangers with the rips present.

Yes, our signs need improving but I would also like to see television ads now to educate and warn everyone about our beaches.

They are beautiful and inviting but can also be dangerous.

Melinda Menz

Renga for our lost trees, lost life

ONCE tall forests
Long shreds of bark
Leaves stripped bare
Skeletons all
My very soul
Resonates grief

Roots turned skyward
Once great life-lost
Trees and wildlife
Replant, rebuild
Restore our hope
Old growth in time

Rosemary Cousin, Allambee South

Thank you, Bass Coast Shire Council

AFTER hours on Tuesday, March 5 we emailed Bass Coast Shire Council about a big branch that had been part-severed in the February 13 storm and belatedly half-fallen down to hang in a dangerous position beside the Pioneer Bay/Grantville Walking Track. We attached a photo.

On Friday, March 8, only two business days later, the matter was attended to. Not only was the potentially dangerous branch cut down, but it was cut into logs, and these were stacked neatly for someone to use for a fire. All debris, including foliage, was removed. Thanks to Council's maintenance department for its prompt attendance to the problem.

Meryl & Hartley Tobin

Land tax targeting the wrong people

I have just received notice that I have to pay land tax. The logic behind additional tax on a property that is providing affordable accommodation escapes me.

According to my notification the tax is a 'temporary' tax for the COVID debt repayment plan.

Are some landlords going to increase rent to cover this tax? I can understand the tax being applied to vacant houses or holiday homes but my unit is rented at an affordable amount to an elderly person. Where else could this person afford to rent? I am not able to claim additional expenses via negative gear-ing.

Re the COVID debt repayment. Why am I paying for the likes of Harvey Nor-man and Qantas, companies that ben-efited to the tune of many thousands of dollars. Are they going to pay any back?

It does not seem fair to me. Someone please explain.

Helen Dand, Inverloch

Vox Pop

What do you have planned over Easter?



Mary Blaby
"I'm heading to my daughters in Leongatha, where I'll be making my mother's ginger fluff sponge."



Deidre Holmes
"I'll be having a quiet family lunch at home, taking it easy and staying off the busy holiday roads."



Helen Marke
"I'll be getting together with my brothers and sisters for a family reunion in Lakes Entrance."



Robyn Hughes
"I am hoping to catch up with my daughter in Melbourne for a quiet lunch and a game of cards."

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.



Frank Flynn captured this photo recently at First Surf, Cape Paterson during a sunrise swim. Have you photographed anything interesting or unique lately? Email your photos to news@sgst.com.au.

Stuffed Zucchini

By Meg Viney

WHILST zucchini are plentiful, here's a really good recipe. I would stipulate that you pick your zucchini whilst they are no bigger than 15 cm long, otherwise they are very watery and tough.

Ingredients

- 4 zucchini (about 15 cm long)
- 2 Tabs chopped parsley
- 1 clove minced garlic (crush with a pinch each of salt and sugar for best flavour)
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- Pinch of Italian herbs
- 125 gm minced beef
- salt and pepper
- 2 Tabs white wine (can use fruit juice)
- 1 cup bechamel sauce
- Grated cheese of your choice

Method

Parboil zucchini in salted water for about 5 minutes – remove and cool. Cut in half and scoop out the pulp. Remove to a bowl to add to the filling. In a pan, in some olive oil, sauté the onion, garlic and beef until the beef has lost its pinkness. Add the parsley, herbs, salt and pepper and wine. Simmer for 25 minutes. Place the zucchini shells into a baking pan into which they fit closely, then fill with the beef and pulp mixture. Top with béchamel sauce and grated cheese. Bake on 180 for 25 minutes. Optional – omit the béchamel and top with slices of feta for a Greek touch.

~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

AS WE head towards Easter, we are also approaching the end of first term. Some of our programs pause for school holidays and some continue through. AA, NA and Al Anon will all continue as will our Monday and Friday Craft groups and of course the Chess Club. If you're not sure whether your favourite group is having a break, just call us to find out.

I'd like to give a shout out

to the hard-working community groups that are part of our WNC family: Housing Matters Bass Coast, Wonthaggi Food Collective and the Bass Coast Refugee Support Group. Three very different groups all doing important and amazing work that enriches our Wonthaggi and Bass Coast Community. And I must also mention a special friend of Mitchell House – the WMS Fixit Café. Their invaluable service minimises

the amount of waste going to landfill, and they are booked out every month. Call Mitchell House on 5672 3731 to book a spot at the next café on April 21. And don't forget – if you have an idea for a new group or you've got a group looking for a venue – get in touch. We're always on the lookout for new and interesting ways to expand our programs and would love to have a chat about what's possible.

The Friday supported play-group is back; you can enrol through Bass Coast Health. The Monday group is expected to resume next term. Happy Harmony week everyone and thanks to all who made it to our many communities event yesterday.



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

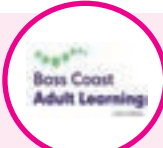
BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

WITH a short Term 1 due to the early Easter holiday this year, preparations are well underway for Term 2. There will be a fresh intake for Certificate III in Information Technology. BCAL is one of the only training organisations in the area offering IT as a face-to-face course on campus. As convenient as on-line learning can be there's no substitute for having your question answered immediately by a trainer who can show you the solution there and then. The course in becoming an NDIS carer will be returning and already has interest. Plus, there will be a range of brand-new gardening workshops delivered all across Bass Coast. Details are being added to the website daily this week. 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 Water is the essential ingredient in any productive food garden. And the garden's two large water tanks have done the job this summer season thanks to a regime of mulching, composting and a wise use of the available supply. Mulching with straw after watering, leaving 'green mulch,' such as warrigal greens, in the ground for shade protection, as well as top dressing with the garden's homemade compost have kept moisture in the soil. Volunteers are still picking a few beans, carrots, radish, tomatoes and zucchinis, while watering as they go to prevent drying out. Corn and pumpkins are getting a drink too. Garden members and volunteers learn from each other when it comes to the sustainable use of resources as precious as water.

For information about the garden contact tgordon@westnet.com.au or drop in on a Thursday between 10 and noon to see what's happening. **U3A WONTHAGGI** Wonthaggi U3A will be having its Annual General Meeting this week on Thursday, March 21 at 10am. All members and friends are welcome. The guest speaker will be Robert Murphy, Managing Director of South Gippsland Water, who will provide insights into the current status and future plans concerning a vital aspect of Bass Coast infrastructure: water. The event will take place at Chisholm Institute's Bass Coast Campus (Building A), South Dudley Road, Wonthaggi. Car parking available. For more information, visit u3awonthaggi.org.au or email president@u3awonthaggi.org.au.

WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS Following the success of the Woodies' annual Christmas gift shop last year, the club has announced a special sale over the Easter weekend. There will again be a wide range of items from small pens and utensils to bowls and carved pieces, to large furniture. The sale will be held at the workshop on the BCAL site at 239 White Road, Wonthaggi. However, this time the sale is for two days only, Saturday and Sunday, March 30 and 31. After that, you'll have to wait until Christmas. For more information about joining the Woodcrafters, visit wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or visit workshop.



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

• FAITH FACTOR

Church!

By Rev. Graeme Liersch, Anglican Church Wonthaggi/Inverloch

IT'S A place that has been known for holding funerals in, as well as baptisms and weddings. You often find the buildings in prominent positions in towns, like in Wonthaggi where several are situated very close together near the town War Memorial. On Sundays you'll find many cars parked out front or nearby while people assemble in their church. What's this all about? Why do people go to church? Yes, people still go to church despite the world being in a so-called enlightened state. But why? They go for a variety of reasons. Some go because that's what they've always done, others go because they're looking for something, whether it be friendship or are in search of God. However, the majority go because they have a personal relationship with the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, and want to worship him. In reality the building is not the church, the assembled people are, and they take God's word seriously. The Bible says: 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV). Many people may think us crazy or deluded, but we have something that the world can't give, and the World can't take away. What may that be? We have faith and belief in Jesus Christ. Christianity commenced with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ roughly 2000 years ago, and despite the best efforts of the World it continues today. Why? Because Jesus is real. And because He is real the church continues to exist and will continue to exist. Want to know more? Want to take your faith seriously if you have one? Then come to church, find out more and worship God.

Bass Veterans luncheons

THE 25th Bass Veterans luncheon was held on Thursday March 14 at Inverloch RSL. The luncheon was well attended by 33 veterans and well supported by the Inverloch RSL. To assist with catering the future luncheons are planned to be held on Mondays.

This is a regular gathering usually held four times per year. The luncheons for this year are planned for June, August, a special Vietnam Veterans Day gather which will include a service, and for November, close to Remembrance days.

All veterans are invited to attending regardless of type of your service. This includes ex-service members of allied countries. The principle is that you have served your country in some capacity.

These luncheons were established by the Bass Coast Veterans and Dependents Welfare Centre which operated for many years from the Wonthaggi RSL. This organisation has now closed but veterans can continue to seek help from the Leon-gatha Veterans Centre. The original purpose of the luncheons was to provide welfare and an opportunity for camaraderie amongst people with shared experiences. Membership of an RSL is not a condition all veterans are welcome to attend what is a pleasant afternoon.

The organisation is very informal. We invite interested veterans to join a group of some 54 vets and enjoy the day, and we would like to see the younger veterans for which we have much concern to join also us. If you are interested you can text your details, name, service and email address to 0407 355 766.

Connect with other local women and support children in need

WONTHAGGI VIEW Club is on the lookout for new members who want to give back to their community and make new connections with women in the area.

VIEW, stands for Voice, Interests and Education of Women, is a network of 300 clubs and over 14,000 women throughout Australia. It provides a place for women to connect in the community, enjoy social activities, and develop lasting friendships – all while supporting the work of children’s education charity, The Smith Family.

Wonthaggi Club President Carmel said this year is the perfect time to join VIEW as social events are truly back on the calendar including Bunnings BBQs, the Breakfast Club at South Dudley Campus, annual volunteer at the Wonthaggi Agriculture Show.

“Our events and activities are a way that we raise funds to support the education of children and young people experiencing disadvantage through The Smith Family.”

VIEW is the largest community sponsor of The Smith Family’s Learning For Life program, which provides students with financial, educational and personal support. Carmel says this is crucial, particularly in the current economic climate.

“We have all been hit by the rising cost of living, be it power prices, food or petrol. But these rises have had an even greater impact on those already doing it tough.

“Parents shouldn’t have to choose between putting dinner on the table or buying their children a uniform for school. This is why it is so important that we can help children experiencing disadvantage with their education.”

VIEW nationally supports the education of over 1720 students through the Learning for Life program, ensuring that they have educational support and what they need for the school year (Wonthaggi Club currently supports seven students).

“We are always looking for women of all backgrounds and ages to join us and look forward to welcoming new faces at our next monthly meeting,” Carmel said.

Anyone interested in becoming a member can call President Carmel on 0418 781 544 or visit view.org.au for further information.

The next Wonthaggi VIEW Club meeting will take place at: The Wonthaggi Club, 16 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi on Monday, March 18, 6pm for 6.30pm start.



Elmo and his circus assistants put on a wonderful performance at Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on Thursday for the young, and young at heart. C23_1224

Laughter, acrobatics and imagination

THE wait was over on Thursday as excited fans made their way into Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre for Elmo’s Circus Dream.

What awaited young Sesame Street fans was a magical sensation with parents, carers and guardians also delighted in an incredible array of circus acts.

All the favourites were on stage from Elmo to Cookie Monster, Grover, Bert and Ernie to

Abby Cadabby.

Singing, dancing and clowning around were interwoven with spectacular circus performances including impressive acrobatic displays that left even the adults speechless, jaw dropping juggling acts and mind-bending illusions.

A roughly 50-minute show, it was perfect for the young attendees, but did leave some of the older parents wanting more.

One young member of

the crowd spent most of the time with his jaw open, astonished by the colours, movement and speed. Others cheered, clapped and joined in the fun in their seats, dazzled as the magic of the circus unfolded before their eyes.

And whilst Elmo and his friends have departed Wonthaggi, there are still shows across Victoria until April 13 including Bendigo, Horsham, Norwood and Mildura.



LRH Ribbon Cutting, from left is Alfred Carter (Aboriginal artist), Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing, Don McRae (LRH Chief Executive), Auntie Christine Johnson (Aboriginal Elder), Amy Aeschlimann (Intensive Care Nurse Unit Manager), Premier Jacinta Allan, Linda McCoy (LRH Board Chair) and Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas.

Latrobe Regional Hospital opens its doors

RESIDENTS across the Latrobe Valley can now access world-class healthcare closer to home with the completion of the Allan Labor Government’s expansion and upgrade of Latrobe Regional Hospital.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas officially opened the \$223.5 million upgrade on Friday which includes expanded maternity services, new emergency department facilities and new theatres to deliver more surgery.

Catering to the region’s growing population, the hospital’s maternity ward now includes two new birthing suites, six maternity beds, six special care nursery cots and a

kids play area – ensuring more local mums can give birth closer to home.

The expansion has also delivered three new operating suites and 14 new medical and surgical beds that will support 6200 additional surgeries each year – helping reduce the wait list and ensure more locals get the surgery they need sooner.

The bigger and better hospital also expanded the emergency department delivering a new resuscitation bay, six intensive care unit beds, 44 inpatient beds, a medical imaging and pathology unit and a central sterile services department.

Importantly, the hospital now also includes a six-bed emergency department mental health,

alcohol and other drugs (AOD) hub – ensuring people presenting with mental health or AOD issues can get the right support sooner, while relieving pressure on the general emergency department to focus on other patients.

Delivered by the Victorian Health Building Authority in partnership with Latrobe Regional Health and Built, the project created 600 jobs during construction.

The \$73 million expansion of the Latrobe Regional Hospital (Stage 2) was completed in 2017 and delivered 30 new acute inpatient and 12 short stay beds, a new ED and Gippsland’s first cardiac catheterisation laboratory.



Four months, four hundred bookshops Darwin to Devonport, Brisbane to Broome, Graeme Simsion and Anne Buist are hitting the road.

Great Bookshop Tour to start in Gippsland

GRAEME Simsion, author of the mega-selling Rosie Project series, and his partner and co-author, Anne Buist, are setting out to visit ‘every bookshop in Australia’ – and they’re starting their tour in Gippsland.

“It’s no secret that bricks-and-mortar bookshops are struggling,” Simsion said.

“COVID didn’t help. We want to remind people that they’re an important part of our communities, particularly in regional Australia, and to thank them for the support they’ve given us in the past. And, hopefully, with talks and signings, we can help them sell a few books.”

Simsion and Buist will kick off their travels on Easter Tuesday with a signing and a writing seminar in Cowes, hosted by Turn the Page Bookshop.

From there they’ll drop into bookshops in Korumburra and Warragul, before finishing the day with an ‘in conversation’ at Traralgon Library hosted by Readers’ Emporium.

Next day it’s a lunch event with Lakes Books and Games and an evening talk organised by The Book Orchard in Bairnsdale. In their 1999 Toyota Prado, emblazoned with their tour logo, they hope to hold that pace for four months and more than four hundred bookshops.

For Simsion, it’s all about supporting the bookshops.

Buist has an additional motivation.

She’s a professor of psychiatry – chair of women’s mental health at the University of Melbourne – and their new novel, The Glass House, is set in a (fictional) mental health service.

“Most mental health stories and memoirs are told from the patient’s point of view, which is a good thing, but it’s important to show the doctors, nurses and administrators as well. Nurse Ratched from One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest isn’t exactly a balanced representation of people doing a tough job in difficult conditions, and usually with good intentions,” Buist said.

Buist is keen to get mental health workers along to the book events to share drinks and stories and ‘celebrate a book that celebrates what we do.’

Simsion and Buist are donating all royalties from books sold at the events to mental health organisations.

The Glass House, which will be launched a few days before the tour starts, has been given the nod by prominent psychiatrists: words of praise from Australian of the Year Professor Pat McGorry adorn the cover. But there are also commendations from writers with lived experience.

“We’re delighted to have Heidi Everett, author of the memoir My Friend Fox, about living with schizophrenia, doing the opening reading at the launch,” Buist said.

Mental health activist Yenn Purkis will interview them in Canberra: that relationship goes back to the Rosie Project series and Purkis’s advocacy for the autistic community.

Will they make it?

It’s a daunting journey, not only in distance and time, but for sheer number of events, approaching a hundred.

“We’ll do our best,” Simsion said.

Time will tell if they make it to the last two bookshops, in Broome.

“We’ll definitely get as far as Gippsland,” Simsion said.

The tour itinerary is at greataustralian-bookshoptour.com.au/itinerary.



Guest speakers Sandy Ridge and Wendy Caple with members of the Leongatha Red Cross.

Red Cross morning tea a success

THE Leongatha Red Cross Unit held a morning tea on Tuesday, March 12 at the Woorayl Golf Club. Nearly 50 people attended a cuppa, scones and cakes, with an amazing \$1100 being raised to support vulnerable people in our community. Our special guest speakers were Sandy Ridge followed by Wendy Caple.

Sandy spoke about her involvement with Red Cross spanning over 60 years. Her involvement as Secretary, then Chairperson of this Red Cross Zone and recently as Divisional Board Member for Victoria i.e.. reviewing issues, regions and recruitment (including volunteers), community liaisons and communication within organisations

Sandy brought a lot of experience to her presentation and also sadly shared how her home and surrounds were affected during the recent storms at The Gurdies. Wendy, a member of the locals Red Cross Emergency Services, spoke about how Red Cross is supporting both Mirboo North and the Grantville area during the aftermath of

the storms. We'd like to thank these people for sharing their knowledge and experiences. The morning raised \$1100 for vulnerable people in our community. If you wish to know more about our local Red Cross Unit and what we do, please contact Lois on 0428 686 273 or Cathy on 0427 196 095.



Mirboo North Secondary School teachers are prepared to shave or colour their hair to raise money for the Leukemia Foundation, front, Nick McKenzie, Rebecca Borg, middle, Gail Lamb-Hale, Petra Hopkins, Kerry Bennetto, Chris Anders, back, Danny Zicio, Mitch Andrew and Nic Ryan.

Teachers to colour or shave their hair for a good cause

MIRBOO North Secondary College staff members have bravely put their hand up to do the World's Greatest Shave to help raise money for the Leukemia Foundation. Year Eight Coordinator Mitch Andrew has recruited colleagues, with ten staff members agreeing to cut, colour or shave their hair, depending on amounts raised. With \$500 raised so far, Nick McKenzie, PE teacher will be shaving his facial hair and Gail Lamb-Hale, Wellbeing Coordinator will be colouring her hair green or purple. Amounts between \$3000 and \$9000 will see five teachers go

ahead with a full shave, and if the school reaches their fundraising total of \$10,000, Petra Hopkins, Senior School Lead will also see her locks fall to the ground. Mitch saw the World's Greatest Shave as an opportunity to have some fun, connect with the community and raise funds for a good cause, and is encouraging others to donate. "If we can get 10 grand, that'd be awesome in terms of our overall total. But it's also a bit of fun, showing that we're human as well as teachers and we can connect with the community, whilst raising funds for the Leukemia Foundation,"

Mitch said. "The most important part is if we can help contribute to find a cure for blood cancer." There are 140,000 families in Australia who are currently facing blood cancer and it takes the lives of 16 Australians every day. It is predicted that these numbers will double by 2035, unless something is done. The money raised by the teachers from Mirboo North Secondary School will go towards providing practical and emotional support to Australians facing blood cancer, as well as funding critical research.

The colours and shaves will take place at the school, at lunchtime on the last day of this term, Thursday March 28. To find out more or to donate go to my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/mirboonorthprimary-andsecondarieschools



Empowering rural youth to lead local change

FRRR is encouraging not-for-profit organisations (NFPs) in rural communities to work with local young people to adopt or adapt one of the six project ideas developed at this year's ABC Heywire Youth Summit. The ideas emerged in response to the concerns identified as being most current and critical for youth in remote, rural and regional Australia.

Funded through the FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants program, grants of up to \$10,000 are available to kickstart initiatives that promote equitable access to local services and foster a sense of belonging and connection to peers and to the land.

The six ideas developed by the 35 young Summit participants during the week-long youth leadership and skills development event are:

Bussin': How might we create more accessible transport options for young people in regional and rural communities?

MEE (Mentoring Educating Empowering): How might we close the gap in accessing quality education for young people in regional, rural and remote communities?

A Place for You: How might we improve accessibility to mental health services in remote and regional areas of Australia?

The Bigger Picture: How can we empower young people in regional towns to celebrate their differences and foster connection among themselves?

Safe Sphere: How might we ensure that young people in regional and remote communities receive relevant and comprehensive sexual education?

Youth 2 Grassroots: How might we promote a stronger connection between individuals and their land by fostering a culture of environmental protection and stewardship?

There is \$100,000 in funding available nationally, thanks to the generous support of The Sally Foundation, David Mactaggart Foundation and private donors.

Deb Samuels, FRRR's People Portfolio Lead, said the Foundation's long-term partnership with ABC has led to significant outcomes for young people and communities.

"Having run the Heywire Youth Innovation Grants program for 12 years, we have been lucky enough to witness the impact that these young leaders, their ideas, and the funded projects have had on rural Australia.

"From mental health first aid training and career open days to events that foster social and cultural connection and understanding, each project ensures young people have an active role in fostering a place that they are proud to call home.

"It gives me hope for the future of rural Australia when I see young people working to tackle issues, many of which echo the concerns we see in rural Australia more generally, head on. The projects that these grants fund help young leaders to address issues of equity and wellbeing and change the underlying narrative of what rural communities "don't have", by creating a future where we can celebrate all that rural Australia can offer its young people," said Ms Samuels.

Applications close 5pm AEST Wednesday, May 29 and recipients will be announced in August.

More information about the six ideas is available at abc.net.au/heywire/grants, and more information about the available grants can be found on FRRR's website at frrr.org.au/heywire-youth-innovation-grants.

Coming this weekend! Wonthaggi International Film Festival 2024

THE Wonthaggi International Film Festival is on again, with opening night on Friday, March 22, commencing at 7pm with award winning Italian film, *The Eight Mountains*. Over Saturday and Sunday there are seven more films, including Oscar nominees *Anatomy of a Fall* and *The Zone of Interest*.

The Wonthaggi International Film Festival is an annual event that showcases the best of international cinema. The selected films represent a diverse range of cultures and perspectives. This year's festival promises to showcase an exceptional range of films from different genres and countries. From gripping dramas to heartwarming documentaries, viewers can immerse themselves in captivating stories from around the world.

From award-winning filmmakers Charlotte Vandermeers and Felix van Groeningen (*The Broken Circle Breakdown*), *The Eight Mountains* is a breathtaking and richly involving story about two people of vastly different classes who forge a decades-long, life-defining friendship in the Italian Alps.

Summer 1984, a secluded alpine village in the Aosta Valley. Holidaying with his mother (Elena Lietti) and father (Filippo Timi), 11-year-old Pietro befriends Bruno, the local son of a stonemason, and the two spend an idyllic vacation together. But when Pietro's well-meaning but impetuous dad suggests that Bruno return to Turin with them so that he can receive a proper education, he inadvertently drives a wedge between the boys.

In adulthood, their paths intertwine again: the estranged Pietro (Martin Eden's Luca Marinelli) is drawn back to the valley – a place that Bruno (Alessandro Borghi) has never left – and as the two set about building a mountain cabin, they begin to bridge a crevasse of emotional distance and reconcile the wounds and regrets of the past...

Set against the pristine, spectacular panoramas of Northwest Italy and Nepal, and adapted from Paolo Cognetti's bestselling novel, *The Eight Mountains* is a deeply affecting tale of connection – to others, to nature and to self. The incredible bond the two protagonists achieve is both profoundly moving and meaningful.

The Wonthaggi International Film Festival will take place over three days, March 22-24, at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. Bass Coast Fine Film Group members have free entry on opening night, and tickets at concession ticket prices for the remainder of the festival. Other tickets at usual box office prices. The full program can be viewed at basscoastculturalvenues.com/wiff-2024, or on the Bass Coast Fine Film Group's website: basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com/current-season.

Don Walker's Lightning Live tour at Archies Creek

FOLLOWING rave reviews for his June 2023 tour, Don Walker returns to the road with his crack band, featuring The Harmonettes, for the Lightning Live 2024 Tour – hitting the renowned Archies Creek Hotel on March 21.

Don's touring band features his long-time bandmates and creative collaborators Garrett Costigan on pedal steel; Michael Vidale on bass; Hamish Stuart on drums and Shannon Bourne on guitar.

Speaking with the Sentinel Times, Don shared his experiences in the music industry, from a long-time passion of writing his own songs, how that morphed from being a hobby to his renowned career writing for Cold Chisel before he began writing records of his own.

Lightning in a Clear Blue Sky is Don's fourth solo album, and he shared that "I had the title, then the first line, then the rest of the song rolled itself out from there. It's a little movie."



Don Walker performing live at Archies Creek Hotel on March 21. Photo: Wendy McDougall.

Don spoke of his approach to collaborate with each band member and how his own writing style has evolved over time, and emphasised the importance of adapting to suit new guitarist Shannon's

unique talent while maintaining the core of their original songs.

However, Don shared that some of the songs on this new album are 25-year-old songs.

"Their bones are good, it was

just a matter of aligning them with additional songs for the new album," Don explained.

Joining them on backing vocals are The Harmonettes: Amanda Roff, Erica Dunn, Felicity Cripps and Alex Scott-Douglas.

Songwriter and lead vocalist, Felicity Cripps, harbours an otherworldliness on stage, embodying the spirit of her songs – her voice a force of strength and character. The Castlemaine-based artist is soon to release her second album, recorded at Resting Bell Studios on Wautharong country, with engineer/producer, Nick Huggins.

In a live setting, Cripps pairs up with vocalist and saxophonist, Alex Scott-Douglas, the duo creating harmony-heavy melodies that almost lead into Kate Bush territory with surprising punk elements.

Special guests on the tour in Victoria are The Felicity Cripps Duo (VIC).

Tickets for all shows are on sale now from donwalker.com.au/live or bit.ly/3veazZ6

Variety concert in support of Berry Street

IN APRIL, resident of Wonthaggi, Claire Gatto, will head to Cradle Mountain for a multi-day trek in support of Berry Street. While the trip itself is at her own expense, Claire has also committed, as part of the venture, to raise \$3000 in support of Berry Street's programs.

Berry Street is a not-for-profit organisation that works to help those experiencing family violence, abuse, and poverty, and to help families stay together in safe and healthy homes.

"They have been working with some of the most vulnerable children and families since 1877 and they are one of Australia's largest independent child and family services organisations," said Claire.

Right now, Berry Street is seeing a surge in family violence, and the evidence is that when

a child or infant (including in-utero) is involved, regardless of whether the violence is directed at them, they are significantly impacted in the long term.

To support the fundraising efforts, a variety concert will be held on Thursday, March 21 at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club.

The program will feature local performers with classical, folk and jazz music, including the Invy Jazz Jam group.

"It will be a fun and entertaining night, all for a good cause."

For bookings, please call the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club on 5672 1083 – tickets can be purchased at \$50pp (inclusive of a two course meal).

Individual donations to sponsor Claire's trek can be made at berry-street.grassrootz.com/berrystreet-tasmania-2024/claireg



Claire Gatto is trekking Cradle Mountain and holding a variety concert at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club to raise vital funds for Berry Street; an organisation that is focused on building a more compassionate world.



FRIDAY 22-SUNDAY 24 MARCH
WONTHAGGI INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

WIFF opens 7pm Friday with the Italian film, *The Eight Mountains*. The program continues over Saturday and Sunday with seven more great dramas and documentaries. Entry free for members on opening night, and tickets at concession prices for the rest of the program.

@ WONTHAGGI UNION CINEMA
96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Check the website for more info:
basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com



WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 8pm - 10pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★ LUCKY NUMBER JACKPOT

Send us your photos

If you're having a 21st, club function, wedding, or other social event, take some photos, name the people in the snaps and email to news@sgst.com.au

Sentinel-Times

It won't cost a cent to see them in print!



Rotary Club of Leongatha members Sue and Bob were delighted with the turnout for this year's car show on Sunday.



Brad had a unique look for his 1971 HG Holden Kingswood at the show n' shine.



James was having a great time showing off his boss' Kenworth at the Leongatha Show N' Shine on Sunday March 17.



Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary secretary Gill and committee member Louanne were selling raffles to raise much needed funds at the Woolamai Races.



President of Leongatha Community Market Neil Barrett was looking colourful and festive at the market.



Rob Fisher of Blue Tree Honey Farm and market committee member was thrilled with the popularity of the new location on Sunday.

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the Leongatha Community Market, Leongatha Show N' Shine, Woolamai Races, Elmo, Inverloch-Kongwak Primary Schools' Great Fete and Newhaven College open day.



Sarah, Jane and Beau of Dalyston Football Club were serving ice cold drinks at the Woolamai Races on Sunday March 17.



Daisy was looking forward to seeing Elmo, one of her favourite characters with mum Sarah. C22_1224



Zara Jeffery, Mackenzie Stringer and Brooklyn Jeffery had a wonderful time at the Great Fete on Saturday.



Among those attending open day at Newhaven College last Saturday were, from left, Tom Bird, Ruby, Archie and Sarah Pedersen, principal Tony Corr, William Bar Bar and Heide Driscoll.



Meila was super excited and talked about Elmo for days ahead of Elmo's Dream Circus on Thursday with mum Karolina. C20_1224



Tessa and Sari Brown enjoyed a day out at the Great Fete on Saturday.



Brayden couldn't sleep according to mum, Angel, and was very excited to be seeing Sesame Street. C21_1224



Bridie and Otis Behmer had a blast checking out the stalls at the Great Fete.



Sofia Alford and Olivia West eagerly awaited the arrival of Bluey at the Great Fete.



Among those visiting Newhaven College on open day last Saturday were Frank and Joan Hindle, with grandchildren at the school, chatting to Performing Arts Administrator Sue Findlayson.



Keeping the barbecue going at the Newhaven College open day was Rachel Cameron with son Leith and another of the day's guides Edmund Lee.

Sentinel-Times

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Land tax is hurting the property market

A NEW land tax which came into effect on January 1, 2024 in Victoria is causing significant financial stress to mum and dad investors, homeowners, and renters. It lowered the tax-free threshold for land tax from \$300,000 to \$50,000 and introduces an additional flat tax of up to \$975 on all Victorian households.

The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath opposed the new land tax and said it is desperately unfair and had been implemented at the expense of all Victorian homeowners.

Ms Bath believes the tax will impact struggling renters who will have the charge passed on or their property sold.

“The Treasurer Tim Pallas estimated that the property tax will cost the average Victorian household an additional \$1300 a year. The State Government is punishing Victorian homeowners and investors for its own economic mismanagement through this appalling tax that’s driving up costs for home owners, increasing rents, increasing the cost of doing business and impacting our most vulnerable citizens.

“How the State Government can wickedly disincentivise investment in Victoria’s property market is incomprehensible.

“There only two plausible outcomes of the land tax - a rental property fire sale and increased rents - neither are a palatable option.”

Victorians pay the highest property taxes in Australia. The average property tax per person across this year is \$2120, compared to \$1646 in New South Wales and \$1343 in Queensland.

The Property Investment Professionals of Australia has named Victoria as the worst state in the nation for renters due to high stamp duty and the new land tax.

Ms Bath said the State Government is treating hardworking everyday Victorians as it’s personal ATM to counteract its spiralling debt.

“The State Government can’t manage money and once again Victorians are paying the price through higher taxes.”

Builders respond to latest building approvals and lending indicators

NEW data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) concerning building approvals and lending indicators continues to show we need to do more to tackle supply constraints in the housing pipeline as new home building and lending declines.

Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn said resolving supply constraints should be the focus for all political parties in fixing our housing crisis, and until they are addressed, Australians will continue to struggle with housing affordability.

“According to the ABS figures, the total number of new dwelling approvals experienced a slight decline of one per cent compared to December. Notably, there was a substantial drop of 9.6 per cent in approvals for new detached houses, marking the weakest monthly total since June 2012. However, there was a contrasting increase of 14.5 per cent in approvals for higher density homes.

“The ABS data also indicated a decline in lending volumes related to new home building during January 2024.

“Dwelling construction loans fell by 4.3 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms, with loans for new dwelling purchases down by 3.9 per cent. Notably, housing investors continue to play a significant role in the market, accounting for a considerable share of activity.

“Housing investors remain a significant player in the market, representing 40.3 per cent of new dwelling construction loans during January.

“We must ensure that sufficient support is provided to encourage investment in housing development this includes steering clear of any changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax,” Ms Wawn said.



“Grassy Spur Farm” A charming homestead on approx. 87 acres!

BOASTING captivating views of rolling green hills and beyond, this property is superbly located between the popular townships of Meeniyan and Foster and offers the opportunity to purchase a prime piece of land with an opportunity for a variety of rural pursuits.

The homestead is the original farmers cottage and features a country kitchen with wood heater, formal dining area plus living area with attractive timber panel walls, reverse cycle and open fire. Each of the four bedrooms are a good size plus there is a study/office. With 12ft ceilings and timber floorboards throughout, this home has the potential to be transformed into something special!

Outside you will find an array of infrastructure and shedding including

- A Studio/cottage with kitchenette and bedroom
- Disused dairy
- Garage
- Wood shed
- Machinery shed
- Large hay shed
- Cattle yards with ramp and crush

Just to name a few!
The land itself is a mixture of undulating and flat and needs to be seen to be appreciated. There is a large dam followed by five smaller dams, so water is not in short supply and shelter is provided by a variety of trees. The land is bordered by a creek on one side and is currently used for grazing cattle.

Located just eight kilometres to Foster, 14 kilometres to Meeniyan and just a 30 minute drive to some of Victoria’s most beautiful beaches, this property is truly worthy of inspection.

Contact conjunctional agents Kasey Bowman from Ray White on 0439 207 196 or Andrew Newton from Alex Scott on 0402 940 320 to arrange an inspection time today!

35 ha

3015 South Gippsland Highway,
Stony Creek
For Sale \$1,400,000
Agent Ray White Leongatha
Kasey Bowman 5662 5800
Alex Scott & Staff Leongatha
Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

Entry Level ASX Limited Investment

23 McCartin Street, Leongatha, VIC 3953



Stable investment in a critical infrastructure hub, backed by a secure lease to NAB Bank & NAB Agribusiness.

Rental \$78,990 NET
Outgoings - Land tax fully recovered
Long established location
Two (2) years from 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2026
One (1) further Three (3) year options to 31 January 2029

For more information, call the exclusive agents.

*All areas and figures approx only. All boundaries are indicative only. All precaution has been taken to establish the accuracy of all information, but does not constitute any representation by the Vendor or Agents.



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Sales & Leasing
Ray White Metro North
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elliot.kidd@raywhite.com

It doesn't get much better than this!

WITH picture perfect views as far as the eye can see plus a stylish sandstone brick home, this property is located just eight minutes from the Foster township and is the perfect combination of rural productivity and modern luxury.

Stepping into this home is truly breathtaking. You will be greeted by a large open plan kitchen, living and dining area complete with electric oven, gas stove, dishwasher, island bench, wood heater and commanding views over the neighbouring hills. The separate formal living area boasts a reverse cycle air conditioner. The master bedroom also takes in the best of the views and has a walk-in robe and ensuite with large shower. The remaining two bedrooms are a fantastic size and have built-in robes. A very spacious main central bathroom features a bath and separate shower as well as separate toilet. A handy mud room and laundry are accessed via the double garage with automatic roller doors.

Outside, you will find a triple bay shed with concrete floors, a hay shed and a new set of steel cattle yards with crush. The property is serviced by four 22,500L (approx.) water tanks and is completely off grid which means no power bills!

Located on approx. 77 acres of undulating countryside just 30 minutes to the pristine beaches of Waratah Bay, Sandy Point and Walkerville and 50 minutes to Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Contact conjunctional agents Kasey Bowman from Ray White on 0439 207 196 or Andrew Newton from Alex Scott on 0402 940 320 to find out more about this astonishing property.



3 2 5 31.26 ha

3045 South Gippsland Highway,
Stony Creek
For Sale \$1,750,000
Agent Ray White Leongatha
Kasey Bowman 5662 5800
Alex Scott & Staff Leongatha
Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

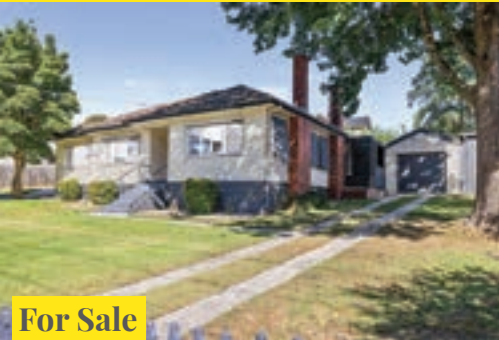


For Sale

4 Bate Street, **Leongatha**

- LOVINGLY RENOVATED!
- Upgraded with new paint, blinds & flooring
 - Light filled kitchen/dining/living
 - Solid fuel heating plus reverse cycle
 - 2 carports plus lock up shed & secure yard

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196
\$489,000 3 1 3



For Sale

20 Horn Street, **Leongatha**

- ROOM FOR EVERYONE & EVERYTHING!
- Located in the heart of the school precinct
 - Spacious kitchen & large living area
 - Solid fuel heating plus reverse cycle
 - Outdoor entertaining area plus 3 sheds

Dave Trotman 0418 589 805
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For Sale

3 Ritchie Street, **Leongatha**

- STUNNING PERIOD FEATURES!
- Renovated with attractive period features
 - Large open plan living/dining/kitchen
 - Covered entertaining deck & private yard
 - Close proximity to shops

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196
\$795,000 4 2 1

Ray White.

Michael Hanily



Paige Matthews



Dave Trotman



Kasey Bowman



Ray White Leongatha
03 5662 5800
15 Bair Street, Leongatha
raywhiteleongatha.com.au



For Sale

42 A'Beckett Street, **Leongatha**

- PRIME POSITION
- Hop, skip & jump to shops & eateries!
 - Generous open plan living/dining/kitchen
 - Two bedrooms with BIR's
 - Rear courtyard, lovely garden & garage

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756
\$449,000 2 1 1



For Sale

15 Hankinson Court, **Mirboo**

- "TRANQUIL ACRES"
- 208 productive acres with modern home
 - Exquisite views over lush green paddocks
 - 2km of river frontage, loading race/stock yards
 - Hay shed plus machinery shed

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756
\$2,800,000 neg 4 2 5



For Sale

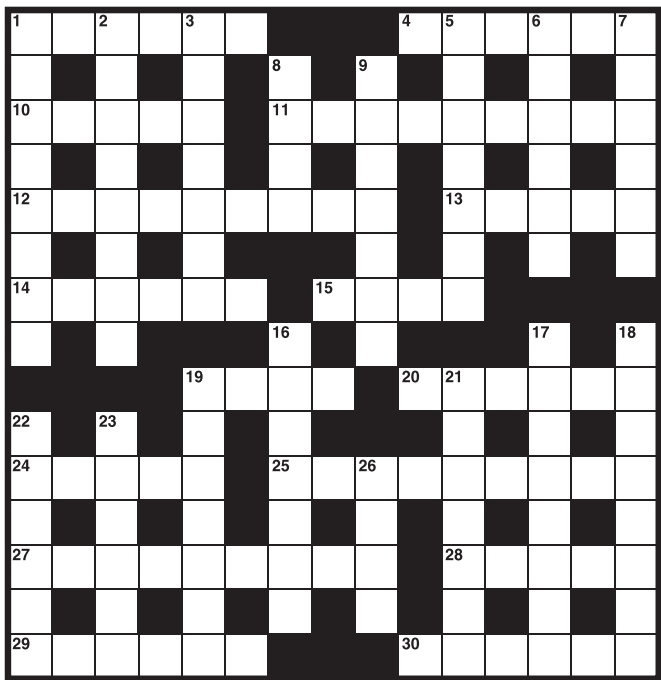
134 Hairs Road, **Moyarra**

- DREAM FAMILY HOME
- 26 acres with an abundance of infrastructure
 - 4 bedrooms plus office/5th bedroom
 - Self cleaning swimming pool & 4 person spa
 - Stunning views overlooking rolling green hills

Dave Trotman 0418 589 805
\$1,555,000 5 2 9

CROSSWORD

No. 219



- ACROSS
- 1 Frisk (6)

4 Optimistic (6)

10 Earth (Lat) (5)

11 Reality (9)

12 Insurance (9)

13 Proficient (5)

14 English author, Graham – (6)

15 Ornamental quartz (4)

19 Pig meat (4)

20 Two-piece bathing suit (6)

24 Japanese comics (5)

25 Impact; crash (9)

- DOWN
- 1 Surroundings (8)

2 Condensed (8)

3 Monty Python member, Graham – (7)

5 Body of troops (7)

6 Cast out from society (6)

7 Japanese car brand (6)

8 West African nation (4)

9 Remaining; residing (7)

16 Sound of wood burning (7)

17 Lamentable (8)

18 Married Italian women (8)

19 High plain (7)

21 Very stupid (7)

22 Aid to vomiting (6)

23 Involve (6)

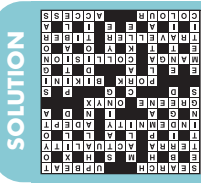
26 Old stringed instrument (4)

27 Globetrotter (9)

28 Rome's river (5)

29 Hue (6)

30 Approach (6)



9-LETTER

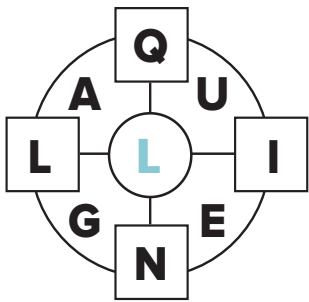
No. 219

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".

- Today's Aim:
- 20 words: Good

30 words: Very good

40 words: Excellent



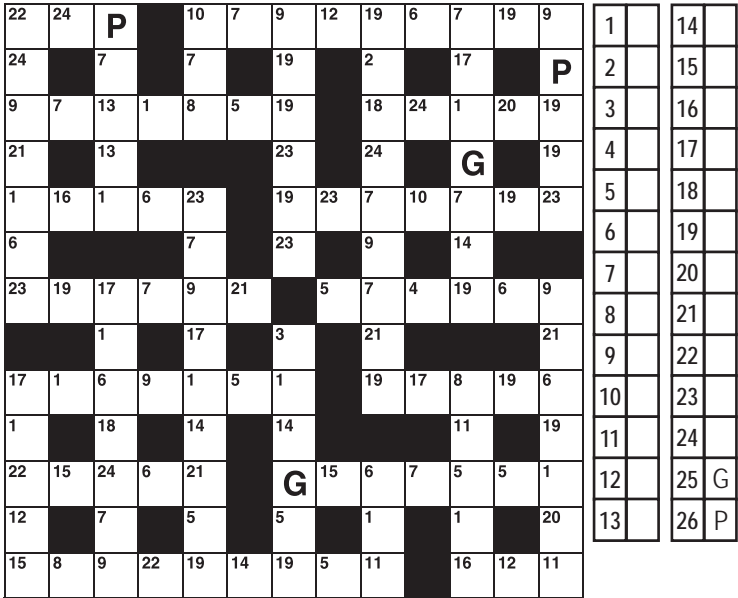
SOLUTION

agile, alien, allig, angel, angie, elan, EQUALLING, gale, gall, genial, gill, glean, gien, glue, guile, guil, lain, lane, lang, leal, lean, legal, lien, line, lineal, lingua, lingual, lung, lungie, nail, null, quill, uil, uillage, uinae, uinae

CODEWORD

No. 169

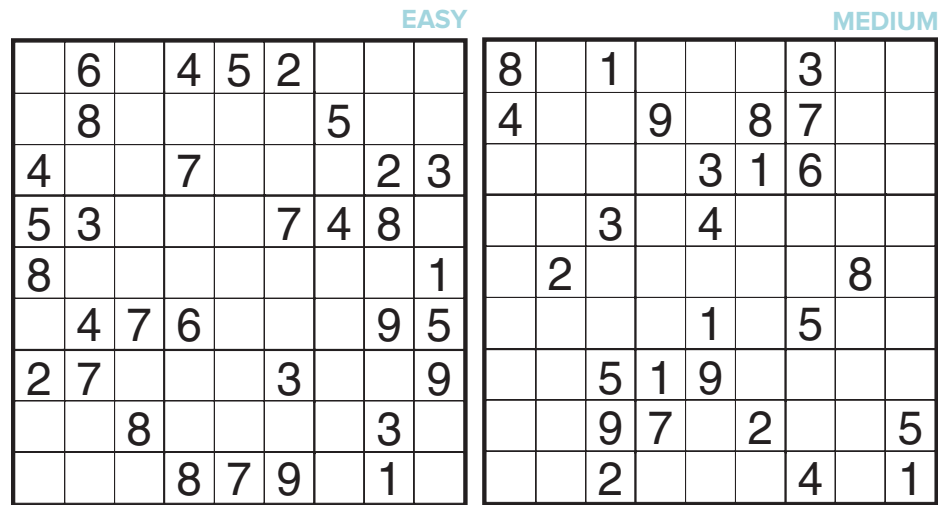
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



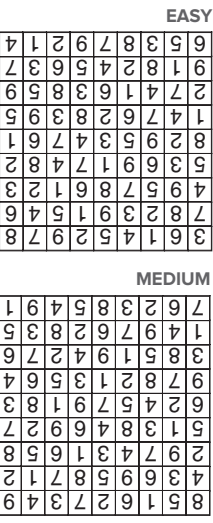
SUDOKU

No. 219

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.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. What word can refer to a famous volcano, a variety of apple or a photography company?

2. What chemical element is represented by the symbol Pt?

3. Which of the following series did JJ Abrams not produce: a) *Fringe*, b) *Revolution* or c) *Continuum*?

4. Danny DeVito (pictured) plays Frank in which US comedy series?

5. How many strings are there on a standard ukulele?

6. What is the heaviest lizard on Earth?

7. What is the capital of Croatia?

8. What is a female rabbit called?

9. What colour is sepia?

10. Is pinot gris a red or white wine?



WORD SEARCH

No. 129

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- ANNUAL

BANNER

BLESSING

CAKE

CHEERS

CLOWN

DATE

ENTERTAINMENT

EVENT

FAMILY

FESTIVE

FRIENDS

GAMES

GRATITUDE

GUESTS

JOYFUL

LAUGHTER

LOVE

MERRY

MUSIC

PARTY

PICNIC

PINATA

PRESENTS

PUNCH

REFRESHMENT

RELATIVES

RIBBON

RSVP

SINGING

SPEECH

THANK YOU

THEME

TREAT

WINE

WISH

YEAR

ANSWERS: 1. Fuji 2. Platinum 3. c) Continuum 4. It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia 5. Four 6. Komodo dragon 7. Zagreb 8. Doe 9. Brown 10. White

SECRET MESSAGE: For he's a jolly good fellow

PREVIEW

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season ahead, league
fixtures and more...



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SOUTH GIPPSLAND UMPIRES ASSOCIATION



Back from left, South Gippsland Umpires Association's Zack Scholz, goal coach Mark Hutchinson, field coach Josh Chenoweth, director of umpiring Gary Scholz, boundary coach John Wilson, Darren Winning, front from left, Patrick Wilson, Montana Campbell, Gemma Cook and Abbey Scholz at a recent training session at the new venue Korumburra Recreation Reserve.

Umpire numbers on the rise

NUMBERS are continuing to grow within the ranks of the South Gippsland Umpires Association. With a catchment extending from Inverloch to Garfield, the association is seeing around 30 umpires attend training each week, with interest on the rise.

"Our numbers seem to be growing each year. Since our move into West Gippsland, we seem to be getting more umpires from the South Eastern Suburbs," director of umpiring Gary Scholz said.

"We are seeing a mix of ages and a lot more girls coming on board as well."

South Gippsland Umpires Association (SGUA) covers all Senior matches in the West Gippsland, as well as Leongatha and Wonthaggi.

With umpire numbers continuing to rise, it is hoped the association will also cover the Reserves in the future.

Busily preparing for the season ahead, the association has been

training for more than eight weeks on Monday nights.

The training night will switch to Wednesdays during the season.

The association has been training from its new venue at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve.

"We were at the Leongatha Velodrome, and this is our first year at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve," Scholz said.

"It's a great facility with a big hall for our meals and meetings, and it's a little more central for the umpires in the West Gippsland league."

Trainings have focused on fitness, as well as skill drills with the line coaches.

It is set to be an exciting season for the SGUA, with many looking forward to Good Friday in particular.

"Over the last couple of years, AFL Victoria has opened up the AFL Auskick for umpires to go down and umpire the kids' games at Marvel Stadium," Scholz said.

"We just got confirmation we are going to be doing the Good Friday game. We are really happy with that – not only does it give back to the umpires who have been around a while, but it also gives the younger umpires the opportunity to go down and umpire in that sort of venue."

The association will gauge interest from its umpires closer to match, with those selected receiving a ticket for themselves, a ticket for a parent or partner, and the opportunity to umpire the Auskick players at halftime.

SGUA is always encouraging new umpires to come on board.

"We generally look for people who are aged 12 and above. They just have to go online, and all the details are there, including my name and phone number so they can give me a ring. Otherwise, they can just turn up on a Wednesday and give it a go," Scholz said.

The SGUA website is southgippslandumpires.sportingpulse.net.



GIPPSLAND LEAGUE 2024 FIXTURE

SEASON OPENER	ROUND 10
Saturday, March 30 Bairnsdale v Traralgon	Saturday, June 15 Leongatha v Maffra Morwell v Wonthaggi Sale v Moe Traralgon v Bairnsdale
ROUND 1	Sunday, June 16
Saturday, April 6 Bairnsdale v Drouin Moe v Morwell Warragul v Wonthaggi Leongatha v Traralgon Maffra v Sale	Drouin v Warragul
ROUND 2	ROUND 11
Saturday, April 13 Sale v Warragul Drouin v Maffra Morwell v Bairnsdale Wonthaggi v Leongatha Traralgon v Moe	Saturday, June 22 Maffra v Drouin Bairnsdale v Morwell Warragul v Traralgon Wonthaggi v Sale Moe v Leongatha
ROUND 3	ROUND 12
Saturday, April 20 Maffra v Leongatha Wonthaggi v Morwell Moe v Sale Warragul v Drouin	Saturday, June 29 Drouin v Bairnsdale Morwell v Moe Wonthaggi v Warragul Traralgon v Leongatha Sale v Maffra
ROUND 4	BYE WEEKEND - July 6
Saturday, April 27 Sale v Wonthaggi Bairnsdale v Maffra Morwell v Drouin Leongatha v Moe Traralgon v Warragul	ROUND 13
ROUND 5	Saturday, July 13 Warragul v Sale Leongatha v Wonthaggi Moe v Traralgon Maffra v Bairnsdale Drouin v Morwell
Saturday, May 4 Drouin v Sale Leongatha v Warragul Traralgon v Wonthaggi Moe v Bairnsdale Maffra v Morwell	ROUND 14
ROUND 6	Saturday, July 20 Sale v Drouin Warragul v Leongatha Wonthaggi v Traralgon Bairnsdale v Moe Morwell v Maffra
Saturday, May 11 Morwell v Leongatha Moe v Drouin Wonthaggi v Maffra Sale v Traralgon Warragul v Bairnsdale	ROUND 15
BYE WEEKEND - May 18	Saturday, July 27 Leongatha v Morwell Drouin v Moe Maffra v Wonthaggi Traralgon v Sale Bairnsdale v Warragul
ROUND 7	ROUND 16
Saturday, May 25 Bairnsdale v Wonthaggi Morwell v Warragul Maffra v Moe Leongatha v Sale Drouin v Traralgon	Saturday, August 3 Wonthaggi v Bairnsdale Sale v Leongatha Moe v Maffra Warragul v Morwell Traralgon v Drouin
ROUND 8	BYE WEEKEND - August 10
Saturday, June 1 Leongatha v Bairnsdale Sale v Morwell Traralgon v Maffra Warragul v Moe Wonthaggi v Drouin	ROUND 17
ROUND 9	Saturday, August 17 Bairnsdale v Leongatha Morwell v Sale Maffra v Traralgon Moe v Warragul Drouin v Wonthaggi
Saturday, June 8 Bairnsdale v Sale Maffra v Warragul Moe v Wonthaggi Drouin v Leongatha	ROUND 18
Sunday, June 9 Morwell v Traralgon	Saturday, August 24 Sale v Bairnsdale Traralgon v Morwell Warragul v Maffra Wonthaggi v Moe Leongatha v Drouin
FINALS	
Qualifying Final - Sat Aug 31 2nd Semi Final - Sat Sept 7 Preliminary Final - Sat Sept 14	Elimination Final - Sun Sept 1 1st Semi Final - Sun Sept 8 Grand Final - Sat Sept 21

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GIPPSLAND LEAGUE

LEONGATHA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Youthful talent, seasoned experience for Parrots

LEONGATHA coach Trent McMicking is looking forward to seeing the club's young brigade given more senior opportunities this year, but still has plenty of experience to draw on.

Josh Hopkins and Cam Stone are a couple of multiple senior premiership players who have moved elsewhere.

Stone has returned to his junior club Stony Creek where he'll play alongside his brothers, while Hopkins is set for the challenge of the senior coaching role at Korumburra-Bena.

Young talent Wil Dawson was immediately comfortable at senior level for the Parrots and everyone at the club will be watching his exploits in a North Melbourne jumper.

Reserves premiership players Steve Forrester and Lachie Wright have headed to MDU for more senior opportunities.

Last year's club Best and Fairest Aaron Heppell will be unavailable for most of the season due to overseas travel.

On the arrivals side, young and skilful running halfback and wingman Cooper Alger comes from Warragul.

Last season's Korumburra-Bena Best and Fairest Jay Walker, a small inside midfielder, is another welcome addition for the Parrots having impressed with his ability to win the ball and his courageous "in and under" approach.

Nick Argento is back in town after time spent in the Amateurs in Melbourne, being a classy and quick small forward, while pressure forward Ned Hanily returns from injury. "The big thing for us this year is to keep developing our younger players by giving them more exposure at senior level," McMicking said.

Trent McRae, Mason McGannon, Travis Nash, Levi Hickey and Noah Fixter are among that group, with others such as Jack Hume and Jake van der Pligt to continue building on their senior experience.

McMicking will be aided by assistant coaches Nick Nagle, Rob Eddy and Clint Johnstone.

Rhett Kelly continues as Development (Reserves) coach.

Stuart Wigney will help develop the younger part of the list,

while Ben Willis will coach the Under 18s and Tim Bolge the Under 16s.

Leongatha will build towards its season with a practice match against North Ringwood in Newhaven on March 23.

Lyndell Bruce is the new coach of the Parrots A Grade netballers.

Originally a Leongatha girl, she brings a wealth of netball knowledge, having started coaching locally before taking charge of various representative teams in Melbourne and Canberra.

She has a decade of experience with the Victorian Netball League team Bundoora Express, most recently in a high-performance manager role, and was a performance analyst for the Australian Diamonds for five years.

Talented player Sharni Lambden has arrived at Leongatha, knowing the Sperling family, a superb acquisition with the versatility to play important roles in midcourt or defence and the experience of being a long-term Vixens training partner.

There is also an exciting crop of up-and-coming juniors likely to add to senior ranks this year.

Jess Edgar is the noteworthy confirmed departure, with her replacement as Goal Shooter yet to be finalised, while Laura Higgins will be out of action due to pregnancy.

Other Netball Coaches:

B Grade: Dean Cashin rejoins the Leongatha coaching panel, having previously coached the A Grade side and looks forward to working with all the club's netballers.

C Grade: Elicia Garnham and Lauren Redpath look forward to sharing their extensive netball knowledge.

Under 17: Kate Sperling is the head junior coach and has great ability to get the best out of each player and the whole team.

Under 15: Stacey Giliam continues in the role, valuing communication, player development and welfare.

Under 13s: Alicia Marshman has an ideal supportive nature for developing young players.



Leongatha recruit Cooper Alger in action against Inverloch-Kongwak during a recent practice match.



Highly credentialed coach Lyndell Bruce takes charge of Leongatha's A Grade netballers this season with the assistance of club superstar Kate Sperling.

PARROTS at a glance:

- **2023 Football Finish:** Premiers
- **2024 Senior Football Coach:** Trent McMicking
- **Key Recruits:** Cooper Alger, Nick Argento, Jay Walker
- **Key Departures:** Josh Hopkins, Wil Dawson, Cam Stone, Steve Forrester, Lachie Wright
- **2023 A Grade Netball Finish:** 3rd Preliminary Finalists
- **2024 Senior Netball Coach:** Lyndell Bruce



Leongatha's Jack Hume looks for an option during the Parrots' practice match hitout with Inverloch-Kongwak.

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Wonthaggi Power hosted Phillip Island recently at a full-club practice match, with the Under 16s playing mid-week at Wonthaggi and the seniors on Saturday.



Wonthaggi Power shooter Courtney Brann looks for support during a practice match against Inverloch-Kongwak recently, with Millie Sadler closing down the space.

Youth focus working for Wonthaggi Power

IT ALREADY looks set to be a challenging year for Wonthaggi Power, following injuries to several of the club's best players from 2023 and the promotion of two of its brightest young stars, Ryan Sparkes and Jack Hutchinson, to the Collingwood Reserves' list.

But that's the focus you get, as a top young footballer, when you excel in the major Gippsland league. Get noticed there and you can still aspire to taking it to a higher level.

And hopefully it's a sign of things to come as Wonthaggi Power is starting to see the fruits of its focus on youth in recent years.

But those Gippsland clubs that see the loss of key defender Kyle Reid, power on-baller Brodie Mabilia and the absence of the likes of Flynn Anderson and Jordan Staley as a chance to take the Power down might be wise to consider that the strong core of a club, that played off for the 2023 Gippsland League premiership, is still there.

Club officials say that while it has been disappointing to see those injuries, and they wish the boys well with their recoveries, it's a case of one door closes and another one opens.

"It's exciting to see the young guys coming through the ranks and with some opportunities opening up at the senior level, it will be interesting to see their progress through the season," said club president Peter Liddle during the week.

"We've got some great people in the junior club and looking after our underage teams and honestly, that's where a lot of the community involvement comes from. It's arguably the most important thing about a footy club."

As well as retaining most of its core strength from last year, adding some youth from within and recruiting several senior players, Wonthaggi hasn't ruled out the chance that it might still land a couple of key recruits in the early part of the season, as clubs elsewhere finalise their lists.

But for now, it's all about the preparations for the start of the season at Western Park Warragul on Saturday, April 6 and then back at Wonthaggi, for the grand final replay against Leongatha on Saturday, April 13.

The first bounce being little more than a couple of weeks away now.

The Power may not see a lot of their Collingwood VFL recruits after they both impressed in their first hit-outs in Collingwood's practice match against Richmond.

Hutchinson kicked the first two goals of the match and had a hand in another in the second quarter following one of his trademark spectacular flies. He kicked a third at the end of the third quarter in a complete display.

Ryan Sparkes played on the wing and

was praised for his composure and ball skills while looking very much the part at that level.

However, the two players look likely to be available to Wonthaggi for the Warragul game in between games for Collingwood on March 29 against Brisbane and then Carlton at Ikon Park on Sunday, April 14 which could be a good one for locals to travel down and see.

Wonthaggi have added a few recruits already this pre-season including Kaj Patterson (Tarwin Sharks), Cameron Ogden (Warragul Industrials), Darren Patmore (Strathmerton), Brayden Duve (returning from Dalyston), Adam Pugh (returning from Nyora) and Noah Martin (Kilcunda-Bass), and they have some other prospects too.

On the plus side, Kyle Reid is staying with the club as a defence line coach and it's likely there'll be a role for Brodie too while he recovers.

More Under 18s welcome

Wonthaggi Power has been getting good numbers along to Under 16s training, as many as 34 and under the supervision of coaches Matt Pugh and Glenn Jobe, they look set to have a good season.

They had a good hit-out against Phillip Island recently and both clubs, it must be said, looked evenly matched and in good form.

Under 18s numbers, as is the case with most clubs, is the difficult one but they're doing everything to encourage players to get to training on Tuesday and Thursday nights, running buses from Newhaven College and Bass Coast College on training nights. If you'd like to join them, contact coach Jess Feather 0419 544 174.

Wonthaggi has full club practice day at Nar Nar Goon on Saturday, March 23.

One of the shining lights for the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club has been the level of interest on the netball side with strong numbers at tryouts and teams at all levels well supported.

The development of a new netball pavilion, near where the playground now stands, is still on the agenda but given the growing interest in the sport and the continued growth of the town, it's something that might need to be brought forward.

Wonthaggi is also keen to embrace the opportunities in women's football and if they want to host teams and games in the future, better women's facilities are also needed.

So, apart from the loss of some key players, there's a lot going on at Wonthaggi Power and look for them to be pressing for a finals berth again in 2024 and if they can also qualify an improved Sparkes and Hutchinson for finals duties, who knows what the new season might bring.

Power netballers recharged and ready

IT'S hard on the selectors but it's always a good sign for a club when you've got big numbers at the tryouts in February and that was the case for the Wonthaggi Power Netballers with upwards of 45 staking a claim on an A, B or C slot in the strong Gippsland League competition.

In fact, so good were the numbers that it prompted the club to renew its call for a D Grade competition to be added in Gippsland.

"We are delighted with the response we've had to teams, and while it can be disappointing for those who miss out, we're putting in two senior teams in the Wonthaggi Netball competition on a Tuesday night and encouraging those girls to keep coming to training.

"We haven't settled on the teams yet. We've still got squads but we'll work that out over the next few weeks with a full-club practice match against Nar Nar Goon and some intracub games following matches against Killy-Bass and IK.

"But yes, we're in good shape. We had our coaches named early and we've had new players coming to us and some returning which is great after last year, which was a bit of a rebuilding year with a lot of players away for various reasons.

"Although I haven't been able to get along much, I understand we've got good numbers in our 17s, 15s and 13s as well, and a lot of bottom-age players from last year who will be able to bring that improvement again this year.

"We've had a really good pre-season and can't wait to get started," said Netball Operations Manager Abby Tranter.



POWER at a glance:

- **2023 Football Finish:** Runners Up
- **2024 Senior Football Coach:** Jarryd Blair & Tristan Francis
- **Key Recruits:** Kaj Patterson, Cameron Ogden, Darren Patmore, Brayden Duve, Adam Pugh and Noah Martin
- **Key Departures:** Kyle Reid, Brodie Mabilia, Flynn Anderson and Jordan Staley
- **2023 Netball Finish:** 8th
- **2024 Senior Netball Coach:** Jess Blair & Kealey Lindsay

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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

DALYSTON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Dalyston are focused on sustained success

PRE-SEASON began in November and resumed in January for the Dalyston Football Netball Club (FNC), and with a renewed focus on fitness and structure, the club is an exciting place to be around right now.

President David Bell shared that he has seen an incredible buy in from the senior playing group, and that coupled with strong numbers from U10's up, and the inclusion of a junior girls U14's, there's a real buzz around the club and the future looks bright.

"We have further development around the grounds at the moment with the construction of a brand-new playground nearly complete helping to emphasise the family environment we pride ourselves on."

In 2023 Oona Shepherd and the Dalyston FNC said farewell to Alana and Hannah McRae; however, for 2024 they've welcomed Bella Schmidt returning from injury, as well as Jarney Thomas and Emma Main returning as playing coaches.

"We look forward to Bella Schmidt returning to the court after a knee injury in pre-season last year. Bella was a promising shooter who has already played a season in A Grade," said Oona.

"Jarney Thomas and Emma Main will be coaching B Grade and C Grade, supporting Gemma Thomas and bringing knowledge and experience to a young playing list."

Gemma has taken on the role as A Grade playing coach and head coach for the club. Gemma has coached junior Grades and B Grade over recent years and has a wealth of knowledge from her time in the VNL playing for Hawthorn and more recently playing Division one for Casey Demons. Gemma will be assisted by Saskia Schmidt.

"Last year seven of our eight netball teams made finals with Under 11's C Grade and B Grade making the Preliminary final and C Grade just missing the premiership by 1 goal," said Oona.

"This year there is an

abundance of junior netball players. We look forward to developing these girls as they move through the grades keeping our club players on the court. Our A Grade coach will be working closely with the under 17 coach to ensure that we have consistency in our game play and have junior players ready to step into the senior Grades when given the opportunity."

In the seniors Kyle Kirk was recruited from West Adelaide SANFL and Mitch Hallahan was promoted as senior playing coach.

"We're excited to welcome back Kyle Kirk to Dalyston after spending time with West Adelaide FC in the SANFL. Kyle is a tough inside small forward/winger who'll provide additional depth and tackling pressure to our already strong midfield," said David.

"Our newly appointed Senior Coach Mitch Hallahan brings with him a wealth of experience from his time as both a player and coach at AFL, VFL, and regional levels. His experience and leadership have seen a huge increase in our playing groups overall fitness, game structure, and focus on sustained success," said David.

"We're excited to see this experience flow on to our junior programs who've embraced it with open arms."

Dalyston FNC prides themselves on their open, welcoming culture, and sense of community. Off field the club have been working hard to support the local community with events, including Oz Day at Daly 2024, and Deb Rielly's Run for the Kids.

Throughout the 2024 season the club is also hosting important home games including the Round 3 ANZAC clash against Korumburra-Bena at which Wonthaggi RSL will be guiding remembrance proceedings.

On field the juniors are focused on inclusion, fun and having a go, while the seniors have been working exceptionally hard over the pre-season to bring an exciting brand of tough football, they hope the fans can enjoy.



Curtis Murfett and Michael Harris in pre-season training for Dalyston Football Club.



Mateship is displayed with Will Clarke at a pre-season training for Dalyston.



Jarney Thomas, Saskia Schmidt, Emma Main, Brit Thomas with Karin Loughran, Sarah Blundell, and Gemma Thomas at the Dalyston Netball Courts for pre-season training.

MAGPIES at a glance:

- 2023 Football Finish: 7th
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Mitch Hallahan
- Key Recruits: Kyle Kirk
- Key Departures: Brayden Duve
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: 3rd Semi Finalists
- 2024 Senior Netball Coach: Gemma Thomas

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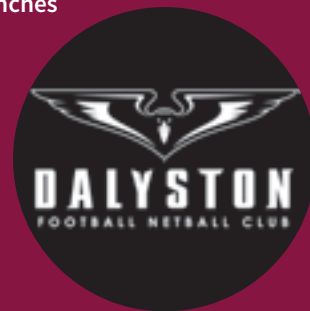
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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

INVERLOCH - KONGWAK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Ethan Park, Paul Pattison, Seniors coach Tom Hams, Will Turner and Seniors coach Leigh Cole during Inverloch-Kongwak's preseason training.



Inverloch-Kongwak and Leongatha battle for possession in a recent practice match.



Inverloch-Kongwak Senior netballers Amy Scott (far left) and Jas Williams (far right) with B Grade coach Rachael Millar and A Grade coach Liza Burrows.

Sea Eagles soar into the new season

THE 2023 season was one for the history books at Inverloch-Kongwak Football Netball Club.

The Sea Eagles were premiers almost across the board, with grand final victories celebrated by the Seniors, Reserves, U18s, A Grade and C Grade.

Inverloch-Kongwak's junior squads shared the success with the U12 footballers and the Leongatha and District Netball Association (LDNA) U18 team also winning 2023 premier-ships.

However, it's a new season and the Sea Eagles are ready to put in the work from the ground up to ensure another successful year.

Preseason kicked off in late November, with good numbers turning out both on the footy field and on the netball court.

"We obviously had a good year last year. The aim is always to be up there and competing against the best. Everyone starts from zero, so we are looking forward to going to work. We know there's some good teams around and we want to be right up there," Seniors coach Tom Hams said.

The junior football numbers are looking strong, with many hoping to get some Senior game opportunities throughout the year.

The club congratulated Archie Terlich and Jobe Scapin, who were selected for Gippsland Power, and Harry Butcher and Lucas Allen, who were named in the development squad.

Hams, Leigh Cole and Lewis Rankin will be coaching this season's Senior team, with Shane Bertacco sent to coach the Reserves.

The Fourths will be led by first time coach Jim Soumilas, with his brother Joe acting as assistant coach for Thirds coach Dave Newman.

On the netball court, interest has peaked with more than 50 players trialling to be part of the West Gippsland, LDNA and midweek netball sides for Inverloch-Kongwak.

This intake included 10 to 15 new players to the club.

Liza Burrows is leading the Senior coaching panel, with Rachael Millar coaching B Grade, Sarah Green coaching C Grade and new club member Cath Crosser coaching D Grade.

In the juniors, the coaches are Bec Hawking (U17s), Emma Sorensen (U15s), Kayley Sawyer and Emily

Clark (U13s) and Trina Anderson (U11s).

"We had a very successful year and we now have all be one A Grader returning to play again this season. Four or five players are contesting for A Grade positions, and we will likely go into the season before our teams are finalised," Burrows said.

Socially, the club has a jam-packed calendar to look forward to, starting with Wimbledon Night on April 27.

Club members have also saved the date for their Mystery Bus event, iPod Shuffle, the IKFNC Community Ball and Trivia Night.

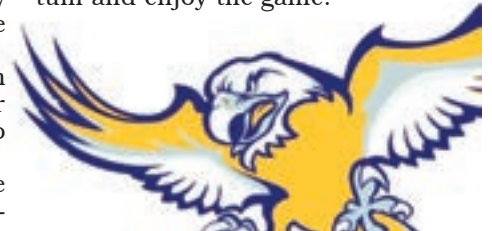
The grounds have also gotten an upgrade ahead of the season, with a shipping container being converted into a bar to further enhance the functionality of the club.

Lime and Co is back on board to support the club with Thursday night dinners, and Saturday dinners after home games.

Inverloch-Kongwak will have a hit out against Pakenham ahead of the season and will face Cora Lynn in round one on Easter Saturday.

"It's a good, challenging match first up," Burrows said.

"During the season, we'd really like to keep up our level of netball and focus on our B Grade team. They've made finals the last two years, and we want to keep pushing them up. Our aim is to keep up our momentum and enjoy the game."



SEA EAGLES at a glance:

- 2023 Football Finish: Premiers
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Tom Hams, Leigh Cole and Lewis Rankin
- Key Recruits: Nil
- Key Departures: Nil
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: Premiers
- 2024 Senior Netball Coach: Liza Burrows

Good luck to the Inverloch-Kongwak Sea Eagles teams for 2024

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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

KILCUNDA - BASS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



PANTHERS at a glance:

- **2023 Football Finish:** 8th
- **2024 Senior Football Coach:** Lee Rowe
- **Key Recruits:** Tim Gunn, Callum Brinkman, Jayden Goumas and Mehdi Daoud
- **Key Departures:** Taylor Gibson, Marcus Baxter and Kye Benson
- **2023 A Grade Netball Finish:** 6th Elimination Finalists
- **2024 Senior Netball Coach:** Caity Stephens



Kilcunda-Bass seniors prepare for the 2024 season with strong growth in recruitment.

Kilcunda-Bass have recruited well for 2024

KILCUNDA-Bass Football Netball Club are aiming to improve on last year's results after injuries got in the way of the club making finals, but the club's season is looking promising with growth in recruitment for the 2024 season.

The club saw the departure of Taylor Gibson, Marcus Baxter and Kye Benson, and welcomes Tim Gunn, Callum Brinkman, Jayden Goumas and brothers Jack and Jedd Rosenow who bring skill and extensive experience to the team.

President Shea Eden and Vice President Kane Wookey are looking for the club to become more consistent and competitive in the upcoming season. With expectation to see strong matches looking forward, the club endeavour to make finals.

Training commenced in January and Shea explained that the club expects to see a wider club connection from juniors all the way up to seniors and a successful year on all fronts.

Netball A Grade coach Caity Stephens said the girls are looking forward to getting back onto the court for the season ahead after finishing in the finals in 2023 – “the girls will be testing out some new combinations and building on the success of the



The senior netball coaching team at Kilcunda-Bass are looking forward to building on the success from last season. From Left: Caity Stephens (A Grade Coach), Jemma Osborne (C Grade Coach), Jo Cartmel (B Grade Assistant Coach) and Shenade Hardeman (B Grade Coach).

previous year.”

“We're hoping to see some improvements in our overall game, executing the basic skills will allow us to have success in other aspects of the court,” said Caity.

The Kilcunda-Bass FNC have had Jemma Osborne from Narre Warren FNC and Sophie Baker from Bonbeach join their squad and look forward to a solid year of netball.

The girls junior footy commenced in early March, but the club would like to see an increase in numbers; together the club are working with local schools in the area to boost

numbers and are on the lookout for an under 14's girls' coach.

However, the junior boys footy U10s, 12s and 14s numbers are looking great. U16s wasn't looking decent at the beginning of the year but coach Rik Crook assisted by Jake Weightman stepped in and their teams are now looking promising with good numbers.

Auskick and Net Set Go starts in term two.

“A great way to get all the kids on board and introduced to the club and to community sport.”

Junior Netball numbers are looking good for the lower age groups at this stage, and the club is looking positive for the season ahead.

The veteran's side is looking healthy for their second season and will play most of their fortnightly games on Saturday evenings after the seniors.

“Last year was the first VET's team ever, so it's great to keep it going,” said Shea.

“The players also get together every Saturday for park run alternating between Churchill Island and Inverloch. There are now seven teams in the West Gippsland league.

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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

KORUMBURA - BENA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Reserves coach Jasper Macri, Senior coach Josh Hopkins, Senior captain Joel Cuman and recruit Hugh Gordon are looking forward to Korumburra-Bena's season.

Stong recruitment signals ambitious future

KORUMBURRA-Bena has recruited strongly as it looks to improve on its 11th place finish last season, with new coach Josh Hopkins a returning local who brings his crafty skills as a forward and the experience of being part of an accomplished Leongatha outfit.

Club president Ken Myers said Hopkins has driven home the need for onfield structure, an important message for the young guys likely to feature in 2024 senior action.

"He's developing a style of game that will suit our younger, fitter, quicker players," Myers said.

That won't come at the expense of defensive play when required, with the side punished in 2023 when it turned the ball over and couldn't defend adequately.

There is great excitement at the return of Tom Crocker after time with Leongatha and Tarwin.

"He's elusive around the goals and knows how to get the footy," Myers said.

The addition of big-bodied Hugh Gordon will add a physical presence to the backline, with Myers saying he's capable of playing a rebounding role from centre half back.

While Tyler Newton

played a couple of games last season, he was travelling for much of the campaign and his ongoing presence this year will be welcome.

Having come through the club's junior ranks, Newton is tall and athletic and set to contribute in the ruck and elsewhere.

Midfielder Mitch Wightman arrives from Mirboo North, bringing 150 games of experience that includes a senior premiership.

Last season's club Best and Fairest Jay Walker is the key departure, the midfielder joining Leongatha to experience a higher level of footy.

Hopkins will have coaching support from off-field assistants Dale Wyhoon and Tim Morrison, while last year's senior coach Paul Fermanis will hold an onfield assistant coaching role.

Wyhoon has returned to the club where he played his junior football, and was a Gippsland Power representative in his younger days, with Hopkins saying he will be a great asset for the Giants.

Jasper Macri remains in charge of the Reserves, with Tyson Findlay continuing to coach the Under 18s and the girls team, while Jordan Grabham

will guide the Under 16s.

Gemma Dixon and Kate Attenborough will coach the Giants' A Grade netballers, with Gemma having jointly won last season's league Best and Fairest while a playing co-coach for the Giants.

She continues in that capacity as the side's goal defender, while Attenborough will coach from the bench.

Although midcourter Georgia Hamilton will be unavailable this season, the Giants have retained most of their talent and overall numbers have been improved, with Korumburra-Bena to have a D Grade side, something it hasn't had for the last couple of seasons.

Players are looking forward to their new purpose-built netball facility that is currently under construction but well advanced.

While the Giants placed ninth last campaign, Dixon is confident finals are a realistic aspiration, with continued improvement from young players expected to benefit the side.

Mackenna Whiteside and Chelsea Fox are a couple of talented Under 17 players anticipated to contribute at senior level when called on.

Whiteside tasted A Grade action as a goal scorer last year, is a member of the Gippsland Stars Victorian Netball League squad and will co-coach the Giants Under 15s.

Fox plays midcourt, as does her older sister Felicity who is among those expected to build on their senior netball experience last year.

Coach Dixon is excited about the long-term health of netball at Korumburra-Bena, highlighting the strength of the club's junior development.

"We're going to run the Net Set Go program again this year, which is great because it means we've got those girls coming through early and since we have Under 11s there's that nice pathway," she said.



A Grade netball co-coach Gemma Dixon is confident the Giants can move up the ladder this year.



WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

2024 FIXTURE

EASTER SAT (ROUND 4)

Saturday, March 30
Phillip Island v Warragul Ind
Inverloch-K v Cora Lynn

ROUND 1

Saturday, April 13
Warragul Ind v Inverloch-K
Cora Lynn v Tooradin-D
Koo Wee Rup v Dalyston
Garfield v Bunyip
Kilcunda-Bass v Kor-Bena
Nar Nar Goon v Phillip Island

ROUND 2

Saturday, April 20
Warragul Ind v Kor-Bena
Inverloch-K v Koo Wee Rup
Dalyston v Garfield
Bunyip v Nar Nar Goon
Phillip Island v Cora Lynn
Tooradin-D v Kilcunda-Bass

ROUND 3 - ANZAC

Thursday, April 25
Tooradin-D v Warragul Ind
Saturday, April 27
Nar Nar Goon v Koo Wee Rup
Dalyston v Kor-Bena
Kilcunda-Bass v Phillip Island
Garfield v Inverloch-K
Cora Lynn v Bunyip

ROUND 4

Saturday, May 4
Koo Wee Rup v Kilcunda-Bass
Bunyip v Dalyston
Garfield v Tooradin-D
Nar Nar Goon v Kor-Bena

ROUND 5

Saturday, May 11
Tooradin-D v Koo Wee Rup
Kilcunda-Bass v Bunyip
Kor-Bena v Phillip Island
Dalyston v Inverloch-K
Cora Lynn v Garfield
Sunday, May 12
Warragul Ind v Nar Nar Goon

ROUND 6

Saturday, May 18
Inverloch-K v Kilcunda-Bass
Nar Nar Goon v Dalyston
Kor-Bena v Cora Lynn
Bunyip v Tooradin-D
Garfield v Warragul Ind
Koo Wee Rup v Phillip Island

ROUND 7

Saturday, May 25
Warragul Ind v Koo Wee Rup
Phillip Island v Inverloch-K
Tooradin-D v Dalyston
Cora Lynn v Nar Nar Goon
Kor-Bena v Bunyip
Kilcunda-Bass v Garfield

ROUND 8

Saturday, June 1
Koo Wee Rup v Cora Lynn
Inverloch-K v Tooradin-D
Dalyston v Phillip Island
Nar Nar Goon v Kilcunda-Bass
Bunyip v Warragul Ind
Garfield v Kor-Bena

ROUND 9

Saturday, June 8
Warragul Ind v Dalyston
Phillip Island v Garfield
Kilcunda-Bass v Cora Lynn
Inverloch-K v Bunyip
Tooradin-D v Nar Nar Goon
Sunday June 9
Kor-Bena v Koo Wee Rup

ROUND 10

Saturday, June 15
Phillip Island v Tooradin-D
Koo Wee Rup v Bunyip
Dalyston v Kilcunda-Bass
Kor-Bena v Inverloch-K
Cora Lynn v Warragul Ind
Nar Nar Goon v Garfield

ROUND 11

Saturday, June 22
Kilcunda-Bass v Warragul Ind
Bunyip v Phillip Island
Inverloch-K v Nar Nar Goon
Tooradin-d v Kor-Bena
Cora Lynn v Dalyston
Garfield v Koo Wee Rup

ROUND 12

Saturday, June 29
Warragul Ind v Tooradin-D
Koo Wee Rup v Inverloch-K
Nar Nar Goon v Bunyip
Garfield v Cora Lynn
Phillip Island v Kilcunda-Bass
Kor-Bena v Dalyston

BYE WEEKEND - July 6

ROUND 13

Saturday, July 13
Bunyip v Garfield
Phillip Island v Koo Wee Rup
Kilcunda-Bass v Tooradin-D
Dalyston v Nar Nar Goon
Inverloch-K v Warragul Ind
Cora Lynn v Kor-Bena

ROUND 14

Saturday, July 20
Bunyip v Kilcunda-Bass
Kor-Bena v Warragul Ind
Koo Wee Rup v Nar Nar Goon
Tooradin-D v Cora Lynn
Garfield v Phillip Island
Inverloch-K v Dalyston

ROUND 15

Saturday, July 27
Warragul Ind v Phillip Island
Kilcunda-Bass v Koo Wee Rup
Dalyston v Bunyip
Kor-Bena v Garfield
Cora Lynn v Inverloch-K
Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin-D

ROUND 16

Saturday, August 3
Kilcunda-Bass v Inverloch-K
Phillip Island v Dalyston
Nar Nar Goon v Cora Lynn
Bunyip v Kor-Bena
Koo Wee Rup v Warragul Ind
Tooradin-D v Garfield

ROUND 17

Saturday, August 10
Inverloch-K v Phillip Island
Dalyston v Koo Wee Rup
Garfield v Nar Nar Goon
Kor-Bena v Kilcunda-Bass
Warragul Ind v Cora Lynn
Tooradin-D v Bunyip

ROUND 18

Saturday, August 17
Bunyip v Inverloch-K
Cora Lynn v Kilcunda-Bass
Phillip Island v Nar Nar Goon
Dalyston v Tooradin-D
Koo Wee Rup v Kor-Bena
Warragul Ind v Garfield

FINALS

EF Aug 24 EF Aug 25
2nd SF Aug 31 1st SF Sept 1
PF Sat Sept 7 GF Sat Sept 14



GIANTS at a glance:

- 2023 Senior Football Finish: 11th
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Josh Hopkins
- 2024 Senior Football Captain: Joel Cuman
- Key Recruits: Josh Hopkins, Tom Crocker, Mitch Wightman and Hugh Gordon.
- Key Departures: Jay Walker
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: 9th
- 2024 Senior Netball Coaches: Gemma Dixon and Kate Attenborough



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MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE

2024 FIXTURE

ROUND 1 – Saturday, April 13	ROUND 10 – Saturday, June 22
Fish Creek v Newborough MDU v Thorpdale Yinnar v Toora Boolarra v Mirboo North Hill End v Stony Creek Foster v Morwell East Tarwin - BYE	Stony Creek v Toora Morwell East v Thorpdale Foster v Newborough Hill End v Tarwin Boolarra v Fish Creek Yinnar v MDU Mirboo North - BYE
ROUND 2 – Saturday, April 20	ROUND 11 – Saturday, June 29
MDU v Tarwin Newborough v Yinnar Thorpdale v Boolarra Toora v Hill End Mirboo North v Foster Stony Creek v Morwell East Fish Creek - BYE	Thorpdale v Mirboo North Newborough v Stony Creek Tarwin v Morwell East Fish Creek v Foster MDU v Hill End Yinnar v Boolarra Toora - BYE
ROUND 3 – Saturday, April 27	ROUND 12 – Saturday, July 6
Yinnar v Fish Creek Boolarra v Tarwin Hill End v Newborough Foster v Thorpdale Morwell East v Toora Stony Creek v Mirboo North MDU - BYE	Toora v Newborough Mirboo North v Tarwin Stony Creek v Fish Creek Morwell East v MDU Foster v Yinnar Hill End v Boolarra Thorpdale - BYE
ROUND 4 – Saturday, May 4	ROUND 13 – Saturday, July 13
MDU v Boolarra Fish Creek v Hill End Tarwin v Foster Newborough v Morwell East Thorpdale v Stony Creek Toora v Mirboo North Yinnar - BYE	Tarwin v Thorpdale Fish Creek v Toora MDU v Mirboo North Yinnar v Stony Creek Boolarra v Morwell East Hill End v Foster Newborough - BYE
ROUND 5 – Saturday, May 11	ROUND 14 – Saturday, July 20
Hill End v Yinnar Foster v MDU Morwell East v Fish Creek Stony Creek v Tarwin Mirboo North v Newborough Toora v Thorpdale Boolarra - BYE	Newborough v Fish Creek Thorpdale v MDU Toora v Yinnar Mirboo North v Boolarra Morwell East v Foster Hill End, Stony Creek and Tarwin - BYES
ROUND 6 – Saturday, May 18	ROUND 15 – Saturday, July 27
Boolarra v Foster Yinnar v Morwell East MDU v Stony Creek Fish Creek v Mirboo North Tarwin v Toora Newborough v Thorpdale Hill End - BYE	Boolarra v Hill End Stony Creek v Thorpdale Tarwin v MDU Yinnar v Newborough Foster v Mirboo North Fish Creek, Morwell East and Toora - BYES
ROUND 7 – Saturday, May 25	ROUND 16 – Saturday, Aug. 3
Saturday, May 25 Morwell East v Hill End Stony Creek v Boolarra Mirboo North v Yinnar Toora v MDU Thorpdale v Fish Creek Newborough v Tarwin Foster - BYE	Tarwin v Stony Creek Thorpdale v Toora Fish Creek v Boolarra Morwell East v Yinnar Mirboo North v Hill End Foster, MDU and Newborough - BYES
ROUND 8 – Saturday, June 1	ROUND 17 – Saturday, Aug. 10
Foster v Stony Creek Hill End v Mirboo North Boolarra v Toora Yinnar v Thorpdale MDU v Newborough Fish Creek v Tarwin Morwell East - BYE	Boolarra v Stony Creek Toora v Tarwin Morwell East v Newborough Hill End v MDU Foster v Fish Creek Mirboo North, Thorpdale and Yinnar - BYES
ROUND 9 – Saturday, June 8	ROUND 18 – Saturday, Aug. 17
Fish Creek v MDU	Thorpdale v Morwell East MDU v Foster Mirboo North v Fish Creek Stony Creek v Yinnar Tarwin v Hill End Newborough v Boolarra Tarwin v Yinnar Stony Creek - BYE
ROUND 9 – Saturday, June 15	
Mirboo North v Morwell East Toora v Foster Thorpdale v Hill End Newborough v Boolarra Tarwin v Yinnar Stony Creek - BYE	
FINALS	
Elimination Final - Sat Aug 24 2nd Semi Final - Sat Aug 31 Preliminary Final - Sat Sept 7	Elimination Final - Sun Aug 25 1st Semi Final - Sun Sept 1 Grand Final - Sat Sept 14



MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE

STONY CREEK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Stony Creek footballers get in some intra-club work ahead of their practice match against Longwarry.

Stony Creek gears up for season opener

STONY Creek will be confident of moving up the senior footy ladder from its 11th place finish in 2023, having recruited strongly, with Chris Verboon continuing as playing senior coach.

Adaptable and skilled midfielder Cam Stone has returned to the Lions where he featured in the 2009 Senior Premiership before doing likewise on four occasions with Leongatha.

Another recruit Wayne Groves will further bolster the team around the centre, described by the footy club as a “hard midfielder with excellent foot skills and very damaging on the scoreboard”.

Up-and-coming talent Ryan Lewis arrives with club expectations that he'll slot in on the half back flank position, bringing speed and damaging foot skills.

Athletic ruckman Alex ‘Sheriff’ Scholte returns to the club at which he featured in two Reserves Premierships (2017/18) and was a runner-up in the Reserves Best and Fairest in one of those years.

Sam Marriott returns to action after a year off and is expected to feature on a wing and in the mid-field.

Another arrival Ben Heath is likely to be a back flanker.

Johnny Holloway will probably play a small forward role after considerable time away from footy.

Sam Bright, who featured in 13 senior games for the Lions last season has headed to Toora.

Jeanette Brown remains in charge of Stony Creek’s A Grade netball side and is looking forward to an exciting second season in the role, having retained most last year’s players, and impressed with the talent on show during 2024 trials.

She looks forward to having more flexibility in terms of oncourt personnel, believing the introduction of ‘rolling subs’ will provide opportunities to fast track the development of an up-and-coming junior player.

She mentioned a couple of the club’s talented juniors are expected to see senior action at some level this season.

Tayleisha Johnstone is the first of those Under 17s, already playing a high level of netball with the Southern Fusion Netball Club.

The versatile young gun is the main shooter at junior level but likely to fill a midcourt position at senior level.

Fellow Under 17 Hannah Strickland arrives from Inverloch-Kongwak, being a handy midcourter.

Goal defender Jala King is out of action this season due to pregnancy.

Brown said there was a focus last year on being hard working, respectful and united as a club.

“We built on that over the season and we’ve come a long way in terms of being united as a club and presenting as a club, so we’ll be working strongly on that again this season and striving to get to finals,” Brown said.

That would be a significant achievement, with the Lions needing to improve from 10th place last season, with the coach saying the increased unity will help accomplish that, but also believing she will have plenty to work with in terms of on-court ability.

She noted that despite the Lions winning just a couple of games last season, they were competitive in many.

“We are still in trials but we have a lot of talented players that we are looking to take key positions in the A and B Grade teams,” Brown said of the healthy competition to earn a place.

“Everybody is having to fight for their spots a bit more this year, which is exciting because it means we have depth within the club.”

Other netball coaches:

Kayla Byrnes (B Grade coach) brings vast netball experience, including playing under Lisa Alexander and Cath Chester, and represented a triumphant Alberton side in the Victorian state title.

Kaitlin Funnell (C Grade coach) has been a committed member of the club for 12 years, starting her netball career in the Under 13s.

Rahni Mann (D Grade coach) joined the club halfway through last season after coming from Inverloch. She is a talented player with lots of netball knowledge.

Jala King (Under 15s coach) - won Stony Creek’s 2022 B Grade Best and Fairest.



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Stony Creek players engage in match simulation as the season approaches.



LIONS at a glance:

- **2023 Senior Football Finish:** 11th
- **2024 Senior Football Coach:** Chris Verboon
- **Key Recruits:** Cam Stone, Wayne Groves, Ryan Lewis, Alex Scholte, Ben Heath, Ethan Lavis, Johnny Holloway
- **Key Departures:** Sam Bright
- **2023 A Grade Netball Finish:** 10th
- **2024 A Grade Netball Coach:** Jeanette Brown



MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE

MDU FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



MDU coaches Brenton Arnup (Reserves), Nathan Allen (Seniors), Dale Furphy (forwards coach), Joel Sinclair (backs coach), Mark Lafferty (Under 18s and Senior bench coach), with mids coach Ash Allen absent.

DEMONS at a glance:

- 2023 Football Finish: 3rd, Elimination Finalists
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Nathan Allen
- Key Recruits: Steve Forrester and Lachie Wright
- Key Departures: Jayden Deas
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: 9th
- Senior Netball Coach: Jasmin Friend

MDU eyes expansion amidst coaching shakeup

NATHAN Allen continues as MDU's senior footy coach, keen to build on last year's Elimination Final experience.

Steve Forrester and Lachie Wright have joined the Demons from Leongatha, with Forrester likely to play in the midfield and backline and Wright as a forward, or up the ground when needed.

Pleased with the existing list, MDU's focus was on retaining players, with Jayden Deas proving the exception, having moved interstate.

Allen spoke about what he feels is needed for MDU to continue its improvement this season after substantial progress in 2023.

"Last year was my first year in the league, so it was just seeing what other teams did and we didn't work too much on our game plan as such, so this year we were able to put something together we think will hold us in good stead when it comes to finals and becomes more contested and desperate," he said.

The Demons locked in practice matches against Yarram at home on March 16 and Neerim South away on March 23.

While the naming of the leadership team and captain was likely to occur after the first practice match, the coaching panel is set, with little change from 2023.

Dale Furphy and Mark Lafferty will continue to assist playing coach Allen from the bench, with the senior coach's brother Ash and Joel Sinclair again being senior assistants.

Brenton Arnup remains as Reserves coach.

Lafferty takes over as Thirds coach after Gene Vanderzalm stepped down.

On the netball front, MDU's A Grade side is striving to improve on last season's ninth-place finish.

Young players Kirra Jones and Shari Harris will help provide the required improvement as they build on their A Grade experience last year.

Centre, Jones, has now moved out of junior ranks, having played a couple of games each week in 2023 with junior and senior commitments, while the versatile Harris, capable of playing centre, wing attack and wing defence, is still a bottom-aged 17 & Under player.

Goaler Tahlia Arnason is the only A Grade departure for the Demons.

Defender Jasmin Friend enters her second season as A Grade coach.

She said last year was about rebuilding and having a good year, with the aim to retain players and add a couple more in 2024, well-attended try out sessions providing the opportunity to observe the contenders.

"We're excited to push ourselves from last year to this year," Friend said, sounding confident there will be improvement evident in this campaign.

She is looking forward to this season's introduction of rotating substitutions, allowing players to be switched during a quarter regardless of whether there is an injury.

"It's a new challenge for players and coaches, which is a good thing," she said.



Recruit Lachie Wright boots a goal during an MDU intracub practice hitout.



MDU coaches look forward to the 2024 season, with Nat Rayson (C Grade & Under 17), Sam Rayson (D Grade), Jasmin Friend (A Grade) and Kate Lafferty (B Grade).



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MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE

FISH CREEK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Aiden Bradley, Kairon Dorling, Bailey Harfield-Park and Darcy Berryman are looking forward to representing Fish Creek this year.

Successive flags for the Roos?

FISH Creek appears strongly placed for another premiership tilt to add to its 2023 title, retaining most of its list and with some additional local talent returning to the club.

The Kangaroos have demonstrated their tenacity off the field with many people pitching in to ensure impressive temporary rooms are ready for the start of the 2024 campaign, following November's devastating fire.

The change rooms are possibly larger than what the players are used to and there is a new toilet and shower block.

Kairon Dorling is one of the returnees, the impressively fit inside midfielder bringing the confidence of playing in Inverloch-Kongwak's 2023 premiership side.

Big-bodied full forward Brady Mitchell brings his strong marking and prodigious kicking back to the Kangaroos from Warburton Millgrove Football Netball Club, while midfielder and forward Darcy Berryman is back from Leongatha.

Playing coach Jarrod Walker is looking forward to seeing all three in action.

He said the main aim entering the season has been to ensure everyone remains motivated after last year's success, adding that hasn't proved difficult, with the new recruits helping keep enthusiasm levels high.

"A few guys who are getting close to 30 or a bit older are realising they've only got a couple of years left and are keen to, while we're in a bit of a window, make the most of it," Walker said of another driving force in the effort for successive flags.

Backman Cam Walker and midfielder and forward Blaine Coates are the notable departures.

On the coaching front, Matt McGannon continues as an onfield assistant coach for the senior side, while Brent Cooper assumes the off-field assistant position

vacated by Kevin Barnes.

Toby Redpath and Dewy Moon have stepped in as co-coaches of the Reserves, while Colin McPhee will be in charge of the Under 18s.

Fish Creek's A Grade Netballers were beaten in an Elimination Final last year, with playing coach Jayde McGlead confident the side is capable of moving further up the ladder this season after finishing sixth during the 2023 home and away campaign.

A couple of former Fish Creek players have returned to the Kangaroos.

Jess Edgar's accurate shooting is set to be a highlight after a few seasons with Leongatha, while Grace McLean's versatility will be on display at centre or wing attack.

The latter brings the experience of an A Grade premiership with Toora in 2022.

Abbey and Elysia Shaw have returned from overseas adventures and are both expected to play valuable roles in the midcourt positions.

Goal attack Lauren Gale has some travel plans during the upcoming season but will be available at times.

Coach McGlead will again hold down a defensive post as goal keeper.

While she expects the side will play a bit differently with its 2024 additions, she is waiting for an opportunity to see players in action.

"We haven't got a practice match until towards the end of March, so until then it'll be a bit hard to tell," McGlead said.

"We're aiming for finals again but hoping we can step up that little bit more this year for sure."

As with the footballers, the Fish Creek netballers take on Yarram in practice match action, away on March 23.



KANGAROOS at a glance:

- 2023 Senior Football Finish: Premiers
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Jarrod Walker
- Key Recruits: Kairon Dorling, Brady Mitchell, Darcy Berryman
- Key Departures: Cam Walker, Blaine Coates
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: 6th, Elimination Finalists
- 2024 Senior Netball Coach: Jayde McGlead

MIRBOO NORTH FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



President of Mirboo North welcomes Damien Turner to the Senior Coaching role, who is excited about leading a young team to the finals.

Young guns ones to watch

DESPITE the storms that devastated the town and snapped the goal posts on Mirboo North's footy ground, the young team are positive and ready to get cracking for the season ahead.

The new season's recruits include Riley Oddy who spent last season with Morwell, and Melbourne based locals Conner White and Jack Burgess-Pincini.

Returning local, Daniel Taylor has been a senior coach with Yinnar for the past two seasons and will bring in a wealth of experience and depth to the side in a senior development role.

Brothers Darcy and Hayden Brock will be departing from Mirboo North and heading back to play again for their local club, Trafalgar.

Julian Blackford has gone to Morwell and Ben Campbell will be returning to his home club at Nilma Darnum.

These key departures will primarily see a loss of experience and senior coach Damien Turner is hopeful that bringing in Riley and Daniel will complement the younger team and balance out the losses.

The side began preseason training late last year, getting in a solid four week block before the Christmas break and starting again in mid-January.

They had a break for a couple of weeks after the storm, and about 15 of the players were on chainsaws helping out locals in need and getting in some team bonding.

A young list of hopeful players who have come through the junior ranks will also fill out the senior side.

Being a good group of mates will see

them have an advantage as well as some good experience gained playing seniors last year.

"These kids will keep building; they're only getting older and more experienced. Some of them will be able to take some leadership roles upon themselves and take it into their own hands," said Damien.

A focus of the team will be on gaining and building consistency from week to week and over the four quarters, where there was a lapse of focus last year.

"It'll be exciting football when you've got young kids that you can work with and let them play and showcase their skills. They've got pace, they've got skills. Some of them can jump as high as a house, so it'll be exciting to watch them."

AFL Victoria Mid Gippsland Football Netball League and South Gippsland Shire Council have pitched in funds for new goal posts to be installed before the first home game in round two against Foster.

While in A Grade netball, returning player Emily Taylor will be coaching with assistance from Nicole Lomas, a new recruit, who brings a wealth of knowledge with her.

Emily commented that a new rule which allows rolling subs in the game could be seen positive outcomes for the side this season.

A GoFundMe page has been set up by the Mirboo North FNC for the whole of the Recreation Reserve. To find out more and donate, go to gofundme.com/f/mnfn-recovery.



TIGERS at a glance:

- 2023 Senior Football Finish: 9th
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Damien Turner
- 2024 Captain: Hudson Kerr
- Key Recruits: Riley Oddy, Conner White, Jack Burgess-Pincini and Daniel Taylor
- Key Departures: Darcy and Hayden Brock, Julian Blackford and Ben Campbell
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: 7th
- 2024 A Grade Coach: Emily Taylor



Emily Taylor is the A Grade Netball coach this year and is interested to see how the new rule on rolling subs will change the game.



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MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE

TOORA FNC



Coaches Jack Weston and Jay have formed a strong, young seniors side that will be worth a watch.

Youngsters step up to fill the ranks

AN AGING list for the Toora seniors side has seen a wealth of experience transition out for the coming season, leaving room for younger players to step up and fill the ranks.

Time has been spent nurturing the younger players to ensure a side is formed that can relate to each other and work cohesively as a team.

"There's probably about 15 or 16 of our juniors who came through altogether, but they've only played sporadic senior footy over the last three or four years and we've just signed all of them up to lock them in to be key members of the club," said Toora President Linden Dyson.

Toora have been training hard since last November, with a very strong preseason under their belts due to the commitment and drive of the younger players.

New recruits include Lachy Ireland, Sam Bright, as well as Leigh Craig, Will Goosey and Jake Smart, who bring valuable experience having been members of Mornington Peninsula's premiership-winning team last year.

A departure that will be missed is experienced player Josh Toner, a local who has returned to Foster.

President Linden Dyson would like to see the younger side start to be more competitive than they have been for the last couple of seasons and to knock some sides off that they feel they can beat.

The clubs culture is as important as their competitiveness comments Linden, and with the right approach he believes the footy will take care of itself and get good buy in from players who want to play strong footy.

"If you ask me what our core values are as a footy club, it is a place that's accepting and open. We have a lot of different characters come to footy and we like to be a place where everyone feels comfortable.

"It's really trying to drive that cultural part of what we do as a community organisation and being really strong, making everyone feel loved and appreciated and part of the club; and then with that we feel like success will follow like it has in the past."

Toora Seniors plan on playing tough, relentless quality football with talented recruits and by bringing some smarts to the game.

The A Grade netball side have had a few successful years, and this year they are in a similar position to the footy, with experienced players transitioning out and younger ones progressing to showcase their skills and take the mantle.

MAGPIES at a glance:

- **2023 Senior Football Finish:** 12th
- **2024 Senior Football Coach:** Jack Weston
- **Key Recruits:** Will Goosey, Lachy Ireland, Jake Smart, Sam Bright, Leigh Craig
- **Key Departures:** Josh Toner
- **2023 A Grade Netball Finish:** 2nd, Runners Up



TARWIN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Tarwin footballers Ben Ellen, Harrison Cumming, Fergus Warren and coach Jason Kennedy are looking forward to kicking off the new season in round two.

Tarwin ready to launch into 2024

WITH a bye scheduled for round one, Tarwin Football Netball Club is itching to dive into the 2024 season.

Preseason training kicked off club-wide in mid-December and picked up again at the end of January following a Christmas break, featuring a preseason camp at the start of March.

The club has been happy with training numbers amongst the seniors and the juniors, with a lot of the juniors looking very promising.

Jason Kennedy will be coaching the Seniors in 2024, alongside local-based assistant coach Lachie Jones, who has come over to Tarwin from Wonthaggi Power.

Tarwin has also welcomed a number of new Senior players, including Kane McCarthy and Travis Krause.

On top of that, the club has seen a good rollover of existing players, as well as juniors who are eager to get a game at a higher level.

New coaches Travis Cameron and Robbie Houston have taken over the Reserves.

Over on netball courts, Amy Robertson is coaching A Grade and Clare Petersen will be coaching C Grade.

All grades will be filled, but the rest of the coaching panel is yet to be announced.

Tarwin had a competitive season in 2023 with the Seniors just missing out on finals in eighth place and the Reserves bringing home a premiership win.

The A Grade netballers made the finals for the first time in a long time in 2022 and continued that momentum with a finals appearance last season.

"Our goal this season is to continue developing players through all the grades. I believe success needs to be club-wide, not just one team," Amy said.

Tarwin will kick off its season in round two with a challenging match against MDU away.

Its first home game will take place in round four, which will be another tough

match against another old Alberton rival Foster.

"We're looking to see both team make the finals" that's our main starting point," football operations manager Ed McMicking said.

"We'll also be chasing a bit of consistency. We had a few games where we played well, and others where we were a bit flat. A bit of consistency across the board will hopefully propel us into a better position at the end of the season."

Tarwin is looking forward to round 15, where it will once again face MDU and celebrate its 20-year premiership reunion.

Off the ground, Tarwin is upgrading its scoreboard and looking forward to the events on its social calendar, including the black-tie ball.

"From a club perspective, we are quite successful. Off field, we are trying to build a family club and that has been working really well. We're just ready to get started," club president Nick McRae said.



SHARKS at a glance:

- **2023 Football Finish:** 8th
- **2024 Senior Football Coach:** Jason Kennedy and Lachie Jones
- **Key Recruits:** Lachie Jones, Kane McCarthy, Travis Krause
- **Key Departures:** Nil
- **2023 Netball Finish:** 4th
- **2024 Senior Netball Coach:** Amy Robertson

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AUSKICK

Footballers in the making get set for Auskick

BUDDING footballers are once again gearing up for Auskick.

Inverloch Recreation Reserve is just one of the local venues hosting the program.

Inverloch is set to launch its 10-week program on April 19, with sessions running from 5.30pm until 6.45pm.

The program is open to children turning five in 2024, through to 12-year-olds.

An all-girls group will be included, but girls can choose to join in with the mixed group.

Inverloch Auskick coordinator Big K said he's expecting to see 150 to 160 registrations this year.

"We're confident we'll get plenty of kids wanting to join in. It's all about engagement and getting involved in some fun activities," he said.

Each session, the children will break into small groups and get to know the game of footy with volunteer coaches.

Older children will develop their skills, while the younger children will be introduced to the basics, all with fun and games along the way.

Big K praised the volunteers and supporters who come along to ensure a successful program each year.

"I'd like to thank the volunteers and effort they put in. We could always do with a few more. Our volunteer coaches don't need to have experience, they will be given plenty of support along the way. The kids always love seeing mum or dad getting involved," he said.

"I'd also like to thank the sponsors who have come on board for 2024."

The Auskick program is well supported by the Inverloch-Kongwak Football Netball Club, with many participants going on to play competitively in the Sea Eagle colours.

"We're one club, one community," Big K said.

"We have a real focus on that mentality. The Auskick kids will also have the opportunity to take part in a halftime showcase in front of a local crowd during the season."

There will also be an opportunity for Auskick participants to be involved in the halftime action at Marvel Stadium and the MCG.

Parents are encouraged to register their children as soon as possible so they receive their AFL packs prior to program kicking off.

The packs include all sorts of AFL goodies, including shirts and beanies in the team colours of your choice, a football and footy cards.

Children are encouraged to wear their shirts to Auskick.

Registrations can be made via playaf. com.au (Inverloch Auskick Centre).

For all other enquiries, contact Big K on 0408 281 953.

Other AUSKICK programs:

- **Bass** - April 17
- **Dalyston** - May 2
- **Fish Creek** - May 1
- **Foster** - May 1
- **Korumburra** - May 1
- **Leongatha** - April 19
- **Meeniyan** - May 1
- **Mirboo North** - May 3
- **Nyora** - April 18
- **Phillip Island** - April 19
- **Poowong-Loch** - April 17 (Poowong Memorial Reserve)
- **Stony Creek** - May 1
- **Tarwin** - May 9
- **Wonthaggi** - May 1



MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE

FOSTER FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Eddie, Jack, Flynn, Leevi, Toby and Simon "The King" Gibson at Foster Football Netball Club's preseason training.

Foster pumped for new season

FOSTER has jumped into pre-season with good numbers at training and a determination to see improvement throughout the 2024 season.

The Seniors finished last season fifth on the ladder, while the A Grade netballers had a quieter season as it worked to develop its squad.

Britt Rooney has been brought on as the new Senior netball coach, and her focus will be on improvement throughout the A and B Grade sides.

Katie Jackson will coach C Grade and D Grade will be led by Jess Thorne.

The junior coaches are Jess Foote (U15s) and Rel Buttigieg (U13s).

For the footballers, Sam Davies will coach the Seniors with Nick Hume coaching the Reserves.

Foster has also been pleased with the number of juniors turning up for preseason training, a number of which are anticipated to play in the Seniors and Reserves throughout the season.

"We are looking to see improvement overall," new club president Deb Allott said.

"There's been few low seasons, but we are looking to continue to be competitive. We anticipate our footballers making finals. They bowed out early in the finals last season, so they will be looking to go deeper this year.

"We are very much a developing club, and we are looking forward

to seeing some of our younger players stepping into the Seniors and Reserves and gaining permanent spots."

Foster will host Morwell East in round one on April 13.

Morwell East has always proven to be a challenge, but the club is quietly confident in the work the Seniors have put in during the preseason.

Round one will also see the roll out of Foster's new netball uniforms.

These uniforms will help to distinguish Foster when it plays Morwell East and Mirboo North, as the colours have often clashed in the past.

Off the field, the club has a new president in Deb Allott.

Former president Noel Afflitto has stepped back into the vice president role.

Shannon Gee and Dan Garlick have take on the secretary roles and Terri Bohn remains the treasurer.

The club is looking forward to its President's Luncheon on May 11, and hosting Thorpdale for the Anzac Day round for the first time.

This game will take place in round three and will be a permanent fixture in the competition going forward.

The club's calendar also includes the Black and Gold Ball, the rodeo bucking bull, the goods and services auction, and the reverse draw.



Foster's U15 assistant coach Dee Brown and C Grade coach Katie Jackson wearing the new netball uniforms.



TIGERS at a glance:

- 2023 Football Finish: 5th
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Sam Davies
- Key Recruits: Nil
- Key Departures: Troy Van Dyke and Jake Thornell
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: 12th
- 2024 Senior Netball Coach: Britt Rooney



ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE

2024 FIXTURE

ROUND 1

Saturday, April 6
Poowong v Yarragon
Lang Lang v Trafalgar
Nilma Darnum v Nyora
Buln Buln v Neerim South
Catani v Longwarry
Ellinbank - BYE

ROUND 2

Saturday, April 13
Yarragon v Neerim South
Trafalgar v Poowong
Longwarry v Nilma Darnum
Buln Buln v Ellinbank
Nyora v Lang Lang
Catani - BYE

ROUND 3

Saturday, April 20
Nilma Darnum v Catani
Poowong v Nyora
Lang Lang v Longwarry
Ellinbank v Yarragon
Neerim South v Trafalgar
Buln Buln - BYE

ROUND 4

Saturday, April 27
Trafalgar v Ellinbank
Nyora v Neerim South
Longwarry v Poowong
Catani v Lang Lang
Yarragon v Buln Buln
Nilma Darnum - BYE

ROUND 5

Saturday, May 4
Ellinbank v Nyora
Neerim South v Longwarry
Poowong v Catani
Lang Lang v Nilma Darnum
Buln Buln v Trafalgar
Yarragon - BYE

ROUND 6

Saturday, May 11
Longwarry v Ellinbank
Catani v Neerim South
Nilma Darnum v Poowong
Nyora v Buln Buln
Trafalgar v Yarragon
Lang Lang - BYE

ROUND 7

Saturday, May 18
Ellinbank v Catani
Neerim South v Nilma Darnum
Poowong v Lang Lang
Buln Buln v Longwarry
Yarragon v Nyora
Trafalgar - BYE

ROUND 8

Saturday, May 25
Nilma Darnum v Ellinbank
Lang Lang v Neerim South
Catani v Buln Buln
Longwarry v Yarragon
Nyora v Trafalgar
Poowong - BYE

ROUND 9

Saturday, June 1
Lang Lang v Ellinbank
Neerim South v Poowong
Buln Buln v Nilma Darnum
Yarragon v Catani
Trafalgar v Longwarry
Nyora - BYE

ROUND 10

Saturday, June 8
Poowong v Ellinbank
Lang Lang v Buln Buln
Nilma Darnum v Yarragon
Catani v Trafalgar
Longwarry v Nyora
Neerim South - BYE

FINALS

Qualifying Final - Sat Aug 24
2nd Semi Final - Sat Aug 31
Preliminary Final - Sat Sept 7

ROUND 11

Saturday, June 15
Ellinbank v Neerim South
Yarragon v Lang Lang
Trafalgar v Nilma Darnum
Nyora v Catani
Buln Buln v Poowong
Longwarry - BYE

ROUND 12

Saturday, June 22
Neerim South v Buln Buln
Yarragon v Poowong
Nyora v Nilma Darnum
Trafalgar v Lang Lang
Longwarry v Catani
Ellinbank - BYE

ROUND 13

Saturday, June 29
Ellinbank v Buln Buln
Neerim South v Yarragon
Poowong v Trafalgar
Lang Lang v Nyora
Nilma Darnum v Longwarry
Catani - BYE

ROUND 14

Saturday, July 6
Yarragon v Ellinbank
Trafalgar v Neerim South
Nyora v Poowong
Longwarry v Lang Lang
Catani v Nilma Darnum
Buln Buln - BYE

ROUND 15

Saturday, July 13
Ellinbank v Trafalgar
Neerim South v Nyora
Poowong v Longwarry
Lang Lang v Catani
Buln Buln v Yarragon
Nilma Darnum - BYE

ROUND 16

Saturday, July 20
Nyora v Ellinbank
Catani v Poowong
Nilma Darnum v Lang Lang
Trafalgar v Buln Buln
Longwarry, Neerim South and Yarragon - BYES

ROUND 17

Saturday, July 27
Ellinbank v Longwarry
Neerim South v Catani
Poowong v Nilma Darnum
Buln Buln v Nyora
Yarragon v Trafalgar
Lang Lang - BYE

ROUND 18

Saturday, August 3
Catani v Ellinbank
Nilma Darnum v Neerim South
Lang Lang v Poowong
Longwarry v Buln Buln
Nyora v Yarragon
Trafalgar - BYE

ROUND 19

Saturday, August 10
Ellinbank v Nilma Darnum
Neerim South v Lang Lang
Buln Buln v Catani
Yarragon v Longwarry
Trafalgar v Nyora
Poowong - BYE

ROUND 20

Saturday, August 17
Ellinbank v Lang Lang
Poowong v Neerim South
Nilma Darnum v Buln Buln
Catani v Yarragon
Longwarry v Trafalgar
Nyora - BYE

Best of luck to all teams
in the 2024 season!

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ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE

NYORA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



New recruits from left: Peter Bastin, Lachie Roberts, Jayden O'Brien, Aaron Coggins and President Samuel Dixon.

Changing of the guard for Nyora Seniors

NYORA'S senior football team has seen a big changing of the guard with twelve departures and eight recruits onboard for the coming season.

Key recruits include Santo Joma who is very athletic and will prove to be a good utility, Onur Akbas, skilful in the midfield, Bradley O'Brien a skilful half back with good height, Jayden O'Brien a strong key forward and Peter Bastin, good in the middle and a goal kicker.

These players bring experience and leadership that will bolster the team's on field effectiveness and competitiveness.

Key departures including one that stings the club, are League Best and Fairest Trav Stewart, a key ruckman, Jack Rosenow who was handy midfielder with good skills, and Nick Anderson a talented half forward.

The team have had solid numbers at pre-season training two nights a week. Morale is good and the players are showing cohesion as a team according to Nyora President Sam Dixon.

The seniors' focus this year is to be competitive across four quarters and show consistency and stamina to give the opposition a run for their money and produce some good wins.

The players plan to have a red hot crack and ultimately would like to end up on top by the end of the season.



SAINTS at a glance:

- 2023 Senior Football Finish: 7th
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Dylan Heylen
- 2024 Senior Captain: Sam Dixon
- Key Recruits: Santo Joma, Onur Akbas, Bradley O'Brien, Jayden O'Brien and Peter Bastin
- Key Departures: Trav Stewart, Jack Rosenow and Nick Anderson
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: 11th
- 2024 Senior Netball Coach: Leonie McCluskey



Nyora veterans from Left: Jordan Anderson, Jesse Heylen, Dylan Heylen (Senior Coach) Samuel Dixon (President), Jono Hewitt.



Senior netball coach Leonie McCluskey with Nyora Netball president Jassy Batrouney.



Tanasha Walters (A Grade) looks for her options down court during last season's July 1 match.

POOWONG FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



This year's leadership team at the Poowong Football Club, with a special visit from AFL player Jai Newcombe who helped coach the juniors last week. Alex Henshall, Jack Hazendonk, Jai Newcombe, Dale Carrol, Zac Gray, Matt Cozzio and Matt Henshall. ob06_1124

Young team having a crack

POOWONG Seniors have a young and enthusiastic side with some of the junior players coming up to fill positions that will see them develop as a team.

The team have a solid preseason under their belt with the focus on being as fit as possible as well as improving skills and productivity on the field overall.

Recruitment of players for the side remains underway but the club have managed to secure Josh Chiavaroli for the season.

Josh is a previous junior with Poowong, returning to play with the club after a long absence due to injury and playing with other clubs.

The seniors will miss departures Tom and Will Robertson who confidently filled key positions of centre half forward and centre half back respectively, last season.

While the side's focus on field is fitness, the off field is always strong at the Magpies.

President Matt Henshall likes to ensure everyone who is part of the club has an enjoyable experience by providing a fun and inclusive environment where everyone can be involved.

"We have the players spread the word that we are good fun club and the results will look after themselves."

"Wins come and go but it's the club spirit that matters," said Matt.

The seniors are hoping to come out on top this season, but if they improve on

last year's result of fifth place they will take that as a positive.

Matt said this season spectators at Poowong's games will be able to see, "a young team just having a crack."

The Poowong juniors also gained some expert guidance when ex-junior Poowong player Jai Newcome who now plays AFL for Hawthorn came along to train them recently.

The A Grade netballers also have a young team coming up to play this season. Last year's Best and Fairest Grace Greene has moved interstate but coach Prue Blackwood is confident they will be able to fill the gap and were holding trials in early March.

MAGPIES at a glance:

- 2023 Senior Football Finish: 5th
- 2024 Senior Football Coach: Dale Carrol
- 2024 Captain: Jack Hazendonk
- Key Recruits: Josh Chiavaroli
- Key Departures: Tom Robertson and Will Robertson
- 2023 A Grade Netball Finish: 10th
- 2024 Senior Netball Coach: Prue Blackwood



Poowong's Charlie Koscal capitalises on the chaos and makes a run with the ball during last season's Demon Cup against Nyora. Photo: Jeff Tull.

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Poowong Football & Netball Clubs
all the best for season 2024

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YOUTH GIRLS FOOTBALL



Seven U14 girls teams will take on the inaugural Southern Gippsland Junior Football Competition in what promises to be a sensational year.

The girls are pulling on the footy boots

A REVOLUTION is brewing. The Southern Gippsland Junior Football competition is set to introduce a dedicated U14 Girls division for the 2024 season. This landmark decision marks a significant milestone, offering girls in the region a chance to participate in football like never before.

“Our goal is to grow girls’ football within the area,” explained Operations Manager, Bobbie Lee Blay.

“The exhibition games last year were really successful.” It’s a stepping stone for girls with organisers hoping this year’s Under 14’s will see the creation of an Under 12’s side next year that gives female athletes their own platform to showcase their skills and passion for the sport.

Scheduled to play on Sundays after mixed, the season will consist of 14 rounds followed by an exhilarating final series set to start on April 21.

“A lot of the clubs are having a go,” Bobbie Lee smiled, noting that the game will be adapted to accommodate player numbers.

“We’re happy to have 16 on the ground or play AFL nine’s if we have to – it’s about giving these girls a game of football.”

For aspiring female footballers, this announcement opens doors to a world of possibilities at Wonthaggi, Dalyston, Leongatha, Phillip Island, Korumburra-Bena, Kilcunda-Bass and Inverloch-Kongwak.

“I’ve been involved in football for 30 years and to see where it is now, to see the game grow and what it has become now. I never had those opportunities. I was this daughter who hung around with her dad at footy training and games,” Bobbie Lee reminisced.

On Wednesday night South Gippsland Umpire Association signed a services agreement to umpire the U12 and U14 Mixed for the up-and-coming series plus the final series. Supporting the development of our Junior Footballers.

“We simply want football to grow within the area and for the girls to have a safe space to develop their skills. It’s a great place to have a since of belonging and a connection to community. Playing football or any sport is a way to look after their mental health and physical health at the same time. It’s an outlet for young people in our society. It’s about participating and having fun,” she added.

Whilst the girls are prepared to get out on the field and get just as muddy as the blokes, they’re also looking forwards to socialising with friends and playing as a team.

There are still plenty of spaces to fill, so reach out to your local team for more information or call Bobbie Lee Blay on 0417 035 913.

Get out there and give it a go – the future of girls’ football in South Gippsland looks bright indeed.



SOUTH EASTERN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BASS COAST BREAKERS





The Breakers are looking forwards to the new season as part of the Mornington Peninsula Football Netball Leagues Women's Division One with the season commencing on April 6.

A season of fun, inclusion, and growth

GET ready for an exhilarating season of football with the Bass Coast Breakers Women's Team! This season promises to be a thrilling journey of growth, team spirit, and a whole lot of fun.

The Breakers are all about breaking down the barriers to womens sport with no upfront fees or need to purchase a uniform.

“We are looking for a few more players this season,” Ella explained noting that a couple of veteran players retired at the end of last season.

“We’re looking at a fun season where we continue to develop individually and as a team. We work hard to create a fun and inclusive culture for women who want to come and try footy – all you need is a pair of boots.”

And as Ella highlighted the team have spare boots available for those looking to give the sport a try.

“We’ve also got uniforms in all the sizes to fit all different women, and it’s a women’s cut!”

The team have been breaking down barriers to participation since 2017. The Breakers finished second on the ladder before going down to Frankston in last year’s Preliminary Final by only 11 points in the Senior Women Premier Division.

“We are at home for half the season, and even when we do play away, we carpool or coordinate buses to combat travel. We try to minimise any barriers that women face.

“We are also very family friendly – there are lots of mothers in the club – you’re welcome to bring your family along to training and matches.”

That also goes for the fur mothers, with well-behaved pups welcome at training.

“We are very welcoming and inclusive with the highlight of the season our annual pride round, which we are looking forwards to again this year on Friday May 24.”

So, whether you are an experienced player or have never pulled on the boots before, pop along to training on a Wednesday night at Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve Oval 2 at 6pm, we will be shifting to Dalyston in April to coincide with day light savings.

“We can cater to beginners, you don’t have to have played before,” Ella explained.

“We’ve also got mentoring opportunities for individuals who want to give coaching a go, even if it’s a line coach or a different leadership role. We want to promote leadership opportunities for women, whether it’s coaches, trainers or admin...”

New players like Clinky and Gaby Hynes are already giving the sport a go, adding fresh faces and experiences to the team.

“We now have to play cricket,” Ella laughed noting Gaby’s deal was for her to play cricket, now she is playing football. Watch this space for the Breakers Cricket team...

The Breakers are also excited by the growth and opportunities with the under 14 girls league commencing this season and VFLW playing in the near future.

“It’s exciting to have Box Hill VFLW playing in Wonthaggi on May 12 with one of our players Grace Matser playing for Box Hill. There is big growth and opportunities for women and girls.”

Gear up for a season of fun, camaraderie, and exciting football with the Bass Coast Breakers.

The first round kicks off on April 6 at 12 noon when the Breakers take on Pearcedale at Pearcedale Recreation Reserve.

COACH search continues

THE Bass Coast Breakers are on the lookout for a Head Coach for the upcoming season as they head into the Mornington Peninsula Football Netball League's Division One.

A paid gig, the Breakers have etched their mark in South Gippsland breaking down barriers for women across the district with a warm, welcoming and inclusive attitude.

For further details on the coaching position or for more information to join the women's team call Ella Angarane on 0438 722 639.

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Telstra Women in Ag lunch 2024

JOIN us at the Telstra Women in Ag luncheon at Farm World Lardner Park!

Hear from some inspirational speakers and connect with a roomful of amazing women. For 2024 we have two wonderful speakers from two different backgrounds. They will engage, inspire and motivate you with their personal and professional journeys. Their stories are from the heart and will challenge you to think outside the box, believe in your abilities and provide some real-life day to day experiences – both the trials and celebrations.

It's an afternoon for fabulous networking in a casual and charismatic environment over a delicious lunch and a glass of wine. So, grab your friends, round up your colleagues and book your tickets online now.

Emma Germano ~ VFF President

Emma is managing director of our family mixed operation I Love Farms, growing fresh vegetables for local and export markets, as well as running sheep and beef cattle. I Love Farms has a firm focus on sustainability and thrives to connect with Australian consumers. I Love Farms has a farm gate store which assists to increase the community's understanding of food and fibre production.

Emma is the current Victorian Farmers Federation president and director of the Queen Victoria

Market. Emma is also a Nuffield scholar (2014), her research examining global export opportunities for Australian primary producers.

Ultimately Emma strives to be a strong voice representing Australian growers and ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for agriculture Australia.

Cathy McGowan

Cathy came to national attention when she won the seat of Indi as an independent in 2013. The community backed her again in 2016. During her time as a politician, Cathy actively worked in Parliament to develop policy around regional development, constitutional change for First Nations people and a solution to the indefinite detention of asylum seekers.

In 2019 she was awarded The Accountability Round Table award for political integrity and in response to the success of community independence in the 2022 election, The Australian Financial Review nominated her as one of their top 10 'powerful' people.

She is the chair of AgriFutures research and development cooperation, director of the Community Independence Projects and an Officer in the Order of Australia, a Churchill fellow and lives very happily on her farm in the Indigo Valley in NE Victoria.

Tickets are still available – head to events.ticketbooth.com.au/tickets/farmworld24



Cathy McGowan



Emma Germano ~ VFF President



Pop into site 112 and chat to the team about your winter heating needs. C01_3723

Igniting a flame at Farm World

THEY may have recently added a new addition to the HP Fire family, but it is business as usual with the team excited to be exhibiting at Farm World this Friday to Sunday.

Are you ready to ignite your passion for outdoor living or perhaps it's time to update the fireplace before the winter chills set in? Look no further than HP Fire Bass Coast, your local experts in flame heating and barbecue solutions. Whether you're a seasoned grill master or a backyard enthusiast, they've got something sizzling just for you!

HP Fire serves customers across various price points and prides itself on versatility with a range of reputable brands on offer. Whether it's barbecues, wood, pellet or gas heaters, or electric fireplaces, they ensure every customer walks out with a product that suits their needs.

HP Fire also offer a range of tools, accessories, safety guards and metal fabrication services with great Farm World deals to be had over the three days.

Time to upgrade the indoors and experience the cosy warmth and timeless charm of a wood heater, make a statement with a large linear gas log fire and enjoy the convenience of one-touch heating or you want the ambience of a flame without the installation with a plug-and-play electric fireplace, do not miss their pre-winter deals.

With over 40 wood heaters on display and prices starting at \$1899 including fan and 4m flue kit, it's one not to be missed.

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Farm World Rodeo

FOLLOWING the tremendous success of the 2022 and 2023 events, the Farm World Rodeo is back, promising to build on its popularity. The event opens to the public at 4.30pm on Farm World Saturday and concludes at approx 9.30pm. Come along and enjoy the thrills and spills after a big day out at the main event, bring your picnic rug or camp chair and arrive early to get a great spot on the hill (built in grandstand) and choose between a wet area and separate family friendly zone to enjoy all the action. Note – The Saturday night FW-Rodeo is a separately ticketed event and starts with a pre-show by the Freestyle Kings at 5.30 pm, followed by the Yee Ha action and a full Rodeo program at 6.30pm Full food and bar facilities will be available for dinner and tickets can be booked at lardnerpark.com.au/farm-world-rodeo

Farm World for enthusiasts

FARM World 2024 offers a unique and diverse range of activities for the entire family. **Agriculture Enthusiasts:** Explore the latest tractor releases and farm equipment demonstrations across the paddocks. Witness a fascinating demo of how farm dams can generate solar power while reducing evaporation. **Young Explorers:** Get up close and personal with alpacas, learn to care for them, and even trim their toenails. Observe the latest drone technology used for herbicide and fertiliser spraying in hard-to-reach areas. **Tractor and Trailer Driving Competition:** Witness thrilling competitions and razor-close finishes in this adrenaline-pumping event.



The Evans Petroleum team will be back for another year at Farm World catching up with their farming customers whilst providing information and promoting the different products available.



Tom and the team from Marriotts will have a wide range of products on display in the same spot as last year (site 446-447) between Fourth and Fifth Streets including the Polaris Ranger Northstar with deals to be had.

Farm World for our farmers

FARM World 2024 is all about hands-on experience, with a strong emphasis on live demonstrations. We're excited to introduce two new Lifestyle Ag Equipment demonstration areas on Avenue A, allowing dealers to showcase products with 80HP and below to prospective buyers throughout the event. Additionally, don't miss our 100HP and above tractor and implement demonstration zone in the Demo Paddock located on the hill above the main event. Be sure to ask your Ag dealer for a live demo. **Lifestyle Demo Area x 2:** These can be found at both the East and West ends of Avenue A. **Demonstration Paddock:** Witness full tractor and implement demonstrations, with a specific focus on Seed and

Tillage equipment for 2024. Be sure to ask a dealer for a live demo. **Post Farm World Demonstrations "Seed and Tillage Demo Day":** Join us on Wednesday, March 27, after Farm World. Contact your local Ag dealer for an official invite, enjoy hands-on equipment testing, and savour a sausage from the local Lion's Club. **New Product Launches:** Farm World will be the stage for numerous new product launches in 2024, with most Ag dealers and manufacturers unveiling their latest offerings. **Tools, Tools, Tools:** ACE Industrial is set to amaze you with an extensive array of tools and equipment within the south end of the Baw Baw Pavilion. With over 800m2 dedicated to your favourite tool brands, it's an

extravaganza you won't want to miss if you're considering upgrading or adding some new tools. **Farm World - Village Green:** A celebration of local producers, the new – Farm World Village Green, offers local distilleries/breweries/wineries of whisky, gin, vodka, cider, beers, and wines an opportunity to showcase, sample and sell their produce to interested patrons. With a picket fenced area for patrons to enjoy some of their purchases and over six hours of live music a day, patrons will enjoy acoustic easy listening – live music from locals – Imogen Price, Mel Pollard, Gavin Chatelier and up and coming artist – 14-year-old Pippa Galus. Don't miss your chance to chill, sample and purchase to support local small business producers.



ACE Industrial's mega Farm World display is bringing the biggest ever Kinchrome display to life with a huge range of toolkits and all things Kinchrome.



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Blending tradition with innovation Farm World 2024 is back and bigger than ever.

Grounded in tradition and demonstrating the future

FARM World is gearing up to spearhead a thrilling new era for the \$1 billion Field Days circuit in 2024. As one of the first major events for both exhibitors and visitors, Farm World 2024 promises to usher in a wave of fresh optimism in the industry.

This event will not only feature a dazzling array of primary exhibits, but also deliver a captivating program of demonstrations to cater to a wide array of interests. From the debut of cutting-edge models to revolutionary technological advancements and practical agricultural practices such as seed and cultivation demonstrations, Farm World is a must in 2024 and takes centre stage as the premier event in Victoria, setting the pace for major field days across the country.

Lardner Park opens its doors to Farm World on Friday, March 22, and extends through three action-packed days until Sunday, March 24.

For industry professionals, Farm World offers an invaluable opportunity to place advance orders, ensuring timely delivery for the upcoming harvest season. Given the current deals on farm equipment,



Visitors can anticipate a captivating display of both new and vintage attractions, highlighted by the anticipated return of the Baw Baw Old Engine Auto Club showcasing their remarkable historical machinery.

this event provides a prime opportunity for growers and producers to secure the gear they need, with all major distributors and manufacturers recognising the need for swift action to meet the growing demand.

Exhibitors are locked in with sold out exhibitor sites to unveil new products and services. The transition from four days to a vibrant three-day exhibition format has paved the way for a wide variety of activations, promising

an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

The theme for Farm World 2024 is "Grounded in Tradition and Demonstrating the Future."

Check out our website for further details: lardnerpark.com.au/

What to Expect in 2024

Farm World continues its focus on innovations and products in farming, Agro-forestry, aquaculture, lifestyle farming, contractors, beef breeders,

dairy, alpaca, and sheep industries. the farm world rodeo is set to return on Saturday, March 23, with an increased ticketing allocation for an unforgettable night.

Key Dates

Friday, March 22 – Gates open from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Saturday, March 23 – Gates open from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm. The Farm World Rodeo begins at 5.30 pm.

Sunday, March 24 – Gates open from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Tickets available online or at the Gate. We offer combination and multi-day pass options for online purchases. Book online and avoid the queues at lardnerpark.com.au/farmworld/

Make Your Plans

Farm World 2024 promises an action-packed program of demos, exhibitions, and get-togethers. Plan your itinerary in advance to ensure you don't miss any of the exciting activities and book your tickets for entrance.

lardnerpark.com.au/patrons/

lardnerpark.com.au/getting-here/



Farm World for families

FARM World 2024 has something special for every member of the family.

Freestyle Kings: Get your heart racing with awe-inspiring freestyle motocross shows. Catch the action three times a day at 10 am, 12 pm, and 2 pm, located on the north end of Lakeside Arena, with a pre-show event before the Rodeo on Saturday night.

Black Snake Productions: Discover a fully featured wildlife display, including "Deadly Australians" and a comprehensive Mobile Zoo. Rangers will be on-site to guide families through this exciting experience over the three days.

Go Getta Kelpies and Joe Spicer are attending with multiple shows a day with his working dogs and training techniques.

Camel and Pony Rides: Come along and enjoy a camel or pony ride by Billabong Ranch, just \$15 per ride along the rolling green grounds of Lardner Park.

Free Kids' Fishing Competition: Let the little ones enjoy a fun-filled fishing competition hosted by Noojee Trout Farm or try your hand at casting with the Berkley Supertank – fishing shows, located down on the terraces.

Culinary Delights: Enjoy multiple food and beverage zones spread across the 110-acre event space. Download the program and event map from larderpark.com.au to plan your culinary adventure.

Cattle Corner and the Animals of Farm World Zone: Right in the heart of the event, explore local and interstate Beef Breeders' displays and learn from experts about the genetics of these animals. Marvel at the alpacas and watch the working dogs in action. Get up close and personal with animals and industry experts.

Live Music: Immerse yourself in the vibrant sounds of live music in and around the Food and Village Green zones while relishing a tasty meal.



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Planned burning season is underway

FOREST Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) will take advantage of favourable weather and forest conditions across the state to keep Victoria safer from the threat of bushfires.

A planned burn is currently taking place in Kilcunda Block C – 0.8 kilometres west of the Kilcunda township, or for those familiar with the area, running alongside the Shelley Beach access road on the western side.

Preparations have been underway for a number of weeks in the area with vegetation cleared. The burn is scheduled to take 10 days.

Motorists are urged to drive with care and caution due to potential smoke and wildlife moving from the area.

FFMVic Gippsland Deputy Chief Fire Officer Sam Quigley said planned burning is one of the tools FFMVic uses to keep Victoria safer from bushfires.

“Delivering our planned burning program takes a lot of planning and preparation,” Mr Quigley said.

“If you live in or are visiting an area where planned burning is taking place, there’s a good chance you’ll see FFMVic firefighters preparing locations or delivering planned burns. They’ll be the ones in our distinctive green firefighting uniforms.

“The bushfire risk management program is focused on creating a strategic network of fuel reduced areas on public land because it’s not just what’s being done now, but what we’ve delivered in the past and what we plan to deliver in the future that will keep our communities safer.



Planned burns will take place in the coming weeks across Bass Coast and South Gippsland

“Our climate is changing and that means finding the right days for safe and effective planned burning is also changing. While we’ve had a wet start to summer, the current weather outlook is favourable, which means FFMVic will be making sure all available resources are delivering the planned burning program.

“The bushfire risk management program is underpinned by scientific evidence, local knowledge and continuous improvement to make sure our work is focused where it will have the greatest impact in keeping Victoria safer,” he said.

FFMVic works with emergency sector partners including the Country Fire Authority, Fire Rescue Victoria and Emergency Management

Victoria to manage bushfire risk, prepare communities and respond to bushfires and other emergencies.

“We work with the Bureau of Meteorology to assess weather conditions, such as humidity, temperature and wind speed, and will only carry out burns when the conditions are suitable, and it is safe to do so.

“The Environment Protection Authority helps us to keep the smoke impact from planned burns as low as practically possible, and to inform the community through smoke modelling and air quality monitoring.

“While planned burning is our most effective tool to reduce bushfire risk, in locations where planned burning isn’t suitable, we mulch, mow, slash and spray, build

fuel breaks and upgrade and maintain the public land road network to keep Victoria safer,” Mr Quigley added.

The planned burn follows burns over the last couple of years in neighbouring blocks including Kilcunda Block B in May 2022.

Additional burns will be delivered in South Gippsland and Bass Coast over the Autumn and into the winter period including:

Adams Estate – Stanley Rd: 0.1 km S of Adams Estate, near Grantville, 22.2 hectares, fuel reduction.

Waratah Bay – Caravan Park: 0.1 km NW of Waratah Bay, 3.3 hectares, fuel reduction.

Foster – New Zealand Hill South: 1 km E of Foster, 8.9 hectares, fuel reduction.

Boolarra – Rabbi Track: 2.2 km S of Boolarra, 13.3 hectares, fuel reduction

Walkerville – MacPherson Creek: 2.5 km SW of Walkerville, 123 hectares, ecological

Wilson’s Promontory – Picnic Creek: 11 km SE of Tidal River, 135.4 hectares, ecological

Wilson’s Promontory – Kersops Peak: 12 km E of Tidal River, 318 hectares, ecological

Wilson’s Promontory – Barry Creek South: 19 km SE of Yanakie, 110.9 hectares, ecological

Wilson’s Promontory – Sugarloaf West: 23 km SE of Yanakie, 165.4 hectares, ecological

WPNP – SouWest Corner Track: 12 km SSE of Yanakie, 350 hectares, ecological

Register for the latest updates about where and when FFMVic deliver planned burning at plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/

Tackling emerging livestock biosecurity challenges

THE VICTORIAN Government is bolstering Victoria’s biosecurity system with funding for projects that help prevent, monitor, and control pests and diseases in livestock.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently opened applications for the 2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds grants program.

Victoria will continue to face new and emerging biosecurity risks – driven by climate change, increasing trade and travel, and changing land use – and innovative new solutions are critical to protecting Victoria’s \$20 billion agriculture industry.

The Livestock Biosecurity Fund grants program supports projects that adopt new and emerging technologies to respond to livestock biosecurity issues, encourage collaboration, and deliver quantifiable benefits to the livestock industry.

Agriculture Victoria and the state’s livestock compensation advisory committees developed the grants program which is funded through duties generated by the sale of cattle, sheep, goat and pigs and their carcasses in Victoria, and using beekeeper registration fees.

Prospective applicants joined an online forum today to hear from the livestock compensation advisory committees about what they are hoping to see in applications this round.

Previously funded projects included the Victorian Farmers Federation popular producer-led Stock Sense Livestock program, which received \$2.19 million over the past four years.

The program helps Victorian livestock producers adopt animal health and production practices that improve animal welfare and Victoria’s biosecurity status.

Another project supported through the program is the Electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) (Sheep) tags.

This has helped maintain the low-disease status of Victoria’s sheep and goat industries and protects Victoria’s reputation in domestic and export markets as a supplier of wholesome meat and dairy products.

Applications close on April 15, to apply visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds.

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SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE



Milk production firing on all cylinders

MORE than halfway into the current dairy season, Australian milk production is firing on all cylinders, Rabobank says, with widespread growth in milk supply across all dairying regions due to favourable seasonal conditions and good farmgate margins.

In its recently released Q1 Global Dairy Quarterly report, the agribusiness banking specialist said Australian milk production reached 5.35 billion litres from the period July 2023 to January 2024, 2.5 per cent year-on-year higher.

The bank said summer rainfall had far exceeded expectations across much of Australia's east coast, providing a good platform for livestock producers.

Report co-author, Rabobank senior dairy analyst Michael Harvey said Australian dairy farmers were expected to enjoy a strong 2024.

"With milk prices remaining elevated, expectations are that new season pricing from July 1 will be margin-supportive," Mr Harvey said. "And there is plenty of homegrown feed in storage, and purchased feed is affordable."

Rabobank forecasts the Australian milk supply to finish the 2023/24 season (ending June 30) 2.6 per cent higher, with growth to continue into the new season in the range of three to four per cent for 2024/25.

Domestic market

Mr Harvey said the domestic Australian dairy market performance is stuttering but is expected to improve in 2024.

"Australian household budgets remain strained, driving discretionary spending lower, which is flowing into the food basket," he said. "The financial health of Australian consumers is anticipated to improve as the year progresses, wages increase, tax cuts kick in and inflation normalises. And there are also potential interest rate cuts on the horizon."

"However, it is not all smooth sailing for consumers, with domestic economic growth for 2024 revised downward and unemployment revised upwards."

Mr Harvey said disinflation is visible across Australian dairy grocery aisles.

Dairy exports

Rabobank said Australian dairy exports had been under pressure in the first six months of the season.

"Volumes were 8.5 per cent lower than last year, with significant declines for milk, whole milk powder and butteroil. As milk supply grows into the new season, additional milk will be directed to manufacturing and potentially exports."

"Export competitiveness remains, but the gap between local and offshore farmgate milk prices has narrowed as milk prices in competitors' regions increase on the back of improving commodity markets."

Gallagher Landcare electric fencing grants

EXPRESSIONS of Interest is now open for the 2024 Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing grants.

Now entering its fifth round, the Gallagher and Landcare Australia Electric Fencing Grants provide support for conservation and biodiversity protection projects aligned with the priority areas of Conservation Exclusion/Inclusion Fencing and Riparian Protection and Farm Dam Restoration on agricultural land.

A total pool of \$176,000 worth of Gallagher permanent electric fencing product, with up to 22 grants available, each valued at \$8000.

For the first time ever, the grant round is now open to applicants from all regions throughout Australia.

For more information visit bit.ly/3TEczmy

Farmers urged to stay alert to risks of fatigue in danger period

SHEEP and cropping farmer Jack Armstrong knows that in agriculture it pays to be proactive with safety, particularly when it comes to managing the risks of fatigue during peak periods.

During what can be a higher-risk time for farming workplaces, Jack, who farms at Yalla-Y-Poora, south-east of Ararat, is encouraging farmers and workers to have important conversations around health and safety and managing fatigue risks.

WorkSafe data shows March and November are peak months for workplace fatalities in agriculture, corresponding with the busy sowing and harvest seasons.

Jack said he could see the dangerous role fatigue could play in contributing to workplace incidents on farms through his own experiences.

"There are some horror stories of people having massive incidents. A farmer near here was baling one night after working massive hours and they crashed the tractor into a power pole. He ended up being okay but the machinery was toast. It's having stories like that in the back of your mind that you need to learn from," Jack said.

"It's just a shame that it takes



something bad to happen to create some good – you'd prefer to be proactive rather than reactive."

Jack is adding his voice to WorkSafe's emotive campaign. It's never you, until it is, which is making a return with advertising across regional television, radio, print and digital media to offer practical safety solutions for farmers and encourage conversations around safety.

Jack describes fatigue among farmers as "extremely common", particularly at busy times.

"The work that we do can be different to other jobs – it can be very manually intensive and the hours can be quite exhaustive and that can really catch up to a person," he said.

"I think a lot of farmers can have the misconception that if they work really hard and work long hours they'll get more done and be more efficient when you sort of just end up burning the candle at both ends."

WorkSafe Inspector Dallas Braam urged farmers and farm workers to listen to their bodies and not shrug off the signs of fatigue.

"Fatigue affects your decision making and when your decision making is affected not only are you affecting yourself, potentially, but the people you're working with, who are usually family and friends," he said.

"Taking a break to get hydrated, have some food, or call a friend could prevent an injury out there and you'll be going

home to see your loved ones at the end of the day – that's the difference."

Families and communities are reeling from the loss of two lives in workplace incidents on farms already this year, taking the number of work-related deaths in agriculture to 34 since January 2020.

Farmers and farm workers who suffer serious injuries also face a long road to get back on the job, with more than 25 per cent of those injured still unable to return to farming one year on from a serious incident.

WorkSafe Executive Director Narelle Beer said every conversation about farm safety helped remove the stigma around health and safety in agriculture.

"We're working for a future where safety is at the centre of farming operations and where deaths and injuries are seen to be preventable, not inevitable," Dr Beer said.

"Every time a farmer or farm worker talks about farm safety helps to make a real difference in preventing families and communities from losing loved ones."

More information on the It's never you, until it is campaign and farm safety can be found at worksafe.vic.gov.au/saferfarms

MARKET REPORT

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Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x	\$15 to \$30
Friesian Bulls	\$30 to \$60
Friesian Heifers	\$200
Beef Bulls	\$34 to \$175
Beef Heifers	\$35 to \$120
Number of Calves:	200
Number purchased to rear:	25

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Australia to host World Jersey Conference in 2025

AUSTRALIAN Jersey cows will be showcased to a global audience with the World Jersey Conference coming in 2025.

The World Jersey Cattle Bureau has agreed to host its annual conference in Australia for the first time since 2011.

The conference will start April 6 and finish at the Royal Sydney Show Jersey judging on April 21. A preliminary itinerary has been developed and will take visitors through Victoria and the NSW south coast, starting at the Gippsland Jersey Autumn Fair and visiting Western Victoria before moving to Northern Victoria where the Dairy's Finest sale will be part of the program.

The delegation will then continue to Bega and along the south coast to Sydney.

Up to 100 people from across the globe, including Europe, North America, New Zealand and Asia are expected to join local Jersey farmers on the tour.

The conference was last held here in 2011 when Australia stepped in after the tsunami hit original host Japan. It had been planned to return to Australia in 2021 but was deferred because of COVID-19. This year the conference is in Denmark and it was held in Guatemala in 2023 and virtually from Rwanda in 2022.

One of the highlights of the Australian program will be a Future Leaders Forum with Jersey organisations around the world being invited to sponsor a potential future leader to attend.



After COVID dashed Australia's hopes of hosting the conference in 2021, the event will return next year.

Jersey Australia general manager Glen Barrett said hosting the conference would build on the international marketing done in recent years to promote Australian Jerseys.

"Part of our reason for applying to host this event is to capitalise on the global marketing we have been doing in recent years," Mr Barrett said.

"We see this as a celebration of Australian Jerseys, with a strong focus on Australian cow families and sires.

"The visitors will see some great Jerseys along the journey."

Jersey Australia has led a joint trade site at World Dairy Expo in Madison Wisconsin, USA for the past two years which has led to improved international product recognition and sales.

"There is growing interest in the export market," Mr Barrett said.

"We had our first shipment of heifers to Indonesia last year, more heifers are about to be shipped to Pakistan, the

Chinese market is growing again and there is a shipment being prepared to go to the UAE," he said.

"There is certainly a growing market for Australian Jersey heifers and Australian genetics."

Domestically, Jersey numbers have been increasing year-on-year and Jerseys now account for more than 15 per cent of the national herd, up from 10.5 per cent 15 years ago.

Mr Barrett predicted that interest in local Jerseys would spike after the conference.

"Bringing international Jersey breeders here to see first-hand the high-quality cattle we're breeding from high-quality Australian bulls will definitely benefit our local industry," he said.

"The conference rotates around the world and we think we have the best Jersey cows in the world so we wanted to showcase them.

"This will be a great opportunity for Australian businesses to support the event and promote their Jersey genetics and products to the world."

The World Jersey Cattle Bureau represents Jersey breeders, and their organisations, around the world. There are five world regions of the Bureau – Africa, Asia/Oceania, Europe, Latin America and North America. World conferences have been held since 1949.

A local committee is being formed to support the conference tour planning.

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A/c Kuch Grazing, Darriman (NUTRIEN)
120 Angus steers, Aug/Sep 22 drop, Landfall blood, EU & NE Accred, MHR/IBR vacc

A/c Bratrace Farms, Mirboo (ELDERS)
120 Angus/Murry Grey Steers, 15-18 mths, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred

A/c G Terranova, Mirboo North (NUTRIEN)
103 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, East Gippsland bred

A/c DB & DM Fairbrother, Kings Flat (NUTRIEN)
90 Hereford steers, 17-18 mths

A/c I & R Hengstberger, Dumbalk Nth (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus steers, 14-15 mths, Cluney Range blood, GF, AF & NE Accred

A/c Hak Holdings, Pound Creek (NUTRIEN)
44 Angus steers, 17-18 mths

A/c Latrobe Park Angus (NUTRIEN)
60 Angus steers, 16-17 mths, Pure Latrobe Park blood, VQ

A/c Mondamac Pastoral, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus steers, 22-25 mths, Western Dist. Bred, Bassano & Pathfinder blood, GF & AF, VQ

A/c Hookey Pastoral (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus steers, 14-16 mths

A/c T & J Waters, Dumbalk
48 Angus & Angus X steers, 16-18 mths

A/c "Hislop & Hillberg", Poowong (SEJ)
30 Angus steers, 18-20 mths

A/c D Harris Earthmoving, Tarwin (SEJ)
40 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, Battersby blood, VB, GF, ABF

A/c Ponderosa Herefords, Meenyan (NUTRIEN)
40 Hereford steers, 14-16 mths

A/c M Rice, Morwell (NUTRIEN)
40 Hereford steers, 16 mths

A/c D & P Whiteley, Mirboo (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus & BB steers, 14-16 mths, weaned & quiet

A/c North Side Pastoral, Inverloch (NUTRIEN)
36 Angus steers, 16 mths

A/c ML & GM Lee, Munro (NUTRIEN)
35 Angus steers, 14-16 mths, Kunuma blood, VB, GF & AF

A/c R McCulloch, Churchill (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, rising 2 yo

A/c Bedad P/L, Thorpdale (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 18-20 mths

A/c A O'Loughlin, Berrys Creek (NUTRIEN)
25 Angus steers, 20 mths

A/c SN Bare, Hallston (SEJ)
26 Angus steers, 18 mths, Battersby blood, 2 x 5 in 1

A/c "Leveque Nom", Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 14-15 mths

A/c SP Dunlop, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
20 Ang steers, 16 mths, By Black Spur Angus

A/c Armstrong & White (NUTRIEN)
18 Angus steers, 18 mths, Table Top blood, 5in1 X 2, Dectomax Drenched

A/c Melaleuca Past, Ruby (NUTRIEN)
18 Angus steers, 16 mths

A/c S Brah, Traralgon (NUTRIEN)
16 Angus steers, 16 mths

A/c Batten Squared P/L (NUTRIEN)
13 Angus steers, 20 mths

A/c R & B Broadbent, Heyfield (NUTRIEN)
12 Hereford steers, 16 mths

A/c C Baird, Yarragon (NUTRIEN)
25 Speckle Park steers, 16 mths

A/c Highland Hill View, Tarra Valley (SEJ)
15 Speckle Park steers, 16 mths

A/c GD Reed, Yarram (NUTRIEN)
7 AA & BB steers, 16-18 mths

A/c FW Wilson, Yarram (NUTRIEN)
5 Hereford steers, 15-16 mths

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Bratrace Farms, Mirboo (ELDERS)
80 Angus/Murry Grey heifers, 15-18 mths, VB ,GF, ABF, NE Accred

A/c North Side Pastoral, Inverloch (NUTRIEN)
36 Angus heifers, 16 mths

A/c Hookey Pastoral (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus heifers, 14-16 mths, Leawood blood, EU & NE Accred

A/c M Rice, Morwell (NUTRIEN)
40 Hereford heifers, 16 mths

A/c GD Reed, Yarram (NUTRIEN)
5 AA & BB heifers, 16-18 mths

WEANERS

A/c P & J Boddy, Woodside (SEJ)
300 Angus steers, 7-8 mths, By Pure Dunoon bulls, weaned 3 weeks, Vetmec drench, 2 x 5in1, Piliguard, Annual Draft

A/c Dividing Creek, Fish Creek (SEJ)
50 Angus steers, 10-12 mths

A/c C & E Ford, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
75 Angus Mixed sex, 12-14 mths

A/c M Hunt & S Grant, Maffra (NUTRIEN)
75 Angus Mixed sex, 12-14 mths, Latrobe Park blood

A/c H Fox, Flynn (NUTRIEN)
60 Hereford & AA Mixed sex, 12-16 mths

A/c Bangala Pastoral, Phillip Island (PHC)
60 Angus mix sexes, 10-11 mths, weaned, By Grafton Angus bulls, Ex Western District bred cows

A/c J Sawers, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus steers

A/c Keenage Pastoral, Alberton (NUTRIEN)
20 Hereford steers, 10-12 mths

A/c Ridgeline AG, Strzelecki (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus mixed sex, 9-10 mths

A/c MD Gordon, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths, By Stud Wattlewood Bull, unjoined

A/c MP Lee, Stratford (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-11 mths, Kunuma blood

A/c M Hambyln, Woodside (SEJ)
22 Angus steers, 7-8 mths

A/c G Doderico, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus mixed sex, 14 mths

A/c P Shaw, Hazelwood (NUTRIEN)
30 Hereford mixed sex, 12 mths

A/c Wongungarra Unit Trust, Crooked River (PHC)
25 Hereford mix sex yearlings, Karoonda blood

A/c Ansa Earth Moving, Welshpool (NUTRIEN)
22 AA steers, 10-12 mths, yard weaned, 2x5in1

A/c T & Ja Christensen, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
15 BB steers, 12 mths, Leawood blood

A/c TL Vening, Fish Creek (PHC)
14 Angus x steers, 12 mths

A/c F Wilson, Meenyan (NUTRIEN)
14 Hereford & BB steers, 12 mths

A/c D Read, Woodside (SEJ)
12 Angus steers, 10 mths, weaned 5 weeks

A/c J O'Connell, Woodside (SEJ)
12 Angus steers, 9-10 mths

A/c H & J Bland, Yarram (NUTRIEN)
25 Charo steers, 10-12 mths

A/c D Read, Woodside (SEJ)
15 Charo heifers, 10-12 mths

A/c D Read, Woodside (SEJ)
Yard weaned, 2x5in1, Drenched @ Weaning, Mount William Sires

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c M Websdale, Trafalgar (NUTRIEN)
13 Euro X steers, 2.5 yo

A/c Ansa Earth Moving, Welshpool (NUTRIEN)
10 AA/Friesian steers

A/c Ansa Earth Moving, Welshpool (NUTRIEN)
20 Friesian steers

A/c Ansa Earth Moving, Welshpool (NUTRIEN)
10 AA/Friesian X heifers

A/c Ansa Earth Moving, Welshpool (NUTRIEN)
10-12 mths, all bucket reared



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BIRTHS



SPILSTEAD - McRAE:

Born at Benalla Hospital on March 10, at 10.10am, 8lb, 8oz (old school). Scarlett Matilda is the first child for Lauren and Ben. Cherished granddaughter for Kristine, Barry (dec.), Yolanda and Ron.

We are blessed to have this little girl to love and spoil!

"The rules changes with the grandchildren".

TREWIN - BODEN:

Dulcie Delilah Trewin born 09/03/2024, weighing 4920gms to Stephen and Taz. Sister for Lola, Evie, Marley and Austen. Cousin for Ayla, Tahlia, Harry, Lenny, Bo, Khali, Ruby, Jack, Tomi, Zoe and Ava. Another granddaughter for Maureen and Lester, Christine and Dean.

DEATHS

BARTON (nee McKinlay), Irene:

29.11.1943 - 29.02.2024.

Passed away in her sleep in Perth.

Loving mother to Russell and Adele.

Treasured sister to Ina.

Grandmother to Gabriel, Alex, Sam, and Fletcher.

Friend and valued member of the Wonthaggi community for over 50 years.

A Memorial Service to be held in Wonthaggi in late April.

Forever in our hearts, now resting peacefully.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12.30PM MONDAYS Call 5672 1888 to place a notice

DEATHS

BROWN, Irene May:

Dearest Irene, thinking of you as I do every night and remembering the moments we spent together when we first fell in love.

We were so deeply in love, and I will keep those memories in my heart. Good night Irene, I'll see you in my dreams.

RIP your loving husband, Don.

Mum, you will always be beside us wherever we go, you were the beautiful soul in our lives. RIP.

Karen, Jack, Damian, and Sammy.

Mum, we will miss you dearly but hope that you keep playing spotto up there.

RIP Darls, Trav, Maky, Kasey, Ashy, and Dylan.

Forever in our hearts, RIP.

Daryl, Andrea, Maddy, Will, Ed, and Jo.

My beautiful mum my best friend my heart is broken but you will live on in my heart forever, RIP, your loving son, Kevin and Annette.

CHAPMAN (nee Jarvis), Patricia Dawn:

Patricia passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family at Dandenong Hospital on Friday, March 15, aged 87. Loving wife of Malcolm (dec.). Much loved mother and mother-in-law to Janice and Robert, Greg and Myrian, Elise and John, Helena and James. Grandma to Kable, Nicole, Riley, Dean, Ben, Patricia, Nathan (dec.), Chloe, William, Harvey and Ruby. Great Grandma to Maisie, Stella, Matteo and Leilani.

Even though you are no longer with us we all have our own treasured memories to hold onto. Thank you for all you have done for our family, we will miss you.

Now resting peacefully.

DEATHS

CRICHTON, Norman Keith:

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Norman.

Loved and loving husband of Rachel.

As per Norman's wishes a private cremation will be held.

GLASGOW, Jack:

15.02.1931 - 15.03.2024.

Friend of Raymond and Maureen. Forever fishing and playing the pokies now. We'll always remember our laughs and fun time working together. Bye good friend.

-- Ray.

HARRISON, Jack Russell (Russell):

14.03.1939 - 09.03.2024.

Passed away peacefully at Koorooman House.

Dearly loved husband and best friend of Eileen for 57 years.

Dearest dad and dad-in-law of Christine and Mark, Ashley and Jane, Kaye and Grant.

Grandpa of Tristan, Ebony, Isaiah, Acacia, Cohen, and Raidyn.

Resting in the arms of God.

Son of Ed and Meg (both dec.).

Brother and brother-in-law of Helen and Ken (dec.), Florence and Greg, Don and Debbie, Ray (dec.) and Daralyn, and their families.

Rest in Peace.

HARRISON, Russell:

Dear brother-in-law of Robert and Helen and family.

Lovingly remembered.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12.30PM MONDAYS

DEATHS

McGLASHAN (nee Terry), Susan Elaine:

04.08.1947 - 13.03.2024.

Passed away peacefully at Armitage House.

Adored wife of Terry.

Loved daughter of Fred and Imogene, sister to Glenda (all dec.).

Dearly loved mother of Mark and Mum 2 to Rebecca.

Loved mother-in-law of Adrienne and Jules.

Nan to her wonderful grandsons Nic, Quinn, Monti, and Joshua.

A private cremation will be held.

Thankyou to the Dr's and fantastic nurses of BCH for the care they gave to Susan and myself. A big thank you to all the district nurses who did so much for us at any time.

Our life long friends, Veronica and Gary Shaw, who have always been there for us. To all our workmates and friends at BCH, thank you for all your kindness and support at this sad time.

Now at rest in the loving arms of her parents and sister.

You will always be in Our hearts and memories, my beautiful Susan.

OAKLEY (nee Demo), Vera:

Loved and loving wife of Tom (dec.). Devoted mother of Gradey and Grant (both dec.).

Caring grandmother of Margaret and Jason.

Great grandmother of four. Sister of John, Elsa (both dec.), Lorraine, Valorie and Brian.

Passed after a long illness 04.03.2024. in Fremantle W.A.

Remembered and loved by John (dec.), Jill, Carol, Linda, and families.

WRIGHT, Barbara Ann:

It is with great sadness that we announce that Barbara Ann Wright died peacefully on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Beloved wife of 56 years to Charlie, mother to Jason, Elise, Kirsty, Kate and Emma.

Grandmother to Kelly, Jayden, Calvin, Jye, Mayson, Jordi, Blake, Skye and Hope, and great grandmother to Armani.

No flowers by request, donations to National Breast Cancer Foundation would be appreciated.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, March 22 at Churchill Island from 2-4pm. Afternoon tea will be served. www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au

FUNERALS

BROWN:

A Funeral Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs Irene May Brown will be held at the Stratus Chapel, Bunurong Memorial Park,790 Frankston - Dandenong Road, Dandenong South on Friday, March 22, 2024 commencing 11am.

This Service will be livestreamed, to view please visit www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

Private Cremation

CHAPMAN:

A Funeral Service for Patricia Dawn Chapman will be held at St Georges Anglican Church, Smythe St. Corinella at 2pm, Friday, March 22.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for Corinella Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Corinella.

HARRISON:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr Jack Russell (Russell) Harrison will be held at the Nerrena Hall, Nerrena Hall Road, Nerrena TODAY, Tuesday, March 19, 2024, commencing 12 Middyay.

This Service will be livestreamed, to view please visit www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

A Private Burial will precede the above Service.

Handley

Phone: (03) 5662 2717

IN MEMORIAM

BEAUMONT, Anthony (Ampy):

Seven lonely years have passed without you Ampy. You are loved and missed everyday by us all. Marg and all our family.

DEVLIN, Don:

04.12.1936 - 22.03.2021.

3 years since we lost you. Miss you everyday. All our love forever.

Your loving wife Margaret, daughters and families.

IN MEMORIAM

SCIMONELLO, Francesco:

March 23, 2012.

It's been 12 years since you left our world, and it still seems like yesterday that we said our final goodbyes to a loving husband and father. Still so many wonderful memories and if we could only turn back time and have you here with us, life would be so complete. Always in our hearts and lives.

Your loving wife Maria and children Tony and Diana.

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

BONE, Roma:

Roma's family would sincerely like to thank everyone for their love and support, phone calls, expressions of sympathy, cards, and flowers on the recent passing of Roma.

EMMERSON, Rodney:

Rodney's family would like to thank you for your many phone calls, cards, flowers, food and expressions of sympathy.

Thanks to St Andrews Uniting Church catering committee for refreshments following Rodney's funeral.

Sincere thanks to Woorayl Lodge staff and doctors for your excellent care of Rodney for eight months.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

LOVIE, Shirley Jean:

Noelle, Steve, and Kim along with their families would sincerely like to thank everyone for your love, support, cards, phone calls, messages, and beautiful flowers at the time our mum's passing.

To Woorayl Lodge, we cannot express enough how grateful we were for your wonderful care and support.

Special thanks to Dr Cassie.

Please accept this as our personal thank you to all.

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VICTORIA State Government

Energy, Environment and Climate Action

We want to hear from you...

The Network Outage Review panel will be at Mirboo North on Saturday 23 March and Sunday 24 March to hear from the community and businesses on your experience of the power outage following the 13 February 2024 storm event.

Baromi Centre, 38 Couper Street, Mirboo North

Saturday 23 March and Sunday 24 March

Drop in from 10am to 3pm, with panel presentations at 11am and 1pm each day

Refreshments will be provided

We look forward to seeing you there.

54 | TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Sentinel-Times Classifieds

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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MEETINGS



AGM
Korumburra RSL sub branch
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
7.30pm at
34 Mine Road.
D. Jackson, Pres.
0474 136 469

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Part time shifts commencing 3pm Monday to Friday.

Must have or will get WWC and Police check.
Federal Award rates apply, training available to right candidates.

Please send resume to customerservice@sebastiangroup.com.au



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Edney's of Leongatha is seeking a qualified motor mechanic to join its expanding Nissan/Hyundai dealership. The successful applicant will be given the latest dealership training throughout their employment while working in a friendly & modern environment. If you are looking for a change of environment, a great place to work then this is for you.

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3rd & 4th year apprentice will be considered.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Corinella Caravan Park Manager

The Corinella Foreshore Reserve Inc. Committee of Management requires a contractor, preferably locally-based, to provide all services to effectively operate the Caravan Park and associated grounds and facilities.

The selection criteria can be viewed at the website:
www.corinellaforeshore.com.au/caravanpark.html
or send an email to the secretary at corinellaforeshore@gmail.com

Applications close by COB
Friday March 29, 2024.



Newhaven College is seeking an experienced and dynamic educator in the leadership role of:

Head of Senior School

The Newhaven College Senior School consists of approximately 400 students from Years 9 to 12. The Senior School provides a nurturing environment with programmes specifically designed for this exciting time of schooling. Each young person is supported in their individual growth in these important years in a way that sets them up for future success. The Senior School offers the opportunity for all students to complete their VCE in preparation for further study, apprenticeship or to enter the workforce.

Students in Years 10 to 12 are located in their own Senior School building and are cared for in vertical Houses, supported by their Mentor and House Leader. Year 9, whilst part of Senior School, have a stand-alone experiential year of learning and are based in the purpose-built Year 9 Environmental Centre.

The Head of Senior School is responsible for the day to day running of the Senior School and oversees the academic, pastoral care and co-curricular programme. Reporting directly to the Principal, the Head of Senior School is part of the College's Leadership Team & plays a key role in the implementation of the College's Strategic Direction, Hearts & Minds, and College Vision.

For further information visit: newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven

Applications close 4:00pm Tuesday 26 March.



**NEWHAVEN
COLLEGE**



DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.30pm

Classified double column

Fridays 4.30pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE



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Office Hours:
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Payments accepted:



Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Sentinel-Times

Employment

Complete jobs listing online | www.sgst.com.au



Tractor operator

We have a position available for an experienced tractor operator.

The role is varied and will include earthmoving jobs as well as silage, slashing and cultivating etc.

The position can be full or part time and possibly include other farm roles off season.

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SITUATIONS VACANT



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AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

LIBRARY MANAGER (Campus Librarian)

Full Time, Ongoing Position

Bass Coast College is seeking a suitably qualified Library Manager to join its team.

Role Description is available on the Department of Education's online job advertisement and recruitment management system Recruitment Online, or please contact Nancy Crismanich on 5611 4000 for further information.

Applications need to be submitted through Recruitment Online <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/careers/Pages/advacsSCH.aspx>

Applications close:
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

JAZ2183

PUBLIC NOTICES



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Leongatha RSL Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held at the clubrooms on

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:30pm.

Nominations are invited until 5pm on Friday, March 29 for the following positions which become vacant at the Annual General Meeting.

- President (Service) Two (2) Year Term
- Secretary (Service/Affiliate) Two (2) Year Term (Must have served at least one year on the Committee in the past five years)
- Committee: Vacancy exists for One (1) Committee person. Two (2) Year Term

Nomination forms are available from staff at reception. These forms need to be signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder. All are required to be service or affiliate members of the sub-branch. They are required to be financial for 2024.

A fifty (50) word personal profile may be submitted with nominations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Noel Laing on 0407 522 889.

JEN2316

Numix Concrete

Agi Truck Driver/2IC

We have a casual agi truck driving position available, with potential to go full time based at our Leongatha concrete plant. We are seeking somebody who has a good work ethic and is capable of working Monday to Friday and some Saturdays.

The successful applicant will need:

- Hold a current Australian Driver's Licence.
- HR Licence essential.
- Reliable Transport.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Proven ability to work well in a team environment.
- Road Ranger experience preferred.

We offer flexible working hours, above award wages plus penalties, and supply uniforms and boots. An immediate start is available to the right applicant.

Please email through your resume to:
accounts@kennedyhaulage.com.au

Applications close:
Friday March 22, 2024

JEN2317



Team Leader South Gippsland

Port Welshpool, Full time

Gippsland Ports is a provider of waterway management, dredging, marine infrastructure and asset management services along the Gippsland coast from Anderson Inlet to Mallacoota.

We are currently seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to assist the Manager to accomplish all aspects of day-to-day operations of the Port Welshpool Depot, including administration and programming of works, on-the-job supervision of staff, adherence to OHS policies and procedures and to take a lead role in the construction, repair and maintenance of marine based assets.

The ideal candidate should have strong construction experience and knowledge, good interpersonal and supervisory skills, and be able to work independently and in a team environment.

Enquiries about this position should be directed to the Manager South Gippsland, Jake Griffin on 0400 932 576.

To be considered for this position, candidates must address the key selection criteria found within the position description.

For a full position description and application details, please visit our website www.gippslandports.vic.gov.au/employment.php

Applications close on
Sunday, 24 March 2024

JEN2319

Planning and Environment Regulations 2015 Form 2 Section 52(1)

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected
by the application
is located at:

- Crown Allotment 23B, Section A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 06276 Fol 023
- Crown Allotment 23B, Section A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 08418 Fol 802
- Crown Allotment 1, Section A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 10360 Fol 155
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 578219F Vol 09793 Fol 782
- Crown Allotment 23B, Section A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 09406 Fol 296
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 110485V, Vol 10183 Fol 193
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 754717H, Vol 08603 Fol 663
- Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 865659A, Vol 04729 Fol 636
- Crown Allotment 78C, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 08617 Fol 567
- Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 092727, Vol 09060 Fol 386
- Crown Allotment 55A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 10684 Fol 163
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 578908F, Vol 09810 Fol 905
- Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 506513A, Vol 10685 Fol 365
- Crown Allotments 62 & 62A Parish of Alberton West Vol 10890 Fol 142
- Crown Allotments 53, 54, 59 & 60 Parish of Alberton West Vol 05387 Fol 290
- Crown Allotment 49B, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 03387 Fol 244
- Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 404524N, Vol 10316 Fol 253
- Lots 1,2 & 3 on Title Plan 943340C, Vol 08820 Fol 377
- Plan of Consolidation 362145 Vol 10415 Fol 520
- Crown Allotment 12A Parish of Alberton West Vol 08137 Fol 959
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 109933C, Vol 10060 Fol 723
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 221442V Vol 08137 Fol 957
- Lot 1 on TP004297P Vol 10233 Fol 349
- Lot 1 on TP 221443T Vol 08137 Fol 958
- Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 714292D Vol 11439 Fol 675
- Lot 7 on Plan of Subdivision 004703 Vol 03173 Fol 544
- Lot 2 on the Plan of Subdivision 617385M Vol 11082 Fol 236
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 864748G Vol 06410 Fol 974
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 128952Q Vol 09083 Fol 984
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 222737U Vol 05824 Fol 685
- Lot 3 on Plan of Subdivision 004703 Vol 03437 Fol 310
- Lot 5 on Plan of Subdivision 004703 Vol 03141 Fol 079
- Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 714292D Vol 11439 Fol 676
- Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 404524N Vol 10316 Fol 252
- The road/reserves of the:
 - o South Gippsland Highway
 - o Old Alberton West Road
 - o Great Southern Rail Trail
 - o Unnamed Government Road

The application is
for a permit to:

The use and development of the land for a wind energy facility and utility installation, associated buildings and works, removal of native vegetation and alteration of access to a Transport Zone Schedule 2, including:

- Construction of 13 wind turbines to a maximum blade tip height of 210 metres
- Construction of a battery energy storage system (BESS)
- Removal of 1.184 hectares of native vegetation
- Associated electrical infrastructure works and access tracks

Note: This is a summary. Full details of the proposal are contained within the application documentation.

The applicant for the permit is: **Synergy Wind Pty Ltd c/- Beverage Williams**
The application reference number is: **PA2302394**

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application by searching for the application number online at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/permits-and-applications/ministerial-permits/browse-ministerial-permits>.

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application at the office of the responsible authority – Minister for Planning (care of the Department of Planning) at 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002. This can be done during office hours and is free of charge. Please contact Development.Approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au to look at the application at the office of the responsible authority.

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority (Minister for Planning) at either:

- Post: PO Box 500, East Melbourne VIC 8002
- Email: Development.Approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au

An objection must be made to the responsible authority in writing, include the reasons for the objection and state how the objector would be affected.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available at its office for any person to inspect during office hours free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before: **26 April 2024.**

If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision

LB1237



THE CORINELLA CEMETERY TRUST

Trust member positions

Are you interested in making a meaningful contribution to your community, learning new skills and preserving local history for future generations?

The Corinella Cemetery Trust is seeking volunteer trust members. In this role you will gain hands-on experience in managing a public cemetery and valuable governance skills as a member of a public board. Free governance training is provided.

Who should apply?

Applications are welcome from community members with a range of skills and experiences including administration, committees, and groundskeeping. Women and people from diverse backgrounds are actively encouraged to seek appointment. Current trust members whose terms of appointment are due to expire are welcome to apply for reappointment.

What it means to be a Victorian cemetery trust member

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of up to five years on the recommendation of the Minister for Health. Cemetery trusts are responsible for the management of public cemeteries, including planning for future cemetery services for their communities. More information about the role is available at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries-and-crematoria/class-b-cemetery-trust-appointments>.

How to register your interest

Simply contact the Corinella Cemetery Trust as follows within two weeks of the date of this advertisement:

The Corinella Cemetery Trust contact details: 0499 509 241

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. We encourage applications from people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people. The trust will provide adjustments to the recruitment process upon request.

F40794



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Marcus dives in to prevent youth suicide

ACCORDING to ReachOut Australia suicide remains the leading cause of death for 16–24-year-olds in Australia and to reduce the stigma around mental health and prevent youth suicide, local comedian, Marcus Ryan has signed up to the Laps for Life fundraising event and is swimming to save lives.

Marcus set a personal target to swim 20 kilometres this March and raise \$1000.

“I chose this charity because it is close to my heart. I’ve lost many friends in my life to suicide and a couple just this year,” said Marcus.

“With my job as a comedian, I have a platform to talk about it and also to bring light to the subject and I have been lucky to be able to go to some schools and talk about mental health awareness for parents and students.”

Marcus finds swimming a great form of meditation and of course any form of exercise is good for your mental health, but Marcus shared that he was never a strong or confident swimmer as a kid and swimming in the ocean would give him panic attacks, but he said, “I think it’s important to face your fears!”

“We’re losing too many young kids who aren’t getting the help they need and there’s still a stigma around it.

“I like to think of it like your car, if you get a flat tyre, you know it needs attention, but you forget the engine is the most important part. It’s



Local comedian Marcus Ryan is swimming for a good cause. Signing up to fundraising event Laps for Life with a target to swim 20km in March and raise funds for youth suicide prevention through ReachOut Australia.

the same with mental health, if we see someone with a broken leg, we know they need help – but we too often ignore it or don’t take it seriously when it’s the things we can’t see – the brain is the engine. So, get it checked – exercise and check in on your mates.”

The Wonthaggi YMCA have been a great support to Marcus, providing him with a free 10 pass pool visit for the month of March to swim the 25-metre lap pool and measure his daily progress.

“I believe every \$4 raised helps one person, so my current donations are helping 250 people, if I get to \$2000

No joke, pool is still 25 metres long

Marcus identified a fundamental problem with his commendable effort when speaking on ABC Gippsland Radio last week.

Mr Ryan discovered, or believed he had found out, that the old Wonthaggi Swimming Pool isn’t actually 25 metres long!

As a result, he cast doubts over any record times recorded during swimming competitions, and also any distances covered at swimming club training and by individuals, boasting to friends that they had completed various distances.

“I looked at my watch after completing what I thought was a certain distance and found that I hadn’t gone as far as I thought,” he told the ABC.

Turns out the laugh is on Marcus. The Sentinel-Times measured the pool with a tape measure last week and found it to be exactly 25 metres, wall to wall.

YMCA staff said it was likely to be Marcus Ryan’s tumble turn that was the problem. His feet are covering the 25-metre distance each lap but not his new fangled GPS watch.

To make a donation to Marcus Ryan’s ‘Laps for Life’ appeal for ReachOut Australia, go to lapsforlife.com.au and look for Marcus Ryan’s event.



The Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid held a public hearing in the Latrobe Valley featuring Gippsland sporting organisations and accommodation businesses as witnesses. L-R Katie Reardon, Farnham Court Motel, Morwell; The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath, Adam Glass General Manager Silverwater Resort San Remo.

Gippsland’s turn for Comm Games Inquiry hearing

THE Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid last Thursday held a public hearing in the Latrobe Valley.

Gippsland sporting organisations and accommodation businesses provided compelling testimony.

Serving on the Committee Inquiry, The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath asked questions on the impacts of the Games cancellation.

Witnesses included, Katie Reardon, Farnham Court Motel, Morwell; Adam Glass General Manager Silverwater Resort San Remo; Ken Balcombe, Morwell Gun Club; Garry Silvester, Latrobe Valley Badminton; Tony Salvatore Falcons 2000 Soccer Club; and Latrobe City Council CEO, Steven Piasante.

Listening to locals’ disappointment and frustration Ms Bath said the hearing highlighted the state government’s appalling planning and consultation.

“Witnesses spoke of the uncertainty around promised legacy projects and the need for concrete timelines for sports infrastructure and affordable housing”.

Ms Bath said the hearing was vital for locals to give their uncensored perspective and echo community expectations following the cancellation.

“What I heard was an overwhelming sense of shock and disappointment at the lost opportunity to showcase our region, stimulate jobs, the economy and civic pride.

“Given the social and economic challenges facing Latrobe Valley, it was critical for members of parliament to listen and understand the implications of broken promises.

“Businesses expressed their anger at the state government for having wasted their valuable time and money, raising expectations and trashing Victoria’s international reputation.

“Farnham Court Motel owner Katie Reardon signed an agreement to host Team England just 24 hours prior to the cancellation announcement, she described the decision as “cruel” and said it left her feeling physically sick.

“It’s eight months since the Games were cancelled, and Latrobe Valley organisations are still in the dark about funding, with scant details on the delivery of promised legacy projects.

“No wonder the debacle was labelled “cruel” – the state government-built expectation, sporting organisations rallied, small businesses ramped up and planned and then the rug was pulled out from underneath them.

“The abandonment of the Commonwealth Games was shocking, but our region deserves its fair share of funding, and I thank those who came forward to present their compelling case.”

SGB juniors finish summer season in style

DESPITE a huge week of swimming events, 37 SGB swimmers stood on the blocks at MSAC for the All Junior Championships of 2024. To swim at the event, swimmers had to be in the top eight for their region. Semi-Finals were held on Saturday with the top eight from each region, and 21 returned on Sunday, having qualified as a top 10 finisher for the finals.

The event at MSAC is a big change for many of the young swimmers, with the big pool, dive blocks and the stands but they all stood proudly on the starting blocks and gave their best. It was a big learning curve for them, but they took it in their stride.

Coaches Lorri and Sam were pleased with their swimmers’ efforts.

“They have had a huge week with the Gippsland Championships last weekend, regional swimming for many of them and now this meet. To see them back it up and still give their best is really pleasing. It shows that all of their hard work at training has paid off,” said Sam.

Lorri was so proud of the young swimmers, many of whom were swimming at MSAC for the first time.



Ruby, Abbie and Hannah ready to swim over the weekend.

“I just love seeing them get so excited by the big pool, the crowd and the big screen with their names on it. For the youngest swimmers, it’s like a special reward to be at a venue like this. They all took it in their stride and had a great day. For those that make finals and get to hear their names called out, is a highlight in itself.”

The team: Rebecca Barclay, Cooper Bennett, Billy Boyd, Maximilian Brocklesby, Rex Brocklesby, Nyah Chapman, Tully Chapman, Emily Croatto, Isabel Croatto, Molly Dettbarn, Billy Fisher, Maggie Fisher, Cormac Flynn, Daisy Gilliam-Rodda, Lachie Grimes, Callum Hackett,

Hannah Hunt, Joshua Hunt, Sienna Hunt, Ava Lucas, Hannah Lucas, Harper McRae, Brooklyn Packer, Mitchell Packer, Lachlan Paterson, Harper Perry, Ruby Pirouet, Josie Richer, Mya Richer, Abbie Saario, Caitlin Saario, William Simmons, Aidan Smyth, Archie Smyth, Darby Smyth, Jedda Tagell and Matthew Thornby.

The event wraps up the long course season for most of the swimmers, who now have a few weeks’ break till the short course season starts in late May. A handful of those who swam are heading next month to the National Age Championships on the Gold Coast.

Results: Rebecca Barclay,

4th Backstroke 7th Freestyle, Billy Boyd, 6th Butterfly 10th Backstroke 10th Breaststroke 4th Freestyle, Maximilian Brocklesby, 5th Butterfly, Rex Brocklesby, 1st Butterfly Freestyle, Nyah Chapman, 5th Butterfly 10th Freestyle, Emily Croatto, 2nd Butterfly 3rd Backstroke 1st Breaststroke 8th Freestyle, Isabel Croatto, 9th Breaststroke, Molly Dettbarn, 5th Breaststroke 5th Freestyle, Billy Fisher, 2nd Breaststroke 9th Freestyle, Maggie Fisher, 9th Butterfly 2nd Backstroke 4th Freestyle, Cormac Flynn, 1st Breaststroke, Daisy Gilliam-Rodda, 6th Butterfly 9th Backstroke 8th Breaststroke 10th Freestyle, Lachie Grimes, 5th Backstroke, Sienna Hunt, 7th Backstroke 10th Breaststroke 10th Freestyle, Ava Lucas, 5th Butterfly 10th Backstroke, Lachlan Paterson, 10th Butterfly 9th Backstroke, Ruby Pirouet, 1st Butterfly 3rd Backstroke 2nd Breaststroke 2nd Freestyle, Josie Richer, 3rd Butterfly 2nd Backstroke 2nd Breaststroke 5th Freestyle, Caitlin Saario, 10th Freestyle, Archie Smyth, 7th Breaststroke, Darby Smyth, 8th Butterfly and Matthew Thornby, 8th Breaststroke.

Wonthaggi Angling Club

WONTHAGGI Angling Club had its monthly competition on Sunday, March 17. 12 fish weighed in.

Snr male, whiting 474gms, Nick Richards

Snr female, whiting 372gms, Maxine Kelly

Veterans, whiting 318gms, Ross Kelly

Jnr female, whiting 434gms, Holly Carr

Special call out to Sophie Chetland who caught her first fish, a mullet, weighing 158gms.

Next competition new season new points system Sunday, April 21.

PIBC compete in the Gunnamatta Team Titles

SATURDAY, March 16 saw Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) send 10 athletes led by Team Captain Ash Easton, over three teams to compete at the 2024 Surfing Victoria Team Titles at Gunnamatta on the Mornington Peninsula.

The teams consisted of: **Six-Surfer Team** Ash Easton - Team Captain and Open Men, Dylan Thomas James - Open Men, Blake Green - Open Men, Sarah Seuren - Open Women, Adrian Maier - O/35, Sam Patterson - U/18.

Four-Surfer Women's Team Abbey Clarke - Open Women, Sarah Seuren - Open Women, Evie Lutz - Open Women, Scarlett Rennie - Women U/18.

Four-Surfer Junior Team Sam Patterson - U/18, Tate Russell - U/18, Sarah Seuren - U/16, Scarlett Rennie - Women U/18.

Sam Patterson and Scarlett Rennie extended themselves by competing across two teams, and Sarah Seuren competed in all three.

With a 50-60-minute-long heat format, wave scores were thrown down of sixes and above by Dylan Thomas James and Blake Green in the six-Surfer team final.

Board Caddies Billy Easton and Eddie Maier did a great job at assisting all athletes with their equipment, from a sprint from the Surfing Victoria tent after completion of their athletes' waves.

Heralded as great exposure and experience for PIBC's up and coming Juniors, the event ended with an inclusive Gunna expression session with the Groms after the comp.

You can check out all the final results here: liveheats.com/events/220718/schedule

South Gippsland Bridge

RESULTS: March 12 at RSL Wonthaggi Nationwide.

Seven tables were competing.

Winning master points: First: Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour with 60.1 per cent. Second: Alan Johnston and John Sutton 56.67. Third: Deb Anglim and John French 54.17. Forth: Faye Rowlands and Richard Poole 54.17. Fifth: Penny Loughran and Ruth Stevenson 50.74. Sixth: Clive Hope and Lois Dwyer 49.63. Seventh: Sue Edwards and Ruth Harvey 49.63.

March 15 at Inverloch Angling Club: Summer Pairs Championship – three-week event. Overall winners and congratulations to: First: John French and Deb Anglim 57.74. Second: Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson 54.17. Second: Greg Nicholson and John Sutton 54.17. Fourth: Ruth Harvey and Sue Edwards 51.19.

Don't forget the learners and supervised play sessions held each Thursday morning at the Wonthaggi RSL starting 9.15am for a 9.30am start. All most welcome.

Steve Noble named 2024 Victorian Open Champion at Gunnamatta

STEVE Noble (Cape Pater-son) and Ava Holland (Morn-ington Peninsula) have been crowned 2024 Victorian Open Champions at Gunnamatta.

In great waves and perfect sunshine, both surfers were the in-form surfers at the open ocean beach break and will now get a shot at a spot in the Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach with both surfers earning an allocation into the trials event to be held next weekend.

Looking comfortable at home, Holland was able to cruise to victory locking in the highest heat total of the day in the Women's draw, a 12.83 to seal the win and etch her name in the trophy alongside other legends of the sport such as Gail Couper, Nikki van Dijk and India Robinson.

"I've never won a state title before, so I'm pretty stoked," said Holland.

"I'm excited to get a chance to surf in the Rip Curl Pro Trials next week. Hopefully Bells is good, and I get to surf it with only a few others out!"

Finishing in second was Sophie Fletcher (Phillip Island) who finished on 9.87 points. Emily McGettigan (Torquay) finished in third on 8.67 points and Sophie Wilkinson (Mornington Peninsula) finished in fourth on



Noble claiming his first Open State Title in nine years. Photo: South West Surf/Surfing Victoria.

8.00 points.

Noble, has returned to state competition in the last 12 months and has not missed a step claiming his first Open State Title in nine years.

Although not claiming the round win at Gunnamatta, he finished with enough ranking points over the three event series to claim his third title.

"This is the best one for sure," said Noble.

"You are surfing against guys who are in their 20s, so the amount of extra effort you have to put in to be at their level I'm just thankful I have the opportunity to be here."

Breaking through for his first ever State Round win was Joel Kerr (Anglesea), who progressed under the radar throughout the day before finishing on top in the final.

Kerr finished on a heat total of 11.60 points, narrowly ahead of Jake Pancic (Mornington Peninsula) who finished in second on 11.23 points.

Finishing in third was Noah Clifford (Jan Juc, 8.17 points) with Steve Noble in fourth.

Full results can be found online at liveheats.com/surfingvictoria

Surf's up at Smiths Beach this coming Sunday



Disabled Surfers Association Bass Coast president Stuart Yates, surfer Will Smith, Cam Yates and Sally Lloyd enjoy the glorious conditions in Inverloch recently. A37_0924

GET ready to ride the waves and spread smiles because Smith's Beach is hosting an extraordinary event on Sunday, March 24 from 11am-3pm at Smiths Beach. Whether you're a seasoned surfer or a beach enthusiast, mark your calendars for this unforgettable day – the final in the calendar for the 2023/24 summer series.

The Disabled Surfers Association Bass Coast (DSA Bass Coast) invites you to join the fun. Whether you're volunteering your time or hitting the waves as a participant, this day is all about celebrating life, courage, and community. And guess what? There's plenty of room on the shoreline for everyone to cheer on our surfers!

The Disabled Surfers Association Australia mission is to 'Put some Smiles on Dials' and provide a safe and enjoyable surfing experience for people with any disability at every one of their events.

Surfers are reminded to ensure they bring their carer, bathers, hat and towel with DSA Bass Coast supplying sunscreen, water and a

sausage sizzle.

You don't need to be a pro surfer to make a difference either with DSA Bass Coast looking for volunteers both in and out of the water.

"We want to be able to provide people with a disability greater access to the beaches all year round. By working with the community, we aim to make the beach accessible and within reach of everyone," DSA Bass Coast stated.

All volunteers need to bring is their working with children's check (if water role) hats and a towel.

"We will supply sunscreen, water and a sausage sizzle."

It is not just our surfers who have a day to remember, it's also the many volunteers who usually can't believe the amazing buzz they feel when they leave knowing they have just helped to 'Make Someone's Summer' very special.

To register as a volunteer or surfer visit events.humanitix.com/phillip-island-all-abilities-surfing-event-2024-smiths-beach.

Do not miss out!

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 19
▼ 12.37am 0.68m
▲ 6.53am 1.43m
▼ 1.04pm 0.31m
▲ 8.21pm 1.44m

WEDNESDAY March 20
▼ 1.19am 0.75m
▲ 7.39am 1.34m
▼ 1.48pm 0.41m
▲ 9.17pm 1.35m

THURSDAY March 21
▼ 2.07am 0.81m
▲ 8.34am 1.25m
▼ 2.39pm 0.51m
▲ 10.20pm 1.30m

FRIDAY March 22
▼ 3.11am 0.86m
▲ 9.46am 1.18m
▼ 3.46pm 0.58m
▲ 11.26pm 1.28m

SATURDAY March 23
▼ 4.44am 0.86m
▲ 11.11am 1.16m
▼ 5.12pm 0.62m

SUNDAY March 24
▲ 12.27am 1.30m
▼ 6.16am 0.79m
▲ 12.28pm 1.21m
▼ 6.29pm 0.62m

MONDAY March 25
▲ 1.16am 1.34m
▼ 7.15am 0.69m
▲ 1.31pm 1.29m
▼ 7.27pm 0.61m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

Super swim competitor Amy raises over \$7K

WONTHAGGI swimmer Amy Hodson has swam a remarkable 30 kilometres in the past month and raised \$7076 as part of the Starlight Foundation's Super Swim Challenge.

Amy is a member of the South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club and swam her final 2.2 kilometres as part of her squad training at the Wonthaggi YMCA recently to reach her 30 kilometre goal.

Her teammates finished a lap short and lined the lane rope to cheer Amy home for her final metres.

Amy shared that this year's challenge was harder to achieve, after battling an eye infection that kept her out of the water for a few days over February, plus the severe weather that caused a power outage to the regional swimming pool for another few days.

"Despite these challenges, the encouragement from the

community and the generous donations kept me swimming," said Amy.

Amy's mother Robyn Hodson is tremendously proud of young Amy and has shown her support throughout both Amy's challenges over the past two years. Robyn shared that Amy had a 19-day streak where she swam every day!

President of the South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club Janelle Croatto said Amy's passion, not only for her swimming, but to raise money for other kids through the Starlight Foundation demonstrates the wonderful person that she is.

"We are so lucky to have her as part of the South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club."

Robyn said Amy was overjoyed to have raised \$7076.

"Now if we could get a 50-metre pool in Wonthaggi to be able to train and compete the world would be her oyster!"



Amy swam 30kms and raised \$7076 as part of the Starlight Foundation's Super Swim Challenge.

Exciting season ahead for LDNA

AS THE Leongatha & District Netball Association Executive Committee, led by President Emma Smith, gears up for another thrilling season, anticipation is high for what promises to be an electrifying year of netball. With Vice President Colin Worsfold, Secretary Kelsey Thomas, Treasurer Julie Bloye, Umpire Coordinator Lauren Baudinette, and Registration Officer Melissa Buckley on board, LDNA is poised for success both on and off the court.

Building on the momentum of their largest competition in recent memory in 2023, which featured a remarkable 57 teams from 10 diverse clubs, LDNA is aiming for another robust season with a similar turnout. Their Winter Competition is set to encompass a wide spectrum of divisions, including Net Set Go, Netball for All (formerly All Abilities), as well as junior and senior competitions.

In the junior ranks, the association are excited to offer categories for 11 & Under, 13 & Under, 15 & Under, and 18



Last year's LDNA 18's best and fairest Claire McNamara and 18's Best on Court for Grand Final Maddi Douglas of Inverloch-Kongwak Football Netball Club.

& Under. Meanwhile, the senior competition will feature the competitive tiers of C grade, B Grade, and A grade, ensuring there's something for players of all skill levels.

Reflecting on the achievements of 2023, where thrilling matches and intense rivalries characterised the season, LDNA acknowledges the

previous year, including Leongatha Town, Mount Eccles, Saint Laurence, Mirboo North, Meeniyan and District, Inverloch Kongwak FNC, Phillip Island FNC, Fish Creek FNC, Stony Creek FNC, and Kilcunda Bass FNC. Additionally, they're thrilled to announce the arrival of a new contender, Bass Coast Thunder, adding even more excitement and depth to the competition.

"The crowd can expect another entertaining season of strong netball and an inclusive and fun atmosphere," Melissa Buckley said.

"With so many teams, we need to have an abundance of umpires, so if there are any umpires out there looking for a game or two to umpire on a Saturday please get in contact with the Association."

With the stage set for another exhilarating season of netball 2024 promises to be a season to remember. So, mark your calendars, gather your cheering squad, and get ready for a netball extravaganza like no other.

President's team wins the shield

IT was a fun competition as usual at Wonthaggi Croquet, with the two teams drawn by the stand-in president Tom and secretary Sue on the day. Numbers were down a little, but a great day was had by all.

The president's team was made up of Tom, Michael, Sam, Paul, Neil and Brian with Margaret, Barbara and Hazel substituting when needed – a formidable team indeed.

The secretary's team consisted of Stephen, Margaret, Philip, Peter, Kathy, Sue Baker and again with Hazel and Barbara filling in when required.

Resident chef Alan Mullaney was unfortunately unable to

attend, as a mishap has landed him in hospital whilst holidaying in Perth – trust you get well soon mate.

The barbecue lunch however was expertly managed by Philip and Sam.

The secretary's team, holders of the shield, did have the unfortunate task of handing over the shield to the president's team, who prevailed on the day winning five games to one.

Looking forward to this competition again next year as it a great opportunity for those members who normally do not participate in external tournaments, to get involved in a non-pressure type of competition.



The winning president's team consisted of Hazel, Neil, Michael, Tom, Sam, Margaret, Paul and Brian.

GippsSport backs Bass Coast surfers' rescue role

PERHAPS the only good story to come out of a horror summer on Bass Coast's beaches has been to highlight the magnificent work that boardriders do, almost matter-of-factly, to rescue beachgoers that might have otherwise drowned.

In fact, there have been many more of these stories, thankfully, this summer than details about near misses and, tragically, accounts of drownings in the surf.

There's already a high level of respect between boardriders and surf club members, which wasn't always the case, a relationship made closer this summer and now GippsSport is making that organic arrangement, keeping beachgoers safe, official.

GippsSport is delighted to be partnering with Surfing Victoria and local organisations; Bass Coast Boardriders, Phillip Island Boardriders and Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club to offer two sessions of Surfing Victoria's water safety program: Surfers Rescue 24/7.

"This partnership has been driven from a desire to support the local Bass Coast community following a devastating summer with a number of drownings across Bass Coast beaches," said GippsSport in a statement about the initiative.

"La Trobe University research in partnership with Surfing Victoria shows that surfers play a critical role in keeping people safe on unpatrolled beaches each year and complement the incredible work of the local surf lifesavers."

GippsSport has identified that this course would be a proactive way to upskill local surfers across the Bass Coast.

"Research shows that surfers are often first responders and although this training doesn't intend to replace formal emergency rescue training or surf lifesaving services, in partnership with Surfing Victoria we hope to equip local surfers with the knowledge and education to perform rescues safely at beaches where they often know the risks particularly well from their presence and local knowledge", GippsSport Executive Officer Dan Poynton said.

He said Surfers Rescue 24/7 is a free Board Rescue and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course for all surfers and recreational water users.

"It provides vital training to assist in an emergency situation and could ultimately save a life. The course is tailored around surfing, comprises of theoretical and practical elements that cover the following topics:

- Identifying someone in trouble in the water
- "Rip" Current and Wave Types education.
- Attempting a rescue in the water.
- Board Rescue Techniques.
- Transporting someone out of the water.
- Administering Basic First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).
- Envenomation education GippsSport & Surfing Victoria are pleased to offer two courses across Bass Coast.

The sessions are free and open to anyone in the community.

Surf rescue dates

The two sessions will be held at the following times:

- Session 1: Tuesday March 19, 2024, 5.30pm to 8.30pm at Phillip Island Boardriders Club Clubrooms 76 Veterans Drive, Newhaven.
- Session 2: Wednesday March 20, 2024, 5.30pm to 8.30pm at Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Clubrooms 163 Surf Parade, Inverloch.

Places are limited, registrations are essential. To register please request a registration link from Gene Parini at gene@gippsport.com.au or 0428 358 335.

AM&DTA Semi Finals Results

SECTION 1: Westernport 5.40 defeated Koonwarra 3.28. Inverloch 4.31 defeated Leongatha 2.18.

Section 2: Outtrim 8.71 defeated Korumburra 1.36. Leongatha 5.55 defeated Baromi 4.50.

Perfect weather for Semi Finals Day certainly added to the terrific atmosphere for those playing and watching along. There is something extremely lovely about all the courts at Leongatha being full of matches.

Both sections have experienced lower team numbers this season, so when there normally would be umpires, there were none this week. Hopefully we can get some more teams next year.

In Section 1, Westernport won the men's sets, but the Koonwarra ladies did well to win both of theirs. Plenty of great tennis was played by both teams.

Westernport were winners on the day by 12 games. Inverloch have played together for many seasons now and that was certainly on show against Leongatha. Matt Pocklington and his three young players have played well throughout the season, and again this week, but weren't able to knock over Inverloch. All of these young players will be much better players for the experience, and we hope to see them playing again next season.

In Section 2, Outtrim were big winners over Korumburra, only losing one set in a tiebreaker. Congratulations to a mix of experienced and younger players for Korumburra for playing some great tennis.

There certainly is value in experienced team members helping to teach the younger ones a few tricks. Leongatha had to call on Zac Dowel to fill their team this week – thanks to Baromi for accepting. Although Zac didn't win a set, he helped the team get vital extra games so well-done Zac!

The Leongatha ladies did well, and the team were winners on the day. These two teams have had many close games. Nicole de Longville is now going to play in her first Grand Final. A number of finals in her career, but next week will be her first Grand Final. Good luck.

Next week, the Grand Final will be held at the Leongatha courts.

- Section 1: Inverloch v Westernport.
 - Section 2: Outtrim v Leongatha.
- These four teams, please be at the courts by 12pm (noon) for team photos.

The Presentation Night will follow in Korumburra at the Middle Hotel.

Riverside Tennis

PRELIMINARY Final Results

Section 1 Singles
Moe Red 3 – 6 – 40 def Moe Blue 1 – 3 – 37

Section 2 Doubles
Neerim District 7 – 53 def Waragul 2 – 38

Section 2 Singles
Drouin Maroon 4 – 37 def Pax Hill 2 – 34

Grand Finals will be played on Saturday 23 March 2024 at Moe Tennis Club

- Section 1 Singles
Moe White vs Moe Red
- Section 2 Doubles
Hallora vs Neerim District
- Section 2 Singles
Trafalgar vs Drouin Maroon



Aiden Bloomfield of Crime Stoppers with The Y's Jerrie Liberati, Elliott Bates and Angus Crook hosting the Skate. Learn. Connect free skate jam at Kilcunda skate park. Z02_1224

Local skate Jams encourage youth to stay connected

CRIME Stoppers Victoria (CSV) and the Victorian Skateboarding Association have been delivering free skateboarding sessions in various locations across Victoria and held their Kilcunda Jam Skate Sesh last Wednesday.

With a focus on the east this year, The Y's Jerrie Liberati, Elliott Bates and Angus Crook joined Aiden Bloomfield of Crime Stoppers at the new skate park – encouraging youth to utilise their local skate park and learn a new skillset.

The program provides opportunities for young people to participate in skateboarding, while connecting them with employment service providers. Crime Stoppers staff are also available to share community safety information with participants. This is not a Victoria Police initiative.

Engagement from the public has been very positive. Since it began, the program has received a fantastic response from young people and their families, with up to 30 participants attending each session.

The Jams provide an

opportunity for young people aged between 12 - 24 to be physically active, learn more about community safety and connect with local youth employment and transition to work services. They allow young people to discuss their future, consider employment opportunities and raise any community safety concerns.

Crime Stoppers Victoria Chief Executive Stella Smith said participating in employment or education can help to ensure young people stay connected to their community.

Elliott and Angus are experienced skaters and work for The Y. The lessons are adaptable to suit the skating skillset of the attendees, but mostly teach them the basics of how to stand on a board, balance and to get on and off safely. They also emphasise resilience and giving a new skill a go.

"It is extremely important to engage and connect with young people in both regional and metro areas. We want to do this in a positive and fun way, teaching them new skateboarding skills and providing

employment pathways."

CSV reaches out to local youth employment services through the Transition to Work program. The local Transition to Work provider is Workforce Plus, who have been very supportive and have attended several Jams to talk directly to young people and provide advice and resources regarding finding employment or training opportunities.

"We are also using this opportunity to let young people know more about community safety and how they can connect with Crime Stoppers."

Each participant receives a Crime Stoppers Victoria bag containing important community safety and crime reporting information, plus free stationary. Crime Stoppers also giveaway skateboards to the attendees that have improved the most or showed a positive attitude during the Jam.

The next Jam session will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at Wonthaggi and Monday, April 15 in Inverloch. Free snacks and drinks are provided at each session. This is funded by Crime Stoppers.



Eight-year-old Harper Dykes at the Kilcunda skate park jam afternoon, hosted by Crime Stoppers and The Y. z03_1224



Aiden Cook from Leongatha jumped 1.48 metres to win gold at the Little Athletics State Titles on the weekend.

Aiden jumps to new heights

TEN YEAR old Aiden Cook who competes at the Leongatha Little Athletics Club won the Under 11 High Jump State Title on the weekend.

Held at Knox and competing against participants from clubs across Victoria, Aiden jumped 1.48 metres to earn the top spot against 24 other high jumpers.

"It's a good achievement to go up against all the big clubs around Melbourne and come out with a gold medal," said Aiden's Dad, Shane.

A gifted athlete, Aiden recently won medals in 100 metres sprint and in high jump at the School Sports Victoria (SSV).

He also plays basketball and on the morning of his win played a game before going on to jump to a great height at the State Titles.

The last person to win a gold in high jump for Leongatha at the Little Athletics State Titles

was Eleanor Patterson who went on to compete in High Jump at the 2014 Commonwealth Games when she was only 18.

Aiden wasn't expecting to win the gold medal, because he had come second in the school sports.

"He's probably the best jumper out there, but the pressure got to him (at the SSV) and he was quite relaxed on the weekend, and so he's super pumped with it," said Shane.

The Little Athletics National Titles will be held in the Gold Coast, but the family are not yet sure whether Aiden will compete, as they will be going to watch Aiden's sister compete there in swimming next week.

Shane also mentioned he was grateful to Aiden's school teacher Lachie Hughes who got Aiden into high jumping and has helped out a lot and has got the best out of Aiden.



ABOVE AND BELOW: ‘Doctor Coto’ ridden by Caitlin King dominated the Big Wave Complex Open Trophy.



Luck of the Irish at Woolamai races

THERE was certainly some Irish ‘luck’ for Woolamai and District Racing Club’s St Patrick’s Day picnic races on Sunday March 17.

However, it wasn’t all just about St Patrick, as the race day was raising vital funds for the Phillip Island Community Hospital thanks to the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary.

Club secretary Abby Boyle was thrilled with the turn out and weather for the last race of their season.

“The weather has been kind to us, as the last one (previous year) was cold and wet,” she said.

“It was a much bigger crowd than we normally have at this meeting.”

Punters happily embraced the St Patrick’s day ‘Fashions on the Field’, dressing up for the occasion with plenty of Irish

themed outfits.

While Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary members were busy selling raffles to help raise money towards the island’s new community hospital, which is expected to be finished this year.

With six races on the day, it was the last meeting for the season until it all kicks off again November with the club switching to maintenance and upkeep of the track.

Woolamai Premierships have been taken out by:

- Shaun Cooper - Jockey of the Year
- Sophie Clayfield - Runner Up
- Troy Kilgower - Trainer of the Year
- David Noonan - Runner Up
- Shahin - Horse of the Year
- Mannerist, Doctor Coto, More Than Involved - Equal Runners Up



John and Craig of Craig Parks Bookmaking were busy with punters. Ns36_1224



Bunkerdown just takes the lead during the REXY’s Birthday Bash Maiden Plate. Ns26_1224



The ladies await the judges’ decision for the ‘Most Fashionable Female’ award. Ns34_1224



Glenn gets ready to announce the ‘Most Fashionable Female’ award. Ns38_1224



Jackie and Elizabeth ventured all the way from NSW for the races and dressed to impress with Jackie taking out the most fashionable award. Ns28_1224



Bunkerdown takes the lead during the REXY’s Birthday Bash Maiden Plate. Ns26_1224



Glenn of Korumburra and helper Eowyn were busy with Fashions on the Field entries. Ns29_1224



Winners of the Irish 4BBB Jenny Teasdale, Joc Howson, Cheryl Borg and Pat Pease with Stableford event winner Bev Reinhard at the Leongatha Golf Club.



The Lyla Taberner Board Foursomes event winners Karen Sheerin and Kathy Geyer with runners up Anne Poulton and Marg Ryan at the Wonthaggi Golf Club.



The final round of Woorayl Golf Club's Dianne and John O'Connor Board Event was won by Sherrill Winkler and Linder Forrester, with Inge Gilliam and Janet Thompson runners up.



Korumburra RB4BBB Memorial Scratch winners Lyn McIvor and Johanna van den Heiligenberg, with net winners Heather Grist and Kerri Besley.



Korumburra's Saturday 4BBB runners up Mandy Seater and Colette Pearl, sponsor Lee Clements, and winners Deb and Aliesha Wrigley.



Grade winners at Korumburra's March Monthly Medal were Maree Wittingslow (Monthly Medallist), Chris Rickard and Kerri Besley.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, March 12. Stableford: 30 players. A Grade: Steve Rose (8) 39. B Grade: Steve McNamara (22) 39. NTPs: first Barry Kerr, seventh Steve Rose, 10th John Solly and 13th Blayke Spokes. Thursday, March 14: Stableford: 19 players. Winner: Ross Besley (12) 39 points. NTPs: first Andrew Westaway and seventh Robert Goss, 10th Steve Rose and 13th Tim Fowles. Saturday, March 16: Chris Clements Cup 4BBB round one: 48 players. Sponsor: Sean Bowler. Net: Ian Morris and Barry Kerr 60. Gross: Mat Wrigley and Billie Wrigley 70. NTPs: first Doc Dixon, seventh Mat Wrigley, 10th Blayke Spokes and 13th Ian Cash.

Ladies

THERE was a good field out enjoying the fine weather for the Wednesday March Monthly Medal on March 6. Congratulations to Maree Wittingslow, who won her first ever Monthly Medal, and so, was awarded the Tiny Teapot Café voucher. Maree (42) had a great score with 69 net to be top in C Grade and runner up was Colette Pearl (37), 73 net on a c/b. The A Grade winner was Kerri Besley (17), 72 net and Merriッサ Cosson (10) was runner up, 73 net and also had the best Scratch Score with 83. Chris Rickard (27) won B Grade, 74 net and Kath Welsh (33) was not far behind, 75 net. The nine-hole comp was won by Julie Hislop with a nice 15 points. NTPs Barb Twite first (Kelly's Bakery voucher), Lyn Perks seventh (club voucher), Karen Sorrell, 13th (Burra Gardening Supplies). On Saturday, March 9, Aliesha Wrigley (20) was the winner, 41 points and Julie Hillberg (22) was runner-up, 39 points. BDTL went to Judy Webb (23) 36 points. NTPs were Trudi Mantell first Jenny Blackmore 10th. Last Wednesday was the Richie Beecroft Fourball Memorial Scratch and Handicap Event. Congratulations to the winning pairs, in the Scratch, Johanna VDH and Lyn McIvor with a score of 82. The handicap winning pair were Heather Grist and Kerri Besley with a score of 65net. NTPs were first Kim Enbom and 10th Heather Grist. The nine-hole competition was won by Barb Walker with 11 points. Twilight winners were Ian and Denise Gibson with 22 points. Runners up with 20 points were Colette Pearl and Tim O'Neil. NTP on 10th Kevin Dixon. On Saturday, nine pairs played a Stableford 4BBB event and the club welcomed visitors from the Peninsula. Thanks to sponsor Lee Clements for the lovely prizes. Winning with a fabulous score of 46 points were the Wrigley duo of Deb (26) and Aliesha (19). Runners up on a c/b with 44 points were Colette Pearl (35) and Mandy Seater (54). NTPs were first Lyn McIvor, 10th Deb Wrigley and 13th Kerri Besley.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, March 12: Stableford. Tuesday's Stableford event had a field of 58 members/guests with excellent scores being a highlight. A Grade winner: Nath Wardle (9) with a score of 39 points. A Grade runner up: Tim McCarthy (17) with a score of 37 points. B Grade winner: Donald Smith (20) with a score of 44 points. B Grade runner up: Peter Stivic (20) with a score of 41 points on a countback. NTP fifth second shot: Chad Clasby at 3.06m. NTP 14th: Renato Monacella at .95m. NTP 16th: Ian Trease at 1.95m. Thursday, March 14: Stableford. Thursday's Stableford round had 79 members/guests enjoying a great day on course. Play started with a 9am shotgun start and players choosing their preferred coloured tee. A Grade winner: Steve Foster (14) with a score of 38 points. A Grade runner up: Patrick Mitchell (13) with a score of 37 points. B Grade winner: Tim McCarthy (17) with a score of 39 points. B Grade runner up: David Forbes (19) with a score of 37 points on a countback. C Grade winner: Alan Sperling (31) with a score of 42 points. C Grade runner up: Ian Watson (34) with a score of 41 points. NTP fifth second shot: Hugh Goodman at 3.03m. NTP 14th: Norman Hughes at .62m. NTP 16th: Dave Brownnett at 2.10m. Saturday, March 16: Stableford. This Stableford round had 98 members/guests enjoying sublime conditions. A Grade winner: Anthony Sparkes (12) with a score of 40 points. A Grade runner up: Nath Wardle (10) with a score of 38 points. B Grade winner: Mark Billows (14) with a score of 37 points. B Grade runner up: Nicholas Byrne (18) with a score of 36 points on a countback. C Grade winner: Colin Martin (22) with a score of 43 points. C Grade runner up: Gerry Carcour (21) with a score of 39 points on a countback. D Grade winner: Andy Bassett (25) with a score of 39 points. D Grade runner up: Lynda Bassett (37) with a score of 38 points on a countback. NTP fifth second shot: Andrew Henley at .85m. NTP 14th: Peter Read at 1.52m. NTP 16th: Christopher Leaver at 1.05m.

Ladies AS A lead up to St Patrick's Day, 28 women played an Irish 4BBB. Those that were unable to make up a foursome played a Stableford event. The winning team, with a score of 89, included Jocelyn Howson, Cheryl Borg, life member Pat Pease and Jenny Teasdale. Runners up, with 87, were Pam Christensen, Marie Sands, Trish Owen, and Libby Seebeck. Bev Reinhard had the top score in the Stableford event finishing with 37 points. The runner up Nan Meagher

was close behind on 36 points. Alison Strong won a ball down the line. Janet Monk was closest to the flag on the 14th and Trish Owen on the 16th. Second shot on the fifth went to Lynda Bassett.

WONTHAGGI RESULTS: March 14, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Peter Magnussen 41. Runner up: Chris Wilkinson 39. BDTL to 36. Ball sweep: Ian Hack 37, Michael Scott 37, Peter Young 37, Jim McEachern 36 and Glen Turner 36. Results: March 14, SR. 34.5. Competition: Stableford front nine-hole. Winner: John Davis 22. BDTL to 19. Ball sweep: Willy Williams 21, Ken Cuman 20, Bob Cornelis 20, Bill Howard 20 and Paul Cornelis 19. Results: March 16, SR 71. Competition: Stroke. Winner: A: Ian Baker 71. B: Ian Gilmour 66. C: Geoff Prowd 65. BDTL to 71 C/B. Ball sweep: Messy Chand 68, Theo Scholey 67, A Hooton-Shandley 67, Grant MacKenzie 68, Peter Handley 70, Keith Ridout 70, Alan Wright 70, Jim Jordan 70, Gerald Mitchell 71, Inoke Baudromo 71, Philip Studham 71 and Joshua Kilgour 71. Eagle: Messy Chand 16th. NTPs: Steve Terrill second, Kevin Bayley fourth, Brad Andrew eighth propin, Wayne Phillips 13th and Inoke Baudromo 17th money hole.

Ladies WEDNESDAY was a qualifying round of the Lyla Taberner Board Foursomes event. There were 14 pairs competing with the top four pairs to go on to match play. Congratulations to mother and daughter Kathy Geyer and Karen Sheerin 106(39)67 net, who were the winners. The runners up were Marg Ryan and Anne Poulton 99(30)69 net. BDL went to Lisa Brusamarello and Pam Hanley 70, Irene Walsh and Donna Van Veenendaal 70.5, and Dot Garry and Simone Lindsay 74. NTP on eighth was Donna Van Veenendaal, and 13th and 17th Anne Walker.

WOORAYL THE final round of the Dianne and John O'Connor Board Event was contested by some enthusiastic pairs. The daily event sponsored by Buzz Hairdressers was won by the hot pair of Linda Forrester (26) and Sherrill Winkler (32) with a fantastic score of 43 points. Runners up were Janet Thompson (30) and Inge Giliam (35) with 40 points. BDL were Joan Smith and Jodie Smith, and the other pair of Jenny Riseley and Heather Sullivan, both coming in with 39 points on a count back. NTPs were eighth Jenny Riseley, 11th Chris Gunn and 17th Elly Berryman. Congratulations to Sherrill and Linda as winners of the Dianne and John O'Connor 4BBB Board Event.

INVERLOCH

THURSDAY social bowls saw 26 bowlers roll up to test their skills against each other. The keen participants were split into two teams of Triples and six Fours. Two games of 10 ends each were played. Some excellent shots were seen throughout the day. The hard luck story of the day went to the team of John Turner (skip), Karen Orford, Peter Gentsch and Pat Sheedy with a win and a draw with 25 points. The runners up finished with a win and a draw and 27 points. This team consisted of Nic Van Grunsven (skip), Christine Corrigan and Carol Thorn. The eventual winners on the day were Bruce Corrigan (skip), Joyce Arnold and Patrick Bowd. They finished with two wins and 30 points.

KORUMBURRA

WITH much anticipation, Korumburra headed to Leongatha on Tuesday to play Wonthaggi in the grand final of Midweek pennant. Alas, it was not a match with the Wonthaggi side. Jenny Mcveigh went down 17 shots to 12, Judith Nicholl went down 22 shots to 17 and Jo Lomagno lost 24 shots to 14 – not a good result, but after finishing near the bottom last year quite a turnaround, well done to all who contributed. On Friday, the ladies held its annual Tournament Day sponsored by O'Donnell Optical with 14 teams in attendance. A good day was had by all. Winners on the day were the Phillip Island / Wonthaggi combination of Sandra Read, Glenda Grazules and Sue Parker. Runners up were Moe combination of Brenda Hosking, Olive Long and Lyn Akarsu. Best last game went to the local team of Heather Garnham, Vera Sund and Lena Harfield. Well done to all, and thanks to Dennis and Sue O'Donnell for their sponsorship.

MIDWEEK

IT was a lovely day on Thursday, allowing 41 of the family of bowlers to meet up at Lang Lang for a very enjoyable day of bowls. Lots of excellent bowling as well as a few wayward shots, but a great day was had by one and all. It was great to see so many "new" players, including a couple down from Queensland and passing through on their tour around the country. Thank you to Rob for standing in for John, as John relaxes on a cruise. Also thanks to Peter, Pauline, Vern, David, Jenny, Vicki and all the Lang Lang people who helped clear up both before and after play. The winners on 38 points were Peter Borradale (S), Rob Jeffries (3) and Frank Verco (L). Runners up on 37 points were Rob Pretty (S), Peter McWilliams (3) and Peter Thorley (L). Best one game winners on 25 points were Peter Gratton (S), Raff Merante (3) and Tony Morris (L). It was good to see Marianne back behind the bar, always a friendly smile and lots of laughter. A few more gold coins were added to the charity jar for the Royal Children's Hospital – the group thanks all players for their help with this collection. Next week, bowlers will meet up at Corinella to once again

challenge their friends in combat. Could everyone please be onsite by 10am to allow Peter time to prepare the teams. Meanwhile, have a safe week and see you all next Thursday.

WONTHAGGI

ONCE again, it was a good week at the club. Tuesday, on a fine day perfect for bowls, saw Division 1 and Division 2 play off in the grand finals at Leongatha. Division 1 set about the task of beating Korumburra. After a steady start, Wonthaggi was able to keep the pressure level up and was able to get a break on all three rinks. The final score Wonthaggi 63 Korumburra 43. Division 2 was locked in a battle with Tarwin. All three rinks played well with Tarwin getting a break on one to keep the scores close all day. The final scores Wonthaggi 53 Tarwin 57. Wednesday saw a smaller field grace the greens as there was two events at local clubs. There was only one team that was a two-game winner, with a score of two wins and 30 points. The club also had a visitor from White Hills, which is near Bendigo. The winners were Ken Gage, John Migliorisi and Syd Gostling. Thursday saw a good number of bowlers enjoy the fine mild weather for a game of bowls.

Saturday saw the Midweek Pennant Division 1 winners travel to Newborough to play against the Strzelecki North region winners. On a fine day, Wonthaggi set about the task against a team that were playing on their home turf. It was a grass green, something Wonthaggi is not used to anymore. Not to be denied, Wonthaggi played well on all three rinks to record a very good win. The final scores Wonthaggi 55 Newborough 49. This win puts Wonthaggi into the State Championships in May to played at Moama. Saturday also saw social bowls which saw a good number of bowlers grace the greens on a fine sunny day. There were two teams that were two game winners, with the winners on the day being Rob Dennis, Lyn Tagell and Bruce Irvine with a score of two wins and 35 points. Bowls this week: Wednesday social bowls at 1pm, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am and Saturday social bowls at 1pm.

WONTHAGGI Indoor

AFTER a very hot weekend, it was a relief to be back in air-conditioned comfort in the hall enjoying playing bowls with friends. There was a total this week of 44 players – 24 on Tuesday and 20 on Friday. Tuesday's winners with a plus 16 were Jean Wylde, Brian Newman and John Stewart. Runners up on plus five were Pat Smith, Linda Newman and Gwen Clancy. Friday's winners on plus 17, winning two games were Linda Newman, John Bird and Fred Demenech. Runners up on plus 20, winning one game only, were Jenny Bakker, Jeannie Slocombe, Laurie Culp and Jos Kemper. A reminder next Tuesday, March 19, the bowlers will be playing their Singles Championships.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club. Strzelecki Region Midweek Pennant premiers, played last Saturday at Newborough.



The South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group runners up were Peter McWilliams (3), Peter Thorley (L) and Rob Pretty (S).



The best one game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group were Tony Morris (L), Raff Merante (3) and Peter Gratton (S).



Bruce Corrigan (Skip), Joyce Arnold and Patrick Bowd were Inverloch Bowling Club's social bowls winners.



Korumburra Bowling Club's Tournament Day best last game winners were Heather Garnham, Vera Sund and Lena Harfield.



Korumburra Bowling Club's Tournament Day – sponsored by O'Donnell Optical – winners were Sandra Read, Sue Parker and Glenda Grazules.



Frank Verco (L), Peter Borradale (S) and Rob Jeffries (3) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners on Thursday.

FOOTY TIPPING

Sentinel-Times

Competition



10

**PHIL
HARDY**

Collingwood
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Gold Coast Suns
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



Bass Coast **LIGHT ENGINES**

317 White Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4017

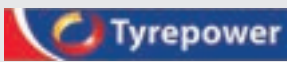


7

**KRIS
BAKER**

Collingwood
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



78-80 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5760



7

**KEITH
KELLY** **EDDIE
CHANDLER**

Collingwood
Adelaide
Fremantle
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



54 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1311



9

**BEN
FISHER**

Collingwood
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



81 Commercial Street,
Korumburra
5655 1024



9

**ADAM
WARE**

Collingwood
Adelaide
Fremantle
Melbourne
Essendon
Gold Coast Suns
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



129-131 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
1800 358 131



9

**DARRYL
McGANNON**

Collingwood
Adelaide
Fremantle
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



1 Roughead Street,
Leongatha
5662 2327



7

**BRAD
HODSON**

Collingwood
Geelong
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Essendon
Gold Coast Suns
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



15/17 Murray Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5878



8

**DAVID
ENGLAND**

Collingwood
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Gold Coast Suns
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



119 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1027



8

**SHANE
COOKE**

Collingwood
Geelong
North Melbourne
Hawthorn
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



Leongatha Toyota
7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5662 2302



8

**PETER
FORT**

Collingwood
Adelaide
Fremantle
Melbourne
Essendon
Western Bulldogs
Richmond
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



47 Station Street,
Korumburra
0417 332 141



9

**HAYDEN
POPPE**

St Kilda
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



6/6 Cyclone Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 2543



8

**JACK
GILCHRIST** **JASSY
BATROUNEY**

Collingwood
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Gold Coast Suns
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



8/43-49 Little Commercial
Street, Korumburra
0411 181 577

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LEADERBOARD
AFTER ROUND 1

Dylan Clark	10
Phil Hardy	10
Aaron Rigby	9
Adam Ware	9
Ben Fisher	9
Carl Lindsay	9
Craig & Darren	9
Darryl McGannon	9
Hayden Poppe	9
Justin Caporale	9
Alex Geyer	8
David England	8
Jack & Jassy	8
Peter Fort	8
Rod O'Neill	8
Shane Cooke	8
Warren Stewart	8
Ant Cook	7
Brad Hodson	7
Keith & Eddie	7
Kris Baker	7
Phil & Cathal	7
Steve Curtis	4



8

WARREN STEWART

Collingwood
Adelaide
Fremantle
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



Wonthaggi Toyota
346 Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi
5632 3503



8

ROD O'NEILL

Collingwood
Adelaide
Fremantle
Melbourne
Sydney
Gold Coast Suns
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



28 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4770



10

DYLAN CLARK

Collingwood
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



1 A'Beckett Street
Inverloch
5674 1432



7

ANT COOK

Collingwood
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



15-19 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5637 3300



9

CARL LINDSAY

Collingwood
Adelaide
Fremantle
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



145 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1137



8

ALEX GEYER

Collingwood
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



2/5-7 Korumburra Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 5522



4

STEVE CURTIS

Collingwood
Geelong
North Melbourne
Hawthorn
Sydney
Gold Coast Suns
Richmond
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



16 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
5672 1007



9

AARON RIGBY

Collingwood
Adelaide
Fremantle
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



24 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 5906



9

**CRAIG FARRINGTON
DARREN TILEY**

Collingwood
Geelong
Fremantle
Melbourne
Sydney
Western Bulldogs
Port Adelaide
West Coast

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 8



55-57 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
Darren 0405 603 569
Craig 0415 641 845



7

**PHIL ROCHE &
CATHAL O'FLYNN**

Collingwood
Geelong
Fremantle
Melbourne
Essendon
Western Bulldogs
Richmond
GWS

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



62-64 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
0421 162 530



9

JUSTIN CAPORALE

Collingwood
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



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Damien Miller from Pakenham winner of the Robert Bickham Memorial.

Miller, Parker, Allen, Meakins win feature events at Nyora

RACING at Nyora Raceway on Saturday night (March 16) gave motorsport fans some fast and furious competition to enjoy with Pakenham man Damien Miller winning the Robert Bickham Memorial for Sports Sedans, Nick Parker winning the Compact Speedcar aggregate event, Shannon Meakins winning the Hot Rods aggregate event and Caroline Allen from Warragul winning the Ladies Standard Saloon 'Pink Night' feature.

Sports Sedan racers in South Gippsland and Melbourne's south-east and eastern suburbs look forward to the memorial race at Nyora for Robert Bickham each season and in the five seasons it's been scheduled, wins go by the way of Brendan Miller and then Damien Miller twice, and now make that three times with COVID and rain outs in-between.

Across six qualifying heats on race night this year Damien Miller won heat one, with Simon Bent winning the next, Warragul based racer Ray Gould won heat three only just defeating Shona Bent, Miller again won in the fourth with Simon Bent right on his tail, before Miller clean swept all his heat races winning heat number five in a close one with Jayde Aarts and Simon Bent taking the win in the closing qualifying soon after.

Twenty-four laps in correlation with Bickham's own race car number awaited the drivers for the feature event. Fifteen cars lined up to compete with eleven of those fifteen not seeing the distance due to mechanical issues, tyre flats or other concerns, including Simon Bent the second top qualifier. Miller claimed a third victory in the race with Braiden Webster from Inverloch second, Troy Desmond-Veal third and Gavan Dorain the only other finisher in fourth.

Compact Speedcars brought their fast and furious little rockets to Nyora for one of their Victorian Compact Speedcar Clubs points events. Across four heat races Nick Parker who doubles as a Speedcar racer in the big brother class to the Compacts claimed a win in heat one driver for the Trevor Perry Chassis team with the boss Trevor Perry himself in second place ahead of Justin Paull. Parker scorched around Nyora setting a new one lap record of 14.883 over .200 of a second faster than the previous record. The ten-lap race time was also a new record at the track now standing at 2:35.755.

Paull from Montrose, the current New South Wales champion defeated his sister Tania Hallett in heat two with Terry Brown coming through for third. Parker again defeated his car owner Perry in heat three with Paull again third in that race. For the third time in the night and clean sweeping all his qualifying races Parker defeated Perry and Dale Hallett in the final qualifying race.

In a twenty-lap feature event Parker secured a perfect night for

**By Dean Thompson,
DMT Speedway Media
for Nyora Raceway Inc**

him and his car owner as he held the lead through to the end. Whilst Perry was a non-finisher, Parker went on to defeat Paull, Dale Hallett, Glen Wiles and Matt Papa in the feature event for Compact Speedcars. A twenty-lap record was also slotted into the record books for Parker with a race time of 5:18.442.

Ladies Standard Saloon drivers competed in the 'Pink Night' feature event raising awareness and support towards breast cancer. One of the hottest competitors of the season thus far has been Bree Walker from the Latrobe Valley and she started well in heat one of the night claiming a win in front of Caroline Allen and Elise Halliday. Allen claimed victory in the second race with Katie Meyer second and Halliday also from Latrobe Valley in third. Meyer claimed the win in heat three with Walker and Allen finishing behind the visiting driver from Victoria's northeast to round out the three qualifying races.

In a big redemption victory for herself and her supporters, Allen then went on to claim victory in a hotly contested feature race with Walker second, Meyer third, Halliday in fourth and Shana Hillsdon crossing the line in fifth.

With a looming Victorian state title in the next two weeks, entries in the Standard Saloon Open class were low with just a handful of starters. Aaron Cormack and Kacey Ingram from Warragul twice shared the three heat victories between them. Claiming victory in a short sprint for the final was Poowong's Owen Cecil with a margin of less than half a car between he and Ingram in second, with Bree Walker third and head of Luke King and Matthew Bronson rounding out the finishers.

Modified Sedan competitors, particularly those aligned with Nyora as a club, were given an opportunity to squirt some dirt and a handful of drivers took that with Mitch Smith winning heat race number one. Andrew Dike then claimed wins in heat two and three before Dike went on in an eight-lap final to secure the night's Modified Sedan first place spot ahead of Smith and Jarred Hooper.

Rounding out all our racing for Saturday night was the visiting Speedway Drivers Association of Victoria Hot Rods. From Melbourne's eastern suburbs Brendan Roberts was a winner in heat one from Mornington Peninsula based racer Neil Sixtus and Tony Green. Victorian champion Shannon Meakins then won the second heat race of the day with a win in front of Tony Greena and Andrew Kemp. Meakins won again in heat three in front of Roberts and Green. Closing out the evening and taking another feature race victory was Meakins. He defeated Roberts Sixtus, Kemp, and Kali Hovey.



Factory Honda pair Brodie Connolly and Noah Ferguson went 1-2 in Pirelli MX2.

Red riders reign as Wonthaggi starts ProMX Championship

IF THE opening round of the Penrite ProMX Championship, presented by AMX Superstores, at Wonthaggi in Victoria is any indication, the 2024 series is going to be one for the books.

Honda Racing has set the tone as the team to beat, as Kyle Webster claimed a double-moto victory in the premier Thor MX1 class, and Brodie Connolly and Noah Ferguson traded race wins and tied on points in Pirelli MX2.

In MAXXIS MX3 it was an all-WBR Yamaha Bulk Nutrients Racing podium led by Koby Hantis, while in EZILIFT MXW there was no denying defending two-time champion Charli Cannon in her official debut as part of Honda Racing.

Thor MX1

Boost Mobile Honda Racing's Kyle Webster lived up to the pre-season hype by claiming an emphatic victory and round win, flanked by CDR Yamaha Monster Energy's Jed Beaton (second) and national number one Dean Ferris (third).

Beaton led the early charge with a blistering qualifying time in the AMX Superstores Top 10 Pole Shootout, setting a lap time that was 1.95s faster than Empire Kawasaki's new pilot, Luke Clout. Honda pairing Webster (who led the regular qualifying session) and Wilson Todd finished the shootout ahead of KTM Racing Team's fifth-placed Nathan Crawford.

When the gate dropped on the first MX1 race of the 2024 season, Webster surged off the line and grabbed an enormous WP Holeshoot ahead of Todd and Clout. It only took a couple of laps for Beaton to muscle his way up to second, but Webster was able to hold the CDR signing at bay for the entire race to take the opening moto win.

A full 44 seconds behind Beaton was Todd, who had a reasonably lonely ride in third as he finished five seconds ahead of defending champion Ferris, who only got stronger as the race progressed. Clout finished the opening moto in P5.

In the final MX1 race of the day, Webster was awarded the holeshoot, but he was quickly overtaken by Ferris, who tried to build a gap over the chasing field. Beaton put in a charge to get past both riders and into the lead, but it all came undone in the final stages of the race when a mistake around the

rutted circuit saw the Yamaha rider fall into the clutches of Webster.

Webster pounced, passing Beaton and claiming both the moto and round win in the process. Beaton crossed the line two seconds later, while Ferris finished a distant third. Encouraging performances by class rookies Crawford and Todd saw them finish fourth and fifth, respectively.

Pirelli MX2

Polyflor Honda Racing's Brodie Connolly claimed the Pirelli MX2 class overall win courtesy of a 2-1 result from the two races, while Boost Mobile Honda Racing's Noah Ferguson and Ryder Kingsford (Yamalube Yamaha Racing) finished the day on the round podium.

Kingsford put down a scorching lap to top qualifying by almost one second over Connolly, with MX2 rookies Jack Mather (Raceline Husqvarna Racing Team) and Byron Dennis (GASGAS Racing Team) starting their seasons strongly with third- and fourth-fastest lap times. Mather's teammate Rhys Budd finished the session in P5.

Connolly scored the WP Holeshoot in the opening MX2 moto and wasted no time stretching out an early lead. However, Ferguson put in a mammoth charge to close the gap and take the lead midway through the session. Connolly threw everything at him in the final laps, but Ferguson held on to take his first-career moto win in the class.

Teenager Dennis put in an impressive come-from-behind ride to finish on the podium in his first MX2 race, as he led Ryder Kingsford (Yamalube Yamaha Racing) to the chequered flag. Froth Honda Racing's Alex Larwood put a first-turn near miss behind him to come through the field and finish a hard-fought fifth.

Connolly grabbed the moto two holeshoot and never looked back as he charged to a comfortable win. The Kiwi quickly established and managed a 12-second lead over the rest of the field, cruising to the overall ahead of Kingsford.

Around the chopped-up Wonthaggi circuit, moto one winner, Ferguson, put on a remarkable charge from the middle of the pack to finish third while another fast-finisher, Jayce Cosford (Yamalube Yamaha

Racing) crossed the line in P4. Budd finished in fifth position.

MAXXIS MX3

It was a dream start to the MAXXIS MX3 class season for WBR Yamaha Bulk Nutrients Racing, as the team locked out all three podium spots after an unpredictable day of action. Koby Hantis came away from the opening round with the overall win, ahead of his teammates Kobe Drew and Kayd Kingsford.

In the opening race, GASGAS rider Ky Woods led the full 40-rider MX3 gate through the first turn with the WP Holeshoot and was never headed as he powered to a seven-second win over Drew. KTM rider Jet Alsop put in a great come-from-behind effort to finish the moto third.

WBR riders ruled the roost in the second moto, with Hantis putting in a remarkable late-race charge past the front-runners to take an eight-second win over his teammates Kingsford and Drew. Moto one winner Woods crashed out of overall contention late in the session and DNF'd the race.

EZILIFT MXW

She might be with a new manufacturer, but SCT Logistics Honda Racing's Charli Cannon has again established herself as the rider to beat in the EZILIFT MXW class, dominating both races to take the overall from Husqvarna rider Taylor Thompson and young off-road racing star Danielle McDonald (Yamaha JGR Ballard's Off-Road Team).

When the gates dropped on the season-opening MXW moto, it was Taylor Thompson (Husqvarna) with the WP Holeshoot, but defending champion Cannon powered quickly into the lead and set sail.

Cannon would comfortably win by more than 17 seconds over Thompson, while McDonald finished third, capitalising on a last-lap mistake from GASGAS Elliott Brothers Race Team's Madison Healey.

Cannon scored the holeshoot of the second race and put in a ruthless charge to dominate the MXW field by 20 seconds. Thompson again finished second, while McDonald fended off a fiery battle from Emma Milesevic (Nutrien Honda Racing) to take a hard-earned P3 result.



Gippsland United Football Club is looking forward to the 2024 season.

A year in review and beyond

BEFORE a ball was even kicked, 2023 was already a historic year for football in the Gippsland region.

This was due to the unanimous decision on November 1, 2022, made collectively by the boards of Latrobe United Women's Football Club, Warragul United Soccer Club and Gippsland Football Club, to amalgamate as one footballing powerhouse known as Gippsland United Football Club.

The three organisations worked together over several months to develop a model that will strengthen the position of football in Gippsland. This alignment of senior women's, men's and junior boys and girls' football, will reinvigorate and provide sustainable pathways for aspiring footballers in the Gippsland region.

The first year came and went in a flash and the club held its first annual general meeting on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, which highlighted how success could be found on and off the pitch for Gippsland United in 2023.

"In our inaugural season, I am proud to say that what we have been able to achieve as a new organisation in such a short period of time is above and beyond my own lofty expectations," club president Peter O'Dea said.

O'Dea concluded by thanking every member for contributing to what has been a truly remarkable year.

Gippsland United was proud to announce that it is a financially compliant club, after Football Victoria published a statewide 'Club Debt in Victoria' report for 2023.

In its inaugural year, United had 357 registered players across 15 teams.

It ran a Skills Acquisition Program (SAP), Girls Development Program (GDP) and MiniRoos Program.

Gippsland United successfully organised the appointment of 50 coaches and assistants. The club worked in partnership with 28 sponsors and had 41 committee members participate in regular meetings throughout the year.

Two senior women's sides represented the region with the State League 3 Women's team winning their league in what was a fairytale first season under coach Jason Reddix, as they secured promotion to State league 2. Shanasai Iorangi was the stand out player in leading her side to promotion, scoring 20 goals in 18 games.

The State League 4 Women's side had a more difficult season compared to their champion counterparts, but were successful in maintaining their status in their division for the upcoming season.

The State League 1 Men's senior team had one of their most competitive and impressive seasons in years, finishing sixth on their league table with 31 points.

The men's reserves side were triumphant, under coach Jason Dastey, in winning a historic league title.

After only losing two games all season, amassing an insurmountable 52 points, pipping rivals Malvern City to top spot by one solitary point, the players lifted the club's first men's reserves title since 1990.

Pre-NPL holds the focus of preparing talented youth for the jump to JBNPL.

Gippsland United fielded two Pre-NPL teams for U12 and 13 boys.

By Solomon Nash

Both teams acquitted themselves superbly, with the U12's topping their league, bringing home Gippsland's third piece of silverware for the season.

Gippsland had three age groups representing the club at the JBNPL level, including U14's, 15's and 18's.

At a community level, United entered a total of five teams that competed in Football Victoria's metropolitan leagues.

The club also ran a Skills Acquisition Program (SAP) for Central, South and West Gippsland girls and boys aged 10-12.

Finally, in line with their commitment to growing female participation, United provided young girls the introductory opportunity to experience the game of football via their Girls Development Program (GDP).

Gippsland United will look to build on the success of 2023 by staying committed to continually providing football programs for community juniors and a talent pathway into the senior program for both male and female participants.

Weekend Results

Under 14s: Traditionally United have had close battles with Bentleigh over the last couple of seasons so expectations were tempered but high in regards to securing a positive result.

The team started the day missing three midfield players and one defender due to injuries and suspension, but the first ten minutes of the game you would not have known.

McCann-Diston again managed to draw and convert a penalty after another tough run down the wing within the first minutes of the game. Unfortunately that is where the highlight reel would stop for the day. The Greens opened up and quickly took charge of the game and smashed in four first half goals that left United looking at each other and all over the park for answers.

In the second half United tried to control play and claw back the deficit, but unfortunately Bentleigh was too strong and controlled play. The last ten minutes of the game saw the Greens slam in another three goals to put the result to bed and quiet the home crowd.

Final score Bentleigh Greens 7 - United 1

Under 18s: This weekend Gippsland United FC hosted rivals Bentleigh Greens and our boys went out on the field looking strong and ready for a competitive game.

The teams were looking evenly matched when Levy kicked a beautiful scissor kick goal over the head of their goalie hitting the sweet spot at the back of the net and putting Gippsland in the lead.

Unfortunately, five minutes later Bentleigh answered with a goal of their own, evening the score. Our boys defended hard but the half time score put the opposition in the lead 3-1.

In the second half GUFC had control of the ball and Lucas managed to get a great goal past the keeper but unfortunately even with their hard work Gippsland could not convert their many opportunities into goals and Bentleigh Greens ended the game with a 5-2 win.

Patterson eyes triumph in city return

Three-time global medallist Eleanor Patterson is poised for a soaring homecoming in her first Sydney competition since 2020, with this Saturday's Chemist Warehouse Sydney Track Classic celebrating her eagerly awaited return to the city she now calls home.

The meet not only marks the 2022 world champion's return to competitive high jumping domestically after a stint overseas for the World Athletics indoor season, but also serves as a precursor to her journey towards the Chemist Warehouse Australian Athletics Championships in Adelaide, and ultimately, the Paris Olympic Games.

"I'm feeling like I'm in good condition but it's just a matter of bringing it out (on) Saturday," Patterson said.

"I'm really looking forward to competing here at home. I've seen athletes having so much fun competing here in Australia with big crowds at each meet, so I'm hoping to have that same hometown support to spur me to some big jumps."

Leaping to a then-equal area record of 2.02m at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon in 2022, Patterson became the first Australian



Patterson will take to the stage in front of a home crowd this Saturday.

women's high jump gold medallist and the 10th Australian able-bodied track and field athlete to claim a world title.

Since then she has claimed Commonwealth silver, World Indoor Championships silver, and in a remarkable display after an injury-interrupted season, a silver medal at the 2023 World Championships.

"Entering into 2024, the Olympic year holds great importance. It's a year where athletes are putting their best foot forward, and I know I'm doing that. Competing at

home feels like the right stepping-stone for my preparation for Paris."

Born and raised in Leon-gatha but now a city-girl, Patterson's excitement for Saturday extends beyond her own performance as crowds get ready to witness the next generation in action, with teenage teammate Erin Shaw, (1.90m) a World Championships representative in her own right, and Izobelle Louison-Roe (1.86m) set to shine at Sydney's biggest track and field meet at E.S Marks Athletics Field.

"It's incredible to see the young guns, like Erin and Izzy pulling impressive performances at their age," Patterson said.

"Both myself and Nicola (Olyslagers, Olympic silver medallist) push each other, creating a standard that inspires the younger ones. What we have achieved shows that it's possible to excel on the world stage – something I dreamed of from my little country town. Now it's their turn to shine too."

The Sydney Track Classic is a World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger meet and part of the Chemist Warehouse Summer Series. The meet will begin at 4pm AEDT, and will be streamed live and free on Seven's digital platform, 7plus.



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Miller leads Sharks into season decider

C GRADE

IT will be the battle of the Sharks, with Phillip Island and Kilcunda-Bass going head-to-head in this season's C Grade premiership.

Kilcunda-Bass won its clash against Nyora with a massive 122 run effort by Gregory Miller.

Playing at the Nyora Recreation Reserve, Kilcunda-Bass won the toss and sent Nyora into bat first.

The opening partnership of Colin and Jordan Knox performed well, making 20 and 80 runs respectively.

Captain Ben Pugh later added 29 runs, and Daniel Blackney and Keith Maclure rounded out the innings with 36 and 35 runs.

Maclure was not out at the end of the innings.

Shaun Tapscot was Kilcunda-Bass' top bowler, taking 2/45.

All other wickets were shared between four bowlers. Nyora finished off its innings with a score of 6/253.

Miller opened Kilcunda-Bass' innings with Kevin McLean, who made 47 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Maclure.

Scott Williams added another 33 runs before his wicket fell to William Dixon.

Miller proved immovable and finished 150 not out as the Sharks claimed the win.

Phillip Island is grand final ready

PHILLIP Island kept Leongatha Town under control and secured its place in the grand final.

Phillip Island won the toss and chose to bat.

The Sharks' opening batsman Gavin Excell made 11 runs and was bowled by Cameron Dowling at 1/15.

This allowed Steve Niven to step up to the crease, who top scored with 78 runs before his wicket fell to Paul Carter at 5/150.

Peter Francis and Chris Fall made 25 and 21 runs respectively.

Fall was not out at the end of the innings.

Bowling honours were shared between Yuthil Ratnaike and Dowling, who claimed 3/34 and 3/45 respectively.

Phillip Island was bowled out at 10/227.

Town had a strong start to the innings with opening batsmen Nigel Hodges and Tim Cashin making 49 and 52 runs.

Coming in at number four, Max Carter added 24 runs.

However, Phillip Island upped its pressure and quickly worked its way through the rest of the order.

Fall was the standout bowler, taking 3/29.

Multiple wickets also fell to Deane Mani and John Johnston.

Town reached a total of 10/192, seeing Phillip Island into the grand final.



Leongatha Town's Tim Cashin survived this top-edge shot, just over the outstretched hand of the Phillip Island fieldsman in the C Grade semi-final at Rhyll, going on to top score with a measured half century.



Howzat! Leongatha Town's Max Carter survives this vociferous appeal by Phillip Island to make a useful 24 in the C Grade semi-final.



Regular Phillip Island finalist, Peter Francis added his experience to tight C Grade semi-final against Leongatha Town, taking 1/38 off 12 overs.



Koonwarra/LRSL U13 award recipients. Photos: Jodie Arnup.



Koonwarra/LRSL congratulated its U11s.



Nicholas Botha received the coaches award, Reggie Read was presented with the bowling award, and the batting and fielding award went to Ryder Pedlow in the Koonwarra L/RSL U15s side.



Tyson Lund received the Rob Wood Trophy for Best Junior Club Person.

Junior cricketers awarded

A WONDERFUL afternoon was had at Koonwarra Recreation Reserve on March 3, celebrating the wonderful achievements of Koonwarra L/RSL Cricket Club's junior playing group.

Congratulations to all, it was fantastic to see so many smiles and families in attendance.

To the first-year players – well done for having the courage to take up a new sport.

To returning players – thank you for making everyone feel so welcome and comfortable.

The club has a brilliant inclusive atmosphere and are proud of each and everyone of you.

Congratulations to individual trophy recipients: Rob Wood Trophy, Best Junior Club Person – Tyson Lund.

The club looks forward to seeing returning players, and all new players are welcome.

See you all in season 2024/25.

C GRADE

Kilcunda-Bass 2/258 d Nyora 6/253
Nyora – 1st INNINGS: C Knox 20, J Knox 80, K Linford 19, B Pugh 29, L Brock 4, D Blackney 36, K Maclure 35*, W Dixon 0*
Bowling: K McLean 1/22, T Stacey 1/58, A Blackney 1/67, S Tapscott 2/45, A Joseph 0/36, J Dickson 0/2, P Cornelis 1/13
Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS:
Kevin McLean 47, Gregory Miller 150*, Scott Williams 33, J Dickson 5*
Scores incomplete at time of printing.

Phillip Island 227 d Town 192
Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: Gavin Excell 11, David Fusinato 4, S Niven 78, Drew Fusinato 17, P Francis 25, M Cleary 10, P Cleary 0, D Mani 19, J Parry 16, C Fall 21*, W Paterson 9
Bowling: T Strybosch 1/41, C Dowling 3/45, M Carter 1/11, P Kallookkaran 0/21, H Livingstone 0/27, Y Ratnaike 3/34, P Carter 2/36
Town – 1st INNINGS: N Hodges 49, T Cashin 52, T Strybosch 19, M Carter 24, R Edwards 0, Y Ratnaike 2, PJ Kallookkaran 3, T Tootell 1, P Carter 7, C Dowling 8, H Livingstone 5*
Bowling: P Cleary 1/46, M Cleary 0/30, P Francis 1/38, C Fall 3/29, D Mani 2/23, J Johnston 2/18



OMK B2 bowler Justin Greenwood had his line and length near perfect during his strong spell of bowling against Kilcunda-Bass, taking 3/33 off 19 overs.

Jones’ 71 the real game-changer

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

PHILLIP Island and OMK will compete for the title of B1 premiers in this weekend’s grand final.

OMK earned its way into the grand final after a close clash with Inverloch.

The match was played at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve and Inverloch won the toss, choosing to bat first.

Captain Brett Debono opened the batting and had Inverloch off to a comfortable start, making 52 runs.

Coming in at number four, Greg Eddy managed to contribute 37 runs, but runs were hard to come by throughout the rest of the innings.

OMK captain Kris Kerr had Inverloch feeling the heat, taking 6/54.

Rueben Foster and Barry Wyatt were also multiple wicket takers.

OMK bowled Inverloch out 10/154.

The Diggers were rattled early when they lost opening batsman Adam Busana for a golden duck.

However, his opening partner Luke Jones was able to rally and recorded a game changing 71 runs before he was bowled by Ty Debono.

Bowlers Cooper Newman and Isaac Seuren did what they could to stifle OMK’s innings, taking 4/31 and 3/56 respectively, but Jones had done the job.

OMK won the game with a score of 9/156.

Sharks bound for grand final

PHILLIP Island outplayed Korumburra for its spot in the grand final.

Played at Newhaven Recreation Reserve, Korumburra won the toss and decided to bat.

Trevor Allen made a good start to the innings with 31 runs.

Captain Shane Dole hit the top score of 54 runs, with Jeffery Walsh and Mathew Olden later making 29 and 24 runs respectively.

Heath Womersley was the



Korumburra’s Jeff Walsh survived this chance to go on and make a patient 29 off 75 deliveries in B1 against Phillip Island.

standout bowler for Phillip Island, claiming 4/43.

Timothy Niven and captain Kurt Lane took two wickets each.

Phillip Island went into its innings with its eyes set on the target of 10/194.

Connor Epifano and Lane ensured Phillip Island’s win with 67 and 37 runs.

Dole continued his form, taking 3/64, with other wickets shared between Olden, Matthew Loader and Scott Head.

However, Phillip Island proved to be the stronger team and claimed victory.

Phillip Island’s final score was 6/196.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

OMK stride into the grand final

OMK and Phillip Island will feature in the B2 grand final after convincing wins on Saturday.

OMK played its semi-final against Kilcunda-Bass at the Outtrim Recreation Reserve.

Choosing to bat first, OMK sent in Russ White to open the batting, who made a handy 49 runs.

Bradley Hayes later made

the difference for OMK, making 73 runs.

Scott Handley and Justin Greenwood contributed 30 and 26 runs respectively.

Kilcunda-Bass pushed back against OMK’s run with Ben Rookes taking 3/56.

Other wickets were shared between Jacob Havetta, James Mahood and captain Bradley Waldron.

OMK challenged Kilcunda-Bass with a final total of 6/232.

Kilcunda-Bass opened well with Brett Joseph making 27 runs.

However, OMK bowlers White and Greenwood ensured Kilcunda-Bass couldn’t pick up the momentum required, taking three wickets each.

Robert Blackney and Mahood contributed 38 and 29 runs respectively later in the innings.

Kilcunda-Bass conceded defeat, with a score of 9/154.

Sharks outplay the Red Caps

A STRONG innings from Tharidu Asurumuni and David Womersley secured the grand final spot for Phillip Island against Nerrena.

Nerrena hosted the semi-final and Phillip Island won the toss.

Asurumuni and Womersley put 68 and 61 runs on the scoreboard respectively.

A further 22 runs was added by Tony Hornsby.

For Nerrena, Charlie Dougherty was the standout bowler, taking 4/55.

Scott Checkley and Eamon Berryman claimed two wickets each.

At the end of its allotted overs, Phillip Island was sitting comfortably with a score of 9/278.

Cameron Baudinette impressed with an 86-run haul, but it was not enough to save the match the Nerrena.

Baudinette recorded the top score before a catch from David Ivey saw him dismissed.

Ben Croatto and Dougherty added 33 and 31 runs respectively.

Dougherty was not out at stumps.

Phillip Island captain Tarryn Allan kept the game in the Sharks’ favour, taking 5/51.

Clint Wilson also performed well, taking 3/17.

Nerrena pulled up short with a final score of 10/215.

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

Phillip Island 6/196 d Korumburra 194

Korumburra – 1st INNINGS: T Allen 31, J Wrigley 14, M Allen 17, S Dole 54, J Walsh 29, P Richards 0, T Jenkin 4, S Head 1, M Olden 24, A Damon 8, M Loader 0*, Bowling: T Niven 2/26, H Arceo 1/27, A Williams 1/12, J Williams 0/14, K Lane 2/66, H Womersley 4/43

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: M Arceo 24, H Womersley 1, T Blackwell 11, K Lane 37, C Epifano 67, O Duggan 22, H Peppard 18*, A Finlayson 6*
Bowling: M Olden 1/23, M Loader 1/35, S Head 1/60, S Dole 3/64, B Riddell 0/11

OMK 9/156 d Inverloch 154

Inverloch – 1st INNINGS: B Debono 52, R Harris 6, I Seuren 0, G Eddy 37, J Bowring 5, A Mankhong 12, J Richardson 0, J Rowe 4, C Newman 2, T Debono 1
Bowling: R Foster 2/21, H James 0/18, N Wylie 0/26, K Kerr 6/54, B Wyatt 2/26

OMK – 1st INNINGS: A Busana 0, L Jones 71, D Creed 0, R Quaife 9, J Hayes 12, K Kerr 14, B Wyatt 12, A Trotto 4, N Wylie 17*, B Maguire 4, H James 6*
Bowling: I Seuren 3/56, J Richardson 0/11, J Bowring 1/21, D Cashin 0/20, C Newman 4/31, T Debono 1/16

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

OMK 6/232 d Kilcunda-Bass 9/154

OMK – 1st INNINGS: R White 49, G Lomagno 5, J Greenwood 26, B Hayes 73, S Handley 30, S Matthews 20, M Nicholas 6*, M Sawyers 9*
Bowling: B Rookes 3/56, J Havetta 1/24, D Clay 0/43, R Duff 0/30, J Mahood 1/15, A McBride 0/24, B Waldron 1/36

Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS: B Joseph 27, B Rookes 18, S Oates 4, B Waldron 4, R Gardiner 10, D Clay 5, A Bedford 0, R Blackney 38, J Mahood 29, A McBride 9, J Havetta 0*
Bowling: S Handley 1/22, R White 3/16, M Whiteside 0/46, J Greenwood 3/33, M Sawyers 0/23, G Lomagno 1/5, J Myors 1/7

Phillip Island 9/278 d Nerrena 215

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: J Manning 16, T Asurumuni 68, S Angelo 17, T Hornsby 22, D Womersley 61, A Tolley 15, D McCausland 12, C Wilson 16*, D Ivey 14, S Sirirathnag 12, T Allan 1*
Bowling: C Baudinette 1/41, C Dougherty 4/55, S Checkley 2/51, E Berryman 2/39, B Croatto 0/18, R Checkley 0/22, P Johnston 0/19, J Donohue 0/21

Nerrena – 1st INNINGS: B Croatto 33, B Gannon 5, S Checkley 11, E Berryman 28, C Baudinette 86, R Jefferis 1, M Croatto 4, C Dougherty 31*, R Checkley 5, P Johnston 3, J Donohue 0
Bowling: C Wilson 3/17, T Allan 5/51, A Tolley 1/69, D Womersley 0/29, D McCausland 0/28, T Hornsby 0/14

NEXT WEEKEND’S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

GRAND FINAL - MARCH 23 & 24 - 11AM START

A GRADE, Division 1 - (90 overs)

Phillip Island v Club
SCORPION PARK 1
Ash Stride / John Schelling

A Grade, Division 2 - (90 overs)

Koonwarra L/RSL v Glen Alvie
WONTHAGGI TURF
Ian Salmon / Ken Scrimshaw

B GRADE, Division 1 - (70 Overs)

Phillip Island v OMK
BASS REC
Graham Wightman / Jason O’Reilly

B GRADE, Division 2 - (70 Overs)

OMK v Phillip Island
McMAHON
Geoff Parkinson / Michael Ryan

C GRADE - (60 Overs)

Kilcunda-Bass v Phillip Island
OUTTRIM
Les White / Neil Grabham

Subject to Confirmation.
Any prospective umpires can contact
Jason O’Reilly 0439 688 575
or Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136



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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Daniel Mock (Phillip Island) 185 ; James Sheerin (Club) 4/15
A2: S Peatling (Glen Alvie) C Buckland (Koon L/RSL) 57 ; J Kennedy (Koon L/RSL) 6/11
B1: Luke Jones (OMK) 71 ; Kris Kerr (OMK) 6/54
B2: Cameron Baudinette (Nerrena) 86 ; Tarryn Allan (Phillip Island) 5/51
C: Gregory Miller (Kilcunda-Bass) 150* ; Chris Fall (Phillip Island) 3/29

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Phillip Island captain Daniel Mock raises his bat to acknowledge the cheers as he comes off the ground, in Saturday's semi-final against OMK at Leongatha with 185 against his name.



Lachie McLean and several others made important contributions down the order to help get Club to a defendable total of 217 against Town.



Mudassar Riaz managed only one wicket for OMK off 22 overs in the semi-final against Phillip Island.



Mock played shots to all parts of the ground with 26 fours and three sixes in his innings of 185.

Mock masterclass puts Island into grand final

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

THE top two teams in A Grade Division 1, Phillip Island and Wonthaggi Club, have both won their way through to the grand final in the Leongatha and District Cricket Association next weekend with two contrasting performances in the semi-finals.

While Phillip Island made the debacle of the week before against Leongatha Imperials seem like a distant memory, with a powerful batting display against OMK, led by captain Daniel Mock with 185, Wonthaggi Club came on strong against Leongatha Town with the ball.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, Club started exactly how you'd want to in a do-or-die semi, with Mitch Thomas 25 and Emmet Dempsey 75 putting on 92 for the first wicket, although it must be said that Town reportedly dropped Dempsey early in his innings.

Thereafter, however, Club lost 4/32 as the Leongatha Town bowlers started to get on top with the wickets shared around between Abeysinghe, Ratnaike and Rajapakshage.

It was only a series of battling efforts after that, by the lower order, that got Club through to a defendable total of 217 after 81 overs; Alex Geyer 14, Lochie McLean 20, James Sheerin 33 and Mark McCall 13 not out making valuable contributions.

While he didn't add a lot to

the score, the innings of Stewart Beaumont, holding up an end for 73 balls when the going got tough was important and his dismissal, 'caught' off the flap of the pad, looked to be a crucial moment.

But it wasn't to be. Club's bowlers put Leongatha Town on the backfoot on Saturday afternoon, through a tricky nine-over spell in which both Joel Brann and James Sheerin took wickets, to reduce Town to 2/21 and they never recovered, losing early wickets on Sunday morning, and lasting just 38 overs before being all out for 75 in an insipid response from their batsmen.

At Scorpion Park in Leongatha, Phillip Island barely gave OMK a look in as they put up 6/356 off their 90 overs, led in mercurial style by their captain Daniel Mock.

Wily veteran Peter Dell gave OMK the perfect start when he clean bowled the century maker of the previous week, Brodie Johnston for a five-ball duck.

But with Lachie Cleeland 50 and Daniel Mock settling things down with a partnership of 86, Phillip Island never looked back, with each batsman that came and went providing good support for Mock who looked on for a big one.

He started patiently enough and then quickened the pace as he passed three figures in the middle of the afternoon, before putting his foot down when he reached 150 and looking on

target for the rarest of feats in an LDCA semi-final, a double ton.

With four overs to go and Tom Niven providing plenty of stability at the other end, Mock hit out with fours to all parts of the ground and some towering sixes as he reached 185, still with plenty of deliveries to get the final 15.

But it wasn't to be with OMK's Jake Cochrane producing a false shot and Koby Brann juggling a chance on the boundary at long off.

There were no celebrations from the bowling side, however, as Mock made his way off the ground and several OMK players got across to congratulate the opposition captain on a superb knock.

"I didn't set myself any goals other than being there until we got to 100. It was probably fairly slow going early but I was feeling pretty good and seeing it well," said Mock afterwards.

"They probably left their field up for longer than I thought they would, once I got going, and that probably helped me a bit.

"But pretty satisfying, yeah."

Mock's 185 came off 263 deliveries and featured 26 fours and three sixes.

In reply, OMK tried to keep up with the four-runs-an-over run rate but as soon wickets started falling, the chase went out the window. Koby Brann dropped anchor and faced 150 balls for his 69 but it was a bridge too far for the Diggers.



Nyora’s Aaron Kaddatz toiled all day, taking 6/63 off 23.4 overs, but it wasn’t quite enough with several key chances going down in the field.

Glen Alvie hold on to grand final opportunity

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

GLEN Alvie is set to face Koonwarra L/RSL in the grand final next weekend.

Glen Alvie played its semi-final against Nyora and defended its total in a nailbiter.

Playing at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve, Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bat.

Glen Alvie ran into trouble early when opening batsman Matthew Donohue was dismissed for a duck.

However, the partnership of Scott Peatling and Matthew Dakin had Glen Alvie back on the right track, making 57 and 26 runs respectively.

Captain Stephen Kennedy later added 32 runs to the tally, and vice captain Nathan Findlay rounded out the innings with 51 not out.

Bowler Aaron Kaddatz led the onslaught from Nyora, taking an impressive 6/63 in an attempt to slow Glen Alvie’s run.

Aidan Simmons claimed 2/43.

Glen Alvie finished off its innings with 10/237.

Nyora had a goal in its sights but would ultimately just miss out on the grand final ticket.

Captain Henry Dolphin led his team into battle, opening the batting and making a handy 53 runs.

This would turn out to be Nyora’s top score, with Gavin Hackett and Aaron Thompson contributing 43 and 30 runs respectively.

Findlay matched the efforts of Kad-datz, also claiming 6/63 and putting the pressure on Nyora.

Vice captain Ben McRae also had a hand in stopping Nyora’s grand final campaign, taking 3/77.

Nyora was bowled out 10/277.

Cougars fight for grand final spot

THE batsmen felt the pressure on both sides, but ultimately Koonwarra L/RSL earned its spot in the grand final over Foster.

The Cougars won the toss and went into bat first.

However, they were quickly rattled by a troubling start, as the first three batsmen were dismissed for ducks.

These wickets fell to Jack Weston and Jack Gay.

James Rushton, coming in at



Glen Alvie vice captain Nathan Findlay made a crucial 51 not out off 115 deliveries in the middle stages of Glen’s innings against Nyora in A Grade Division 2.

number five, hit a handy 42 runs to put the game back into the Cougars’ favour.

Kayden Scrimshaw later added 15 runs.

Gay didn’t make the job easy for the Cougars, claiming 6/40 with Weston taking 3/19.

The Cougars bowed out of the in-nings with a total of 10/93 and had a huge challenge ahead to defend the score.

Bowler Jason Kennedy managed to keep Foster out of the competition, claiming 6/11.

Jake Best top scored for Foster with 23 runs, with Mitchell Jones adding 14.

Joshua Thomas was the other multiple wicket taker for the Cougars.

Koonwarra L/RSL managed to do its job well, holding Foster to a losing score of 10/57.

Koonwarra L/RSL went in for a second innings, and Gay continued his fine form, dismissing two batsman LBW for golden ducks.

However, the Cougars showed why they deserved the grand final spot with Callum Buckland and Kennedy making 57 and 53 runs respectively.

Kennedy was not out at stumps.

Gay claimed 4/37 and Weston took 2/77.

Koonwarra L/RSL finished off its second innings with a score of 7/176.

A GRADE

DIVISION 1

Phillip Island 6/356

d OMK 185

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS

Lachlan Cleeland c: E Lamers
b: J Lamers50
Brodie Johnston b: P Dell 0
Daniel Mock c: K Brann
b: J Cochrane 185
Shiran Rathnayake c: C Quaife
b: M Riaz41
Eli Richards c: J Cuman
b: J Cochrane16
Thomas Niven not out30*
Kohen Beaumont c: M Riaz
b: N Auddino15
George McCausland not out0*
Extras (5w, 9nb, 3lb, 2b)19
Total 6 / 356 (90 Overs)
Bowling: M Riaz 22-6-69-1 (4nb),
P Dell 12-3-51-1, J Lamers 12-2-50-
1 (3w), J Cochrane 33-7-113-2 (2w,
4nb), E Lamers 8-0-44-0 (1nb),
N Auddino 3-0-24-1

OMK – 1st INNINGS

Jake Cochrane c: L Cleeland
b: M Royal31
Ethan Lamers lbw:
G McCausland19
Koby Brann c: B Johnston
b: Z Brown69
Mudassar Riaz lbw: S Rathnayake 16
Jacob Lamers lbw: S Rathnayake.... 7
Joel Cuman c: T Niven b: Z Brown . 1
Noel Creed c: L Cleeland
b: T Niven 6
Clayton Quaife
c&b: S Rathnayake12
Paul Fermanis lbw: S Rathnayake .17
Nicholas Auddino not out0*
Peter Dell c: S Rathnayake
b: T Niven 1
Extras (5nv, 1lb) 6
Total 10 / 185 (72.1 Overs)
Bowling: S Kirton 4-1-11-0,
G McCausland 13-3-46-1 (3nb),
M Royal 18-4-8-32-1, S Rathnayake
18-6-30-4, Z Brown 11-2-37-2 (1nb),
T Niven 8-3-0-29-2 (1nb)

Club 217 v Town 75

Club – 1st INNINGS

Mitch Thomas c: A Ratnaike
b: J Hume25
Emmet Dempsey c: ?
b: R Abeysinghe 75
Ben Walsh lbw: A Ratnaike 11
Ryan Thomas lbw: R Abeysinghe ... 1
Stewart Beaumont c: J Giardina
b: PG Rajapakshage 9
Joel Brann lbw: A Ratnaike0
Alexander Geyer b: J Hume 14
Lochlan Mclean
lbw: R Abeysinghe20
James Sheerin c: J Giardina
b: A Ratnaike33
Mark McCall not out13*
Ryan Birkett c: J Giardina
b: PG Rajapakshage4
Extras (7lb, 5b)12
Total 10 / 217 (80.5 Overs)
Bowling: PG Rajapakshage 14-5-
4-35-2, R Hume 4-0-21-0, D Hume
10-1-39-0, R Abeysinghe 24-7-59-3,
J Hume 11-2-36-2, A Ratnaike
17-9-15-3

Town – 1st INNINGS

Darcy Hume c: L Mclean
b: R Birkett14
Josh Williams b: J Brann6
Jack Hume lbw: J Sheerin 0
Jesse Giardina b: J Brann9
Amila Ratnaike c: J Brann
b: M McCall7
Ron Abeysinghe c: M Thomas
b: M McCall19
DLMP Gallage c: J Sheerin
b: M McCall2
P Jayasinghe c: J Brann
b: J Sheerin11
Rob Eddy c: B Walsh b: J Sheerin 2
PG Rajapakshage c: R Birkett
b: J Sheerin0
Rhett Hume not out0*
Extras (4nb, 1lb)5
Total 10 / 75 (38.3 Overs)
Bowling: J Brann 9-4-10-2,
R Thomas 6-4-5-0 (1nb), R Birkett
8-1-34-1 (3nb), J Sheerin 6.3-1-15-4,
M McCall 9-2-10-3

A GRADE

DIVISION 2

Glen Alvie 237

d Nyora 221

Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS

Matthew Donohue
lbw: Aaron Kaddatz 0
Scott Peatling b: A Simmons57
Matthew Dakin b: A Kaddatz26
Dean Williams c: J Hackett
b: A Kaddatz 5
Stephen Kennedy b: L Row32
Nathan Findlay not out 51*
Ben McRae lbw: A Simmons 4
Andrew Dakin lbw: J Hackett28
Wayne Luke b: A Kaddatz 7
Nathan Thatcher lbw: A Kaddatz ... 0
Sam Watson b: A Kaddatz 0
Extras (3w, 2nb, 4lb, 18b)27
Total 10 / 237 (82.4 Overs)
Bowling: A Kaddatz 23.4-6-63-6
(1nb), M Rowe 5-1-13-0 (1w),
A Thompson 10-4-19-0, A Simmons
18-5-43-2, Henry Dolphin 11-2-37-
0, Lochie Row 7-2-20-1 (2w),
J Hackett 8-2-20-1 (1nb)

Nyora – 1st INNINGS

Henry Dolphin lbw: B McRae53
Daniel Esler c: N Thatcher
b: M Dakin16
Gavin Hackett c: S Watson
b: B McRae43
Jake Hackett c: M Dakin
b: N Findlay28
Aaron Kaddatz b: N Findlay 1
Jake Henry b: N Findlay14
Aidan Simmons c&b: N Findlay 4
Michael Lynch lbw: N Findlay 5
Aaron Thompson b: N Findlay30
Lochie Row b: B McRae7
Mitch Rowe not out9*
Extras (1w, 4nb, 1lb, 5b)11
Total 10 / 221 (90.3 Overs)
Bowling: N Findlay 29.3-7-63-6
(2nb), M Dakin 13-4-32-1 (2nb),
B McRae 30-11-77-3, S Kennedy 9-0-
25-0, D Williams 9-2-18-0 (1w)

Koonwarra 93 & 7/176

d Foster 57

Koowwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS

Matt Cooke c: M Jones b: J Gay 0
Amad Mujtaba c: M Jones
b: J Weston 0
Isuru Darshana c: M Jones b: J Gay. 0
Azhar Mehmood c&b: J Gay12
James Rushton lbw: J Gay42

Callum Buckland b: J Gay 8
Kayden Scrimshaw c: M Jones
b: J Gay15
Jason Kennedy c&b: J Weston12
Joshua Thomas c: J Staley
b: J Weston4
Nick Arnup c: E Smith b: J Staley 0
Nathan Trotto not out 0*
Extras0
Total 10 / 93 (45.1 Overs)
Bowling: Jack Gay 14-5-40-6,
J Weston 12-4-19-3, J Best 3-1-9-0,
J Toner 9-3-17-0, J Staley 7.1-4-8-1
Foster – 1st INNINGS
Jack Gay c: J Kennedy b: J Thomas 0
Josh Toner b: J Thomas 1
Jake Best c: J Rushton
b: J Kennedy 23
Mitchell Jones b: A Mehmood 14
Jake Staley c: A Mehmood
b: J Kennedy2
Jack Weston c: A Mehmood
b: J Kennedy4
Ben East c: J Rushton b: J Kennedy 0
Mitchell Allott run out 1
Eddie Smith c: K Scrimshaw
b: J Kennedy 1
Harvey Griggs c: J Rushton
b: J Kennedy0
Tex Dyson not out0*
Extras (2nb, 9lb)11
Total 10 / 57 (33.2 Overs)
Bowling: J Thomas 6-3-11-2,
N Arnup 5-3-6-0, I Darshana 2-1-2-0,
J Kennedy 11-6-11-6, A Mehmood
5.2-0-10-1 (2nb), C Buckland 4-0-8-0
Koonwarra L/RSL – 2nd INNINGS
Amad Mujtaba b: J Weston4
Matt Cooke lbw: J Gay0
James Rushton c: J Staley b: J Gay . 1
Azhar Mehmood lbw: J Gay0
Callum Buckland c: J Toner
b: J Gay57
Kayden Scrimshaw b: J Weston 2
Isuru Darshana c: H Griggs
b: J Staley33
Jason Kennedy not out53*
Joshua Thomas not out13*
Extras (5w, 4lb, 4b)13
Total 7 / 176 (65 Overs)
Bowling: J Gay 16-5-37-4 (5w),
J Weston 20-5-77-2, J Best 2-0-11-0,
J Toner 8-1-17-0, J Staley 5-2-7-1,
H Griggs 9-7-4-0, B East 2-0-8-0,
E Smith 2-0-5-0, M Allott 1-0-2-0



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Looks like 'My Three Sons' for Duursmas in the AFL

IT WAS a big weekend for the Duursma family of Foster, with number one son Xavier playing his first game for Essendon on Saturday afternoon and number two son, Zane, making his AFL debut, up at the Sydney Showgrounds, for North Melbourne against GWS on Saturday evening.

But, after the performance by number three son, Willem, as a 'bottom age' player for Gippsland Power in a practice match against archrivals Dandenong Stingrays at Wonthaggi on Sunday, it looks almost certain to be a case of 'My Three Sons' in the AFL in a couple of years time.

Willem displayed the courage of his oldest brother, Xavier, and the high-flying talent of his middle brother, Zane, when he flew backwards into a pack on the Gippy Power forward line before pulling down a spectacular, juggling mark and setting up a goal in the first quarter.

It was the standout highlight for the 16-year-old in his debut for the Gippsland Power's top Under 18 team, still with another year to play at that level, but it wasn't his only contribution on a day.

He was one of a number of South Gippsland and Bass Coast boys in the team with Xavier Lindsay setting the boys alight with the first goal of the match, and teaming up well out of the centre with Leongatha's Tom Hanily, who looks set for a good showing this year after an injury-marred season last year.

But right down the list, there's plenty of interest for the local community with eight or more players in the squad and likely to get their chance through the year.

There was a huge crowd at the Wonthaggi ground with three games on the program; the Under 16 Girls playing Dandenong for points, and the Under 16 and Under 18 boys also playing Dandenong however in practice matches.

While Gippsland Power is still building its girls numbers, they managed two good quarters against the well-resourced Stingrays outfit before ultimately lowering their colours and the Under 16 boys had a narrow win.

Both the Stingrays and the Power played their probable squads for three quarters of the match, before swapping over and introducing some of their development players. Gippsland was leading at the changeover, but Dandenong's greater depth showed in the final stages, not that the score was anything to go by.

Gippsland Power has the bye in the first round and then comes up against Dandenong in their first match, at Seaforth, on Good Friday to get their season underway. Willem Duursma is sure to be a regular in the side this year, and is likely to come under the notice of AFL scouts after the exploits of his older brothers and sister Yasmin, who played 11 AFLW games for Port Adelaide before crossing over to the Blues this year.

Zane made an impressive debut for North Melbourne, kicking two goals from three marks and 10 possessions, five kicks and five handballs, and looked the part in the Number 7 guernsey presented to him by his mother Suzie, with father Dean also part of the jumper presentation.

Duursma told North Melbourne media that he loved every minute of the buildup, getting away with the team to Sydney for the game, pulling on the jumper for the first time and running down the race with fellow draftee, Colby McKercher, but disappointing not to get the job done for the fans against GWS.

"It's a pity we couldn't get it done today but overall, it's been a great experience," he said.

Duursma admitted the game had been something of a blur throughout, going so fast, until the last five minutes, but rated it an awesome experience all the same.



The third Duursma to play for Gippsland Power, Willem, completed this spectacular marking attempt on the Power's forward line in their practice match against Dandenong at Wonthaggi on Sunday. It the sort of action that's bound to attract the attention of AFL recruiters in the next few years.



Xavier Lindsay set Gippsland Power alight with the first goal of the match against Dandenong at Wonthaggi on Sunday.



Zane Duursma receives his Number 7 North Melbourne guernsey from mother Suzie with father Dean Duursma in support.



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