



## EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD Neighbours

Locals demand action for dilapidated property

IF YOU live locally, you may be familiar with what many have described as an eyesore on the corner of McKenzie Street and Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi.

Among its most notable features are smashed windows on the second floor and several boarded-up windows with power still active to the property. However, the property's physical shortcomings are far from its most pressing issue, with ongoing complaints about the presence of numerous squatters.

"We've heard racket, loud noises... no neighbour deserves to put up with that sort of stuff," said one concerned local, who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of retribution.

The two-storey house was recently purchased by Pearl Energy, who have big plans for the land. They intend to construct a brand-new service station, but many locals believe progress is moving too slowly, given the current state of the dilapidated property, and two neighbouring properties.

"I've contacted Pearl Energy multiple times, the most recent being three weeks ago," added the concerned local. He says that while Pearl Energy has acknowledged the property, they refuse to provide specifics, simply stating that they are "working through it."

The squatters' activities have also drawn the attention of local police, who

have been seen frequently patrolling the area around the property.

"The properties, on the north-west corner of McKenzie Street and Korumburra Road, are locations which local police are aware of, and regular proactive patrols are conducted of this area, and the wider area, to prevent crime and to ensure community safety," a spokesperson for Bass Coast Police stated on Sunday noting the properties are privately owned.

"Referrals and other services have been provided to persons who are squatting at these properties, and no people should be squatting at any location across Bass Coast or South Gippsland.

Continued page 3

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The Nationals Danny O'Brien, Melina Bath, newly elected member for Nationals senate seat Inverloch's Glenn Arnold and supporters, with Bridget McKenzie and Darren Chester. ob90\_1225

## Nationals endorse Lifesaving Club President Glenn Arnold for the Senate

THE Nationals have endorsed Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club President Glenn Arnold for a place on the Nationals' Senate ticket for the upcoming Federal Election.

Nationals State President Jo Armstrong said Mr Arnold's community leadership and passion for regional Victoria make him an outstanding Senate candidate.

"I am delighted The Nationals have selected such a dedicated community advocate to represent regional Victoria in the Senate," said Ms Armstrong.

"Glenn has shown leadership on key issues including coastal erosion and regional job creation, which proves he will be a powerful voice for regional people in Canberra."

With more than 22 years' experience in workforce planning, recruitment, and project management Mr Arnold is a vocal community advocate for infrastructure investment, environmental protection and economic growth in rural and regional areas, according to The Nationals.

"It's always a pleasure to welcome another champion of Gippsland to The Nationals family and so it is today with Glenn Arnold announced as our Senate candidate for the forthcoming Federal election," Victorian Nationals Leader and Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien MP added.

"Glenn is an Inverloch local, a family man and President of the local surf lifesaving club where he's run a strong campaign for government support to protect the club and surf beach from

encroaching erosion.

"Glenn runs his own business, and his record of community service suggests he will be an excellent addition to our team."

Glenn Arnold will be on a joint Liberal Party and Nationals' ticket joining Victorian Senator Bridget McKenzie in the Senate if successful at the election.

Accepting the Nationals' endorsement Mr Arnold said he understood the challenges that regional communities face, from cost-of-living pressures to deteriorating infrastructure and environmental challenges like coastal erosion.

"I have been fighting to protect our community assets, including the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club, which is at risk due to severe beach erosion.

"We need urgent government action to secure regional infrastructure, and I will be a strong voice in Canberra to ensure that regional communities get their fair share."

Mr Arnold recently joined 700 Inverloch residents and holiday-makers in calling for immediate state and federal intervention to protect the local foreshore, safeguard homes, and prevent essential community assets from being lost to erosion.

Leader of The Nationals in the Senate Bridget McKenzie said she was thrilled to have Glenn Arnold join the Senate campaign team.

"I am proud to support Glenn Arnold as The Nationals' Senate candidate for Victoria.

"The Nationals Senate team has a strong record of standing

up for the regions.

"Glenn Arnold is a champion for regional communities and will bolster our team as we tackle cost of living pressures, better healthcare and rising concerns about international and local safety."

State Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Public Land Management, Eastern Region Nationals' MP Melina Bath welcomed Glenn Arnold aboard Team Nationals.

"Having worked with Glenn over the past year I know him to be a passionate Inverloch resident, husband, father, businessman and volunteer."

Liberal candidate for Monash Mary Aldred said the message from Monash is clear locals want a strong Coalition team that has a clear plan to get Australia back on track and deliver for our community.

"It was a pleasure to join my Coalition teammates Senator Bridget McKenzie, Darren Chester MP, Danny O'Brien MP and Melina Bath MP to announce Inverloch's Glenn Arnold as part of the Coalition's Victorian Senate team."

In the build up to the federal election, Cape Woolamai resident Robert Durkacz has also thrown his hat in the ring as a single-issue candidate for the western alliance stating, "the American people have become dangerously erratic and without necessarily wishing to, they are vandalising their own democracy and the western alliance with it." For Mr Durkacz's statement in full visit [sgst.com.au](http://sgst.com.au).

## Locals demand action for dilapidated property

From page 1

"It is an offence to trespass, and police have and will continue to take action against any offending. Police have charged people for multiple offences and will continue to do so.

"Police will not tolerate any criminal or anti-social behaviour. If any illegal activity is observed please contact 000 at the time."

It's understood that at least one of the individuals squatting at the property is on bail for burglary and theft.

Locals walking past the property have also reported facing verbal abuse, and witnessed one of the male squatters on Sunday pushing a trolley down the road with a complete air conditioning system, from the property, in it – where the unit went is anyone's guess.

The property is one of a handful around Wonthaggi that have drawn the ire of locals, with residents reporting they are now scared to walk near the properties which also include a residence in Hagelthorn Street.

The call from residents come as Victoria passed the 'toughest bail laws in Australia' last week.

"I have listened to victims of crime and Victorians, and I have acted. These are the toughest bail laws in the country – putting community safety above all and delivering consequences for those who break the law," Premier Jacinta Allan said last week when the first tranche of legislation passed through parliament on Friday morning.

"These laws send the strongest possible message to offenders – clean your act up or face the consequences."

The new bail laws, which amend the Bail Act 1977 will see a reinstatement of section 30B which was repealed by No.28/2023.

The new section 30B refers to offenders committing an indictable offence while on bail with an accused facing 30 penalty units or three months imprisonment.

Section 30A will be repealed which states 'an accused on bail must not commit a Schedule 1 offence or Schedule 2 offence while on bail.'

Whilst residents hope these new laws may assist police in their duties, it's unclear what they mean for the squatters, who already have significant rap sheets to their name.

"They're just smashing things," nearby business owner Greg Purtle stated, noting that he has predominately been left

alone by those at the property, although has many times been left to clean up rubbish in his property from the premise.

"(One day) we could hear scratching around; we couldn't work out what it was and went out there and (one of the squatters) was digging out the footings of my workshop in the laneway.

"I asked, 'What are you doing there, mate?' 'There's precious metals here, diamonds and stuff.' He picks up a piece of old, broken glass and shining it in the sun he said, 'Have a look at this, it's a ruby.' I said, 'It's not really. Don't go digging the footing away.' And he stopped.

"It's not going to get better. It's awful. It's the biggest nightmare you've ever seen.

"All the do-gooders want housing for people, but you can't put these people in houses because (they've) already burned a couple of houses down."

According to many residents of Wonthaggi, only time will tell before these properties succumb to fire, with firefighters having been called already to the property.

"It worries me about the workshop," Mr Purtle said.

"I've got a bit of distance, but the sooner (the houses are demolished) the better.

"The ones I feel sorry for are the neighbours living here. (One resident) was in the laneway yesterday listening to the goings on and trying to calm them down. It's just silly."

Other residents have reported seeing people fighting on Saturday morning around 4.45am, drug deals going on at the traffic lights and squatters being arrested by police on multiple occasions.

One resident of North Wonthaggi, who used to regularly walk past the property has also reported being abused by a female on a bike outside the property.

As for the property on the corner of McKenzie Street and Korumburra Road, it is believed that Pearl Energy's initial plans for the site were rejected by Bass Coast Shire Council. The matter was then taken to VCAT, where it is currently; Bass Coast Shire Council have stated they are unable to comment on the matter whilst at VCAT.

Only time will tell if the Government's introduction of new bail laws are strict enough to provide safety to residents in their own communities.

Pearl Energy were contacted for comment.

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6 Day  
Weather  
Forecast

SOUTH  
GIPPSLAND



TUE | Mar 25

Mostly sunny.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: Light

11° 24°



WED | Mar 26

Cloudy  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: Light

13° 23°



THUR | Mar 27

Partly cloudy.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: S 15-20km/h

12° 25°



FRI | Mar 28

Partly cloudy.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: Light

13° 27°



SAT | Mar 29

Partly cloudy.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: S-SW 15-20km/h

15° 25°



SUN | Mar 30

Cloudy.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: E-SE 15-25km/h

13° 24°

IN BRIEF

Telstra Network  
disruption in  
Cape Paterson

UPCOMING works will affect Telstra mobile networks in Cape Paterson from Monday, March 24 until Friday, March 28 causing offline service between 8am – 4pm each day.

Telstra confirmed that due to works by a third party/other network provider, Telstra has been asked to shut down parts of its mobile base station at Cape Paterson at different periods.

This will result in some disruption to mobile services in the area. Telstra mobile customers will receive texts advising of the upcoming work.

Landline services, NBN internet services, will not be impacted.

Telstra customers can continue to make calls and send texts during disruption to mobile services by switching on Wi-Fi Calling (if they have an NBN or Starlink service). This is a free setting on most popular mobile phones and allows mobile phones to make and receive mobile calls while connected to Wi-Fi.

Business owners are encouraged to talk to their EFTPOS provider about connecting their EFTPOS terminals to their NBN and Wi-Fi connection to prevent delays in processing transactions.

Underfunding of  
dental services leaves  
Gippslanders in the lurch

GIPPSLANDERS are facing an average wait time of more than 20 months to access general dental care under the State Government, according to the Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien who took his concerns to Parliament recently after it was revealed that the Victorian Emergency Dental Vouchers Scheme (VEDS) had exhausted its annual budget four months ahead of the end of the financial year.

VEDS is a program that allows hospitals to provide eligible patients with a voucher to seek treatment at a local private dental clinic.

Mr O'Brien said that vouchers under the program are meant to be valid for three months but that he was being contacted by local residents who were told their vouchers could not be honoured due to underfunding.

"I'm calling on the Minister for Health to address the shortfall in funding that is seeing public dental patients lose access to dental vouchers," Mr O'Brien said.

"It is extremely disappointing to hear reports that people in physical pain are having their vouchers cancelled because there is no more funding for this program."

Mr O'Brien said he was aware that there are issues with attracting and retaining dentists to work in the public service and that this must also be addressed,

but the issue in the short term is the lack of vouchers.

"Our hospitals are doing their best to keep up with growing demand but with large catchment areas and limited staff VEDS is a program that allows them to ensure patients receive the treatment they need in a timely manner.

"Without access to VEDS, the pressure is put back on to our already overworked hospital staff."

Mr O'Brien highlighted that he had raised concerns over cuts to the public dental program in the 2023 budget with the then Premier and it was disappointing to see that no action had been taken to prevent the situation Gippslanders are now facing.

"This is a significant issue that the Health Minister must address."

Korumburra rail  
precinct works set for  
completion this year

WORKS on the third and final stage of the Korumburra railway precinct project are expected to be completed by the middle of this year, with the creation of extra carparking spaces a major feature.

"The carpark construction works under this contract (will) complete the northern end of carpark works in the Korumburra railway precinct behind the Commercial Street shops," a council spokesperson said.

This will include creating approximately 35 new all-day parking spaces and associated roadway as well as provision of three new long-vehicle parking spaces.

Formalisation of the access road from north of the carpark to Commercial Street, drainage improvements, new footpaths and pedestrian crossings and street lighting are other components of the Stage 3 works.

The project is funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4, with a \$687,794 contract (excluding GST) for Stage 3 works awarded to Ace Earthmoving.

Road improvement for  
North Poowong Road Nyora

THE unsealed 2.65 kilometre section of the North Poowong Road Nyora is expected to be sealed by the middle of this year, constructed to a width of 7.2 metres.

The project is funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4, with South Gippsland Shire Council awarding the \$1,304,433 (excluding GST) contract to Sure Constructions.

Early Learning Centre  
design for Mirboo North

A CONCEPT design for the proposed Mirboo North Early Learning Centre at 1 Balook Street is expected to be completed by the middle of the year.

Vanovac Tuon Architecture Studio, trading as VTAS Architecture was awarded the contract by South Gippsland Shire Council for the amount of \$80,105 (excluding GST).

The project is partly funded by the Victorian School Building Authority.

Police praise 'kind'  
drivers at Bass

WONTHAGGI Police Station and the Bass Coast Highway Patrol police have posted "a big thank you" to motorists for their "courteous and kind driving" at an accident scene, involving two vehicles on the Bass Highway at Bass last Thursday, March 20.

Police had the highway blocked for about an hour, as paramedics treated the three people involved and then had the cars towed away.

"It was great to see people being courteous and kind and driving at 40 kilometres an hour when they were approaching the emergency vehicles, which allowed everyone to be safe and for the road to be cleared sooner," they said on Bass Coast Eyewatch.

Police said it underscored the importance of obeying the law regarding the '40 Kilometres An Hour Flashing Lights' rule when police and emergency services are directing traffic.

Industrial action for  
health workers

WONTHAGGI Community Mental Health Services workers will be involved in industrial action this Thursday, March 27.

The Health and Community Services Union (HACSU) said mental health workers including nurses, allied health professionals, occupational therapists, social workers and administrative staff will be stopping work between 2pm and 4pm across Gippsland.

Latrobe Regional Hospital's mental health workforce is stopping work then.

The union argues the action is necessary to achieve an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement that ensures mental health workers are granted fair and reasonable deals.

HACSU State Secretary Paul Healey said the action is about more than wages.

"Money is great, but far more is needed to ensure that all mental health workplaces are safe and offer a best practice and standardised response to occupational violence and aggression," he said.

Mr Healey also stressed the importance of enabling mental health workers to provide the treatment, care and support consumers and their families need in a timely fashion.

The HACSU states it has been negotiating a new enterprise agreement for seven months but argues there has been no meaningful effort from the Victorian Hospitals

Industrial Association or the Victorian State Government to address the concerns of mental health workers.

Collaborative Community  
History Award to J.M.  
Anderson

J.M. ANDERSON was awarded the Collaborative Community History Award at the Victorian Community History Awards in Melbourne on Monday, March 24, 2025, for her latest book Wallace Avenue Community Park Inverloch: A Short History, released in April 2024. An inspiring success story that takes readers on a journey that began in 1987.

Traffic incident leads  
to the euthanasia of  
livestock

AGRICULTURE Victoria responded to a traffic incident involving livestock on the South Gippsland Highway on Wednesday, March 19, after two animals fell from a vehicle onto the road. Agriculture Victoria humanly euthanised one animal as a result of that incident for the animal's wellbeing. The other animal was contained and after assessment, transported from the scene.

Calling all local authors

LOCAL authors from across the region have the opportunity to place their books at Main Street Merchants Gippsland. The store in Sale is an innovative retail collective home to over 100 local artisans, merchants, entrepreneurs and now authors. Their bookshelves are going up this week, creating a dedicated space to showcase the stories and talent from across Gippsland. For new authors interested in featuring their work at Main Street Merchants, get in touch at msmgippsland@gmail.com.

Off to school for the  
day for stray dog from  
Wonthaggi

STUDENTS from Mary MacKillop Catholic College in Leongatha were surprised to be joined on the school bus last Friday by a very friendly stray dog.

Jumping on the bus at Wonthaggi and travelling with the Mary MacKillop students to school the dog was later handed over to a higher authority who arranged for the mischievous canine to be returned to its owner.





## Male questioned over Anderson fire

POLICE have interviewed a 56-year-old male from Anderson in relation to a fire lit during the fire danger period that required emergency services and burnt approximately one hectare on Saturday afternoon around 3.37pm.

It's understood the male was illegally burning off in a container, which the fire escaped.

The fire burnt nearby paddocks, fencing and roadside vegetation before it was brought under control by firefighters from San Remo, Kilcunda, Bass, Wonthaggi, Dalyston and Corinella.

The fire also caused damage to the walking track and almost jumped Phillip Island Road if not for the quick efforts of firefighters bringing embers under control.

"Good work by our local CFA and thank you to all (drivers) for their patience whilst the Phillip Island Road was closed for 1 hour and 20 minutes," Sgt Ryan stated following the blaze.

Bass Coast Police and Highway Patrol attended the scene.

The 56-year-old male will receive a summons to Korumburra Magistrates Court.

Emergency services would like to remind the community that the fire danger period still applies and restrictions are still in place.

## Brake blunder as truck collides in roundabout

AT 5.20PM on Thursday, March 20, a black Hyundai Santa Fe was struck by a truck at the roundabout on the corner of McKenzie Road and White Road, Wonthaggi.

It's understood the driver of the truck had just collected the hire vehicle from a local hire depot and lacking experience in the vehicle was unable to locate the brake as he approached the roundabout.

The 40-year-old male driver from North Melbourne lost control of the vehicle in the roundabout and collided with the stationary Hyundai, that was waiting to enter the roundabout from the eastern side of White Road. The Hyundai was pushed off the road and onto the nearby nature strip by the truck. Both occupants of the Hyundai sustained injuries with the 65-year-old female passenger later recording five broken ribs. The 76-year-old male driver received minor injuries.

The truck driver remained at the scene once safely pulling the vehicle up in a nearby carpark. Both occupants of the truck were uninjured.

The driver was interviewed for careless driving and will appear at Korumburra Magistrates Court at a later date.

Investigations are ongoing and any witnesses or those with CCTV or dashcam footage are urged to contact Crimestoppers.

# Bass Coast still hitting regional migration scoreboard

BASS Coast is the 21st most popular Local Government Area in Australia for city-to-regional migration trailing the Sunshine Coast (10 per cent), Greater Geelong (8.5 per cent) and Lake Macquarie (five per cent) in the top three positions and the likes of Moorabool (4.1 per cent), Ballarat (2.5 per cent) and Baw Baw (two per cent) in Victoria.

Bass Coast accepted 1.6 per cent of the nation's net internal migration in the December 2024 quarter, resulting in a 14.7 per cent reduction in net inflow compared to the previous year.

But the shire still came out ahead of other possible destinations for those looking to make a sea change or tree change including the Gold Coast 1.3 per cent, East Gippsland 1.1 per cent, Noosa 0.8 per cent and Surf Coast 0.6 per cent.

The figures were included in the latest Regional Movers Index developed by the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) in partnership with the Commonwealth Bank.

According to the report, fewer city dwellers moved to regional areas during the



Bass Coast is still one of the first places city dwellers are looking towards when considering a sea change.

December 2024 quarter, reflecting the typical seasonal slowdown as people tend to stay put in the final months of the year.

The Regional Movers Index (RMI), which tracks migration from capital cities to regional areas, fell by 11 per cent over the three-month period. This was against a backdrop of internal migration falling by 11.7 per cent and lower across all categories – capital to capital, capital to regional, regional to capital, and regional to regional.

While seasonal factors commonly see the RMI decline in the December quarter, by an average of 6.5 per cent, it marks the steepest fall in the index since June 2022. Despite this decrease, the current RMI remains 8.3 per cent higher than the pre-COVID average and three per cent higher than a year ago.

Lower mobility across the board did little to curb the preference for a tree change over city living, with 32.2 per cent more people moving from capital cities to regional areas

than back in the opposite direction.

As a result, migration from capitals to regions accounted for a larger share of all internal migration – at 11.4 per cent – up 0.1 percentage points on the previous quarter to its highest share since March 2024.

Meanwhile migration from regional areas to the capitals, accounts for an 8.6 per cent share. This marks the second-lowest share of regional to capital migration since COVID lockdowns were lifted three years ago, despite a 0.3 percentage point increase on the previous quarter.

City dwellers are increasingly flocking to regional New South Wales and regional Victoria, with the two south-eastern states accounting for 71 per cent of all net regional inflows in the December quarter 2024 – up from 66 per cent in the December quarter 2023.

In contrast, regional Queensland recorded a contraction in its share of net inflows in the latest December quarter to 19 per cent, down from 32 per cent in the December quarter 2023.

## Second snake retrieved from Wonthaggi in a matter of weeks



Leigh Allamby of Bass Coast Snake Catchers retrieved a tiger snake that was found slithering its way down Graham Street in Wonthaggi last Tuesday at lunchtime.

A TIGER snake slithering down Graham Street in Wonthaggi at lunchtime last Tuesday caused a bit of a stir among shoppers.

All the attention from fascinated pedestrians drove the highly venomous reptile, which was seen to be coming from the taxi rank, to seek sanctuary in the Gypsy Dreaming store.

Hamish Trumble was manning the shop and thinking quickly as the snake approached, threw a basket over it, where it gratefully stayed until the snake catcher arrived.

"So, a little bit of excitement. I've never had a snake in my retail career, so, that's a new one for me," said Hamish.

"The boss was happy to learn that sales continued uninterrupted during this crisis and it was a good outcome for all, including the snake."

Leigh Allamby of Bass Coast Snake Catchers came within ten minutes of Hamish calling and safely retrieved the snake.

Leigh commented that the tiger snake would not have come from surrounding bush land as they tend to live more in the areas of Ryanston, Woolamai or Tarwin Lower.

One theory is that the snake may have unknowingly hitched a ride on someone's vehicle and found itself in the main street of Wonthaggi once it stopped.

Leigh will now work out where to safely release the reptile.

It isn't the first time Leigh has had to rescue a snake from in town.

About two weeks ago he caught a copperhead snake at the Wonthaggi Plaza, which he believes came from Cape Paterson and was safely released back into the wild.

When Jodie Williams, the owner of Gypsy Dreaming heard about the snake incident she commented,

"It's the year of the snake, so it's all a bit mystical."



### ROSE LODGE FETE

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**Saturday, March 29**  
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**Fete held in upper Activity room, courtyard and café.**  
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- Cake Stall • White Elephant Stall
- Raffles • Plants Stall
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**INDEPENDENT**

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha



Planning application approved with inundation overlay

A \$1 MILLION application for a new home on The Esplanade at Inverloch has been approved by Bass Coast Shire Council despite the existence of an inundation overlay.

Modelling for inundation was introduced by Bass Coast Council in 2023.

The LSIO continues to inform planning application decisions for public or private new dwellings, long-term road management, open space, drainage design and upgrades, and foreshore management.

The Bass Coast Building Asset Management Plan identifies climate change as a development risk and recommends the use of environmentally sensitive design principles in capital works planning and design.

The most recent planning application for The Esplanade at Inverloch was a planning permit to construct a dwelling on land subject to inundation overlay (LSIO1) and design and development overlay (DDO1).

Lodged in August 2024 the planning permit for the development valued at \$1.1 million took nine months to be approved.

Most recent modelling has predicted flooding within Inverloch will be limited to low-lying areas at or near sea level around Screw Creek and Wreck Creek with modelling suggesting localised flooding will occur where the land is flatter and elevated coastal water levels prevent the free drainage of the stormwater system.

Flooding as a result of elevated coastal water levels has been recorded around the Inverloch jetty and boat ramp, and the Screw Creek Broadbeach estate.

The catchment to Anderson Inlet is extensive and inflows from the Tarwin River can cause widespread flooding without the addition of elevated coastal waters.

The town of Inverloch is mostly above coastal inundation levels with the exception of Wreck Creek, the Surf Beach residential area and around the boat ramp and jetty.

Inundation risks arising from sea level rise were first identified by Bass Coast in 2014 when Council introduced the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) into its planning scheme to guide decisions on development proposals in coastal areas.

The LSIO accepts sea levels will rise 0.2 metres by 2040 and 0.8 metres by 2100.

Melbourne Water recently started to apply the more stringent 2100 inundation test when making decisions on future developments. Bass Coast Shire Council has advised they will be unable to grant future planning permits for new homes and buildings where forecasting shows the property is likely to be impacted by a rise in sea levels due to climate change.

There is an urgent need according to Bass Coast Shire for State and Federal Governments to recognise the dilemma facing people who hold coastal land and who will no longer be able to build on their property.

A storm tide inundation map for Inverloch can be viewed at [marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0032/566807/Inundation-Map-A3-Landscape\\_Map4-Inverloch\\_FINAL\\_1pcAEP.pdf](http://marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/566807/Inundation-Map-A3-Landscape_Map4-Inverloch_FINAL_1pcAEP.pdf)

Tick of approval from Bass Coast for million-dollar Graydens Reserve

GONE is the track glider, there's no money for a new rotunda and the skate area has been cut by a third but Bass Coast Council has finally given the green light for a major upgrade to Graydens Reserve in Newhaven.

Council was told last week the final version of the Graydens Reserve Master Plan had been tailored to meet the needs of the local community to improve access and use of a well-loved play space.

Graydens Reserve is popular with visitors and local residents alike and already features a basketball half-court, children's playground and open green spaces with spectacular views of the San Remo channel and Phillip Island bridge.

The new master plan includes an extensive upgrade to the existing play space and a unique skate facility to replace what was an ageing skate box.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead joined councillors last week in welcoming the master plan thanking council staff for their work in the long design and consultation process.

Mayor Halstead said she had been involved in the planning process for some years.

"I love to see it as it is now. We may not have got in everything but those here have done an amazing job."

Island Ward Councillor Tracey Bell also welcomed the final version of the plan voicing concerns that some parents may not have had the opportunity to attend feedback sessions during working hours.

"I would like to have seen more complex elements in the skate park," said Cr Bell.

The Graydens Reserve project draws on strategic visions outlined in Active Bass Coast Strategy 2018, Bass Coast Play-Space Strategy 2018, the 2023 Skate Park Strategy Review and accommodates road reserve space needed for future VicRoads works.

Despite its current limitations planners say the budget does not allow for a new rotunda.

Graydens Reserve is already categorised as an on-leash area for dogs.

The master plan strikes a balance between open lawn space and plantings with recreational amenities such as a basketball ring and a skate space focussed on beginner skills.

A survey conducted by Bass



The Graydens Reserve Master Plan 2025 has been given the greenlight by Council.

Council produced a range of responses.

"We like the green space and want less concrete.

"We want to keep the same vibe.

"We don't want a large skate park.

"It needs to suit all ages many older people live in the town.

"We like to have play activities for all ages including basketball and a skate ramp."

The master plan celebrates local trees with a reduced mulch area to create more lawn.

A concrete path to the bus stop is to be removed.

The skate area will be reduced from 300sqm to approximately 200sqm and moved closer to the reserve boundary with open air bench seats and picnic tables provided for socialising and parties.

Additional swings will be installed and a climbing feature.

The most popular activities with survey respondents were basketball, flow humps, quarter pipe, nature play, climbing and basket swinging.

The existing half court concrete slab with basketball hoop and backboard will be retained with new line-marking, netball ring and soccer goal.

The multi-use track glider which has proved popular will be removed.

Final approval of the Master Plan will enable Council to apply for State Government funding for the project estimated to cost between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

Council's Long Term Financial

Plan and Skate Strategy reserve allocated \$350,000 towards the reserve upgrade however the inclusive, multi-use nature of the project is considered suitable for funding streams offered through Sport and Recreation Victoria.

The Grayden's Reserve project began after the Bass Coast Skate Strategy 2018-28 identified a medium-term opportunity to construct a new regional skate facility in the San Remo-Newhaven area.

Funding of \$650,000 was secured for this project from Sports and Recreation Victoria in December 2018 however detailed investigations identified significant site constraints on the San Remo foreshore which saw the regional skate park relocated to Newhaven.

The need to renew the ageing play space at Graydens Reserve was identified in the Bass Coast Play Space Strategy which saw an opportunity to develop a small beginner level skate park to cater for Newhaven, San Remo and Cape Woolamai.

Several site constraints and the history of the park were considered including a portion of the park area sitting within the Phillip Island Road Reserve which can be re-claimed by Regional Roads Victoria.

A risk identified from the start of the planning process was that the project may cause concern amongst residents split between those who wanted a skate park and those who did not.

Council was told the final plan brings together the

communities' ideas and aspirations as much as possible within the scope of the project and site constraints.

A four-week community consultation process between May and June last year included online surveys aimed at both adults and children, plus two in-person sessions in the park.

Council received 162 online surveys and around 20 people attended the park sessions.

The draft concept plan placed on public exhibition for community feedback in August 2024 attracted a significant community response with key requests including increased open grass area and trees, additional play elements, swings, challenging items and an increased number of picnic tables.

As a result of the feedback obtained several changes were made to the original concept including revised play space design with a larger net, a longer slide and additional swings, reduced overall footprint for the play space, an updated skate design that looked less like a pump track and catered to more skaters, and additional tables and park benches for older adults accompanying children.

The detailed Master Plan has now been described by council staff as 'shovel ready'.

The Graydens Reserve master plan can be found at [basscoast.vic.gov.au/assets/agendas-minutes/attachments/8.1-Graydens-Reserve-Master-Plan.pdf](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/assets/agendas-minutes/attachments/8.1-Graydens-Reserve-Master-Plan.pdf)

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State Member for Gippsland South

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**THE NATIONALS** for Regional Victoria



Leongatha's Memorial Hall is yours, what do you want to do about it?

WHAT should the council do with the Memorial Hall.

Maybe you like it just the way it is, and a simple refurbishment of the toilets and a bit of scheduled maintenance is all that's needed. Maybe you represent a local community group which already uses the town's centrepiece and would like to see major changes. The council wants to know what you think via survey, submission or maybe you'd consider joining the Leongatha Memorial Hall Precinct Project Reference Group.

The Leongatha Memorial Hall Precinct project will consider the feasibility of updating the heritage-listed hall to improve access and functionality and consider the potential for a broad range of community uses. The adjoining public toilets and adjacent streetscape will also be included as part of the project.

The Leongatha Memorial Hall currently serves several functions, encompassing:

- Performances and rehearsals
- Council and community meetings
- Functions and exhibitions
- Major events
- Gallery
- Leongatha Historical Society

Community members who want to be more closely involved with the process can join the Leongatha Memorial Hall Project Reference group. Council is seeking input from community members who currently use the hall and adjoining precinct, and those who would like to use the space in the future.

To submit your feedback, please visit [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au) before the survey closes on Sunday, April 13, 2025.

South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor, John Schelling is encouraging those interested to have their say.

"This is an exciting opportunity to hear from residents across South Gippsland about what they want to see from this key community asset. Your feedback will help shape how this precinct serves the community in years to come," said Mayor Cr Schelling.

# Berninneit still dogged by Passivhaus pain

BERNINNEIT, the Cowes cultural and community centre, has still not achieved Passivhaus certification.

The status of the accreditation process was revealed by Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Greg Box in answer to a community question about the issue at the shire's March council meeting last week.

Local resident Philip Davy wanted to know who was footing the bill for the Passivhaus work.

"A recent newspaper article states that a contract for around \$2 million over and above the cost of Berninneit has been let for alterations to Berninneit in an endeavour to gain Passivhaus certification. Who is actually paying for this work, council ratepayers or the contractor who failed to provide Passivhaus?"

Response from CEO Box: "McCorkell Construction continues to lead the work required to achieve Passivhaus certification at Berninneit. The costs associated with the process have been met by McCorkell."

Between February 3 and 26 this year level one of the Berninneit building was closed for additional works associated with the latest attempt to achieve Passivhaus accreditation but so far there has been no word on whether the building



Contractors used a cherry picker to undertake works on the outside of Berninneit in the latest, so far unsuccessful attempt to achieve Passivhaus certification.

passed the rigorous airtight testing that is a feature of Passivhaus process.

As well as conducting internal works, contractors were again seen outside the building, using a cherry picker, to treat various vents and openings ahead of further airtight testing. It follows similar efforts in May 2024.

The letter writer said that a recent newspaper article "states that a contract for around \$2 million over and above the cost of Berninneit has been let for alterations to Berninneit in an endeavour to

gain Passivhaus certification".

In fact, according to Egis, a leading global architecture, consulting, construction engineering and operating firm, "an upfront capital cost of AU\$1.2 million was proposed by the contractor as the Passivhaus uplift, which was intended to cover the increased amount of insulation, higher quality of window framing and glazing, airtightness detailing, and increase in labour effort".

A council source told the Sentinel-Times last year this figure had blown out beyond

\$2 million, although the exact cost, over and above the construction cost, specifically to pursue Passivhaus certification has never been revealed.

## What's on display

Another question about Berninneit at last week's council meeting was raised by John Trigt in relation to 'Stored Artifacts'

"Can the Council/CEO advise the Phillip Island community when the stored artifacts removed from the old Cowes Cultural Community Centre will be permanently displayed in our new Cowes Cultural Community Centre - Berninneit. A timeline would be most helpful Mr Box."

Response: All works and artifacts removed from the old Cowes Cultural Community Centre are managed under the Art Collections Policy. Council is committed to safe storage, rotation and display of all works within our collection. Some of these pieces include the John Adam historical mural that is being installed at the Creative Arts Station in Cowes this Friday, March 21 for a period of three years. Another piece includes the tapestry that was on display for the duration of the PICES exhibition in January 2025 and will be on display during the ASPIR exhibition over the Easter period.



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# Recognise a local hero: nominate a gem from your community

BASS residents are being invited to celebrate everyday heroes who go above and beyond to make their community a better place.

Nominations are open for the sixth annual Community Gems Awards, with Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, encouraging locals to celebrate those who work hard to make a real difference in the community.

“Our community is full of incredible people who step up, lend a hand and give their time and energy to make where we live even stronger and more connected. They do this not for recognition but because community is at the heart of who they are,” Ms Crugnale said.

Whether it’s a neighbour who quietly helps out, a volunteer at your local club, or someone providing exceptional service at a café or shop, no act is too big or small to be recognised.

The awards are open to anyone living or working in the Bass electorate. All nominees will receive a letter of appreciation, and five standout ‘Gems’ will also receive a hamper filled with high-quality locally made goods, produce, and vouchers for nature-based experiences.

Last year, over 120 nominations poured in from towns including Pearcedale, Koo Wee Rup, Phillip Island, and Inverloch, highlighting people who volunteer at schools, support charities and fundraisers, donate toys to those in need, and even serve as Secret Santas, among many other honourable deeds.

Those nominated will also be



Jordan Crugnale MP with the 2024 Community Gem, Brooke Smith.

featured on the ‘Community Gems as nominated by you’ series on Jordan Crugnale MP’s Facebook page.

Nominations close on Sunday, April 13. To nominate someone, submit a few paragraphs explaining how they make the community stronger, kinder, and more connected. Entries can be sent via email, letter, phone call, or in person at Ms Crugnale’s office.

“This is your chance to nominate that exquisite someone, that Community Gem, that someone who embodies the true essence of community spirit, that inspires us and whose positive enthusiasm is contagious too,” Ms Crugnale said.



Concern grows as State waives 900 parking spaces for Isle of Wight redevelopment approval.

## Isle parking waiver raising questions

THE decision by the State Government to waive 900 car parking spaces from the planning permit it issued to Moda Phillip Island Pty Ltd for its \$95 million Isle of Wight development, under its Development Facilitation Program, has continued to raise eyebrows.

Last week it prompted two more questions at the Bass Coast Shire Council meeting, both from Ross Bencraft, one seeking specific details about the so-called “green travel plan” that’s supposed to help fill the gap, and another asking if planning approvals fast-tracked by the State Government were causing council problems.

Mr Bencraft said that because work had commenced on the site, the council must already be in possession of an

approved green travel plan, which was a condition of the overall project going ahead.

Bass Coast CEO Greg Box said the project had not yet been cleared to start.

“Conditions of the planning permit allow for early earthworks to occur prior to plan endorsement and in preparation for development activity. A green travel plan will still be required to be submitted and approved as a condition of the planning permit,” said Mr Box.

Mr Bencraft went on to query that if the Planning Minister was prepared to waive 900 parking spaces from a project was it fair for ratepayers to conclude that the shire had been rendered powerless to control important aspects of its planning scheme.

Greg Box played a straight bat in his reply.

“The Isle of Wight redevelopment was approved through the State Government’s Development Facilitation Program which was established by the Minister for Planning to make faster decisions for priority projects. Whilst Council was supportive of the application, the Minister ultimately approved the development.”

In February, Mr Bencraft established, as a result of questions about how many car parking spaces had been waived for commercial projects in San Remo and on Phillip Island, between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2024, that 1209 spaces across 22 projects had been waived, 900 of them on the Isle of Wight project.

## Nominate your local COMMUNITY AT HEART Gems!



### WHO HAS MADE YOUR HEART SING THIS PAST YEAR?

I really want to hear about it, so I can thank them too!

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Nominations close Sunday 13 April

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#### SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION

You can send me an email, post a letter, or drop into or call my office.

Please include their name, contact details and an address as well.

Open to all ages living or working in the Bass electorate.

jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au  
T 03 5672 4755 ☎ JordanCrugnaleMP  
9 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi VIC 3995



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# Gippsland's shame revealed in family violence statistics

THE Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) released the Victorian crime statistics for the year ending December 31, 2024 on Thursday, March 20. And while the number of offences increased 15.7 per cent to 605,640 in the last 12 months and the rate of offences increased by 13.2 per cent to 8691.6 offences per 100,000 people, one number is a stand-out – family violence.

Family incidents increased across the state by 11.3 per cent in the last 12 months, with 104,786 incidents recorded. The rate also increased, up 8.8 per cent or 1503.8 incidents per 100,000 Victorians.

However, don't look to the socio-economically challenged metro suburbs of Hume, which includes the City of Broadmeadows, Frankston, Dandenong or the expanding western suburb of Wyndham to find your problem municipalities.

Most of them are right here in Gippsland.

The standout is East Gippsland with the highest rate of family incidents in the state at 4637.1 per 100,000 people, well above the state average of 1503.8 family incidents per 100,000 and well in excess of the likes of Hume with 1406.7 incidents or Wyndham with 1267.8 incidents per 100,000.

Latrobe City also recorded a high rate of family incidents, up 14.7 per cent for the 12 months to the end of December 2024 with 3115 incidents up from 2715 for a rate per 100,000 of 3964.4.

In fact, all six Gippsland municipalities recorded family incident rates that were well above the state average, as follows:

East Gippsland up 28.4 per cent, rate of 4637.1 (per 100,000)

Latrobe up 14.7 per cent, rate of 3964.4 (per 100,000)



Family violence incidents dominate the local courts and the crime statistics in Gippsland.

Wellington up 14.2 per cent, rate of 3193.7 (per 100,000)

Baw Baw up 17 per cent, rate of 2162.9 (per 100,000)

Bass Coast up 12.3 per cent, rate of 2103.8 (per 100,000)

South Gippsland up 11.9 per cent, rate of 1937.8 (per 100,000)

"The figures are disappointing, it's disappointing that family violence is occurring," Acting Inspector – Bass Coast LAC Jason Hullick stated on Friday morning.

"However, we also look at these figures and see we have come a long way, that family victims are more comfortable reporting it when it happens.

"Reporting of family violence in times gone by, we believe, has been under-reported or not reported for various reasons by victim-survivors. Whether family victims have been afraid or embarrassed or believed that nothing could be done.

"We look at these figures and see that we have come a long way. That family victims are courageous in reporting it.

"Every time family violence is

reported, it is investigated, and we hold perpetrators to account.

"We want people to keep reporting it, if we don't know it's happening, we cannot hold those perpetrators to account."

Nine years since the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence concluded a 13-month inquiry, in March 2006, and handed down a list of 227 recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Government, the effort appears to have had little or no impact, certainly not in country areas with the likes of Mildura 3885 incidents per 100,000, Horsham 3550.1 and Shepparton 3442 also well above the state average and much higher than any municipality in metro Melbourne.

In Bass Coast, for example, 'breach of family violence order' was the most prolific offence recorded, accounting for 643 of the total number of offences recorded in the year of 3422.

In South Gippsland, 'breach of family violence order' accounted for 379 of the 2251 total offences recorded.

## Insurance costs to rise as car thefts soar across Victoria

NEW data released by the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) highlights a significant increase in motor vehicle theft claims across the country, with Victoria experiencing some of the highest rises in recent years.

The total value of motor vehicle theft claims in Victoria has surged by 188 per cent in real terms, jumping from \$46 million in 2015 (equivalent to \$60 million today) to a staggering \$173 million in 2024. This dramatic increase comes simultaneously with the total number of claims in the state rising by 70 per cent – from 5778 in 2015 to 9816 claims in 2024.

Victoria's metro areas have been hit hardest. The total value of motor vehicle theft claims in metro Victoria has now reached \$140 million in 2024, marking the highest cost of motor vehicle theft claims. However, this meteoric rise in theft claims is not limited to urban areas. Regional and rural Victoria have also experienced an uptick in vehicle theft incidents, contributing to a broader state-wide issue.

According to the crime statistic data released on Thursday (year ending 2024), Bass Coast recorded 64 motor vehicle thefts with the highest of 13 vehicles in Wonthaggi, followed by Inverloch

and Cowes (both 12). In South Gippsland, the figures are slightly higher at 71, with Leongatha by far the greatest area of car theft recording 27 incidents.

Compared to other states, Victoria's theft claims are among the highest, along with Queensland, with both states seeing the most significant increases.

According to the ICA's Deputy CEO Kylie Macfarlane, the rising theft rates and the associated cost of repairs and parts are significant factors contributing to the increase in premiums across the country.

"Motor vehicle theft, while currently a small part of insurance premiums, is a growing concern," she said.

"The value of motor vehicles has increased significantly since 2015, as has the cost of parts and labour, putting upward pressure on premiums."

The rise in motor vehicle theft claims in Victoria is alarming, and it raises important questions about the broader impact on both the insurance industry and consumers.

With insurance premiums set to rise in response to these statistics, the growing problem of motor vehicle theft is becoming a matter that will affect all Victorians.



## Living Lightly Bass Coast

### April Events | Practical Workshops Across Bass Coast

#### Energy Evolution

##### All Electric Homes

Thursday, 3 April – 6pm

Online

| Free

#### Future Foods

##### Veggie Patch to Plate

Sunday, 13 April – 10am

Garden Group of Wonthaggi Men's Shed

| Free

#### Garden Gems

##### Introduction to Permaculture

Time and date to be confirmed - check thecap.com.au for updates

| Free

#### Circular Solutions

##### Designing for Resilience

Thursday, 24 April – 6pm

Online

| Free



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\*Dates and locations may be subject to change.

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# South Gippsland Shire Council News

## Animal Registration Renewals

Get ready to renew your pet’s registration.

As a pet owner, you are responsible for making sure your animal is registered with Council, microchipped and wears a valid registration tag. All of this ensures that your animal will be quickly returned to you in the case of it wandering away from your property.

Registration fees also contribute to the safety and wellbeing of other animals in the Shire. Your fees go towards supporting abandoned animals, investigating animal accidents, and help fund education programs and resources to promote responsible pet ownership.

To register or renew your pet’s registration please ensure that it’s over three-months old and microchipped. Registrations can be completed online or in-person at both our Leongatha (Monday and Wednesday from 10.00am to 3.00pm) and Korumburra (Tuesday and Thursday from 10.00am to 3.00pm) front counters.

Renewals are due 10 April and new pet registrations can be placed all year round.

For more information and to renew your pet’s registration, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/register-your-pet](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/register-your-pet)

### Upcoming Works - Korumburra Railway



Over the coming weeks, works will be occurring in the Korumburra Railway Precinct that may impact Great Southern Rail Trail users.

Temporary detours and short-term closures may be in place during this time. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Latest updates will be available at: [www.grst.com.au](http://www.grst.com.au)

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 2.00pm.

Details will be available on Council’s website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings)

To watch the meeting live or when it suits you, visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live)

### IMPOUNDED VEHICLE

In accordance with Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council impounded a Silver 2005 Holden Sedan on 19 March 2025 from Princes Street, Korumburra.

**Registration Number:** UWM317

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

For enquiries, please contact our Community

Safety Officer’s on 5662 9200 during office hours (8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday).

### IMPOUNDED VEHICLE - NOTICE OF SALE

Council impounded a silver 2007 Holden Captiva Station Wagon on 29 January 2025 in accordance with Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

**Impounded from:** Commercial Street, Korumburra  
**Registration Number:** UYV307  
**VIN Number:** KL3CD26GJ7B099669

As this vehicle has not been collected and relevant fees paid within 14 days of impoundment, the vehicle will now be offered for sale to the public.

Offers marked “Abandoned Vehicle” and addressed to the Coordinator Community Safety are invited for the purchase and removal from Council.

Offers close at 2.00pm on 1 April 2025 and are to be either posted to South Gippsland Shire Council, Private Bag 4, Leongatha VIC 3953 or emailed to [council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au) on or before

the said time and date.

The vehicle can be viewed by appointment with the Community Safety team on 5662 9200.

The highest offer will not necessarily be accepted.

### REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

**RFT/439 Swimming Pools Maintenance**

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 10 April 2025.

Documentation is available from Council’s e-Tendering Portal

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

### CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha  
15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra  
03 5662 9200  
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# Community views wanted on Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club lease



**Cr Brad Snell hopes to see Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club granted a new lease.** A15\_1225

COMMUNITY members can have their say on a proposed new lease for the Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club (CIMCC), with council pointing out the club has taken multiple actions to reduce previously expressed concerns raised by some neighbours.

The motorcycle track and club is located at 2746 Meeniyar Promontory Road, Yanakie.

Cr Brad Snell, a motorcycling enthusiast with a passion for providing opportunities to keep young community members engaged, spoke enthusiastically at Wednesday's council meeting about the importance of the club and what it provides.

"Living regionally, motorcycling and these facilities offer an outlet for a lot of young people in our community," he said, adding it is vitally important to

keep the facility available.

Cr Scott Rae commented on the huge number of volunteers and the family atmosphere at CIMCC, noting kids of all ages, regardless of gender, learn to ride at the track.

While suggesting the listed nominal lease amount of just \$104 per annum plus GST may be subject to review, Cr Nathan Hersey was happy to support starting the ball rolling on the statutory process for determining whether to grant a new lease.

"One of the things we have to consider is fees and charges; we're going through that budget process at the moment and there may be changes in that space," he said.

As always, he encouraged the community to engage with council.

"The Special Conditions in the

lease have addressed previous issues in relation to noise emissions, dust suppression, vegetation management and the track usage frequency," council states.

Testing of bikes before events has helped keep noise levels down, watering of the track is carried out as necessary to reduce dust and weed control is undertaken regularly within the leased area it is noted.

Should the new lease be granted, it will be for an initial period of five years with an option for a further five-year term.

The decision to commence the community engagement process for the land lease to the CIMCC was unanimous, with Mayor John Schelling unable to attend the meeting.

Engagement will be conducted through council's Draft 2025/26 Annual Budget process.

## Need to identify specific coastal risks and take targeted action

COUNCILLORS Scott Rae and Sarah Gilligan stressed the importance of the State Government taking account of the risks facing coastal areas due to climate change and not just adopting an approach that generalises across coastal and inland areas.

They spoke in the lead-up to a vote at the March council meeting that supported a motion for the Municipal Association of Victoria to call on the Victorian Government to take urgent action in regard to coastal risks.

Specifically, the motion asks Government to prepare state-wide coastal vulnerability mapping and a Coastal Hazard Overlay, or an amended and strengthened Erosion Management Overlay, to be applied to all vulnerable coastal areas in Victoria.

Cr Rae spoke of the need for the Victorian Government to

create an Erosion Management Overlay specific to coastal areas.

"The fact the State Government won't give a coast-based Erosion Management Overlay and only wants to have one across the whole state terrifies me," he declared.

Noting his Foster North beef property is approximately 330 metres above sea level, Cr Rae pondered the impact of a strengthened Erosion Management Overlay on farmers if it fails to give adequate consideration to the areas in which they farm.

While acknowledging the need to map coastal hazards and create suitable overlays to prevent people building in places where their houses will fall into the sea, he made it clear that can't be achieved through such a generalised approach.

Cr Gilligan said a Coastal

Hazard Overlay would inform community members of the inherent and increasing risks that come with dynamic low-lying coastal areas.

"We have one of the most undeveloped coastlines and we're in a great position to be able to apply adaptation planning to our coastal regions so we're not building in flood plains (or) where people are at risk of falling into the ocean," she said.

She stressed the importance of coastline being treated as different from inland areas, calling on the State Government to give councils the opportunity to make commonsense planning decisions and educate communities about applicable risks.

All councillors present voted to support the motion to the MAV other than Cr Rae, with Mayor John Schelling unable to attend Wednesday's council meeting.



**Cr Sarah Gilligan of Venus Bay is passionate about suitable planning for coastal areas to deal with climate change.** A18\_1225

## A deluge of critical comments on town upgrades from Korumburra locals

THE Korumburra town centre upgrades are being vehemently criticised by locals, with over 100 comments, complaints and concerns voiced online last week.

The deluge of comments come after a number of changes were made to the streetscape, including the double lane highway being reduced to a single lane of traffic in each direction on Commercial Street, signage, lights at the pedestrian crossing, landscaping, parking, the public toilets and shelter at the railway precinct.

According to the South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC) website, the project sought to revitalise the town centre streetscape, improve pedestrian and driver movement and enhance visual appeal; and the addition of a manoeuvring lane was meant to improve safety for those parallel parking.

However, the SGSC has been accused by locals of being "bereft of logic and common sense" with planning and design phases of the project suggested to be inadequate, "a three-year-old could've done better".

Others comment that the upgrades have been a waste of money as functionality,



**Korumburra locals are concerned that street upgrades lack functionality, suitability and safety and will lead to greater congestion and delays, dangerous road conditions for traffic and pedestrians and less tourists stopping in the town.**

suitability and safety of the street has significantly declined.

These responses came after a seemingly innocuous statement made on Facebook.

"Another sign in Commercial Street to confuse people. No U-Turns. People are already breaking the rules."

Individual and collective complaints and concerns about the upgrades were unloaded thereafter, including:

Being inconvenienced during shopping by not being able to do a U-Turn in Commercial Street anymore.

Tourists will no longer stop in Korumburra spontaneously or

otherwise, due to being unable to U-turn and having no direct or easy route back to Commercial Street.

Dangerous conditions and additional delays when people do disobey the sign and do a U-turn.

The impacts of the new U-turn signs then led to conversations about the added impact of losing an entire lane, to create a designated parking lane in Commercial Street, including:

Greater congestion and delays at peak hours while travelling through the town.

Being dangerously overtaken on the left hand side by drivers, despite having a left hand

indicator on, which also puts those who are getting out of their parked cars at risk.

Increased incidents of tailgating.

Being stuck if a truck breaks down in Commercial Street.

Additional wait time now when turning from King Street into Commercial Street.

Concerns that any one of these factors could lead to an increased number of serious accidents.

This list of gripes continued on:

The steepness of the footpath down to the kerb in some places, causing the elderly to have trouble getting into their cars.

Less parking spots now in Commercial Street.

People crossing the road dangerously due to problems with the pedestrian lights.

Less toilet cubicles in the new public toilet block and being placed too close to picnic tables, causing potential odour issues.

The rotary shed being relocated too far away from all other amenities.

Modern and unfitting aesthetics of buildings leading to a loss of the towns original character and charm.

New landscaping blocking the visibility of oncoming traffic in some places.

### Shire Message



**Cr Scott Rae**



HELLO everyone,

Mayor Schelling asked if I would like to do this week's message to you all, so here I am. Welcome to Councillor Rae's Message.

The changing of the seasons hey. As a farmer, I'm particularly glad to see the end of summer, especially one that has been so dry. With some soaking rain finally falling the past few weeks, I hope we start to see some green grass once more.

With autumn beginning, there's new in-season fruit and vegetables. Chestnuts are bursting off the trees and various other foraging and hunting options present themselves. Eating seasonally is good for all of us, particularly our local growers, so make sure you check out what's in season and support our locals by buying from farmers markets if you can.

While we may not have had enough rain yet to soothe our soil, ducks are enjoying the dams having some water in them again. Duck hunting season began last week, and I would like to encourage those participating to be safe and respect landowners. Hog Deer hunting runs in April, and my same message extends to that as well – please be safe and respect landowners. Always ask for permission before entering private property, and let people know if you'll be letting off some loud bangs. It is also wise to ensure your Game and Firearm licences are up-to-date.

### One Gippsland Advocacy Meetings

Councillor Hersey and Interim Chief Executive Officer Allison Jones did a fabulous job representing South Gippsland at the One Gippsland visit to State Parliament. On the day, the One Gippsland cohort met with 15 MPs in nine meetings to talk about the advocacy priorities of our region. It came at an important time, with the State Budget release around the corner.

Thank you Councillor Hersey for being a steady and strong voice in these forums on behalf of South Gippsland.

### Councillors Out and About

If you listen to the Council Meeting once a month, you would have a bit of an idea about how busy us Councillors are. We attend as much as we can, supporting events and hearing from locals.

Over the past week:

- Councillor Snell, Councillor Williams and Mayor Schelling attended the South Gippsland Jobs Expo in Leongatha on Thursday. Over 140 jobseekers came through the doors, having great conversations with the potential employers in the room.
- Councillor Beach attended the official opening of the Korumburra-Bena Football Netball Club Changerooms on Saturday.
- Councillor Beach also attended the Victorian Community Gardens Gathering at the Poowong Hall on Sunday.

If you would like a Councillor at your next event, have a chat with a Councillor or email Council on [council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au) and they will organise it.



# A book gold mine

By Daniel Prior, Partner, Prior Law

READERS of this column have probably already worked out from previous columns that I am the sort of guy that likes, amongst other things, books.

On the weekend I attended Clunes Book Town. Clunes, the sign says, was the first gold town in Victoria and also the first Book Town in Victoria. Each year it holds a weekend dedicated to books and their authors. Attendees can listen to writers talk about the most recent books and can also immerse themselves in a sea of both new and second hand books. Many hours spent by many people pouring over the range on offer.

Much like the box of chocolates on Forrest Gump's lap, second hand fairs, present the "you never know what you're gonna get" element. As I searched through thousands of books on offer, I wasn't really sure what I was looking for, but I was open to the possibility of finding something interesting.

Had I been interested in securing original full copies, of the Sydney Gazette newspaper from 1873 in one bound volume I would have been in luck. It was a two person lift, but the lifting would not have been the problem - I would've found it quite a hard sell to convince both my office and my better half that such an item was required.

Those that have been to our Leongatha office may have noticed the Sands & McDougall directories on the front desk. I wouldn't say that I'm a collector of them, but I wouldn't say that I'm not collecting them either. On the weekend I found another, 1972. I bought it.

Why did I buy it? Well, my reason for buying the directories has changed over time. I am often asked to provide an assessment of land before my client purchases. In some circumstances, I am asked to do so in circumstances where the prospective purchaser believes that the historical use of the land may be questionable. A good example would be a shopfront that looks like it may have been a service centre or a petrol station at one time in the past. Sands & McDougall directories could provide me

the ability to look at the property and see the persons or the business that was operating at that particular property at a point in time. Assessments could then be made whether there was a risk that the use by that person or business may have affected quality of land. On more than one occasion an initial assessment through Sands & McDougall determined that the prior owner or tenant of the property was using the property for some noxious use. And with this information, the client, the prospective purchaser, was then able to consider what further investigations they should take before they signed up for a purchase.

So with this fairly practical use for the directories I started buying up directories whenever I could find them. In essence, they are the equivalent of the White and Yellow pages. I do wonder how many people have saved these historical records from the Book Muncher - that name might bring back a long forgotten memory.

Most things these days are online and one can't doubt its efficiency. For searching possibly contaminated land, I can now pay an external provider for a search of contaminated land. That provider has already crossed referenced the Sands & McDougall directories over the years, rendering my copies less useful for the purpose.

So why did I buy another copy? because I had to. I don't intend to sit down and read my most recent acquisition cover to cover before adding it to my collection at the front desk. But I still needed it. Collectors get a bad name sometimes when people mistake them for hoarders. I am aware enough to know that there's a fine line between the two, but if someone doesn't keep this sort of thing, like the collector who has saved long obsolete farm machinery from the tip, the originals are lost forever. A photo of a directory and the ability to search a PDF is not the same tangible connection to history of the user holding the directory in their hands and searching for their uncle or grandmother or forebear who lived in a particular area in Victoria in a particular year. That's what interests me.

So, when you are clearing out the house, and people are encouraging you to do a clear out, remember that sometimes the thing that sparks joy might be something that simply sparks a memory: don't be afraid to hold onto things if they mean something to you.



South Gippsland Shire Council coordinator of economic development Ken Fraser, Cr Brad Snell, council's business development officer Pauleen Boulton, Workforce Australia Local Jobs Program employment facilitator support officer Caitlyn Guppy and Darren Beggs who is an employment facilitator for the Local Jobs Program. A11\_1225

## Jobs Expo hits Leongatha

THURSDAY'S Jobs Expo at Leongatha Memorial Hall promoted employment and training opportunities across a wide range of industries including healthcare and community services, hospitality, retail, tourism and the agricultural sector.

Along with employers and education providers, representatives of the Local Jobs Program were there, having worked with South Gippsland Shire Council in organising the event.

Michaela (payroll) and Shianne (HR manager) of Foster's South Gippsland Hospital welcomed attendees, outlining current employment opportunities available, the organisation having casual roles such as cleaning and kitchen work.

While the hospital isn't currently in need of more nurses, those keen to fill such roles in future are encouraged to register their interest.

Anyone interested in employment opportunities is encouraged to visit south-gippslandhospital.com.au/employment to see current positions and application details.

There is also a parental leave position available for an occupational therapist.

Dairy Australia's Jessica Russell (extension adviser) and Veronica McLeod (extension team leader) promoted available jobs



Dairy Australia's Jessica Russell and Veronica McLeod welcome Jobs Expo attendees wanting to learn more about the industry. A12\_1225

in the industry as well as providing information on relevant courses and development opportunities.

Melissa Burgess and Luke Knights of PGL, which runs adventure camps including one in Foster, chatted to attendees about work opportunities on offer.

Whether someone is planning a gap year after school or looking to establish a career, adventure camps offer employees great experiences.

Guest experience manager Luke is from the UK where PGL began, having advanced through other roles with the organisation before establishing himself in Australia, while camp cook Melissa is now

undertaking her Certificate III and apprenticeship in Commercial Cookery.

While she works towards that formal qualification, Melissa's tasty food is already earning praise from camp attendees.

"I do a lot of baking and that seems to go down very well with people," she said, her meals also proving popular.

Luke pointed out many people don't realise the career potential adventure camps offer.

Thanks to sponsorship from South Gippsland Shire Council, and Leongatha Men's Shed members Max Wood and Alan Hoy volunteering to man the barbecue, Expo visitors enjoyed a free sausage sizzle.

## David Amor challenges council questions

REGULAR South Gippsland Shire Council adversary David Amor had a couple of his questions answered during the March council meeting but took a stand at the end of official proceedings regarding other questions that weren't answered.

"We feel we are being locked out," he declared in front of a public gallery that included members of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Club and the South Gippsland Action Group to which David belongs.

Council's meeting agenda explained that three public questions received at last month's council meeting, which were taken on notice,

were unable to be answered as they did not comply with the Governance Rules relating to public questions.

One of David's three questions submitted ahead of Wednesday's meeting was also ruled out on those grounds.

"We're not here to try to block your questions," Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan responded, explaining those whose questions are deemed not to comply with the Governance Rules are encouraged to go back to the governance officer for advice.

That may enable the person concerned to modify questions to ensure they are compliant.

In one of his allowed questions, David asked the real cost of the Korumburra Community Hub.

"The total cost of the Community Hub including early planning, design and post-construction installations is approximately \$7.3 million," council's Acting CEO Allison Jones responded.

David also enquired as to the end date for Korumburra Streetscape works and whether it will finish on time.

"The Korumburra Streetscape project continues to be delivered on a staged basis and is forecast to be completed by the end of 2025," Allison said.

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12 | TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES





Carinya's leadership team, Joel Stevenson – Appointed Co-CEO Corporate Services, Kate Billing – Appointed Co-CEO Clinical Services, Chris Trotman – Interim CEO, Jessica Greville – People and Culture Manager, and Sarah Jackson – EA and Communications Coordinator.

# Enhancing care, community, and leadership at Carinya

CARINYA continues to enhance its facilities and strengthen community connections. Recent upgrades include air conditioning in the Taronga Wing, improving resident comfort, and the installation of four new flagpoles as part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion. We extend our gratitude to the Greenhills Community Benevolent Society for their generous donation supporting this project.

Infrastructure improvements are also underway, including upgrading the walking track within the parkland with concrete, enhancing the back deck with shade, and securing emergency diesel supply

through a strengthened partnership with Evans Petroleum. A new diesel storage tank will further bolster our emergency preparedness.

In leadership news, Carinya will transition to a trial Co-CEO model from March 31, 2025, with Kate Billing as Co-CEO (Clinical Services) and Joel Stevenson as Co-CEO (Corporate Services).

"It is a privilege to contribute to Carinya's continued success and to support the exceptional care we provide to our residents." – Joel Stevenson.

"I am excited to reinforce our commitment to delivering high-quality care and supporting our

workforce development." – Kate Billing.

Board President Rod Abbott stated, "The new structure capitalises on the expertise of our Senior Leaders and situates Carinya in a position of strength to implement the upcoming Aged Care Reforms."

Outgoing Interim CEO Chris Trotman shared, "It has been a privilege to serve the Carinya community. I'm pleased to be handing over the organisation to Kate and Joel, who are both accomplished and respected leaders."

We thank Chris for her leadership and look forward to an exciting future at Carinya!

## Cr Gilligan ensures asset management comes first

COUNCILLOR Sarah Gilligan was supported in her call not to put the cart before the horse when it comes to determining South Gippsland Shire's infrastructure priorities, with councillors voting at Wednesday's public meeting to delay consideration of a planned policy change.

The recommendation before councillors was to revoke the Community Infrastructure Project Management Policy, replacing it with the new External Funding Application Policy intended to ensure grants that council applies for are fair and equitable across all groups in the shire.

"There's a body of work coming up on our Asset Management Plan that needs to inform this policy," Cr Gilligan said, explaining the aim is to achieve a more equitable situation across the shire, determining what services are attached to each asset, its geographic location and the population it is serving.

"From that, we get our list of priorities about what assets we want to invest in and go for grants (for), so my idea of deferring the grant policies is that they will be able to come in line with the Asset Management Policy once we have completed that work," she said.

Cr Clare Williams threw her support behind Cr Gilligan, saying that to defer is

the right decision.

Cr Gilligan's alternate motion was comfortably carried, seven votes to one, with only Cr Nathan Hersey voting against it and Cr John Schelling unable to attend the meeting.

Consideration will be given to the deferred matters at the August council meeting, allowing time for a completed Asset Management Policy to be taken into account.

Cr Gilligan's adopted motion supported the other recommendations before councillors to revoke the South Gippsland Community Grants Program Policy and endorse its replacement, the South Gippsland Grant Giving Policy.

The development of an overarching Grant Giving Policy for local government was a recommendation of the Victoria Auditor-General's Office Fraud Control over Local Government Grants Report.

That was intended to strengthen fraud control in the grants giving process across the State's councils.

Potential fraud risks in the grant-giving process include staff or councillors selecting recipients unfairly based on personal interests, an applicant giving staff or councillors benefits for awarding a grant, and a recipient using funding for purposes outside the grant's objective.



## NAVIGATING THE PATH TO AGED CARE

How will the Aged Care Reforms, effective 1st July impact you?



**LUKE JONES**  
PRINCIPAL ADVISER & OWNER  
SOUTH GIPPSLAND FINANCIAL PLANNING



**JULIE DAMON**  
ADMISSIONS MANAGER  
CARINYA LODGE HOMES



**MORGAN WILLIAMS**  
ADVOCATE  
ELDERS RIGHTS AUSTRALIA

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**At 6.30 PM**

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## School Holiday Fun at Myli!

LOOKING for ways to keep the kids entertained these school holidays? Myli has you covered with a fantastic range of free activities across our Bass Coast and South Gippsland libraries! Whether they love crafts, games, movies, or hands-on creative fun, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

In Bass Coast, Wonthaggi Library is hosting a special Josephine Wants to Dance story time, along with dinosaur dioramas, Easter crafts, and kite-making fun.

Over at Phillip Island Library, kids can explore mathematical marvels, try their hand at claymation, and craft their own popsicle bird feeders.

Inverloch Library is lighting up the fun with musical paper cup drums, leaf lanterns, and mini sea turtle crafts.

In South Gippsland, Korumburra Library invites kids to transform into butterflies, ninjas, or dragons with their special wings-making event and get creative with paper theatre crafts.

Leongatha Library has a packed schedule, from school holiday games to dinosaur origami, movie days, and Easter crafting fun.

Meanwhile, Mirboo North Library is rolling out exciting movie screenings for a relaxed holiday break.

All events are free, but bookings are essential. Tickets went live yesterday (Monday, March 24) at 5pm. For more details and to book, visit our Eventbrite page at [myli.au/april25](http://myli.au/april25) or contact your local Myli library.

Even if you can't make it to an event, there's plenty to explore at your local Myli library! Borrow books, audiobooks, and movies, access online learning resources, or find a cosy spot to read and relax. Your library membership also gives you free access to eBooks and audiobooks, so the fun doesn't have to stop when you leave. Visit [myli.org.au](http://myli.org.au) for more information.

# Choking white powder angers frustrated residents in Foster

NO MORE choking dust from nearby roadworks in Nelson Street, Foster. Doesn't seem too much to ask but for Noel Grayden of Bruce Street each day brings another cloud of acrid cement powder and hydrated lime.

"It all started back in August last year," said Mr Grayden.

Residents said they weren't notified that roadworks were about to start and have never received any apologies from South Gippsland Shire. Nelson Street is undergoing a major upgrade including installation of new underground drainage, reconstruction of kerbs and road pavement, and a new footpath. Costing approximately \$1.65 million Nelson Street was identified as a priority capital works project for South Gippsland Shire Council's sealed road rehabilitation program.

According to South Gippsland Shire the work is being undertaken in response to pavement failures, community feedback and road condition data which indicated that the old road pavement had reached the end of its useful life. The contract for the roadworks was awarded in September last year and work commenced shortly after in a staged manner to reduce the impact on residents.

South Gippsland Shire said residents had been notified about the works by letter drops, door knocking and local newspapers.

Returning home from holidays in November last year Noel and



**Noel Grayden is angry over choking dust from nearby roadworks in Nelson Street, Foster. B19\_1225**

Carmen Grayden found their house covered in limil and cement dust.

"Clouds of white powder were rising up from the roadworks," said Mr Grayden.

The couple claim the acrid white powder was being dumped on the ground from large purpose-built trucks and lifted and mixed using a mechanical auger. "They didn't use water," said Mr Grayden.

Wiping dust away from the surface of her rubbish bins Mrs Grayden said the powder had settled on their roof and solar panels, car, caravan, verandah and window sills.

"The dust gets inside the house and stays on your clothing," said

Ms Grayden. "It looks like smoke."

Rising from the roadworks in massive clouds, the white powder has settled on homes four blocks away. Affecting those with chronic asthma the Graydens say the powder feels like a mix of lime and powdered fertiliser.

"You can wipe down outdoor furniture, but it just comes back," said Ms Grayden.

"You can't open doors or windows on hot days and people have given up washing their cars. Some have packed up and gone away."

With at least another three months of roadworks still to come the Graydens have had enough.

"My sinuses are playing up and I feel foggy in the head," complained

Ms Grayden.

From Central Caravan Park has been affected by the dust along with 38 houses in Nelson Street and another 12 houses in Bruce Court say Mr and Mrs Grayden.

South Gippsland Shire said the reconstruction involves road pavement works that includes ground stabilisation, a very common road construction treatment that involves the addition of lime and cement to the ground to ensure a robust final road pavement.

Despite the challenge of very poor ground conditions encountered during the works South Gippsland Shire said they timed the sensitive pavement works to occur during the drier summer months.

"The stabilisation works will be completed in the next few days and the project is on track to be completed before winter," said Allison Jones, Interim CEO South Gippsland Shire Council.

"Council is working closely with the contractor, affected residents and other service authorities to manage disruptions and other impacts such as noise and dust but unfortunately the poor ground conditions have resulted in increased disruption to traffic and impacts to some underground services."

South Gippsland Council and the contractor claim to have discussed and corresponded with Mr and Ms Grayden in recent days about their concerns.

## Beds boost at Woorayl Lodge vital to meeting aged care demand



**Russell Broadbent MP and Co-CEOs of Woorayl Lodge Andrew Ross and Jaimee Brydon.**

FEDERAL Independent Member for Monash, Russell Broadbent MP has committed to securing \$40 million to create up to 40 extra beds for aged care residents in Leongatha.

The Federal Government funding would help initiate the highly anticipated construction of Stage 1 of Woorayl Lodge's new facility on Boags Road in Leongatha.

The design comprises an 80 bed, state-of-the-art residential facility that would allow residents to age in the one place.

The original building is more than 50 years old and struggling to meet increasing demand.

Mr Broadbent said that after many years of behind-the-scenes work it is now time to see this project through to completion.

"We are seeking \$40 million for construction because the people of Leongatha deserve this project," said Mr Broadbent.

"We want to ensure people can receive quality care locally, rather than moving location which only places further strain on the resident and their support network."

Woorayl Lodge is currently a 41-bed facility with more than 30 people on the waiting list.

Co-Chief Executive Officer Andrew Ross said the greater Leongatha region desperately needed the new facility.

Mr Ross said South Gippsland is seeing an increase in the number of people aged over 80 who need care.

"They are not coming into care until later in life, so they have more complex needs."

"There are no other facilities of this scale being planned for this region so Leongatha and the greater region will benefit, not to mention the creation of jobs and the wider economic benefits."

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# Slow down and save our wildlife

*\*The following article discusses native wildlife and stock death. Certain terminology is in line with Victoria Police language.*

IT'S one of their least favourite tasks and one of the saddest, but for Victoria Police members, particularly in the Bass Coast Police Service Area, dealing with wildlife struck by vehicles is a daily occurrence.

"Most of the collisions on our roads regarding animals are with either native animals or stock animals," Bass Coast Sergeant Ryan explained.

"As a result of (those collisions) the animals are either injured or deceased.

"Our police go out when Wildlife Victoria can't," Sgt Ryan added highlighting the incredible job Wildlife Victoria and the many community-based volunteer carers across our region do.

"The Council will also go out occasionally, but they mainly deal with stock animals, they don't tend to deal with native animals."

Due to the abundance of farmland, grassland, and dams, the region has a large population of kangaroos and wallabies, whilst the focus on creating wildlife corridors has seen a resurgence in other native animals.

"As part of the fantastic conservation work, we now have far more wildlife than we used to. We also have a growing population and we have more people travelling on the roads at night," Sgt Ryan stated.

"As a result, there is a need for us to go out. Firstly, we need to check the safety of the people involved – kangaroos can cause significant damage to vehicles and can immobilise vehicles.

"The cause of a vehicle fire at Kilcunda last year was due to a collision with a kangaroo.

"Most of the time, the injuries to the animal from a collision are fatal. Kangaroos, for example, tend to incur injuries on the legs, so we get a lot of them that have broken legs and are immobilised.

"Most of the time police will go out, see what's going on, but there's not always a lot that can be done humanely. There's no real way that we can go and get medical treatment for these injured animals – transporting and moving them can be challenging and traumatic for the animal.



**A friendly koala was receiving some road crossing advice from Senior Constable Bryan before heading on its way up a nearby gum tree.**

"Quite often we will have to destroy the animal."

Carrying their standard pistol, police also have a 0.22 rifle, referred to as the animal destruction rifle.

"Our police carry our standard 0.40 pistol, which we use, and we also have 0.22 rifles. The reason for the two options is because if we can get reasonably close our pistol is suitable, however, we've got the rifle if we need to be at a distance."

What might come to most as a surprise is the number of callouts police receive.

"Across Bass Coast and South Gippsland, we get one to two calls a day, it's very rare we don't get one.

"Police are proficient at dealing with incidents both in checking the animal and in the cases where the animals are so severely injured destroying those animals; we are trained where to aim and it's part of the annual proficiency – there is a skill to it. It's still sad each time.

"And (police are proficient at) performing pouch checks and checking if there has been any injuries or damage to the joeys."

Recently, police from Foster and Wonthaggi were fortunate and saved a small joey in the Foster area after a collision on Foster-Boolarra Road around 10.30pm on February 14.

Attending the scene, they sadly had to euthanise the

injured kangaroo mother, however, upon inspection, they discovered a young joey in its pouch.

The joey was carefully rescued, tightly wrapped in the officers uniform and initially cared for at Wonthaggi Police Station, until it was later transferred to a veterinary clinic.

Originally named Kevin the joey was later found to be female and renamed Kendra.

"Our police are quite good at dealing with joeys, as they do it at such regularity.

"A majority of the time collisions are from dusk until dawn. We get a lot on the Bass Highway, often the link to Phillip Island, between Inverloch and Wonthaggi, in Pound Creek towards Leongatha South near the Koonwarra turn-off.

"Wilson's Promontory is another hot spot."

For those travelling to Wilson's Promontory, it is best avoided from dusk to dawn.

"Fortunately, we don't get too many koalas," Sgt Ryan said noting Senior Constable Bryan had a rather sweet encounter during night shift at Inverloch Road (Bass Highway) and Powlett Street roundabout recently with a koala.

The small mammal crossed the road during the evening and made its way into a nearby tree, but not every animal crossing is as lucky.

"Occasionally deer and

wombats, although most wombats are deceased upon our arrival," Sgt Ryan said.

"It's not a pleasant part of the job, but necessary. In many ways, it's the only time local police use their firearms."

For native animals fortunate to be in a more stable condition, Victoria Police take the surviving animal to a vet clinic or suitable government agency.

Under the RSPCA Inspectors acts, Victoria Police members also have the ability to seize dogs, cats and other animals if they are being mistreated.

"We are also authorised under the Fisheries Act."

Dealing with wild animals is not the only part of the job, with police also called upon to assist with stock on roads (and the occasional animal on the right side of a fence).

"Stock will be on roads most often due to trees that have fallen across fences, so steering cattle back into paddocks is another part of the job we find ourselves doing. Many of us have grown up in the country or are farmers ourselves and used to cattle, although our new police from Melbourne soon acclimatise to dealing with errant cattle and other stock. It's very different to working in the city or suburbs. We are very accustomed to dealing with animals."

And unfortunately for drivers, there is no secret to avoiding animals on the road.

"There is no real effective way for people to avoid collisions with animals, unfortunately, it's part of living in Australia, particularly Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

"However, we need people to be alert, and to drive according to the conditions.

"If you are driving through a foggy area, you shouldn't be driving at 100km/h."

Noting that there are times when Victoria Police do not need to be called, Sgt Ryan explained that it is very rare to come across a deceased joey and it's crucial for drivers to check pouches.

"We don't need to be called if the animal is deceased and there is no hazard on the road, however, we do ask that those in the vehicle check the animal for a pouch and joeys."

If you come across injured wildlife call Wildlife Victoria on 03 8400 7300. Where wildlife is a hazard on the road, contact 000.

## Deb Leonard joins the 'Men's Shed on Wheels' on the Great Southern Rail Trail

INDEPENDENT candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard, joined Bruce Beatson and his 'Men's Shed on Wheels' group for a ride along the Great Southern Rail Trail from Foster to Toora on Wednesday morning.

The group rides three times a week along various trails to connect, chat, exercise, and build community.

"I loved going for a ride with this group," said Ms Leonard.

"It's so important for men to have opportunities like this to socialise, be active and support each other."

The ride concluded with a delicious morning tea at the Windmill Cafe. There, Ms Leonard met with interested members of the community to discuss her plans for Monash if elected.

"It was a fantastic morning, riding with the Men's Shed crew and then hearing directly from Toora locals at the cafe," Ms Leonard said.

"People raised critical issues like the lack of childcare facilities in the area and difficulties accessing healthcare. I took copious notes and gained valuable insights from those with lived experience in these sectors."

Deb Leonard is running as an independent candidate for the federal electorate of Monash in the upcoming election. She is focused on addressing the issues that matter most to locals, like the cost of living, healthcare access, upgrades to roads, and renewable energy.

## Applications open for Elders Community Giving Project grants

ELDERS has opened applications for their second year of grants of up to \$20k for grassroots initiatives that will promote sustainable, focused, and long-term change in rural and regional Australian communities. In 2024, Elders awarded 14 grants and over \$185,000 to community groups around Australia, to support small-scale community-driven initiatives that align with the Project's pillars, which include:

- Investing in people and regions
- Environmental consciousness
- Innovation into the future
- Healthy bodies and healthy minds
- Encouraging and celebrating diversity
- Safety first
- People's choice

"One of the most impactful outcomes was a story shared by a participant who, just nine days after completing the course, had to administer lifesaving first aid," GroWQ General Manager Prue Button said. "This powerful example underscores the value of the program, knowing that even one life was saved makes the entire project worthwhile."

Elders has 14 grants of up to \$20,000 available to apply for. Criteria and further information can be found at [elders.com.au](https://elders.com.au). Applications close Thursday, May 15.

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# Where do they go?

## - Tissues and Paper Towels

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1. **The sickness travels through your home, and even if you think you'll miss it, it somehow tends to find you.**
2. **ALL those used tissues.**

And paper towel? Well, think of all the things you soak up with it – oil, liquid spills, cleaning products – the list goes on.

Because of how we use these products and how they are made, in South Gippsland, neither of them can go in your Recycle (yellow-lidded) Bin. They will either contaminate other recyclable products or cause a hazard for people at sorting facilities.

So, where can you put tissues and paper towels? In your Rubbish (red-lidded) Bin. This means they won't stop recyclable materials from being reborn into something new for us to enjoy.

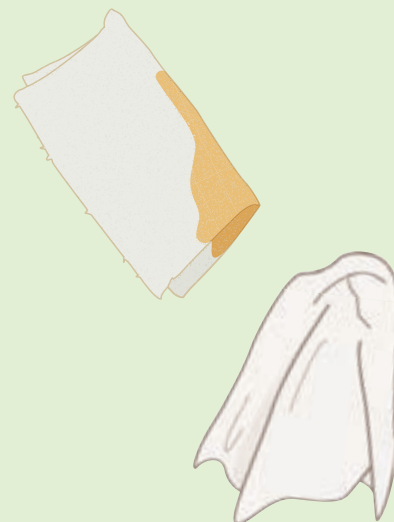
**To find out more about what can go in your Recycle (yellow-lidded) Bin, please visit:**

**[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling) or scan the QR code.**



### Top Tip

Tissues & Paper Towels should go in your **Rubbish (red-lidded) Bin** in South Gippsland.





# Small acts make a big impact.

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

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

**Find out more: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling)**





# Urgent Care Centres safe

ON ABC Gippsland Breakfast with Mim on Thursday, March 20, Federal Labor Candidate for Monash, Tully Fletcher spoke of Labor's re-election promise of \$644 million to roll out Urgent Care Clinics around Australia, particularly the proposed clinic in Warragul that will take over once state government funding lapses. In stating Labor's promise, Mr Fletcher questioned the Liberals.

"Not only is there a question mark over (the Warragul) clinic, but there is a question mark over all Medicare Urgent Care Clinics if Peter Dutton and the Liberals are elected to the federal government..." Mr Fletcher stated.

"(Dutton) believes that Medicare Urgent Care Clinics are wasteful spending and that means that the existing facilities that we have and the facilities we've proposed will all go."

In reply to the Sentinel-Time regarding whether the Liberals would continue to fund Urgent Care Centres, particularly Phillip Island and Warragul, Federal Liberal Candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred stated:

"The Coalition has made a clear commitment to continue existing Urgent Care Clinics. This is another disgraceful and baseless scare campaign from Labor.

"We recognise the urgent need for better access to bulk billed services, which is why we support Urgent Care Clinics and we will deliver these clinics as they were intended – focused on relieving pressure on local hospitals and providing real access to bulk billed urgent healthcare.

"The GP bulk billing rate has fallen from 88 per cent when the Coalition left government, to 77 per cent under Anthony Albanese and Labor. Australians are now covering 45 per cent more of the cost to see a doctor from their own pocket...

"We know that this reduction in primary care access has serious implications for emergency departments, placing even further demand on already under pressure hospital systems.

"The Coalition is committed to addressing Labor's primary care crisis and ensuring all Australians have timely and affordable access to essential healthcare."

There you have it, our Urgent Care Clinics are 'safe' under the Coalition and Labor.

# Council performance evaluated

THE number of planning decisions made by South Gippsland Shire Council within the required timeframes surpassed council's current target during the period from July 1 to December 31 last year but shows improvement is still needed.

That was revealed in the latest Organisational Performance Report presented at council's March public meeting, which showed strong performance across the majority of Service Performance Indicators.

Planning applications decided within required timeframes was described by council as a highlight.

"This indicator is currently at 56 per cent which is higher than the target set of 42 per cent and a significant increase from last financial year's result of 32 per cent," the report states.

Pleasingly, the report noted all Council Plan Annual Initiatives, of which 21 were adopted for 2024/25, are on track or completed, with expectations the eventual completion rate will be at least 95 per cent.

Annual Initiatives help progress the achievement of objectives and priorities outlined in the Council Plan and are adopted each year in the Budget.

Another of the highlights in the Organisational Performance Report is the work being done to improve mental health outcomes for young community members.

Solid progress has been made towards the initiative of delivering the Live4Life Program, which provides mental health education and suicide prevention for young people in rural communities.

Providing Teen Mental Health First Aid Training to 541 Year 8 students and 407 from Years 10 and 11 is one of the positive steps taken.

# More kinder places for Phillip Island

PHILLIP ISLAND Kindergarten have been successful in the Building Blocks Capacity Building Grant, to deliver a new two room, 66 places early learning facility at 39 Dunsmore Road, Cowes, according to Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP who made the announcement recently.

The new kindergarten will open in January 2026, provide a funded program for three-five-year-old children and offer also long day care. As Director of 5 Outcomes D'Lene Johnson stated "the integrated childcare model will allow families flexibility with a choice of days and longer hours per day and provide a high-quality educational program, delivered by bachelor qualified teachers."

"Our community is growing and we're building on the strong foundation of early childhood education with new and expanded kinders across our community which ensures that our kids have the best start in life," Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale said.

This announcement builds on the early years investment across the Bass electorate



Jordan Crugnale MP with Cr Tracey Bell, D'Lene Johnson Director of 5 Outcomes and Steve Bright, Director of Excelcon, Project Builder.

which includes brand new centres at Newhaven, Wonthaggi North, Koo Wee Rup and Devon Meadows Primary Schools, the relocation of Lang Lang Preschool, expansion of Drysdale Street, Wonthaggi and refurbishment of Inverloch Preschool.

"This is a fantastic outcome for our community, and we are grateful to 5 Outcomes and the State Government for their partnership in delivering this much-needed service," Cr Tracey Bell, Bass

Coast Shire Council stated.

"Having this new kindergarten join the centralised enrolment system (CRES) will ensure local families have greater access to quality early education. We look forward to continuing our work with the State and Federal Governments to strengthen local education and training opportunities, supporting a skilled workforce for the future."

Whilst it's great news for those requiring kinder places

on Phillip Island, the news stings for the San Remo community with San Remo Primary School still awaiting the \$5.3 million funding that was promised during the last election campaign, with plans sitting ready for tender.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale assured the Sentinel-Times last week that San Remo would be funded this electoral cycle and alongside the community expects the funding in the upcoming budget.

# One Gippsland urges housing infrastructure support



Back row: South Gippsland Shire Council's Acting CEO Allison Jones, Bass Coast Shire CEO Greg Box and Baw Baw Shire Interim CEO Cohen Van der Velde. Front: Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead, Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny, Cr Kate Wilson of Baw Baw Shire Council and South Gippsland Shire councillor and Chair of One Gippsland Nathan Hersey.

ONE Gippsland continues to encourage the State Government to provide Gippsland councils with the support they need to reduce Victoria's housing shortage, South Gippsland Shire councillor Nathan Hersey again stressing the importance of required infrastructure to enable development to occur.

He did so at Wednesday's council meeting, being the Chair of One Gippsland.

Following last month's One Gippsland delegation visit to Canberra advocating to Federal Government, representatives of One Gippsland recently met with ministers, shadow ministers and others at State level.

Cr Hersey noted there were extensive discussions with Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny and expressed confidence she will take up an invitation to visit Nyora to see some of the planning challenges there.

"There were plenty of discussions about our region and supporting the State Government in what it is that they're

trying to do with the housing targets; we need to have the State Government support us to support them," he said.

Cr Hersey insisted it is not reasonable to expect the housing needs for the state to be provided at a local government level without the necessary infrastructure.

"It's one thing to expect local government to support housing through the planning process, but when you're doing a new development in a rural area for new housing supply, it's not the same as doing a new development in a metropolitan area where all the services are," Cr Hersey told the Sentinel-Times recently.

"We have to start from scratch with expensive things such as underground works, electricity, water, sewerage, footpaths, kerb and channel, the whole works and all that costs a lot of money."

With Nyora seen as a place of significant growth, it seems an ideal spot for Minister Kilkenny to visit to get a clearer picture of the kind of infrastructure support required.

# Grant funding secured for Tarwin Lower community battery

A COMMUNITY battery will be installed at the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve, helping provide locals with reliable energy, maintaining critical services and aiding disaster recovery, the project made possible through a grant secured by Venus Bay Community Centre (VBCC).

The \$397,844 grant is through the Victorian Government's 100 Neighbourhood Batteries – Round 2 Resilience Stream.

The battery project for which funding has now been secured was identified by the community as a priority site during the Feasibility Study of Reliable Energy and Community Resilience

undertaken in 2022/23.

As previously reported in the Sentinel-Times, VBCC continues to play an active role in relation to renewable and reliable energy for the community it serves.

"This has been a team effort over a number of years and there is so much work that goes on in the background to keep the momentum going for ambitious projects like this," VBCC manager Alyson Skinner said of the soon-to-be realised battery initiative.

She praised the dedicated project team, the members of which have worked industriously on a pro-bono basis to seek opportunities and resources to implement local

energy improvements.

Chair of the Coalition for Community Energy, Heather Smith, has provided technical expertise and project plan development, and Moragh Mackay of Mycelia Renewables has been responsible for facilitation, governance and providing business development knowledge and support for the community-led initiative.

Tarwin Recreation Reserve Committee President, Dean Ellen, expressed delight that the battery will be installed at the town's sporting hub, noting that once completed the project will provide backup power during outages, building community resilience.

The project team has attracted additional resources from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's Community-led Climate Solutions Program.

VBCC and Mycelia Renewables will continue to support households, community organisations and small businesses to ensure the community is actively involved in a fair energy transition.

See vbcc.org.au/communityenergy for more information about the study and all the reports.

The Sentinel-Times understands the proposed battery is 90kW/195kWH with a backup generator.



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Harmony Day at Inverloch Childcare



Patrick prepares the glue for his Harmony hand.



Maeve places the pieces of red and yellow tissue paper on her Harmony hand.

Powlett River celebrates Harmony Day



Principal Mr Tony Corr led the Ride2School ride from Cape Woolamai to the school grounds.

A harmonious ride to school

NEWHAVEN College Principal Mr Tony Corr jumped on his bike on Friday morning to accompany approximately 157 students as they enjoyed the opportunity to ride to school on National Ride2School Day. The event was organised by the College's MTB Academy, a group of very enthusiastic parents and students who are keen to encourage everyone to

get on their bikes! Mr Corr rode along Phillip Island Road from Cape Woolamai, while another contingent rode from Cowes. Parents, friends, and older students supported the ride by guiding them safely to the school gates, by providing support vehicles and experienced rider leaders. Mr Corr's bike suffered a flat tyre on the first leg, but dad

Sean Cohoe saved the day by offering up his bike for Mr Corr to finish the ride. The ride concluded at the MTB pump track on campus, for a final bit of fun. Once the day started, everyone donned their 'splash of orange' to support Harmony Day, the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Newhaven College embraced the 2025 theme of "Harmony – we all have a role to play" by celebrating Australia's cultural diversity with different activities across the school. Newhaven College thanks everyone who participated in these events. Head to the College website to learn more about the College's MTB Academy.



Newhaven College Year 4 student Ollie Armstrong and his mum Kirsty enjoyed the ride from Cape Woolamai. Ollie also wore a 'splash of orange' for Harmony Day.



Newhaven College Prep students Kya Tomaselli and Sophie Schellekens wore a 'splash of orange' for International Harmony Day on Friday.

A sea of orange at Wonthaggi North Primary School



Prep Henry proudly wore orange for Harmony Day joining mum, Maddison, for a quick photo together. C13\_1225



Clinton, Xavier, Isaac and Jessie proudly wore orange in support of Harmony Day as parents joined students in class following the parade. C11\_1225

CELEBRATING Harmony Day on Friday, the students at Wonthaggi North Primary School donned orange or traditional/cultural attire of their heritage and proudly paraded around the gymnasium to the delight of fellow students and parents. Surrounding the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDRD), Friday, March 21, Harmony Week celebrates Australia's rich cultural diversity, and focuses on the urgency of combatting racism wherever and whenever it arises. As Wonthaggi North's grade six Cultural Leaders Amoun and Willow stated in their presentation in front of students and parents "everyone is welcome, everyone belongs."



# Turning of the sod at St Paul's new Drouin Primary School build

ST PAUL'S Anglican Grammar School's newest campus, which opened its doors in Drouin in January, is making significant progress with its building program. The school recently marked a key milestone with the formal 'Turning of the Sod' ceremony for the Stage 2 Development of a Primary School Learning Centre to accommodate growing enrolments.

The centre will feature six paired learning areas that open out onto a collaborative learning 'street' for shared specialist programs, seamlessly integrating with the natural environment under an extended roof to incorporate outdoor play-based learning activities.

The St Paul's Drouin Junior School Learning Centre project is supported by the Victorian Government's capital grant of \$6M through the Victorian School Building Authority's Building Fund for Non-Government Schools – Independent Schools that will assist with the construction of the centre.

The ceremony was led by the school's Deputy Principal, Gordon Oldham, with distinguished guests including the Hon. Harriet Shing MP (Member for Eastern Victoria), St Paul's Board Chair Darren Jennings, as well as staff and students.



**St Paul's Drouin Campus Turning of the Sod: From left, back, Head of St Paul's Drouin Junior School Rowan van Raay, the Hon. Harriet Shing MP (Member for Eastern Victoria), St Paul's Board Chair Darren Jennings and St Paul's Deputy Principal Gordon Oldham; front, Evolet Wiggett and Raven Philp.**



**Chloe Le Page of Leongatha Secondary College is ready to contribute her ideas in Canberra.**  
A14\_1225

## Chloe Le Page attends Constitutional Convention

YEAR 12 Leongatha Secondary College (LSC) student Chloe Le Page is excited to be spending a couple of days in Canberra attending the National Schools Constitutional Convention, with her ideas and those of other young people to be tabled in Parliament.

It is the 30th such convention, being held at the Museum of Australian Democracy in Old Parliament House.

Chloe is one of 25 participating Victorian delegates among the 120 Year 11 and 12 students attending from around Australia.

With Chloe's passion for legal studies, politics and history, LSC legal studies teacher Marty Box encouraged her to apply and will also be attending the convention.

Rethinking new regional economic possibilities through the Constitution and reimagining Australia's fiscal Federation will be among matters discussed, with Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre from the University of South Australia facilitating the convention.

Outcomes of the discussions will be presented to the President of the Senate for tabling in Parliament and recorded in Hansard.

Chloe spoke of the importance of young people being heard.

"It's great something we're saying is going to Parliament and it proves how influential we can be," she said.

"It's all about student voice and youth voice and presenting our ideas directly to Parliament."

Chloe is interested in pursuing a political career down the track, having taken an avid interest in learning about the Australian system when doing Year 12 legal studies while in Year 11.

"It's good to have that background knowledge about how the legal system works, especially in relation to Commonwealth Law," she said.

"I feel politics is the highest level of influence," Chloe noted, adding that is where real change is made, with politics able to be a gateway to making the country more equitable.

Student delegates attending the convention were given preparatory reading to prepare for their Canberra discussions.

The trip also involves a Welcome Reception from Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, a meeting with Governor General Sam Mostyn AC at Government House and an official dinner at the National Press Club, with Chloe looking forward to meeting people she'd normally only see on the news.

The National Schools Constitutional Convention is open to both government and private school students, being funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, coordinated by National Curriculum Services and supported by the education departments of all States and Territories.

## Early childhood services are improving the oral health of children

STAFF, families, and children at five local early childhood services are all smiles after receiving a Smiles 4 Miles award from Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV).

Fish Creek Kindergarten, Inverloch Childcare, Phillip Island Early Learning Centre, Prom Coast Centres for Children Foster, and San Remo Preschool all completed the required criteria to achieve the award in 2024, demonstrating their commitment to improving oral health in the community.

Smiles 4 Miles is an initiative of DHSV that aims to improve the oral health of Victorian children and their families. The key messages promoted in Smiles 4 Miles are to Drink well, Eat well, and Clean well. The program is implemented locally by the South Coast Prevention Team (Health Promotion workforce of Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service, and South Gippsland Hospital).

Unfortunately, children with tooth decay and poor oral health can have trouble eating, sleeping, and paying attention at



**Beth (Smiles 4 Miles Coordinator, South Coast Prevention Team) presented a Smiles 4 Miles award to Alex (Educator, Prom Coast Centres for Children Foster).**

kinder. Tooth decay, an oral disease, affects half of all children and adolescents. The percentage of children in Bass Coast and South Gippsland aged three-five attending public dental services who have at least one decayed, missing, or filled tooth is 30 per cent and 42 per cent respectively, which is above the Victorian

average rate.

Early childhood services achieve a Smiles 4 Miles award by implementing healthy eating and oral health policies, completing a menu assessment if they provide food, engaging with families about the importance of oral health, and educating children through a variety of fun learning experiences.

Foster Centre Director Sue Millett from Prom Coast Centres for Children was excited to see the service awarded.

"We were so excited for all our programs to be part of Smiles 4 Miles. This was a great opportunity to increase educator knowledge and skills about healthy eating and oral health and share this information with our families and children.

"We were able to reflect on our program and practice to ensure we were embedding healthy eating and oral health experiences within a non-judgmental and respectful environment."

Paul Greenhalgh, Chief Executive Officer at South Gippsland Hospital applauded the early childhood services for achieving the awards.

"Smiles 4 Miles awarded early childhood services are leading the way to help children form good healthy eating and oral health habits early.

"By promoting healthy habits early in life, they are helping to set the foundations for local children to have a healthy start to life."

## A handmade heart for LGBTIQA+ young people at YES Youth Hub

LAST week the YES Youth Hub invited local community services and organisations to collaborate on a project to support LGBTIQA+ young people in our region.

The YES Youth Hub were successful in obtaining a HEY Grant to create care packs to be provided to young people that will be distributed by local services, school wellbeing staff and the YES Youth Hub team. Young people have been consulted about the contents and the best way to distribute the packs which will include: information and referral contacts, education resources

from Minus 18, art supplies, beading kits, stickers and more.

The YES Youth Hub team decided to include in the pack a small felt hand-sewn heart. The heart represents kindness and aims to communicate to young LGBTIQA+ people in Bass Coast that they are valued, they belong and that the local community care.

Twenty people, from local organisations came together to sew the hearts. Organisations included: Bass Coast Health, Bass Coast Adult Learning, Maxima, CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women, Live4Life, Gippsland Centre

Against Sexual Assault, FReeZA and the YMCA. Bass Coast Specialist School Senior students will also be sewing some hearts.

YES Youth Hub Coordinator, Erin Johnson, stated "We were overwhelmed by the number of people who came together to participate in this project. Everyone who attended wanted the message of love and kindness to be amplified. They wanted young LGBTIQA+ people in Bass Coast to know that they are valued, seen, and cared for."

For more information about this project contact the YES Youth Hub.





Sentinel-Times  
COMMENT

Think local, vote local at this election

WELL, here we go again. Cyclone Alfred washed away all thoughts of an early April election but it's still coming.

The government will hand down its fake budget tonight, Tuesday, March 25, and within days of that the Prime Minister will call the election for some time in May.

But you feel like the unexpected delay has taken all of the momentum out of the campaign. Peter Dutton and the Liberals seem to have gone missing, and Anthony Albanese and Labor are struggling to find traction.

In Monash, the one candidate to come up with a practical local measure is Russell Broadbent.

Last week he announced that if he is re-elected as the Member for Monash, he will use all of his experience and leverage, as an independent in a likely minority government, to get \$40 million for Stage 1 of Woorayl Lodge's new facility on Boags Road just outside Leongatha.

This is a great announcement and one we would like to see all candidates in Monash committed to, especially the Liberals' Mary Aldred and Labor's Tully Fletcher who can prove their mettle as representatives of this area right now by getting their parties to agree to the funding if they win office, as part of their national election platform.

As much as Woorayl Lodge has served this community's aged well since its modest beginnings, with just three permanent residents, in 1960, and notwithstanding the magnificent care provided by its truly dedicated staff, the facility is well beyond its use-by date.

The rooms in the lodge are small and dingy, and recreation areas are limited while there's no more room for independent living units to be built. There's also the natural growth in aged numbers to consider.

At the last Census in 2021, there were 2030 people living in Leongatha alone over the age of 60, 1225 of them over the age of 70 and potentially needing somewhere to go in the next 10 years or so. And that doesn't take into account those living in surrounding areas using Leongatha as their hub.

The development of a new Woorayl Lodge is an absolute must for the future of this area and any candidate you vote for locally must be committed to matching Mr Broadbent's bid for \$40 million in funding.

We'd also like to hear more funding promises of that kind, for this area, from the other candidates over the next few weeks.

However, what we do need to be wary of as we consider who to vote for is promises that seek to cover up the fundamental problems that we, as Australians, are facing today – cost of living including food and energy prices.

Over the weekend, the Albanese Government made a \$1.8 billion promise to fund an energy relief package that will return \$150 to households and businesses if they are returned to government.

But how dumb do they think we are? After promising that they would reduce energy prices by rolling out "cheaper" renewable energy, at break-neck speed, household energy bills have gone up by \$1000 or more annually – no problem if you live in Camberwell or Canterbury in the seat of Kooyong or Vacluse in the federal seat of Wentworth but rising energy costs are a huge issue for wage-earners and people in small business.

What happens after the \$150 rebate is gone? The high cost of energy is still there.

So, how should you vote at the Federal election next month? Our advice is to look for some small wins locally and support the local candidates pledging to deliver for us, rather than those hoping to simply make up the numbers in the next government.

Vox Pop

How do you think Artificial Intelligence will affect your job in the future, and will it have a positive or negative impact?



**Alex Aeschlimann**  
"My role is in community engagement and AI doesn't do as good a job as a human. AI is going to alter the manual processes, but I don't think it will cause huge job losses."



**John Schelling**  
"Used in the right way it will be very positive, and it is helpful for me in doing my job."



**Amy Ketteridge**  
"In the short term it is positive because it will help us assist in recruitment. It could be scary in the long term but HR will always require humans to deal with humans."



**Taneisha Hobson**  
"I feel it's not going to have too much of an impact on mine because we're 'people people' in HR."

Who knows where we are going?

WE ARE writing in response to last week's editorial 'Is this how we want San Remo to be?'

The context of the editorial was the current call-out to the community to publicly comment on the Bass Coast Shire Council's 'Draft San Remo Structure Plan'. The editorial included, in full, the proposed vision for San Remo for the next 20 years.

There was a sense of discomfort in the editorial about the use of Aboriginal language for place names, and what was seen as a disproportionate focus on Bunurong 'bio-cultural values', and Traditional Custodians' agency in shaping the future and contributing to the care of Country.

You shared your view that 'the two most important things about San Remo are its people and the absolute privilege of having a town so magnificently sited on the coast'. You suggested that front and centre in the vision for the next 20 years should be 'practical ways to improve the lifestyle of its residents and the amenity for visitors, while also enhancing and protecting the town's greatest asset, its close relationship with the coast'.

In our understanding, these ideas are not incommensurate and are indeed closely linked. What we have been taught by First Nations people is that everything is interconnected. Looking after community, our visitors and the environment itself, are all part of what caring for Country means. Embedded in the Welcome to Country ceremony offered by Bunurong/Boonwurrung Traditional Custodians is the request to look after the children and to take care of the Country.

Here in Bass Coast, we know that we live in a precious place, and we value the sense of community that we have here. In our region and in the world more broadly, we are seeing the social and environmental consequences of what happens when we are out of balance with each other and with our environment.

We have experienced bushfires recently and we are feeling the impact of rising sea levels and coastal erosion on a number of our beaches, with more to come. Population growth is bringing its own challenges of continuing to feel connected with each other and with the natural world, of which we are all a part.

You state that the Bunurong people will need to do a better job of educating the community about their heritage and you question why these issues should receive such a high profile in the 20-year plan. In our view, First Nations people who have lived in Australia for 2400

generations have a lot to teach us about how to live sustainably on Country and in community.

This knowledge is being generously offered and is deeply relevant for today and for the years to come. You place the responsibility for educating the community on the Bunurong people, but learning is a two-way street, and we all have a responsibility to listen and learn.

The closing words of your editorial stress the importance of 'the present day and the future needs of a growing community'. In the face of all that is uncertain in our future, we have an opportunity through this envisioning process for San Remo to come together as a community, to listen respectfully to each other and to think about the generations to come, so that we may live and thrive together in this beautiful place.

**Marg Lynn, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group**

*Editor: You are going to have to go back and read last week's editorial again. It does NOT say: "You state that the Bunurong people will need to do a better job of educating the community about their heritage."*

*This is a serious misrepresentation. The comment piece says it is the responsibility of "the planners" to explain why they have presented the draft vision for San Remo in the way they have, as follow:*

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

*Notwithstanding the fact that the Victorian Government has been on a path to treaty for more than eight years, has passed two Acts of Parliament on the issue and embedded its First Nations' goals in all policy, planning and decision-making, the point we were attempting to make is that they haven't brought the general community along with them.*

*Most people are entirely unaware of documents like the new Plan for Victoria, for example, released in February 2025, and the role it ascribes to Traditional Owners in government planning over the next 25 years or that negotiations for Victoria's first statewide treaty have progressed as far as they have, recently at a key meeting on Gunditj-mara country in the state's west.*

*Last Friday, the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples, Natalie Hutchins, said that the government is rolling out an engagement program to inform local government, community and business leaders about the treaty process, including information sessions across Victoria.*

*Hopefully it will lead to a better understanding of where we are at and where we are going.*

Leonard's community-driven campaign

JUST when it seemed the Monash electorate would be subjected to the same old stale party politicians spouting the same old party lines along comes a genuine independent voice who is basing policies on the concerns of the community around her.

I refer of course to Deb Leonard, a community candidate whose message has been developed from the hard yards she has put in pounding the pavement to get as accurate an assessment as possible of what her community really wants from their politicians.

While other candidates advertise for people to hand out for them and knock on doors, Deb Leonard already has several hundred volunteers who have responded to her message.

That she has become a genuine threat to the major parties there can be no doubt. The lies and misinformation merchants are already hard at it.

It is true that funds for her campaign are pouring in. But unlike the political duopoly that fashion their policies around the requirements of their billionaire donors, Deb has developed policies around the requirements of her community and the money flows in from people and organisations who support those policies.

It is unlikely that billionaire miners or the gambling industry will be supporting Deb Leonard.

But people who are demanding urgent action on climate change, and those concerned at the way the major parties' neo-liberal policies have wrecked the economy for working families and young people are Deb Leonard's main supporters.

**Noel Maud, Inverloch**

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.



# New home for LRH Cardiology

LATROBE Regional Health (LRH) Cardiology Outpatient Service has moved to the former Thomson Maternity Ward within the main hospital building. This move is a significant step towards improving access and convenience for patients, while also bringing all essential cardiology services under one roof.

The new location will provide a better experience for patients, ensuring they receive the care they need in a single, fully equipped space. With expanded facilities, LRH is enhancing its ability to meet the growing cardiology needs of the Gippsland community.



**Moving the Latrobe Regional Health (LRH) Cardiology Outpatient Service to the former Thomson Maternity Ward within the main hospital building will improve access and convenience for patients.**

“This relocation enables us to streamline our services and provide a more integrated approach to patient care. By bringing all cardiology services together, we can improve efficiency, enhance collaboration among our specialists, and ultimately deliver better health outcomes for our patients,” LRH Head of Cardiology Dr Derk Pol said.

Cardiology outpatient services include specialist cardiologists, doctors, nurses, sonographers, and allied health specialists. The relocation aligns with

LRH’s commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centred healthcare. The expansion of services will support a broader range of cardiac diagnostics, treatment options, and multidisciplinary care, ensuring the best possible outcomes for those with heart conditions.

“Having our cardiology services centrally located within the main hospital means less travel between departments and a more comfortable experience for our patients. It also allows

us to expand our service offerings, ensuring we can accommodate the increasing demand for comprehensive cardiac care in our region,” LRH Outpatients Cardiology Clinic Co-ordinator, Kylie Richards said.

The LRH cardiology department provides specialist outpatient clinics that include, general cardiology, atrial fibrillation, heart failure, electrophysiology, and hospital discharge.

LRH Chief Executive Don McRae said the move reflects

the organisation’s values of being person-centred and striving for excellence in healthcare delivery.

The transition to the new location marks an important milestone in LRH’s ongoing efforts to strengthen cardiology services and respond to the evolving needs of the Gippsland community. Patients can now access a comprehensive suite of cardiology services within an environment designed to support their health and wellbeing.



**Gippsland Southern Health Service’s Aboriginal Liaison Officer Kane Horvath engaged in a constructive conversation with Hillside Lodge resident Max Piper about a First Nations menu for Reconciliation Week recently.**

## From 50 Fridays of fish & chips to something new

FOR 50 Fridays in a row, Max Piper, a First Nations resident at Hillside Lodge in Korumburra, stuck to his usual meal of fish and chips.

That was until a few weeks ago when he and Gippsland Southern Health Service’s (GSHS) Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) Kane Horvath had a yarn about an upcoming First Nations menu for Reconciliation Week.

Kane described the dishes: fingerlime marmalade, kangaroo burgers with bush tomato sauce, Lemon Myrtle ice cream and Max’s face lit up.

For Kane, this was more than a conversation about food. It was about connection – the kind that comes when First Nations people see their culture reflected in the spaces they live, heal, and call home.

Change starts with small moments of connection – like a shared meal – and on Close the Gap Day on March 20, GSHS reaffirmed its commitment to bridging the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, ensuring equity, cultural safety, and meaningful connection in healthcare and beyond.

GSHS Transformation Lead Kate Ginnivan said the connections made over the First Nations menu showed why Kane’s role as ALO was so vital.

“People go where they feel welcome, seen, and understood and that’s what Kane is working to foster through simple, meaningful moments like sharing a meal with Max or creating spaces that reflect and celebrate First Nations culture,” she said.

Ms Ginnivan said GSHS was exploring ways to create spaces where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel at home – not just as patients, but as part of the GSHS community.

“Between October and December, not a single First Nations patient presented to Urgent Care at GSHS,” she said.

“In Leongatha alone, 41 school students identify as First Nations. Their families live here, but they’re not walking through our doors so we have to ask how can we ensure they feel a sense of belonging here?”

“It’s about making sure First Nations families see themselves in our care, in ways that feel real and meaningful.”

As part of his ALO role, Mr Horvath wants to see artwork and murals celebrating First Nations culture, Gunai-Kurnai language on GSHS signage, more yarnning spaces, a transfer system between hospitals so ALOs can meet First Nations patients at every step of their care journey and a stronger connection with Elders and families.

## Care as unique as you at Korumburra Medical Centre

A HEALTHCARE professional who has moved to Korumburra to take up a new role to deliver a unique care service to older patients said the relocation to a rural clinic has given her a fresh perspective on nursing.

Melanie moved from the Mornington Peninsula after accepting the role as the Practice Nurse and Care Manager for Mark & Sylvie’s Home Care at Atticus Health’s Korumburra Medical Centre.

Mark & Sylvie’s offers an integrated model of care, with a team of GPs, nurses, Allied Health staff and support workers delivering holistic care to patients, allowing them to avoid hospitalisation and stay healthy at home.

“It could be thought of as a one-stop shop for care. The benefit of this model of care is the support you receive which helps maintain your health and your independence,” said Melanie.

As Practice Nurse and Care Manager, Melanie and her team



**As a Practice Nurse and Care Manager, Melanie’s dedicated to helping older patients stay healthy and independent at home.**

take a proactive approach to chronic disease management and care planning, meaning that a client’s health is cared for, while their care needs in the future are also anticipated.

“I work with each client and their family to develop a home support plan that suits their

individual needs from arranging cleaners and gardeners to someone to help them get to medical appointments, personal care or even just some shopping and company.”

She urges anyone concerned about their health as they age to start planning now: “Don’t

put off asking for help. The process of obtaining a package through My Aged Care takes time. Plan while you are still feeling well so that support is in place for when you don’t.”

Melanie and her partner grew up on the Peninsula but decided on a lifestyle change when it was time to buy a home.

“We wanted to find somewhere with a welcoming community vibe. After lots of exploring around the Gippsland region, we settled on Korumburra.”

She said the community has been welcoming and friendly, and the views are breathtaking.

“We’ve loved attending the local show and the garlic festival. We’re in the process of trying out all the local restaurants and take aways and it’s always a bonus that there is parking!”

Melanie has this advice for other health professionals considering a move to Korumburra or other regional areas: “Do it! There is so much to learn, a lot of variety, and a real sense of helping people rather than just ticking boxes in a system.”

## Recycling initiatives reduce waste at Bass Coast Health

BASS Coast Health (BCH) is taking part in an innovative recycling program to reduce medical waste. BCH’s Theatre team has adopted the program offered by a recycling company, Medsalv.

Staff place used single-use surgical items in collection bins around the Theatres, which are collected by Medsalv and the items recycled.

The project has been driven by BCH Clinical Nurse Specialist Jessica Kitson, a sustainability advocate in the Theatre team.

“Recycling these items that would have previously gone to landfill reduces the amount of waste we produce, reduces carbon emissions, and promotes better sustainability practices,” she said.

The numbers add up. With an average of 350 surgical patients per month at Wonthaggi Hospital, that’s more than 4200 disposable

intravenous tourniquets used in Theatre alone that – until now – ended up in landfills every year.

“Medsalv collection and remanufacturing processes achieve a reduction in waste of single-use devices in the healthcare system by 92.8 per cent, diverting thousands of kilograms of waste per year,” Jessica said.

BCH is furthering its sustainability practices by recycling plastic caps from medication containers in the Theatre. These caps are collected and transformed into artworks by the Reverse Art Truck and Recycled Pen Art programs, via the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation’s Victorian branch. From each pen sale, \$1.50 is donated to the Sea Turtle Foundation works to protect these endangered creatures whose lives and habitats are threatened by plastic that ends up in the oceans.



**BCH Clinical Nurse Specialist Jessica Kitson left, and Associate Nurse Unit Manager Stephanie Dunn are excited about the massive waste savings for Bass Coast Health to be gained by recycling Theatre waste.**





Photo opportunities were popular with residents.

## Motorcycles roar into Rose Lodge

ON FRIDAY, March 14 the South Gippsland Ulysses Motorcycle Club made their first annual visit to Rose Lodge Community Aged Care for a bike exhibition.

It was a perfect day for the exhibition and the excitement grew as the noise of the bikes erupted around 1.30pm. Adrenaline junkies from everywhere came to watch and smell the fumes.

The motorcycle club members graciously shared their passion by helping those who wanted on to their bikes to sit and start them and feel the rumble

underneath and the power in their hands.

The bikes ranged from just one month old to over 30 years old. Some of the popular bikes were the Harley Davidson's, Triumph, Indian, Can Am Spyder, Honda Goldwing Trike, Moto Guzzi and Suzuki.

Rose Lodge would like to thank all the fantastic people from the South Gippsland Ulysses Motorcycle Club for volunteering their time and providing the opportunity for residents to experience the memories of yesteryear.

We heard so many new and wonderful stories from

the residents. There were 18 club members, 40 residents, and several family and staff members all thoroughly enjoying the event. Photo opportunities were popular with residents as they sat on the wonderful machines before starting the engines. The smiles and joy on the resident's faces said it all.

The Club is for older riders and meets each Saturday at Kelly's Bakery in Korumburra at 10am where they organise their weekly ride. Thanks to the president Lozz for building this connection with the wider community.

## Daffodil fundraiser bulbs available now

DAFFODIL bulbs are now available from Trafalgar to Bunyip, marking thirty years of West Gippsland Healthcare Group's (WGHG) Annual Daffodil Bulb Fundraiser.

Blyth Bros. flower farm donated 40,000 bulbs this year, which local businesses will sell at \$25 per bag of 50 bulbs. All proceeds go to WGHG's Allied and Community Health services to purchase equipment and social welfare resources.

Daffodil bulbs are available now at:

- Baw Baw Food Hub, 156-158 Queen Street, Warragul
- Baw Baw Garden Supplies, 8 June Court, Warragul
- NEWSELLER! Gippsland Fresh Wholesale, 9a Endeavour Street, Warragul
- Allied and Community Health, 31-35 Gladstone Street, Warragul
- West Gippsland Hospital Main Reception, Landsborough Street, Warragul
- Community Rehab Service reception at West Gippsland Hospital
- Down To Earth Garden Centre, 10 Weerong Road, Drouin
- Drouin Auxiliary Opportunity Shop, 121 Princes Way, Drouin
- Drouin Mitre 10, 280 Princes Way, Drouin
- Soul Sisters Café, 9 Mackey Street, Longwarry
- Bunyip IGA Supermarket, 2/6 Main Street, Bunyip
- Town & Country Gallery, 111 Princes Highway, Yarragon



David Blyth and West Gippsland Healthcare Group's (WGHG) staff members Zach Veno and Trevor Jeffrey.

- Trafalgar Opportunity Shop, 8 Contingent Street, Trafalgar
- Andrews House, 40-42 School Road, Trafalgar
- Rawson Community Health, Lehmann Court, Rawson

Daffodils bulbs are planted in autumn and flower in spring. They can be grown in pots, rock gardens, along driveways, or clumped under deciduous trees.

"They're the simplest thing of all," Blyth Bros. spokesman David Blyth explained.

"Wait until your soil is cool enough and plant your bulbs in well-worked soil at twice the depth of the bulb. Happy days! Wait until they turn up in spring."

Last year's daffodil bulb sales raised \$20,525.

Over thirty years, the fundraiser has helped buy new wheelchairs, walking aids, rehabilitation

equipment such as balance and agility trainers, food and fuel vouchers, a washing machine and dryer to laundry clothes for long-stay patients who don't have a family to assist them, and more.

"The Daffodil Bulb funds go a long way every year, enhancing the care we provide to our community across several programs," WGHG Acting Allied and Community Health Director Sally Wilson said.

"The Blyth family's support over three decades is immeasurable, as is the backing we get from the local businesses that sell the bags for us year after year. We simply couldn't do it without them."

The Blyth family grows over 100 varieties of daffodils on 350 hectares in Ellinbank. They harvest and process over 500 tonnes of bulbs each year.

## WHAT'S ON

YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TO ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Treble F Singers president Lynne Horton, Kiki Joseph, Daryl Pease, musical director Meredith Birnie and Bernadette Grainger. A08\_1225

## Singing with a social vibe in Leongatha

THOSE keen to sing in a welcoming and nurturing environment are encouraged to join the Treble F Singers, the group particularly in need of tenors but open to all.

Musical Director Meredith Birnie takes charge of the Tuesday afternoon rehearsals from her keyboard, ensuring the group achieves its potential but keeping the emphasis on fun.

"We sing songs people are familiar with, old standards, things from the sixties and seventies," Meredith said, saying the musical numbers are given a different spin through harmonies that vary from simple to more challenging.

"It really is a group for people who just like to sing."

Group members also enjoy socialising, chatting over tea and biscuits during a break in rehearsal, the daytime practice offering an opportunity for those who aren't keen on going out at night, creating a point of difference to other groups.

While the Treble F Singers are mostly retirees, younger people with Tuesday afternoons free are invited to join the fun.

It is common for new arrivals to say they haven't sung for years, so nobody will judge you if you are a bit rusty.

"I'm a bathroom singer," Lance Lancaster said, glad that his wife pushed him to join the group, whether that was due to his love

of singing or because she wanted him out of the house for a while.

Inverloch's Daryl Pease, a foundation member and Life Member of Leongatha Lyric Theatre performed in many of that group's productions but no longer tends to venture out at night, having only joined the Treble F Singers in recent weeks.

"I'm not aiming very high," he said, conceding he doesn't always hit the perfect note these days but is enjoying the experience.

The Treble F Singers began in May 2022 with just six members, originally as an interest group within Leongatha Probus Club, soon becoming an incorporated independent group with an elected committee.

Numbers have continued to grow, the group now too big for its rehearsal base of the last couple of years at Leongatha Men's Shed, having recently moved to the Leongatha Scout Hall. While the Treble F Singers provide occasional public performances, that isn't the main priority.

"We are not a choir but a group of people who love to sing," Meredith said.

The group remains true to its Probus origins by promoting fun, friendship and fellowship every Tuesday.

Come along and give singing a go between 1-3pm at Leongatha Scout Hall, 11 Allison Street. Contact Meredith Birnie on 0477 036 277 for information.

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The Phillip Island Fire Brigade's annual tin rattling will look a little different this year as they join forces with Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre for a Pyjama Disco Party this Monday - don't miss out!

# Bowling centre and CFA join forces for Good Friday Appeal

PHILLIP Island is gearing up for a night of fun and fundraising, as the CFA and Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre join forces to host a Pyjama Disco Party in support of the Good Friday Appeal.

The event will take place on Monday, March 31, from 5pm to 8pm at the Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre, with no less than 100 per cent of the funds raised going directly to the Royal Children's Hospital. Entry costs \$15 per person, which includes 30 minutes of arcade play, one game of tenpin bowling, and a session of Lazer Zone. There will also be a CFA sausage sizzle, raffles, door prizes, and a range of activities for families, children and anyone who wishes to partake.

Jeremy Westaway, Managing Director of Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre, said the idea for the event came from

Anne-Marie Branch, a volunteer with Phillip Island CFA.

"We were initially going to do something small, but I thought if we're going to do this, let's really commit and have a really good community fundraising event for the Good Friday Appeal," he said.

The local CFA have previously raised money by collecting donations via tins at roundabouts, but recent permit rejections have forced them to find new, creative ways to fundraise.

This is the first time the Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre has partnered with the CFA for Good Friday, but they are far from new to the fundraising space, having hosted fundraising events for multiple local sporting organisations, including local football, soccer, and basketball clubs.

Westaway, who was born and raised on Phillip Island, said giving back to the community

is important to him.

"It's nice to be able to give back to a community that supported me growing up. It's a privilege and an honour," he said.

Staff at the bowling centre are also pitching in by generously donating their time on the night, ensuring 100 per cent of the proceeds go directly to the Good Friday Appeal.

While there is no set fundraising target, Westaway hopes the increased scale of the event will help raise "thousands instead of hundreds" and that it could become an annual tradition leading into Good Friday.

As a parent, Westaway said he feels fortunate that he has never had to rely on the Royal Children's Hospital, but he knows the value it provides.

"It's great to know that we have an amazing facility like that in Victoria for everyone who needs it," he said.

CFA volunteer, Anne-Marie Branch said the pyjama

theme was inspired by the children the fundraiser supports.

"When you think about sick children, they're often in hospital beds wearing pyjamas. It's a way to show our support and love," she said.

"Hopefully, if even a handful of children in the hospital see what our community is doing, it might put a smile on their faces."

Both Westaway and Branch encouraged local businesses and community members to get involved by donating items for the raffle and auction or volunteering on the night.

"If you can donate anything big or small to auction or raffle, that would be great," Westaway said.

Anyone interested in supporting the event can contact Jeremy Westaway on 5952 3977 or email [tenpin@pitenn.com.au](mailto:tenpin@pitenn.com.au). There is no need to book in advance - everyone is welcome to turn up on the day.



Get ready San Remo to dance the night away as the high-energy beats of soul, funk and rhythm and blues take over The Westernport.

## The Avenue Ensemble is back San Remo

AFTER a year consigned to the wilderness (Melbourne), 11-piece party band, The Avenue Ensemble, will return for one show only at 9pm at the Westernport Hotel, San Remo on Saturday, March 29. It will be a dance party for young and old. The middle-aged are welcome, too.

The Avenue Ensemble is a motley crew of internationally recognised musicians who have come together to bring good times to dance floors across Victoria.

This powerhouse 11-piece revue brings the best of Memphis, New Orleans, and Muscle Shoals straight to your ears - covering everything from '50s R&B to '70s disco, all wrapped in a brassy, feel-good groove. If it moves your feet, they're playing it!

At one venue, revellers got so carried away the pub had to re-stump its dance floor.

Some readers may remember their last show back in 2024. To others, it will be a hazy blur.

They have spent the last year polishing their horns and beating their drums in preparation and will return to the stage with more soul than a preacher's boot and more funk than a sharehouse fridge.

Entry is free. Spirits will be high (and available at the bar). There will be dancing.



## Zucchini bread

By Meg Viney

### Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp vanilla
- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

### Method

Beat the eggs with the sugar until lemony and frothy. Add the oil and vanilla and beat again.

Fold in the dry ingredients, alternating with the zucchini and finally fold in the walnuts.

Fold into two small buttered or one large loaf tin and cook at 180 for an hour or until the skewer comes out clean.

Leave in the tin for ten minutes, then turn out.

Serve it lightly buttered.

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Email [radio@southcoastfm.au](mailto:radio@southcoastfm.au) to tell us all about yourself and we'll be in touch.

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

JA2543





Max Wood and Alan Hoy of Leongatha Men's Shed take charge of the sausage sizzle for Jobs Expo visitors. A16\_1225



Melissa Burgess and Luke Knights represent PGL adventure camps at the Jobs Expo in Leongatha. A17\_1225



Rina Derubeis with her children, Harmonie and Dallas, who both participated in the San Remo Athletics Day. W06\_1225



Tony and Kate Francis enjoying the 2025 Australian Blokart Championships at Waratah Bay. B74\_1225



Nate was enjoying a pretzel from the food vans at The Glade and came to the Equinox Festival with his family to have a look around and see what it was all about. ob81\_1225



Kaz and Mark are travelling and decided to stop by and check out what was happening at the Equinox Festival. ob82\_1225



Remi and Margot, with bunny Annabelle, snuggled up on a blanket enjoying the atmosphere at the Glade. ob83\_1225



Alana Hamilton and Bill Street from Bass Coast Adult Learning at the Specialist School Careers Expo. B27\_1025



Harrison Binstead and Jessica Roberts NDIS Latrobe Community Health at the Bass Coast Specialist School Careers Day. B28\_1025

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the San Remo Primary Athletics Day, Blokart Championships, Inverloch Equinox Festival and Careers Expos.



Hamish, Brodie, Mariette, Xavier and Mel from the First Inverloch Scout group were cooking up a sausage sizzle at the Equinox Festival. ob80\_1225



Jan, Kristine, Lou, Werner and Brenton watching the 2025 Blokart Championships at Waratah Bay. B75\_1225



Paul Effeneey Timekeeper and John Demeo Race Officer for the 2025 Australian Blokart Championships at Waratah Bay. B82\_1225



Nyrie Butterfield from Carrum Downs ready to race in the 2025 Australian Blokart Championships at Waratah Bay. B84\_1225



Jane Cavanagh and Grace Webster at the Bass Coast Specialist School Careers Expo. B32\_1025



Tanya Fellowes and Bola Ogundele from Scope at the Specialist School Careers Expo in Wonthaggi. B29\_1025



Korina McClelland and Delores Szantho from TheirCare at the Specialist School Careers Day. B30\_1025



Kerrie McNamara from Maxima at the Wonthaggi Specialist School Careers Expo. B31\_1025



# Inverloch Equinox Festival 21-23 March

## The Glade at Inverloch's Equinox Festival

A WARM afternoon of sunshine on the equinox proved to be the perfect weather for families and friends to come out and experience the activities at The Glade as part of Inverloch's Equinox Festival.

The crowds were entertained by a range of local live music acts with Newhaven College students the first band – Zenith Paradox – to take the stage, followed by artists Ganga Giri, Ozone Street, and Hot Tub, with a fire show spectacular thrown in the mix.

Kids had the opportunity to get their faces painted, see Mr Marvel and his amazing circus act, jump on an SES boat or climb a rock wall with the scouts.

A range of food stalls kept attendees stomachs full and there were some local product stalls to browse.

All in all, a very vibrant celebration of harvest, nature and wellness.



**Mikela, with Andrew and Toby, showcased the SES boat creating awareness for kids around life jackets and showing them how to tie knots with rope. ob71\_1225**



**Penelope Rowe and Louise Litchfield at The Hub in Inverloch for the opening night of the 2025 Equinox Festival. B88\_1225**



**Indy and Mick Asbury with Mandie Heffernan at the launch of the Inverloch Equinox Festival. B89\_1225**



**Max Dusting, Inverloch Lions and Trevor Key, Inverloch Men's Shed at opening night of the Inverloch Equinox Festival. B91\_1225**



**Sarah Vesty, Glenn Morris President ITA and Narelle Jones at the launch of the Inverloch Equinox Festival at The Hub. B85\_1225**



**Brian Brewer and Sally May at the 2025 Equinox Festival about to take opening night guests on a ghostly night tour of Inverloch. B95\_1225**

## Wellbeing success at The Hub

FROM 10 am to 4pm on Saturday a wide range of local products and services based around alternative wellbeing therapies were available for people to experience at the wellbeing expo as part of the Inverloch Equinox Festival.

"We've gathered practitioners from mostly around Inverloch and the local area to showcase their skills and their goods," said Samantha Brick, one of the coordinators of the wellbeing hub for this Inverloch Equinox Festival.

"People have the opportunity to come in and try and buy things that are all around health and wellbeing and nurturing the self, connecting to self and to higher self, and to bring balance to their body."

A range of practitioners were available including kinesiologists, myotherapists, psychic readers, and shiatsu practitioners. There was also the opportunity to do various types of sound therapy and breath work.

Various free workshops about awareness through

movement and plant health, light language, muscle understanding, muscle testing, breathwork and shadow work, facial manoeuvre, positive parenting, massage techniques and equine therapy were also held.

Stalls included those with crystals, cards, candles, aromatherapy, jewellery and lots of other holistic products for attendees to browse.

"It's about giving people the opportunity to look and see what's available and to try new things," explained Samantha.

The wellbeing expo culminated in a separate evening event where participants went on a journey of sound, movement, meditation and massage to release what needed to be released as part of letting go at the end of the season and dropping into relaxation.

**LEFT: Stalls included those with crystals, cards, candles, aromatherapy, jewellery and lots of other holistic products for attendees to browse.**

## A ghostly tour and soulful meditation for opening night



AN AFTER-dark tour of Inverloch and an opportunity to meditate with an Equine Interactive Experiences Practitioner and Wellness Guide were two of the highlights of opening night at the Inverloch Equinox Festival.

The well-attended launch of the Equinox Festival at The Hub in Inverloch was addressed by Glenn Morris, President of the Inverloch Tourism Association, and Louise Litchfield, Director of the Bendigo Community Bank, who paid tribute to the many supporters and sponsors of the festival.

Opening night guests were ushered into a darkened room for a meditation

session with Ashleigh Urry from Aligned by Nature before tour guides Brian Brewer and Sally May took the willing on a ghostly journey of Inverloch's little known after-dark secrets.

Celebrating that time of the year when the sun crosses the celestial equator and day and night are approximately equal length, rather than the start of the football season the Inverloch Equinox Festival is a welcome addition to the Bass Coast events calendar.

**LEFT: Harpist Xander Beach provided entertainment at the launch of the Inverloch Equinox Festival. B86\_1225**





# Franklin River frontage

ELDERS Rural Services Australia is pleased to present for sale one of South Gippsland's premium riverfront properties, featuring extensive private access to the Franklin River and spectacular views of Wilson Promontory. The highly productive farm is complemented with a modern home, set amongst mountain ash gums some 450 years old.

Located just eight kilometres\* from Foster, the 170-acre\* property is well-equipped for a successful beef operation, with 11 paddocks, it features quality working improvements and a reliable water supply from spring-fed dams and the Franklin River, with annual fertiliser application, this farm offers both productivity and lifestyle in a stunning natural setting.

There is a spacious modern four-bedroom, three-bathroom brick home. The main bedroom has a large walk-in wardrobe and ensuite. All bedrooms have built-in wardrobes and the living area looks out to a lovely courtyard. Plenty of storage with a double bay garage 6.5m x 6.2m.

Quality working improvements include 17m x 17m hay shed, 18m x 9m three bay machinery shed with concrete slab and power, heavy-duty stockyards and crush.

Water supply is guaranteed with six dams located on the property, 2.2 megalitre stock and domestic water license. Rainwater storage of 100,000 litres and is supported by an annual average 780mm\* rainfall.

Ideally located eight kilometres\* Foster, 38 kilometres\* Wilson Promontory, 35 kilometres\* Sandy Point and one hour and 40 minutes\* from Melbourne southeastern suburbs, this is a must-see property.

For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487.

\*denotes approximately  
For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: [consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist](https://consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist)

4 3 6

170 acres

380 Foster-Mt Best Road, **Foster**  
**For Sale \$2.3 Million**  
**Agent Elders**  
Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487



Real Estate

Over 40 years' experience

[eldersrealestate.com.au](https://eldersrealestate.com.au)

**Korumburra**678m<sup>2</sup>  
**Modern Family Home**

- 3-bed, 2-bath home
- Kitchen with gas cooktop, electric oven
- Ducted gas heating & reverse cycle

Web ID: 300P6357\$650,000

**Korumburra South**109 Acres  
**109 Acres of Options**

- 17 paddocks with electric fencing
- 14 troughs, 2 dams, header tank 78k ltrs
- Stockyards, 4 bay machinery/hay shed

Web ID: 300P6372\$900,000

**Foster**2.67 Acres  
**Hidden Luxury**

- 4-bed, 2-bath home with open plan living
- 2 sheds, horse stables, 92k rainwater
- Est. gardens, veggie beds & orchard

Web ID: 300P166521\$1.45 Million

**Woodleigh**2.88 Acres  
**Rebuild or Renovate**

- 3-bed home ideal for renovation
- Large paddock with dam
- Close to wineries & beaches

Web ID: 300P108740\$580,000

**BEN TOWNSEND**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0400 594 487

**SHARON TURTON**  
Sales Consultant  
0447 604 796

**HELEN ARESTIA**  
Sales Support  
03 5662 3523

**NATALIE RES**  
Property Manager  
0439 383 091

**Elders Leongatha**  
37 Bair Street  
Ph 5662 3523



# Modern design meets sustainable features

THIS meticulously presented property offers the perfect low-maintenance escape. Situated on an approx. 583m<sup>2</sup> block, just 200 metres from Ned Neale’s lookout and the dog-friendly beach, and 800 metres from the local coffee shop and surf club.

Enjoy the very best of beachside living with convenience right at your doorstep. The striking architectural design showcases a blend of ‘Sharpline’ Colourbond and Victorian Ash shiplap cladding, beautifully complemented by low-maintenance coastal gardens. The outdoor space has been thoughtfully crafted for year-round enjoyment, including a fully enclosed Merbau deck, firepit, and a private, secure rear garden-perfect for entertaining or simply relaxing in every season.

Step inside to a bright, airy interior defined by a neutral colour palette, extensive glazing, and a northern orientation that bathes the home in natural light. The open-plan living area seamlessly flows onto the outdoor entertaining space, while the kitchen boasts premium finishes such as Caesarstone countertops, Bosch appliances and earth-toned soft close cabinetry, perfectly paired with timber flooring and open shelving.

Zoned reverse cycle air conditioning and electric fire-place ensure the perfect temperature inside. The master bedroom adjoins a luxuriously appointed bathroom that features a large walk-in shower, Blackbutt vanity, underfloor heating, and heated towel rail. A central skylight fills the space with natural light, creating a spa-like atmosphere. The home also includes a well-appointed laundry/utility room with built-in storage and a separate W.C.

The lined and insulated garage includes a storage area that doubles as a games room or home gym, with parking space for multiple vehicles or a boat.

Designed with sustainability in mind, the property features a 10kW solar system, 14kW battery storage (full house backup), solar hot water, and three-phase power ready for future EV quick charging. Bore and tank water with a filtration system for peace of mind and water security, and a heated outdoor shower for rinsing off after the beach.

Whether you’re looking for a permanent coastal residence or the ultimate beachside retreat, this immaculate home offers the ideal combination of modern living, convenience, and easy maintenance.



2 1 4 583m<sup>2</sup>

19 Beach Parade, **Sandy Point**  
**For Sale \$845,000**  
**Agent** SEJ Real Estate  
Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



Your local  
Real Estate &  
Livestock Specialists  
[www.sej.com.au](http://www.sej.com.au)

ANDREA ADAMS  
0429 822 801  
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FOSTER  
Ph 5682 2800

IRENE WALKER  
0429 045 632  
[iwalker@sej.com.au](mailto:iwalker@sej.com.au)  
LEONGATHA  
Ph 5662 4033

### FISH CREEK

- 3 bed 2 bath easy walk to town
- Open plan living / dining, raked ceilings, RC/AC
- North facing deck, fenced garden
- Carport, under house storage

**\$585,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

### SANDY POINT

- 1075m<sup>2</sup> block, established gardens
- Covered BBQ area, sun room, well-appointed kitchen.
- 3 fitted BRs, master with WIR
- Workshop with wood heater

**\$860,000-910,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

### LEONGATHA

- Family home on spacious block
- 4 bed, 2 bath, 2 car & open plan
- Separate formal lounge room
- Rear deck, views, room for a shed
- Side access, great opportunity

**\$649,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

### MARDAN

- Highly Productive 52HA/130 acres
- Water security, Toomeys Ck
- Springs, Dams, troughs
- 14 paddocks, stock yards, sheds
- Updated lovely 2 bed cottage

**NEW PRICE \$1,640,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

### PORT WELSHPOOL

- 1997m<sup>2</sup> approx. – two street frontages, subdivide STCA
- 3BR cottage, LU garage, bungalow
- Living room with wood heater
- 1km to boat launching

**\$465,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

### WARATAH BAY

- Ranch style home & timber barn
- Wrap around verandah, fire pit
- Brand new kitchen, covered BBQ area
- Income as holiday rental

**\$895,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

### MARDAN

- “Bell’s End” – charming & unique
- 2.18 acres + additional river lease
- 3 bed, 1 bath, W/B farmhouse
- Est. garden, orchard, chook run
- Sundry shedding galore!

**\$880,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

### KARDELLA

- Location! 1.59HA / 4 Acres
- Picturesque views & paddocks
- Renovators project opportunity
- 3 bed, 1 bath, 4 car
- Shedding, yards, & close to town

**\$695,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 | 29





## Stunning northerly views

RURAL lifestyle properties of this size are extremely hard to find in the current market, and this neat as a pin family home is ready for you now!

Less than 10 kilometres from Leongatha, the time is right to make your country escape!

Offering uninterrupted northerly views over the surrounding farmlands, you'll feel like you own 'as far as the eye can see', not just the 1.6 acres (approx.) that this property offers.

The home has a lovely feel throughout, with modern appliances and updated bathrooms and kitchen, you can move straight in and enjoy.

The home offers three bedrooms, master bedroom with walk-in robe and modern bathroom, open plan living with a picture perfect 'country style' kitchen with loads of bench space (doubles as breakfast bar), a walk-in pantry and stylish fittings. The open style living is perfect, with stunning views to the north, as well as seamless connectivity to the massive outdoor undercover entertaining deck, which you will absolutely love.

The second bathroom servicing the spare bedrooms is enormous, featuring a free-standing bath, walk-in shower and toilet. Other features inside include a cosy wood fire, reverse cycle split system, ceiling fans, polished floorboards through the living spaces and tiles through the wet areas, large laundry and more.

Outside features a lock up garage, water tank, a large open area to the West of the property which could easily be converted into a paddock for a horse or cattle/sheep etc.

This is a perfect family home and rural retreat, and we'd love to show it to you.

To arrange an inspection or make further enquiries, please contact one of our sales team: Andrew Newton 0402 940 320, Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299, Tony Giles 0407 528 192, Dan Huther 0418 334 801



3 2 2 6474.97m<sup>2</sup>

285 Garvies Road, **Nerrena**  
**For Sale** New Price \$795,000  
**Agent** Alex Scott & Staff  
Leongatha Office 5662 0922

## Spacious family home

9 MAIR Crescent is a genuine family home in the heart of Korumburra, within walking distance to schools and shops.

This large brick residence boasts four bedrooms with robes, including a master with an ensuite and walk-in robe, making it perfect for growing families. With a study room ideal for remote work, study or fifth bedroom, and loads of built-in cupboards throughout, this property caters to all your needs.

The ducted heating and reverse cycle heating and air conditioning ensure year-round comfort or relax by the wood heater in the main lounge on cooler evenings. The rear undercover deck is perfect for BBQs and entertaining outdoors. The kitchen is equipped with a brand-new electric oven plus a dishwasher and plenty of cupboard space, making meal prep a breeze. A formal dining area plus a family meals area gives you plenty of options at dinnertime.

Outside, the fully fenced rear yard assures the pets and kids are safe and additionally, the under-house workshop provides ample space for hobbies, storage or a workshop and the carport offers convenient parking with easy access to the rear of the home.

Don't miss this opportunity to own a beautifully presented home that offers everything for a family at an affordable price in a desirable location.

Contact Scott McKenzie to arrange your private inspection – 0427 552 898.



4 2 2 662m<sup>2</sup>

9 Mair Crescent, **Korumburra**  
**For Sale** \$550,000  
**Agent** Alex Scott & Staff  
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898





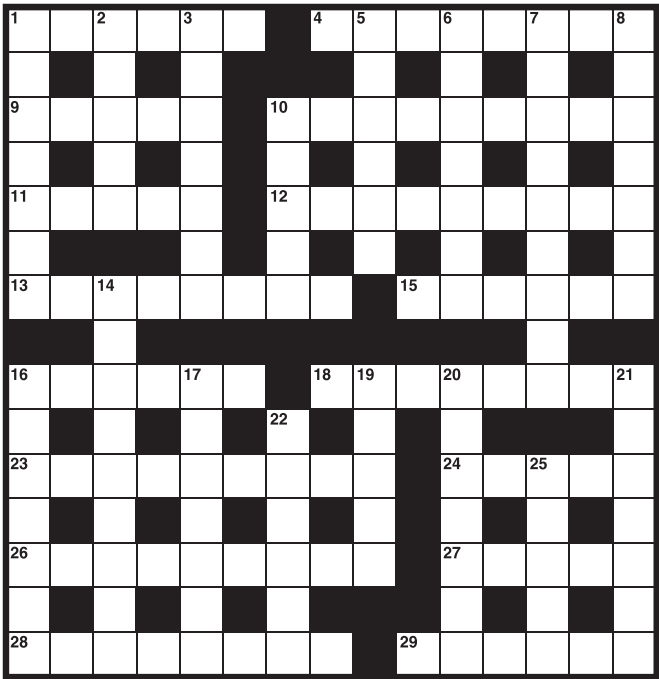
|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div><div>11 A'Beckett Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neat and tidy 3 bed, 2 bath weatherboard</li><li>• Close to Parks, Schools and main street</li><li>• Side lane access, garden shed, est. garden</li></ul></div><div>\$535,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>                              | <div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div><div>9 Mair Crescent</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spacious family home</li><li>• 4/5 bedroom, 2 bathroom</li><li>• Under house workshop</li></ul></div><div>\$550,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>                   | <div>GRANTVILLE</div> <div></div> <div><div>34A Portview Avenue</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modern 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house</li><li>• 2 car garage</li><li>• Low-maintenance yard</li></ul></div><div>\$595,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>   | <div>NORTH WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div><div>36 Gordon Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3-bedroom hardiplank home</li><li>• Great investment or first home buyer</li><li>• Low maintenance block</li></ul></div><div>\$429,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div> |
| <div>MIRBOO NORTH</div> <div></div> <div><div>3 Gilfedder Terrace</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5ac aprx. lifestyle prop, 3 bed 2 bath 5 car</li><li>• Beautifully maintained with garden</li><li>• Shedding, separate paddocks and more</li></ul></div><div>\$1,080,000 - \$1,150,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>                 | <div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div><div>23 Bridge Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grand period home</li><li>• Prime corner location</li><li>• 3 bedroom, 3 living</li></ul></div><div>\$695,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>                       | <div>CORINELLA</div> <div><div>NEW PRICE</div></div> <div><div>1 Kilburn Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom with carport</li><li>• Generous 1,035m² size block</li><li>• Charming home or investment potential</li></ul></div><div>\$599,000 - \$620,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>                    | <div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div><div>6 Bent Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Close to town centre</li><li>• 3 bedroom quality built</li><li>• Workshop with bathroom</li></ul></div><div>\$620,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>                          |
| <div>KARDELLA SOUTH</div> <div><div>NEW PRICE</div></div> <div><div>45 James Road</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Architectural excellence, sustainable luxury</li><li>• 14.97 acres with panoramic views</li><li>• Too many extras to list, must inspect</li></ul></div><div>\$1,550,000 - \$1,650,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div> | <div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div><div>24 Massimo Way</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elevated position</li><li>• Easy to manage 763m² block</li><li>• Modern 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom</li></ul></div><div>\$575,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>          | <div>CORINELLA</div> <div><div>NEW PRICE</div></div> <div><div>141 Smythe Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom with Garage</li><li>• Spectacular views</li><li>• Fantastic location</li></ul></div><div>Price Reduction \$1,049,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>  | <div>NORTH WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div><div>63 Gordon Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 bedroom brick home</li><li>• 757m² block</li><li>• Good shedding</li></ul></div><div>\$499,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>                                     |
| <div>LEONGATHA</div> <div><div>NEW PRICE</div></div> <div><div>36 Jeffrey Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blonde brick home in desirable Jeffrey St</li><li>• 3 bed 1 bath home with double carport</li><li>• Great floorplan, in need of a renovation</li></ul></div><div>\$420,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>             | <div>LOCH</div> <div></div> <div><div>335 Henrys Road</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private country retreat</li><li>• Architectural masterpiece</li><li>• Endless possibilities</li></ul></div><div>\$1,385,000 - \$1,420,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div> | <div>CORONET BAY</div> <div><div>NEW PRICE</div></div> <div><div>58 Gellibrand Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom with carport</li><li>• Peaceful and sought-after neighbourhood</li><li>• Perfect for first home or retiree</li></ul></div><div>Price Reduction \$469,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div> | <div>NORTH WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div><div>16 Gordon Street</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 bedroom brick home</li><li>• Mid century modern styling</li><li>• 800m² block</li></ul></div><div>\$575,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>                        |





CROSSWORD

No. 273



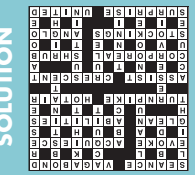
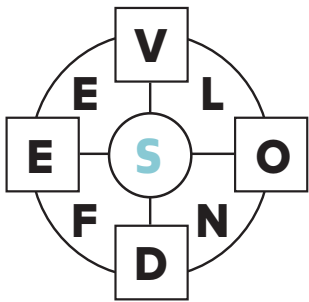
- ACROSS**
- 1 Spiritualists' meeting (6)
  - 4 Tramp (8)
  - 9 Elicit (5)
  - 10 Accept reluctantly (9)
  - 11 Gather piecemeal (5)
  - 12 Talents (9)
  - 13 Tollway (8)
  - 15 Thermal energy (3,3)
  - 16 Help (6)
  - 18 Emblem of Islam (8)
  - 23 Relating to the body (9)

9-LETTER

No. 273

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

- Today's Aim:**
- 17 words: **Good**
  - 26 words: **Very good**
  - 35 words: **Excellent**

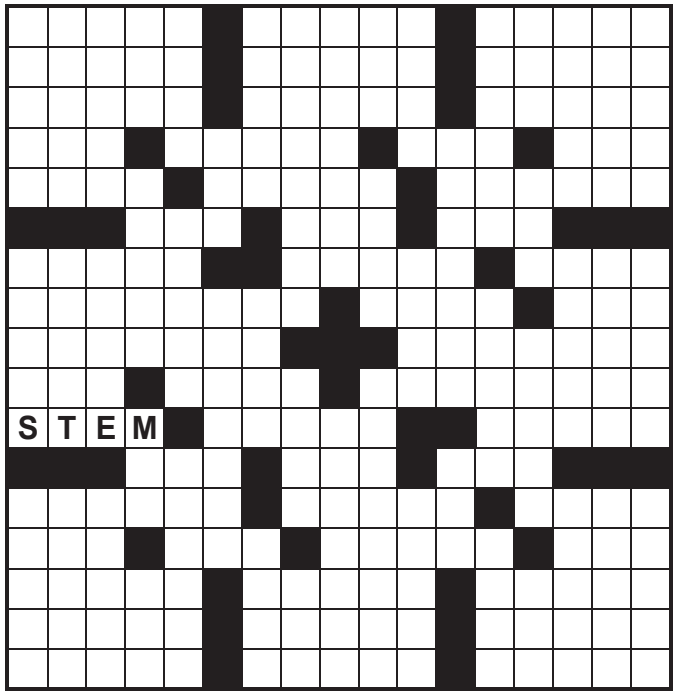


solved, vends  
sieve, sold, solve,  
seven, SEVENFOLD,  
seen, self, send,  
nosed, oneself, seed,  
loves, needs, nose,  
fondles, lends, lose,  
fends, fees, folds,  
evens, feeds, feels,  
else, ends, enfolds,  
dotes, dons, dose,  
delves, dense, does,

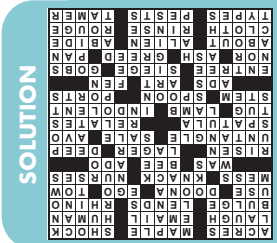
WORDFIT

No. 182

- 3 LETTERS**
- ADO
  - ADS
  - ART
  - ASH
  - AVO
  - BEE
  - BOA
  - EGG
  - EGO
  - FEE
  - FEN
  - HUH
  - LID
  - LIE
  - MAR
  - NOR
  - OKS
  - PAN
  - ROD
  - TOW
  - TUG
  - USE
  - UTE
  - WAS
- 5 LETTERS**
- ABIDE
  - ABOUT
  - ACRES
  - ALBUM
  - ALIEN
  - ALONG
  - ANNUL
  - BADGE
  - BULGE
  - CANOE
  - CAUSE
  - CLOTH
  - DOONA
  - EATER
  - ELOPE
  - EMAIL
  - ENACT
  - EVENT
  - GENES
  - GREED
  - HUMAN
  - INPUT
  - KNACK
  - KNOWS
  - LAGER
  - LAUGH
  - LENDS
  - MAPLE
  - MELON



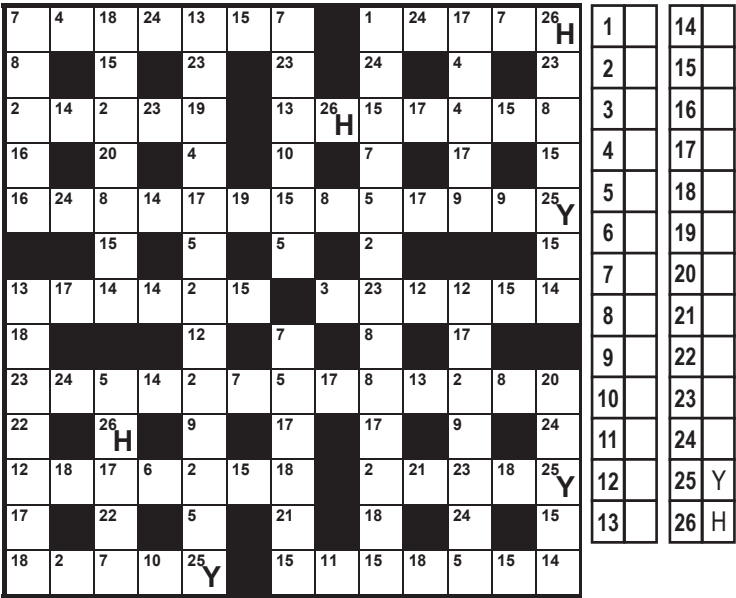
- 7 LETTERS**
- GLASSES
  - GNARLED
  - ORIGINS
  - PANACEA
  - RELATES
  - SPATULA
- 8 LETTERS**
- AMENABLE
  - INDOLENT
  - INTEREST
  - UNTANGLE
- 6 LETTERS**
- DEATHS
  - ENTREE
  - NURSES
  - SHROUD



CODEWORD

No. 263

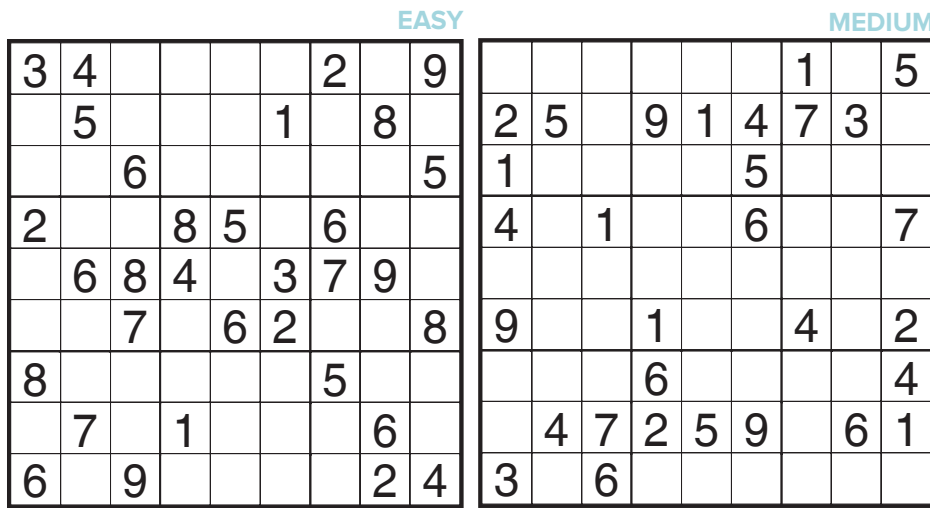
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



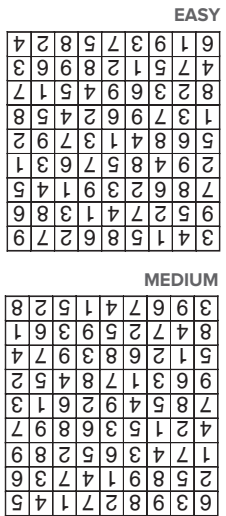
SUDOKU

No. 272

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

- Diamonds are made up of what chemical element?
- Name the famous English poem in which a bird says "Nevermore".
- Do piranhas live in freshwater or saltwater?
- Which 2003 film, starring Tobey Maguire (pictured), is loosely based on the life of a champion racehorse?
- The Wrath of Cortex is a video game in which franchise?
- What is a zither?
- As of 2023, which country most recently gained independence?
- What type of art is Banksy best known for?
- In which US state was the fast food chain Taco Bell founded?
- The Limousin is a breed of which farm animal?



WORD SEARCH

No. 183

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



- ASSIST  
BALL  
BASE  
BAT  
BUNT  
CARD  
CATCH  
CLUB  
DECK  
FIRST  
FOUL  
GAME  
GEAR  
HITS  
HOME  
INFIELD
- INNING  
LINEUP  
LOSE  
MITT  
MOUND  
MVP  
NATIONAL LEAGUE  
NINE  
OUT  
PARK  
PITCH  
RBI  
RUN  
SAVES  
SECOND
- SLIDE  
SLUGGER  
SPORT  
SPRING TRAINING  
STEAL  
STOLEN  
STRIKE  
SWEET SPOT  
TAG  
TEAM  
THIRD  
THROW  
VAULT  
WALK  
WIN

**ANSWERS:** 1. Carbon 2. The Raven (Edgar Allan Poe) 3. Freshwater 4. Seabiscuit 5. Crash Bandicoot 6. A stringed musical instrument 7. South Sudan 8. Street art 9. California 10. Cow

**SECRET MESSAGE:** America's favourite pastime





**Trevor Arnold (Ace Industrial branch manager):** See us at Farm World 2025 for your opportunity to win big, a trailer loaded with tools and equipment, valued at over \$15,000 is up for grabs! To enter the draw simply spend \$200 or more in a single transaction at our site. The more you spend the better your chances – enter as many times as you like. A06\_1225



**Tom Peters and Gavan Stewart from Chapmans** are looking forward to seeing new faces and those they already know, catching up with customers and showcasing products at Farm World. ob08\_1225



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**Event Details**

- Location: Baw Baw Pavilion, Farm World 2025
- Dates: March 27th, 28th, and 29th, 2025
- Draw Date and Time: Saturday, March 29th, 2025, at 3:00 PM
- Entry Requirement: Spend \$200 or more in one transaction to enter



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Hayden Poppe of HP Fire is looking forward to once again displaying their spectacular array of products at Farm World this week. "We can find the right product to suit everyone," said Hayden. ob08\_1324



Gendore will be featuring a large range of New Holland tractors, Hustler feeding equipment and Pottinger hay and tillage gear at Farm World. A05\_1225



There is plenty to explore and entertain this Farm World at Lardner Park.



A new annual favourite the tickets have sold hot and fast for the Farm World Rodeo, this year will see the PBR Australia Touring Pro Division. C54\_1324

## Don't miss Nathan Buckley

LATROBE Health Services, a not-for-profit health fund based in Gippsland, is delighted to welcome AFL legend Nathan Buckley as the guest speaker at Farm World 2025.

Nathan will share valuable insights on the power of self-awareness, seeking support, and maintaining a positive mindset to navigate life's challenges. He will offer practical advice on managing stress, building resilience, and sustaining a healthy lifestyle.

"It's not just what you eat but lots of little things you do every day which benefit your overall wellbeing," Nathan said.

"If we want to support and care for people, we really need to take care of ourselves as well. I've learned the happier and healthier you are, the more you have to give to the ones you love. It's important to monitor your health with regular check-ups, either at your GP or via opportunities like the free Shane Warne Legacy Health Checks, which will be available at Farm World."

Latrobe Health Services is committed to preventive health. As a member-owned fund, it prioritises inclusivity and accessibility in healthcare, especially for rural and regional communities.

"We are proud to host Nathan Buckley in Gippsland, and look forward to the practical tips he shares, which will help to improve our health and wellbeing," Latrobe Health Services CEO Ian Whitehead said.



AFL great Nathan Buckley will be speaking about preventative health at Farm World on Saturday, March 29.

Latrobe Health is the proud founding partner of the Shane Warne Legacy and once again, Latrobe Health is offering Shane Warne Legacy Health Checks across all three days of Farm World at site 82-83 in the Country Living Pavillion.

Health and Wellbeing for Every Day with Nathan Buckley will be held from 12pm to 1pm on Saturday, March 29 and will include a Q&A at the end of the event.

A ticketed event and filling fast, tickets are free for Latrobe Health members and \$5 for non-members with all proceeds to be donated to charity.

Attendees must also have tickets to Farm World.

To book tickets, head to [trybooking.com/events/land-1363361](https://trybooking.com/events/land-1363361).

# FARMWORLD SPECIALS

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Proudly Gippsland, Farm World remains Victoria's premier field day, attracting over 40,000 people annually.

## Agriculture, entertainment and adrenaline

FOR over 50 years, this renowned regional agricultural event has given visitors the chance to connect with industry professionals, discover insights about farm animals, and shop directly from manufacturers and suppliers. While deeply rooted in farming, it's also a fantastic day out for those who appreciate rural life and the great outdoors.

Spanning nearly 100 acres, Farm World showcases an extensive range of exhibitors both indoors and outdoors. Attendees can explore everything from farm equipment, machinery, and tools to outdoor living essentials like boats, caravans, horse floats, and vehicles. Technology, plants, and a vast selection of must-have tools are also on display.

Of course, Farm World wouldn't be complete without a diverse range

of animals – visitors can engage with cattle breeders in "Cattle Corner," observe kelpie dogs herding sheep, or even try leading an alpaca.

Equestrian enthusiasts can look forward to a dedicated three-day program featuring everything equestrian. A standout feature of Farm World, the Telstra Women in Ag lunch, will once again welcome an inspiring lineup of speakers, making it a highlight for many attendees.

This year, Farm World promises even more unique experiences and exciting attractions. The event will take place from Thursday, March 27 to Saturday, March 29, shifting from last year's Friday-to-Sunday format. Be sure to plan ahead and make the most of this dynamic event!

Lardner Park is also excited to

introduce a thrilling collaboration with PBR Australia, bringing the Touring Pro Division to Farm World 2025. This exhilarating addition guarantees a night of top-tier bull riding action while continuing to deliver the rodeo events that audiences love on Saturday.

Adding even more energy to the three days and Saturday evening, the Freestyle Kings Motocross Show will deliver heart-stopping stunts. Visitors can also enjoy a vibrant atmosphere with a full bar, a diverse range of food trucks, and live music from Tegan Blackstock & The Calway Band to keep the excitement going.

Save the date – this Thursday to Saturday! Farm World and the rodeo are set to be bigger and better than ever.

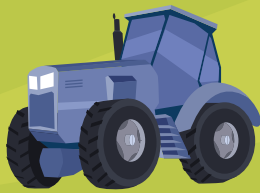


Warren and Stuart Evans (general manager, and managing director respectively): Evans Petroleum as a major sponsor of Lardner Park is saddling up for its 35th year of sponsorship and participation at the upcoming field days. Evans Petroleum has a new site just inside gate 4, which places the team amongst the agricultural suppliers who are the bread and butter of their operation, the company having built its business on servicing local farmers and industrial customers with quality bulk fuels and lubricants and competitive prices. A07\_1225



Tim and Tom Marriott are looking forward to seeing customers "new and old" and showing off their range of new models at Farm World. ob09\_1225





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## World Jersey enthusiasts to visit Australia

JERSEY farmers and enthusiasts from four continents will converge on Australia next month for the 2025 World Jersey Conference. Jersey Australia will host the conference for the first time since 2011 and the three-week event is attracting visitors from the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Germany, Jersey Islands, South Africa and Colombia.

The tour starts in Melbourne on April 6 and finishes in Sydney on April 22 and will take visitors across the Gippsland, south-west and northern regions of Victoria and the New South Wales south coast.

Jersey Australia general manager Glen Barrett said participants would see some of the best Jersey herds in the world.

"I think everyone will be impressed by the Australian Jersey and the Australian hospitality," Mr Barrett said.

"Australia has a world-leading Jersey population and we will be visiting some of the premier herds, including some that guests may not have seen before.

"Every herd will tell a terrific story."

The tour will include visits to the top BPI herds, Master Breeder herds and several younger farmers starting to make a mark on the Jersey scene.

It will also include visits to the 63rd annual Central Gippsland Jersey Fair, Ellinbank Smart Farm, Burra Foods, Total Livestock Genetics and Agribio research facility.

Guests can also participate in the annual Jersey Elite Awards, which recognise Master Breeders, Elite Cows and Bulls and announce the Great Australian Challenge winners and the Dairy's Finest sale will be on April 14 at Moama.

They will also hear about Jerseys in the South African dairy industry, a research project by Daviesways on regenerative farming and the advantages offered by Jersey cows, and young scientist Mikayla Crouch, the first recipient of the Australian Dairy Youth Travel Scholarship to study at the University of Dublin as part of her Ag Science Genetics major will be a presenter.

Mr Barrett said the tour was made possible by the support of premium sponsor Genetics Australia, platinum sponsor Zoetis and many gold, silver and bronze sponsors.

The tour is happening at an opportune time with Jerseys increasing their share of the Australian dairy market over the past decade.

The latest DataGene statistics show Jerseys are continuing a steady rise in popularity. The Australian national herd data recorded a two per cent increase in the number of Jersey cattle during the past year and eight per cent in the last decade, rising to a total of about 17.4 per cent.

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.

## Another successful Tarwin Landcare Group Deer Hunters Ball



Ruth Hoffman and Cath Nunn from the organising committee with guests Seb and Corey at the 2025 Deer Hunters Ball.



Buck of the Deer Hunters Ball Reis Hamilton with Cathy Hamilton.



Deer Hunters Ball organising committee Ruth Hoffman, Kylie Balharrie, Heather Le Roy, Jenny O'Sullivan and Cath Nunn.

MORE than 100 local farmers, hunters, friends and neighbours dressed to impress for the Tarwin Landcare Group's 2025 Deer Hunters Ball.

Feasting on venison sourced from nearby Tarwin Meadows and cooked to perfection by Trulli of Meenyan the ball was a true community event celebrated at the Tarwin Lower Memorial Hall.

Completely sold out, as it was for the first ball in 2023 the Deer Hunters Ball celebrated the district's community pest control efforts.

Cape Liptrap farmer and hunter Bruce Whittaker retained his Champion Deer Hunters award having removed 200 deer and 220 foxes over the past two and a half years.

It was a remarkable achievement by someone who only started hunting in 2021 after attending a Landcare meeting about the rising numbers of feral deer in the local area.

Runners-up were Rory Bluett and James Gemmell with control numbers not quite as high as Bruce's but equally valued.

Rory generously shares his cool room with fellow deer hunters and donated a much-fought over 'blonde' deer hide for the silent auction.

James Gemmell regularly shares videos on WhatsApp of wildlife that benefit from his control efforts including rising celebrity lace monitor, Joanna the Goanna.

With everyone at the ball adhering to the theme of 'Dress to Impress' or 'Hunter Huntress' the judging panel had a hard time selecting the Doe and Buck of the Ball.

After much consideration, the event's fashion crowns went to the very regal Stacy Argus-Smith and the not-so-regal Reis Hamilton.

Honourable Doe and Buck mentions went to Kate Russell, Cathy Hamilton, Wayne Smith and Hunter Robertson.

A very special mention went to commercial harvester Leigh Francis who plays a critical role in the Cape Liptrap Community Deer Control (CLCDC) group's efforts to control feral deer.

With money raised from the Deer Hunters Ball, the CLCDC group regularly contacts Leigh to hunt on local properties.

Mr Francis has removed 100 feral deer over the past two years and supplied all the venison for the ball.

Francesco and the hard-working team from Trulli of Meenyan achieved wonders with the catering which featured melt-in-the-mouth venison osso buco.

Increased appreciation of venison amongst the community has been an interesting outcome from the Cape Liptrap Community Deer Control group's efforts.

This trend towards appreciating venison was assisted by a Pest to Plate butchering workshop in 2023 run by the Tarwin Landcare Group in conjunction with the Game Management Authority which showed participants how to prepare field-shot deer for human consumption.

An event like the Deer Hunters Ball could not be held without an amazing organising committee with special thanks going to Jenny O'Sullivan, Kylie Balharrie, Ruth Hoffman, Heather Le Roy and Cath Nunn, who spent many months planning the event.

The fabulous Baker Boys Band got everyone up and dancing.

Tarwin Lower Memorial Hall President Marg de Wolff was acknowledged for helping transform the Tarwin Lower Hall into a deer hunter's wonderland.

The ball was generously supported by local landholders John Humphris and Karen McVilly, the National Deer Program and many individuals and businesses that provided items for the silent auction which raised \$4000 towards funding future pest control efforts in the area.

Tarwin Landcare Group and the South Gippsland Landcare Network are keen to assist other community groups that want to control feral deer.

For more information go to [sgln.net.au](http://sgln.net.au) or email [nickstephens@sgln.net.au](mailto:nickstephens@sgln.net.au)

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## Koorooman Sapphire Ewes ready to beat challengers again

KOOROOMAN Sapphire Ewes are returning to the scene of last year's triumph, looking to repeat their win in the Back to Back Wool Challenge, the competition requiring teams to spin wool fresh from the sheep and knit an adult-sized jumper, the action occurring on Saturday, March 29.

The Back to Back name has its origins in the wool's journey from the sheep's back to that of the wearer.

Team leader Linda Howie had the honour of donning the completed jumper last year after the Sapphire Ewes won in a time of 12 hours and 44 minutes, which they are looking to better this year, albeit the 2024 winning margin was over an hour.

The competition, which will be live-streamed, is at Tarndwarncoort near Colac, one of Victoria's oldest farms and the birthplace of Polwarth sheep.

Along with the fun of battling it out against the other teams, there is an important cause at stake, the proceeds of the day supporting Rare Cancers Australia.

Three determined teams of seven hand-spinners and knitters together with a hand shearer, will have their shears, spinning wheels and needles at the ready.



Colleen Harvey, Belinda Smart, Linda Howie and Penny Duffield are looking forward to the Back to Back Wool Challenge, showing off the honours won last year by the Koorooman Sapphire Ewes, with Linda wearing the 2024 winning jumper. A21\_1225

"We aim to be knitting within 10 minutes of the shearer starting to shear," Linda said.

She noted forecast warm weather on competition day is a positive.

"Grease in the wool when it's cold gets quite sticky and more difficult to knit," the team leader explained.

Along with Linda, Belinda Smart, Colleen Harvey, Sue Speer, Edyta Hoxley, Robyn Holman, and Kim Cadman will be striving to spin and knit the Sapphire Ewes to victory.

Support crew Penny Duffield and Jan Pettenuzzo will ensure team members are well looked

after by supplying reviving cups of tea and snacks, a crucial responsibility given the marathon nature of the contest.

Ballarat's 'Yarn it All' is this year's new entrant, 'The Pink Team', otherwise known as 'Sisters in Stitches', of Lara the other side in action.

Last year's runner-up 'Polwarth Put the Kettle on' of Pascoe Vale didn't lodge an entry this time, that being an oversight.

The Koorooman Sapphire Ewes team is formed from members of the Koorooman Spinners and Weavers.

The Back to Back spinning

competition stemmed from an 1811 bet as to whether you could make a coat from a sheep's back to a person's back in a day, something that was accomplished, the idea being seized on during a wool conference in Scotland in the 1990s.

Donations can be made via the link [give.rarecancers.org.au/fundraisers/tomden-nisptf/BacktoBackWoolChallenge2025](https://give.rarecancers.org.au/fundraisers/tomden-nisptf/BacktoBackWoolChallenge2025)

Casey Fields Lifestyle Communities will match any donation made via the link to Rare Cancer's website with Koorooman Sapphire Ewes mentioned in the comments.

## Pilot program boosts farmers' carbon capture

AGRICULTURE Victoria has partnered with South Gippsland farmers Jenny and Paul O'Sullivan of Malabar Farm near Walkerville to find profitable and sustainable ways to reduce emissions on their sheep and beef properties.

The O'Sullivans participated in Agriculture Victoria's On-Farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot, a program that helped nearly 250 farmers across the state understand and act on their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Emissions Specialist Alison Kelly worked with the O'Sullivans to develop a customised on-farm emissions action plan to reduce their GHG and sequester and store carbon.

"Reducing emissions through efficient production and carbon storage is top of mind for farmers in this pilot like the O'Sullivans who are passionate about sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation," Mrs Kelly said. "Determining the environmental impact of your farm's production through a process called 'Know Your Number' is now something that governments and the whole supply chain are increasingly demanding."

As part of the program, Mrs Kelly worked with the O'Sullivans to determine their number, a net farm annual emissions footprint estimate, via an existing Greenhouse Gas Accounting Framework calculator for beef and sheep enterprises.

As well as revegetation and land use improvements, the O'Sullivans continue to reduce their farm GHG emissions with a seven kW solar power system for their workshop, fences and pumps.

They are also screening their bulls for feed conversion efficiency and hope to learn from feed additive research to see how they can apply benefits to their grazing operation to possibly further reduce emissions.

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| Mark Malacarne                   | 0418 654 590 | Morgan Croucher                   | 0457 001 877 |
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|                                  |              | Imogen Price                      | 0417 225 498 |

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|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
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SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE

# Students enjoy hands-on learning at SRH Poowong

EXCITEMENT was in the air as Grade 4/5 and 5/6 students from Loch Primary School embarked on an unforgettable excursion to SRH Poowong, thanks to the incredible support of the Race Victoria Program. The visit provided a unique opportunity for students to dive into the fascinating world of milk transportation, mechanical logistics, and cutting-edge technology, giving them a firsthand look at industries that keep our communities running.

From the moment students arrived at SRH Poowong, they were immersed in an engaging and educational experience. The program introduced them to the complex process of milk transport, showing how raw milk is collected, stored, and safely delivered to processing facilities. The students were amazed by the scale of the operation and the meticulous planning required to ensure efficiency.

The excursion also delved into mechanical and logistics operations, where students explored the technology behind modern transport fleets. They learned about vehicle maintenance, safety protocols, and the role of advanced machinery in keeping the industry moving. With hands-on activities and expert guidance from the SRH team, students saw how science,



Loch Primary School Grade 4/5 and 5/6 students on an excursion to SRH Poowong, connecting students to the agriculture sector.

engineering, and innovation come together in the real world.

This experience was made possible through the Race Victoria Program, which aims to connect students with industries and career pathways in the agriculture sector that they might not otherwise be exposed to.

Students and teachers alike thoroughly enjoyed the excursion, with many calling it one of the best learning experiences of the year. The combination

of hands-on learning, industry insights, and real-world application made it an invaluable opportunity.

A huge thank you to SRH Poowong and Race Victoria Program for their generosity, expertise, and commitment to providing such an enriching experience for our students. This partnership has undoubtedly left a lasting impact, inspiring the next generation to explore the exciting possibilities in logistics and technology.

# MARKET REPORT

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CLAAS Harvest Centre

## Heavy feeders in demand

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded 4400 cattle at this week's VLE Leongatha store sale in another very good offering.

There was a similar size field of buyers in attendance with feedlot orders dominating.

Wayne Reid for O'Connors Pakenham and Jamie Quinlan for Elders Yea both purchased a good share of the offering for various feedlot orders along with JBS. Teys and Anthony Hullick for Westside purchased several loads between them along with local graziers selective on their purchases.

Prices for cattle with weight ready to go straight onto feed were strong with prices firm to 10 cents dearer with Angus cattle commanding the premium.

Weaners and lighter-weight cattle destined for the paddock held firm for the quality pens but eased a little on the secondary and Xbred types.

### Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Mar. 20, 2025 Steers

|                              |       |        |        |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| TR Waite 10 Angus            | 607kg | \$3.29 | \$2000 |
| J Howell 13 Angus            | 602kg | \$3.80 | \$2300 |
| H Henderson 17 Angus         | 597kg | \$4.12 | \$2460 |
| T Elder 12 Char              | 583kg | \$3.87 | \$2260 |
| Wattleglen Dairy 19 Angus    | 569kg | \$3.97 | \$2260 |
| Denereaz & Brewer 12 Angus   | 560kg | \$3.91 | \$2190 |
| P Duncan 15 Angus            | 560kg | \$4.05 | \$2270 |
| White Pastures 14 Angus      | 548kg | \$3.97 | \$2180 |
| Noack Properties 16 Angus    | 545kg | \$4.01 | \$2190 |
| Whodeany P/L 19 Angus        | 545kg | \$3.29 | \$1800 |
| R Galante 12 Angus           | 538kg | \$4.01 | \$2160 |
| White Pastures 14 Angus      | 538kg | \$4.05 | \$2180 |
| J & K Coulson 10 Angus       | 530kg | \$4.01 | \$2130 |
| Cardley P/L 20 Angus         | 522kg | \$3.86 | \$2020 |
| AS & PK Aitken 12 Angus      | 520kg | \$3.88 | \$2020 |
| J Kay 17 Angus               | 516kg | \$3.75 | \$1940 |
| KJ,LC & CD Snell 14 Hereford | 515kg | \$3.72 | \$1920 |
| MR & AM Fleming 11 Angus     | 510kg | \$3.58 | \$1830 |
| DS & RE Jones 13 Angus       | 506kg | \$4.12 | \$2090 |
| JD & LG Mcleish 30 Angus     | 498kg | \$4.13 | \$2060 |
| Black Range Angus 23 Angus   | 478kg | \$4.09 | \$1960 |
| Mirawah P/L 12 Angus         | 474kg | \$3.90 | \$1850 |
| T Elder 10 S/Horn            | 470kg | \$3.55 | \$1650 |
| T Hooker 16 Angus            | 441kg | \$3.87 | \$1710 |
| N Zenelovski 12 Angus        | 432kg | \$3.47 | \$1500 |
| W & E Hamilton 14 Angus      | 429kg | \$3.86 | \$1660 |
| C Christensen 11 Angus       | 424kg | \$3.76 | \$1600 |
| G & M Porter 15 Angus        | 424kg | \$3.72 | \$1580 |
| Argee Nom. 10 Angus          | 421kg | \$3.70 | \$1560 |
| Mirawah P/L 13 Angus         | 411kg | \$3.64 | \$1500 |
| V & DL Vickers 17 Angus      | 405kg | \$3.45 | \$1400 |
| P Fleming 21 Angus & BB      | 400kg | \$3.92 | \$1570 |
| GT Cummaudo 14 Char          | 397kg | \$3.82 | \$1520 |
| D Board 13 Angus             | 396kg | \$3.27 | \$1300 |
| Jones Farms 14 Angus         | 389kg | \$3.85 | \$1500 |
| L Kane & M Thompson 10 Hfd   | 385kg | \$3.34 | \$1290 |
| R & C Jones 18 Angus         | 383kg | \$3.83 | \$1470 |
| C & N Downie 14 Hereford     | 381kg | \$3.67 | \$1400 |
| Rural Op Group 18 Hereford   | 380kg | \$3.67 | \$1400 |
| Bona Vista Holdings 13 Angus | 375kg | \$3.86 | \$1450 |
| S & J Schmidt 10 Euro        | 372kg | \$3.65 | \$1360 |
| M Brady 22 Angus             | 365kg | \$3.72 | \$1360 |
| N Zenelovski 10 Angus        | 364kg | \$3.24 | \$1180 |
| T Wilson 15 Angus X          | 358kg | \$3.63 | \$1300 |
| KW & RF Battersby 11 Angus   | 357kg | \$3.64 | \$1300 |
| T Brusamarello 13 Angus 3    | 47kg  | \$3.51 | \$1220 |
| S Hurley 22 Angus            | 346kg | \$4.18 | \$1450 |
| G Oconnell 11 Char           | 345kg | \$3.41 | \$1180 |
| AT & TJ Derham 16 Angus      | 335kg | \$3.76 | \$1260 |
| Eaton Park 18 Angus          | 334kg | \$3.76 | \$1260 |
| J Reedy 14 Angus             | 329kg | \$3.92 | \$1290 |
| MJ Parry 22 Angus            | 328kg | \$4.02 | \$1320 |
| GS Pastoral 19 Angus         | 328kg | \$3.93 | \$1290 |
| AT & TJ Derham 21 Angus      | 326kg | \$4.55 | \$1490 |
| D Board 17 Angus             | 311kg | \$3.68 | \$1150 |
| Rural Op Group 20 Hereford   | 311kg | \$3.40 | \$1060 |
| Grazing 365 16 Angus         | 303kg | \$3.29 | \$1000 |
| Eaton Park 21 Angus          | 281kg | \$3.93 | \$1110 |
| MJ Parry 16 Angus            | 281kg | \$3.55 | \$1000 |
| Blue Haze Farm 26 Angus      | 279kg | \$4.25 | \$1190 |
| A & K Rakip 33 Angus         | 260kg | \$4.03 | \$1050 |

|                              |       |        |        |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>Heifers</b>               |       |        |        |
| Yanakie Pastoral 10 Angus    | 529kg | \$3.25 | \$1720 |
| N Zenelovski 16 Angus        | 406kg | \$3.59 | \$1460 |
| RJ Mackenzie 19 Hereford     | 402kg | \$3.37 | \$1360 |
| AS & PK Aitken 15 Angus      | 393kg | \$3.27 | \$1290 |
| D & G Hunter 19 Angus        | 391kg | \$3.65 | \$1430 |
| C Christensen 10 Angus       | 391kg | \$3.37 | \$1320 |
| Rural Op Group 16 Hereford   | 371kg | \$3.30 | \$1230 |
| G Jones 11 S/Horn            | 359kg | \$3.06 | \$1100 |
| Argee Nom 18 Angus           | 353kg | \$3.11 | \$1100 |
| R & C Jackson 14 Angus       | 352kg | \$3.26 | \$1150 |
| G Oconnell 13 Char           | 340kg | \$3.22 | \$1100 |
| Yanakie Pastoral 17 Angus    | 330kg | \$3.03 | \$1000 |
| Vuiller Shorthorns 15 Shorns | 313kg | \$2.77 | \$870  |
| K & H Dusterwald 20 Angus    | 310kg | \$3.06 | \$950  |
| Yanakie Pastoral 21 Angus    | 308kg | \$2.88 | \$890  |
| Sas & Robertson 13 Angus     | 308kg | \$2.75 | \$850  |
| Rural Op Group 21 Hereford   | 304kg | \$2.95 | \$900  |
| Eaton Park 20 Angus          | 302kg | \$3.13 | \$950  |
| Km Breen 11 Angus            | 298kg | \$2.98 | \$800  |
| Jones Farms 18 Angus         | 296kg | \$2.73 | \$810  |
| J Sharp 12 Angus             | 288kg | \$2.94 | \$850  |
| K & H Dusterwald 13 Angus    | 281kg | \$3.01 | \$850  |

|                          |       |        |        |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>X-Bred Steers</b>     |       |        |        |
| D Chesney 15 Char X      | 450kg | \$3.11 | \$1400 |
| Ad Spencer 20 Angus X    | 432kg | \$3.72 | \$1610 |
| DJ Armstrong 10 Angus X  | 345kg | \$2.75 | \$950  |
| W Henwood 14 Friesian    | 474kg | \$2.59 | \$1230 |
| J & DC Casey 15 Friesian | 457kg | \$2.49 | \$1140 |
| D Fleming 14 Friesian    | 413kg | \$3.53 | \$1050 |
| DJ Armstrong 19 Friesian | 409kg | \$2.66 | \$1090 |





Jarrod Bennetts of Everitt Seeley & Bennetts sells a pen of Narjo P/L steers from Drouin South to kick off Thursday's Store Sale. A22\_1225

# Numbers and quality high at VLE Store Sale

CATTLE numbers bounced back at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, exceeding 4400, with some excellent quality lines bringing impressive prices, Everitt Seeley & Bennetts' feature sale among the highlights.

Angus weaner steers from Camoola, which has properties in Sunbury and Lang Lang, hit a top of \$4.77 a kilo for a pen of 20 animals weighing an average 243 kilos that sold for \$1160 each.

Jarrod Bennetts described the Camoola cattle as "very well bred".

"They've done an exceptional job weaning those calves correctly, and they were just beautiful calves to draft up and to sell," he said.

That weaning included personal attention, handling the calves so they get used to human attention without their mothers present, helping ensure excellent temperaments.

Out of Camoola's seven pens of steers, six comfortably exceeded the \$4 per kilo mark.

Ingle Park cattle sold strongly in the yearling bracket, with 41 head going for \$1750 each, equating to \$4.08 per kilo at an average weight of 429 kilos.

"We put together an exceptional line of cattle and



Attendees at Leongatha VLE follow Thursday's sale action. A23\_1225

it was very successful," Jarrod said, clearly delighted with the bidding.

He partly attributed the substantial lift in the number of head available on Thursday to the feature sale.

"Our numbers were always going to be what they were, and I'm guessing other agents and producers saw the quality of lineup that was going to be there and jumped on board," Jarrod said.

It wasn't only lighter cattle doing well for ESB.

At the top of the sale, a pen of 11 steers from Drouin South's Narjo P/L, weighing an average 617 kilos, saw Jarrod attract a bid of \$2450 a head at \$3.97 per kilo.

Forty Ballywarra Angus steers weighing an average of 520 kilos fetched

\$2160 per head, an excellent \$4.15 a kilo.

"The Ballywarra steers were exceptional," Jarrod declared, also praising the magnificent cattle of Paul and Glenda Shankland, and those of Volpia Park.

"They were the three standout runs of feeder steers that we had," Jarrod said of Ballywarra, the Shanklands and Volpia Park.

The Shanklands achieved \$4.14 per kilo for a pen of 23 Angus steers averaging 512 kilos, that lot going for \$2120 a head, getting just below \$4 for another pen of animals averaging 452 kilos.

Volpia's top pen on a per kilo basis hit \$4.13, the Angus steers averaging 450 kilos and selling for \$1860.

## Cash management for a profitable farm

FARM Owners Academy (FOA) is running a free online course for farm owners on how to find a profitable business model for their farm.

'Do you feel like cash is always tight, no matter how hard you work?

If your farm business isn't generating the cash flow you need, it's time to look beyond the weather, the economy, or interest rates.

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Why your lack of cash is less about external factors and more about the performance of your business model – and the steps to take for lasting change.

How to build a resilient farm business that thrives in most seasons and price scenarios.

Why overlooking the value of your labour can hold your business back

and how to properly account for it.

Why so many farmers stay chained to their businesses and struggle to access help – and what you can do to break free.

This training is for Australian farmers who are ready to stop the cycle of cash struggles and build a farm business they can rely on year after year.

Lunch Session: Tuesday, March 25 at 12pm AEDT

Evening Session: Wednesday, March 26 at 7pm AEDT

Secure your spot at bit.ly/4iD9JBZ.

## VLE - LEONGATHA

# STORE SALE 2500 CATTLE 2500

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

### GROWN STEERS

A/c DA & PM Conn, Hedley (PHC)

100 Angus steers, 14-16 mths, Flinders Island Bred, Landfall blood

A/c L & L Chown, Trida (SEJ)

60 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, East Gippsland Bred

A/c Ranleigh Downs, Tarwin (NUTRIEN)

56 Hereford/Angus/Speckle Park steers, 14-16 mths

A/c C & G White, Buffalo (SEJ)

38 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, Banquet blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Yeerung Past Co (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus steers, 16 mths, Kunuma blood

A/c P & M Clarke, Woolamai (PHC)

20 Angus steers, 2 yo

A/c S & D Hooper, Leongatha Nth (SEJ)

20 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths

A/c Hislop & Hillberg, Ruby (SEJ)

20 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

A/c Davis & Foat, Lance Creek (NUTRIEN)

18 AA steers, 16 mths, Drenched Jan

A/c T & M Neesham (NUTRIEN)

16 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, VB

A/c G & J Schepers, Won Wron (NUTRIEN)

8 AA steers, 18 mths

A/c Underwood & Bodman (NUTRIEN)

8 AA X steers, 18 mths, drenched, 2x5in1

A/c L & A Watt (NUTRIEN)

8 Hereford steers, 18 mths, VB, Mawarra Bulls

### GROWN HEIFERS

A/c High Voltage Consultancy P/L, Flynn's Creek (NUTRIEN)

45 Angus heifers, 18 mths, VB, Leawood blood, NE Accred, Drenched 20/2 Cydectin Platinum & 5in1 X 2

A/c DE & M Lee, Bushy Park (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus heifers, 16 mths, Kunuma blood

A/c E & S Gloster, Tarwin (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus heifers, 14-15 mths

A/c SJ & LJ Campbell, Mardan (SEJ)

30 Angus heifers, 18 mths, Leawood blood, 2 x 5in1

A/c L & A Watt (NUTRIEN)

9 Hereford heifers, 18 mths, VB, Mawarra Bulls

### WEANERS

A/c NP & JA Chandler, Hedley (PHC)

100 Angus steers, 10-12 mths

40 Angus heifers, 10-12 mths

By "Langi Kal Kal" Stud Angus bulls, weaned

A/c Dividing Creek, Fish Creek (SEJ)

35 Angus steers, 10-12 mths

25 Angus heifers, 10-12 mths

By Pure Tabletop Angus Bulls, well weaned, drenched & vaccinated, VB, GF & ABF

A/c G Ridgewood (NUTRIEN)

60 Angus mixed sex, Bowman & Innesdale blood, weaned

A/c Ansa Earth Moving, Welshpool (NUTRIEN)

45 AA & BB steers, 12-13 mths, weaned, 2x5in1, Drenched at weaning, Kirribilli Bulls

A/c N Horstorfer, Carrajung (NUTRIEN)

40 AA steers (Yearling Off) VB

A/c N & R Lee, Stratford (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 11-12 mths

20 Angus heifers, 12 mths

Innesdale & Kunuma blood

A/c T & JA Christensen, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

15 AA & AA Hereford steers

15 AA & AA Hereford

Leawood blood, weaned, NE Accred

A/c Billy Creek Cattle Co, Yinnar (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus mixed sex, 10-12 mths, Leawood blood, weaned

A/c P Sutton, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, Latrobe Park blood, weaned

A/c Wongungarra Unit Trust, Crooked River (PHC)

18 Hereford steers, 10-12 mths

10 Hereford heifers, 10-12 mths

By Stud "Karoonda" Hereford Bulls

A/c MM & MB Lee, Bundalaguah (PHC)

20 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned

6 Hereford steers, 12 mths, weaned (PHC)

A/c F Wilson, Meeniyah (NUTRIEN)

24 Hereford X mixed sex, 10-12 mths

A/c Leebrooke Livestock (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, NE Accred, Alpine

Angus & Mawarra blood, weaned, 2x5in1, Drenched, Multimin, B12 & Selenium & Piliguard

A/c NR & KD Hansford, Yinnar (NUTRIEN)

3 Hereford heifers

17 Hereford steers

10-12 mths

A/c A Templeton, Toora (SEJ)

18 Hereford steers, 12-14 mths, weaned, VB, GF, NE Accred, Ponderosa blood

A/c SJ Conway, Traralgon (NUTRIEN)

17 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned, Latrobe Park, Pinora & Leawood blood

A/c T.N Moscript, Leongatha South (SEJ)

16 Charolais heifers, 11-12 mths

A/c J Muir, Buffalo (PHC)

15 Angus steers, 10 mths, By "Harris" Bulls

A/c M & J Chatfield (PHC)

15 Poll Hereford steers, 10-12 mths, Pure "Tarwin" blood, weaned

A/c G & J Schepers, Won Wron (NUTRIEN)

15 AA & BB steers, 12 mths, weaned Jan, AI sires

A/c Mardan Lodge, Mardan (SEJ)

10 Angus & BB mix sex weaners, Alpine blood, NE Accred, weaned, extremely quiet, 6-7 mths

A/c M & K Hall, Boolarra (NUTRIEN)

10 Hereford steers, 10-12 mths, weaned, NE Accred

### XBRED & DAIRY

A/c DP Pearce, Hallston (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus X steers

30 Angus X heifers

10-12 mths

A/c "Montague", Fish Creek (SEJ)

20 Angus / Friesian X steers, 20-22 mths

A/c Ranleigh, Foster (SEJ)

18 Angus/Friesian X 16-18 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Trenton Valley Trust, Won Wron (NUTRIEN)

7 AA X Friesian steers, 18 mths, bucket reared, 2x5in1

A/c Greenhills, Korumburra (SEJ)

6 Speckle X heifers, bucket reared, 12-14 mths

### COWS & CALVES / JOINED FEMALES

A/c M & J Chatfield, Toora (PHC)

3x3 Poll Hereford heifers, Pure "Tarwin" blood, 2.5 - 3 yo, 1 st CAF, 2-4 weeks, by "Tarwin" Poll Hereford Bull, not rededpastured

6 Poll Hereford heifers, 2.5-3 yo, Pure "Tarwin" blood, on point of calving to "Tarwin" Poll Hereford Bull

A/c R & M Mc Connell, Nambrak (PHC)

3x3 Angus / Friesian Heifers, 2.5 yo, bucket reared, CAF by Angus Bull, 10-12 weeks, not rededpastured



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# TRADES & SERVICES



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Pet Cremations

Pearly Mates Pet Cremations is a family business based right here in South Gippsland. We can collect your pet from your home or your Vet.

If we can help ring Kylie or Jonathan on  
**0488 373 429 | www.pearlymates.com.au**

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Call Peter & Lesley Allman 5662 4280  
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ALUMINIUM & TIMBER WINDOW REPLACEMENT  
DECKS | PERGOLAS | VERANDAS



DEATHS

BRERETON, Ian William James:  
  
Passed away peacefully at home in Leongatha.  
  
Loving partner of Helena.  
  
Loved and loving father of Elisa and Daniel.  
  
Adored Pa to Isla, Remy, Maeve, and Layla.  
  
We will meet again.  
  
*Forever loved.*

DEATHS

KERR, Vernon Maxwell (Max):  
  
11.12.1929 - 17.03.2025.  
  
Aged 95 years.  
  
Dearly loved husband of Beryl (dec.) for 64 years.  
  
Loved father and father-in-law of Geoff and Rhonda, John and Anne, Barry and Pauline, Craig and Donna.  
  
Loved Grandad of seven and "Great-Grandad" of ten.  
  
*Now at peace.*

DEATHS

CROSBY, Paul Jason:  
  
It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Paul, on March 19, 2025, aged 62.  
  
Loved partner and rock of Colleen.  
  
Beloved dad to Ebony and Courtney.  
  
Dad-in-law to Scott.  
  
Adored Poppy to Zoe and Harrison.  
  
Thank you for the amazing care from St John of God Berwick and Bass Coast Health Palliative Care Teams.  
  
Special thanks to Dr Scott King and Dr Andrew Strickland.  
  
Finally at peace after his battle with pancreatic cancer.  
  
Darl, may you have a bottomless pint of Guinness.  
  
Slánte.

DEATHS

TYSON (nee Webb), Dorothy Judith (Judy):  
  
Late of Leongatha, formerly of Mirboo North.  
  
Passed away peacefully in her sleep at Woorayl Lodge on March 17, 2025.  
  
Loving wife of Ian (dec.).  
  
Adored mother of Alan, Geoff and Diana.  
  
Loved mother-in-law of Nerida, Nicole and Howard.  
  
Nan of seven and great nan of two.  
  
Sadly missed.  
  
  
Private Cremation.  
  
For Funeral details please visit [www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au](http://www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au)

DEATHS

WOODS, Peter:  
  
Born on July 22, 1943. Passed away March 18, 2025.  
  
Passed away unexpectedly at McCulloch House Palliative Care, Clayton on March 18, 2025, with his loving family by his side.  
  
Devoted husband to Thelma.  
  
Supporting father to his two daughters, Helen and Karen.  
  
Loving father figure to Mark and Wayne.  
  
A proud pop to Adam and Talia, Beth and James, Jasmine and Josh, Liam and Charlotte.  
  
Great pop to Violet.  
  
*Will be sadly missed.*

FUNERALS

BRERETON:  
A Funeral Service to Celebrate the life of Mr. Ian William James Brereton will be held at St. Andrews Uniting Church, Peart Street, Leongatha on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, commencing 11am.  
  
This Service will be livestreamed, to view please visit [www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au](http://www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au)  
  
The Funeral will leave after refreshments for the Yallourn Cemetery for a Service for Burial commencing 2.30pm.  
  
**Handley**  
FURNERAL SERVICES  
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

FUNERALS

CROSBY:  
The Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. Paul Jason Crosby will be held at Rusty Water Brewery, 1821 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, commencing at 1pm. Privately Cremated.  
  
For live-streaming go to [www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au)  
  
**Handley & Anderson**  
Cowes 5952 5171

FUNERALS

KERR:  
Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of the Life of the late Mr. Max Kerr.  
  
To be held at the Korumburra Golf Club, 250 Korumburra-Warragul Rd, Korumburra.  
  
Monday, March 31, 2025. Commencing 1.30pm. Refreshments served at completion of service.

FOR SALE

KITTENS:  
Three Persian kittens, 1m and 2f, 978142000334999, 7429 and 7400. One exotic kitten. 1f, 978142000335504. All vaccinated, microchipped and desexed.  
  
All \$2000 each. 0467 151 954.

FOR SALE

OLD PORT POULTRY FARM:  
18 weeks old Isa Brown laying hens. Available  
  
Saturday March 29 and Sunday March 30 \$32 each.  
  
Pick up Alberton. Ph: 0438 832 535.

FOR SALE

ROMA CARAVAN:  
Built June 2011. Excellent condition. 17ft, shower, toilet, washing machine and all fittings and accessories. \$39,000 O.N.O. Rego: U74463. 5658 1850.

GARAGE SALES

NANA B'S GARAGE SALE BONANZA:  
21 Merrin Crescent Wonthaggi. 29-31 March, 8am-5pm. Quality modern clothes, bric-a-brac, furniture and more. Something for everyone.

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We pay you for your unwanted cars, 4x4's & trucks  
  
We can remove farm scrap metal for free. Towing now available.  
  
Call Shane  
7 days a week  
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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

Advertisements offering a used motor car for sale must include in the advertisement:  
(a) The cash price of the motor car; and  
(b) Whichever of the following is applicable...  
• If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or  
• If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

WANTED TO BUY

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE:  
Good clean household furniture and other goods.  
Ph: Andrew 0410 471 387.  
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FOR RENT

WONTHAGGI:  
Furnished house for rent.  
3 to 4 months. Available May. 2-bedroom, excellent condition. References required. \$2000 per month, utilities included. 0417 112 385.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Lifeline**  
HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE  
**13 11 14**

PUBLIC NOTICES

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
  
The Leongatha RSL Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held at the clubrooms on  
**Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:30pm.**  
  
Nominations are invited until 5pm on Friday, March 28 for the following positions which become vacant at the Annual General Meeting.  
• Senior Vice President (Service) One (1) Year Term  
• Junior Vice President (Service/Affiliate) Two (2) Year Term  
• Treasurer (Service/Affiliate) Two (2) Year Term  
• Committee: Vacancy exists for Four (4) Committee persons: Three (3) x 2 Year Term, One (1) x One (1) 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 2025.  
  
A fifty (50) word personal profile may be submitted with nominations.  
  
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Carruthers 0412 623 227.

MEETINGS

WALKERVILLE BLUE WATER BOATING AND ANGLING CLUB:  
AGM.  
Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 6pm.  
Walkerville Community Hall.  
All welcome.

PERSONALS

LANGWARRIN:  
Male 70-year- old widower and slim build.  
  
Seeking adventurous lady, 60 plus, for camper trailer companion to Darwin and back down the West Cost.  
  
Leaving in May.  
Brian 0451 776 821.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS

Call 5672 1888 to place a notice

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Locally owned and operated by

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Caring and personal 24 hour Service

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15 Warley Avenue, Cowes 5952 5171

Email: [info@handafunerals.com.au](mailto:info@handafunerals.com.au)  
[www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au)  
A.F.D.A.

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FUNERAL SERVICES

Caring For Our Community

Our experienced and qualified staff provide personal, dignified service to all areas

Pre-need Funeral Plans available

5662 2717  
24 hours - 7 days

Office and Chapel:  
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[info@handleyfs.com.au](mailto:info@handleyfs.com.au)  
[www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au](http://www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au)

HARWOOD FUNERALS

Family owned and locally based Funeral Directors. We bring 25 years experience to families in Traralgon, Morwell, Churchill, Moe, Trafalgar, Korumburra and surrounding areas.

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Practical, sensible and affordable. We offer both at-need and pre-paid funerals. Dignity and Respect, always.

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For 24/7 support 0405 669 532

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~ Servicing all districts ~  
~ Chapel facilities available ~

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Office - 102 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

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Brand new with an anti-tilt safety feature

Available in 2, 3 and 4 drawers. Over 8 colours to choose from.

Order now at the Sentinel-Times Wonthaggi office  
47 McBride Avenue  
5672 1888

HAY:

Small squares, this season, good quality, \$12 per bale, free delivery. Phone 5657 3291.

JAPANESE ELECTRICAL THERAPY MATTRESS:

Paid \$8500. Asking \$3500. 0499 378 672.

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South Gippsland Hospital

Positions Vacant

Social Worker  
Grade 2 – 0.63 EFT ongoing  
Permanent Part Time

Occupational Therapist  
Grade 2  
0.42 EFT – up to 11 months & three weeks, fixed term, parental Leave position

Cleaner - Casual  
Cleaner, Grade 2

Kitchen Assistant/Cook Casual  
Food and Domestic Assistant, Grade 2

Refresher Program - Expression of Interest  
Registered Nurse or RN Midwife to gain confidence & competence to re-enter the workplace

For more information  
<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

42 | TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES



# Sentinel-Times Classifieds

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Situations vacant



- Team Leader Parks and Open Space
- Leading Hand Public Amenities
- Contract and Procurement Officer

If you're a proactive leader who loves making a difference within our community, consider a role in our Infrastructure Maintenance Team.

Apply today!

For more information and to apply, visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/careers](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/careers).

If you have any questions, give us a call on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

Applications close 13 April 2025.



### Bookkeeper/Accountant

**Larkin Partners** (previously the Perrett Group Gippsland) is a proven boutique Chartered Accountancy firm, providing a wide range of professional services to a dynamic and varied client base. We are looking for a **motivated and detail-oriented bookkeeper/accountant** to join our team in Leongatha on a full-time or part-time basis.

#### Duties and responsibilities will include:

1. Perform daily bookkeeping tasks, including data entry, account reconciliations, and financial reporting;
2. Preparation of financial statements and tax returns for a wide client base;
3. Assist clients with the management of business/tax obligations and lodgement deadlines (including BAS' and IAS');
4. Providing tax advice;
5. Engaging regularly with clients and maintaining strong relationships;
6. Forecasting tax predictions, understanding financial landscape and market trends to identify and pre-empt potential tax exposures;
7. Preparing and advising on business management reports to gain insight into financial performance of clients; and
8. Provide general administrative support and ad hoc duties as required.

#### Skills and Qualifications:

- Proven experience as a Bookkeeper and or Accountant;
- Strong knowledge of accounting principles and practices;
- Experience with cloud accounting software (including MYOB, QuickBooks and Xero);
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office;
- Attention to detail and ability to multitask;
- The ability to work independently and as part of a small team; and
- Full Australian working rights.

#### Why Join Us:

- Immediate start – full-time and part-time positions available;
- Hybrid working arrangement;
- Competitive salary package;
- A collaborative work environment; and
- Professional development opportunities.

If interested, please email your resume to [info@larkinpartners.com.au](mailto:info@larkinpartners.com.au) prior to Friday, April 18, 2025.

## 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.



### Light Vehicle Mechanic

Foster Service Centre is seeking a Light Vehicle Mechanic to join our modern and growing business. We work on a wide range of vehicles, handling everything from servicing and maintenance to repairs, as well as Ironman 4x4 accessories and upgrades.

#### Preferred Experience:

- Qualified Light Vehicle Mechanic (preferred)
- 3-4 year apprentices are also encouraged to apply
- European vehicle knowledge is a bonus but not required

#### What We Offer:

- Competitive wages above the industry award, negotiable based on experience
- A spacious, state-of-the-art workshop and modern office with all the necessary tools and equipment for efficient workflow
- A friendly, supportive team with a great reputation for quality work

If you're looking to join a thriving business with opportunities for growth, we'd love to hear from you!

#### How to Apply:

Visit us in person at Foster Service Centre, 21 Toora Road, Foster or email your resume to [fosterservicecentre@gmail.com](mailto:fosterservicecentre@gmail.com)

*We look forward to meeting you!*

V0242

## SITUATIONS VACANT



### Concrete Agitator Driver

**Company:** Blackwoods Readymixed

**Location:** Leongatha

#### Summary:

Blackwoods Readymixed is expanding its operations to a new location at Geary Rd, Leongatha (Formerly Numix), and is seeking Concrete Agitator Drivers to join the team and support the growth of the business in the South Gippsland Shire.

#### Skills and experience:

- Current Heavy Rigid (HR) Licence is required;
- Training provided if required;
- Possess a clean driving record;
- Willing to undertake pre-employment drug and alcohol testing;
- Experience with Road Ranger gearboxes is desirable, not essential;
- Concrete Industry experience preferred;
- White Card (or willing to obtain successfully);
- Willingness to acquire new skills

#### Key responsibilities & duties:

- Safe and efficient delivery of concrete to sites;
- Manage slump tolerance levels and discharge of concrete;
- Complete documentation associated with the collection and delivery of the concrete;
- Safe loading and unloading of truck;
- Ensure safety standards are maintained including daily pre-start checks on the vehicle;
- Safe operation, routine maintenance and a high standard of cleaning vehicle/s (internal and external);
- Develop and maintain strong domestic and commercial customer relationships;
- General plant and yard maintenance;
- Other tasks as directed by your Manager

Email applications and resume to **Peter O'Donnell - General Manager** at [peter@blackwoodsr.com.au](mailto:peter@blackwoodsr.com.au)  
All enquiries by email only.

HM12422

### Watermain Renewal Technician (Pipeline Construction Team Member)



With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:

- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
- Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
- Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
- Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
- Attractive Salary Packaging options available (eligibility conditions apply)
- Flexibility to work from home, with base location at any of our offices in Wonthaggi, Foster or Leongatha

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

- Permanent Full Time
- Starting Location: Leongatha, Victoria
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Level 2 Band 4 \$67,246.55 - \$70,078.15 Plus statutory Superannuation + Leave Loading

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

**Applications Close Friday, April 4, 2025 at 5pm**

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> and follow the instructions to sign up for job alerts.

HM12426

1300 851 636 | [www.sgwater.com.au](http://www.sgwater.com.au)

## DEADLINES

**Classified single column**

**Mondays 12.00 noon**

**Classified double column**

**Fridays 3.30pm**

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

## TO ADVERTISE



Phone:  
**5672 1888**



Email:  
**ads@sgst.com.au**



In person:  
**47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi  
36 McCartin St, Leongatha**



Mail:  
**47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi**

**Office Hours:**  
**9am-5pm Monday to Friday**

**Payments accepted:**



### Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

### The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

**Sentinel-Times**





## HEALTH & PE TEACHER

Part Time (0.6) – Fixed Term  
Commencing Term 2 2025  
for remainder of school year.

All enquiries to Tanya Chalmers,  
Acting Principal 5667 2200

Applications to be made via  
Dept of Education's Schools  
Jobs Vic website

HM12437



## Machine Operator

We are looking for an experienced  
Earthmoving machine operator to  
join our team. Experience across a  
variety of machines preferred,  
Excavator 20-30T, Dozer D6-D7

Role has potential to be full time,  
part time or flexible hours,  
with seasonal work available.

Competitive rates/package  
for the right candidates.

Based in Tarwin Lower.

Contact Dave on 0438 056 987

JAZ2933



## Receptionist/Assistant Property Manager

Leongatha | Part-Time Opportunity

Elders is seeking a motivated and  
professional Receptionist / Assistant  
Property Manager to join our team in  
Leongatha. This is a great opportunity to  
be part of a well-established and respected  
real estate business, providing essential  
support to our real estate team.

### About the Role:

As the first point of contact for our office,  
you will play a key role in ensuring a  
welcoming and professional environment.  
Your responsibilities will include:

- Reception duties – answering calls,  
greeting clients, and managing enquiries
- General office administration – daily  
banking, mail handling, invoice processing
- Providing administrative support to the  
Property Management team

### What We're Looking For:

- Strong organisational, communication,  
and time management skills
- Competent in Microsoft Office  
(Word, Excel, Outlook)
- A positive and professional approach to  
customer service
- Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice  
(desirable but not essential)
- Year 12 completion or equivalent  
experience

### How to Apply:

Send your application (resume and  
cover letter) to: Helen Arestia  
37 Bair Street, Leongatha VIC 3953  
Helen.arestia@elders.com.au

Applications close: Thursday, April 3

JAZ2949

Advertise your job vacancy  
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FREE listing in our online  
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**www.sgst.com.au**

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ads@sgst.com.au

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

# Want to join like-minded women?

THE Wonthaggi Evening 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, which stands for Voice, Interests and Education of Women, is a network of close to 280 clubs and over 13,000 women throughout Australia. For 65 years VIEW has connected with others in the community, enabling the Smith Family to reach more families in need. It provides a place for women to connect with each other, enjoy social activities and develop lasting friendships – all while supporting the work of children's education charity, The Smith Family.

Wonthaggi Evening View

Club President, Ann Warren said this year when we are celebrating 65 years of Making a Difference, is the perfect time to join View as social events are truly back on the calendar including, local theatre visit, Postie clothing party etc.

"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 proud to be the largest community sponsor of The Smith Family's "Learning for Life" program, which provides students with financial, educational and personal support.

"We have been hit by the rising cost of living, be it power prices, food or petrol. These rises have had an even greater

impact on those already doing it tough," Ann said.

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

VIEW nationally supports the education of nearly 1800 students through the "Learning for Life" program ensuring that they have educational support and what they need for the school year. Wonthaggi Evening View currently supports eight 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," said Ann.

Anyone interested in becoming a member can call Ann on 0490 061 172 or visit view.org.au for further information.

The next Wonthaggi Evening View Club meeting will take place on April 14 at 6pm at the Wonthaggi Club. Please RSVP Ann or Dot 0407 823 597.

### New committee for Wonthaggi View

THE Wonthaggi Evening View Club held its annual meeting on February 17 and the new committee elected are, Sue Rose, Margaret Morgan, Ann Warren, Sue Hooper, Dorothy Harland, Margaret Sutherland, Jean McBride, Marilyn Wallace, Pam Shackelford and Marg Drummond.

## ~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

### MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

DISCOVER Exciting Activities at Milpara Community House!

Do you enjoy gardening?

Join the Korumburra Hospital Garden Group

Come and get your hands dirty with our friendly guys and girls as we grow and produce some wonderful fruit and vegetables in the Korumburra Community Hospital Garden – every Thursday 9am to 12 noon. Entry is behind the main entry car park.

Cost: Free to join in, however, all participants need to

have a Milpara Membership which costs \$5.50

### Autumn Clothes Swap

Refresh your wardrobe just in time for the new season! Join us on Saturday, March 29, from 10am to 12.30pm for our Autumn Clothes Swap. Bring in 5 items (washed and in good condition) that need a new wearer, swap them, and go home with a new outfit! Any clothes not claimed will be donated to local op shops.

### Milpara's Regular Classes and Activities:

Our regular classes and

activities are running throughout the week. Our program includes a range of activities, including, cooking, cards, computers, board-games, mahjong, Tai Chi, Qigong, Yoga Singing, book club, story writing, French and English Classes. There really is something for everyone. Plus we are always open to hearing new suggestions for activities.

Check out our Term Program online at milparacommunityhouse.org.au or pick one up at the Milpara

Community House Office.

The Emergency Food Bank is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm or by appointment. Please bring your own bags.

Our Services Australia agent is at the house Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 1pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.30am to 2pm.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 [www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au](http://www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au)

### WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

ARE you aware of the power of meditation and mindfulness and yoga, standing or seated? They can do wonderful things for your health. Belief is an important component to optimise the beneficial results. If you do, then that's great. If you are wondering and perhaps hesitant, then take yourself by the hand and come on in and give it a try. There are many who would testify to their efficacy. We have two groups which provide these opportunities. There is Yoga with Linda on Tuesdays 10.30am to 11.45am. Linda has extensive training in yoga as well as relaxation and meditation.

Then there is Maree on Thursdays 2pm to 3.15pm providing seated yoga, suitable for all abilities. You can stand using the chair for support or remain

seated. Improve your flexibility, movement, concentration and strength. Pre enrolment is required for both groups. Just call or email the WNC. You are most welcome to come along and give these classes a try to determine if the practices will be of benefit to you.

The New Wave Gippsland Bass Coast is a self-advocacy group that is run by and for people with an intellectual disability and acquired brain injury living in the Bass Coast Area. The group works together to ensure that everyone has the same rights, choices and opportunities as everyone else in the community. They meet every Thursday from 9am. Call the New Wave Gippsland Bass Coast peer worker Peter Drew on 0439

425 238. Email: [nwbpeerworker@gmail.com](mailto:nwbpeerworker@gmail.com) or email the New Wave Gippsland Bass Coast Project Worker at [bcinewwave@gmail.com](mailto:bcinewwave@gmail.com)

Whether one is a refugee settling into a new cultural environment or being part of a culturally diverse section of our community, it is very important to have those friendship and support connections which buoy our spirits and give us meaning and purpose. Well our Multicultural Women's Group can provide avenues for this.

They meet on Thursdays 10am to 12 noon. It is for support for those who are socially and culturally isolated and culturally and linguistically diverse. Providing, among other things an improved awareness of cultural

mores and expectations and opportunities for the development of practical life skills.

If you would like to become a member of the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre and get discounts to the many activities, the quarterly Connections Newsletter and The Grapevine program which comes out each term. There are a few ways to get hold of us: by phone, email, Facebook or at our website [wonthaggi-neighbourhoodcentre.com](http://wonthaggi-neighbourhoodcentre.com)

Looking forward to seeing you here at the WNC.



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3731 [www.wonthaggi-neighbourhoodcentre.com](http://www.wonthaggi-neighbourhoodcentre.com)

### BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

LAST Friday, BCAL visited Bass Coast Specialist School's annual careers expo. Alana and Bill were there to give students and parents information on all the options available to them.

As both a Registered Training Organisation and provider of NDIS Capacity Building, BCAL is in a unique position to provide pathways for people with disabilities.

Participants in the NDIS activities receive preparation for further study and

employment. Many have made the transition to mainstream courses and found work as a result.

BCAL is a welcoming learning place with something to suit learners of all abilities.

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit [bcal.vic.edu.au](http://bcal.vic.edu.au) or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

### WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

Among the many projects the Woodies have on the go at

the moment is building a reference library.

The group has amassed a wealth of books and magazines on woodworking. Most of them have come from donations, publications members bring to share, or some great op-shop finds. However, if members have a particular request, the club also has the ability to source it for them.

The books are a great resource for methods and techniques. They are also a wonderful source for ideas. Members who are looking to

try something new or different will often flick through the pages for inspiration on their next piece.

Currently, some members are working on cataloguing and organising all the resources.

For more information, visit [wonthaggi-woodcrafters.com.au](http://wonthaggi-woodcrafters.com.au) or pop into the workshop.



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



# Country Cousins with Christine Webb

By Courtney O'Brien

FOR OVER 15 years Christine Webb has been gathering stories from people who grew up on the land locally, during the time before technology took over the world.

Having grown up on a farm in Korumburra herself, Christine initially trained to be a secondary school teacher in Melbourne but couldn't wait to get back out onto the land and returned to work on farms in Gippsland.

Over the years Christine witnessed the changes in farming practices and the lives of those working the land, and in this, saw an opportunity.

"I've watched as everything's changed really fast, and I've just watched farming change and the type of people that live in the country.

"I thought geez, all of this history is just disappearing, and I'm going to grab it while I can, so it just seemed right for me to gather stories."

Christine had always had an interest in filmmaking and wanted to capture these stories using film, and though there was a media course at the local TAFE, she couldn't afford to do it at the time.

But a stroke of luck saw a professional filmmaker— who had been trained in filming and editing by the BBC and worked on programs such as Today Tonight – move into the



**Christine Webb has been gathering stories from when people lived without electricity, hand-milked cows before school, worked with draft horses and rode to school on their horses.** ob11\_1225

district. He was also prepared to train people for free to help fill in spots on Melbourne's community television station, Channel 31, which was run by volunteers.

"I received really good training in filming and editing from him and learned all the finer points in a crash course, in between my milking and stuff like that," explained Christine.

"That was just all serendipitous."

Coming into contact with many different people while working on farms has meant that Christine has a big pool of people to draw upon and has never been short of

someone to interview.

"People just turn up on my path and I think, he's a live one, or she's a live wire, and I'll get a story out of this person. Because they all have great stories to tell."

Post-war stories told by those in their 80s and 90s are what Christine is particularly enthusiastic about documenting.

Tales from a time when people lived without electricity, hand-milked cows before school, worked with draft horses or rode to school on their horses.

As well as those 'cock and bull' stories about people being attacked by bulls, roosters

or pigs, things that only happen in the country and transform over time into tall tales.

"Because there are still people around that grew up like that, and they have stories," exclaimed Christine.

"Things that people can laugh about, or the sort of stuff that just couldn't happen nowadays.

"I am pretty fixated on the sort of raw, wild past, as far as story gathering goes, because people, younger people don't know about it."

Together with filming the interviews, Christine edits them and includes old family or district photos to help the stories come alive.

She has also been archiving the interviews into separate districts for the historical societies to keep.

"Everyone's got a story, and life is changing so quickly; and life is becoming pretty serious. The way I grew up, people loved to tell stories, especially ones that had a good laugh in them. Stories were told to sort of elevate and entertain," said Christine.

"We need joy and humour in this life. So, I like as much sort of happiness and laughter as possible."

Country Cousins is Christine's show which airs on Channel 31/ Digital 44 or on the YouTube channel, Christine Webb Country Cousins.

## Want to Volunteer for us?

THE Bunurong Environment Centre in Inverloch raises money to support environmental projects in our region.

Housed within BEC is a shop (selling educational books, science kits for kids, gifts and more). Our Shell Museum features one of the world's best displays of shells, with over 6000 specimens on display including many local varieties. Our Discovery Room is a welcoming space for learning more about the unique plants, animals, ecology, geology and fossils of the Bunurong Coast.

BEC is run by a dedicated group of volunteers with a Shop Manager.

Our next volunteer could be you, or someone you know?

Volunteers work in the shop, direct people to the Shell Museum, the Education Discovery Room and answer queries about local environment attractions.

We provide all the training and support you need, we welcome you and a friend if you'd like to work together.

Call into the Bunurong Environment Centre, 1 Ramsey Boulevard, Inverloch.

Alternatively, call 5674 3738 or email [shop@sgecs.org.au](mailto:shop@sgecs.org.au) for a chat.

### • FAITH FACTOR

## Remember the little things

By Karen Thorp

A WEEK ago, I ran in the Inverloch Running Festival – along with about a thousand other people!

For most of us, it wasn't a race, so much as giving our best, enjoying the experience, or testing our limits, while cheering on everyone else too.

Preparing for an event like that involves plenty of training. But there's also a whole lot of smaller things to consider – things that could take you out of the race if ignored.

Like having comfortable shoes and clothes for the conditions. After all the training, you don't want to get taken out of the race by blisters or chaffing from the wrong gear. Or like eating well before and during the run so you've got the energy you need without getting stomach problems (and yes, that is code for needing the toilet mid-race!). Or having people cheering you on and supporting you with refreshments along the way. Or remembering to not just focus on yourself, but cheer on those around you too!

It reminded me of the importance of the little things in life. That is, little things that can have a big impact.

A meaningful and encouraging word to someone at the right time can make a world of difference for them. Do we put in the regular small efforts so that we have relationships where we can lean on someone for support, or be leaned on by others? And healthy boundaries to help maintain the quality of those relationships? All the little things we watch and read and allow to get into our heads and hearts; are they beneficial or harmful?

And how's our spiritual life? Do we value the small moments of thanking or seeking God, inviting Him into our daily lives?

There's a verse in the Bible that says, "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things" (1 Timothy 4:8).

I want to encourage you to bring little habits of godliness into your daily life. They really do add up to make a big difference in the big things.

Keep your focus on the big picture, but don't forget about the value of the little things.



**Wood whittling participants Renee, Schlomit (teacher), Johnny, Elspeth, Susanne, Jayne and Bree show off their creations made in the workshop.** ob14\_1225

## Wood whittling for creative recovery and connection

FOUR wood whittling workshops funded through Windemere are being held for Mirboo North locals with a focus on creative recovery and community connection.

Run by Schlomit Moria from Bushwood Creations, the free sessions give participants an opportunity to develop new skills while working on two wood carving projects alongside others.

Schlomit is a professional wood and chainsaw carver who has been working with wood for the past ten years and mostly creates large sculptures for councils, schools and other organisations.

In the last year or two, Schlomit has begun, as a way of passing on her love of the craft, to offer wood whittling classes.

During the workshops

participants learn first about the timber and the grain in general, how to approach a timber project and how to use a carving knife with a light, soft timber.

"I believe wood has a soul of its own, it's just beautiful to hold a natural material. But when you're focusing on what you're doing and on your carving, it really will make your brain focus," explained Schlomit, who also incorporates mindfulness into the workshops.

"It really helps in general, to concentrate and to focus on exactly what is happening right now and then your brain is not busy about worrying what I've done and what's going to happen, or on the past and the present, it just stays in the now."

Participants create two

projects. The first is a simple one where they learn how to design and how to approach wood carving.

Then they move from a 2D carving to work on a 3D piece, which, according to Schlomit, is more complicated and the most challenging part of wood carving.

"I think that it helps you to learn how to concentrate and how to focus, but it's also a way to learn how you can manifest your thought into something physical, and how it is very doable."

One participant in last Friday's class, Jayne, said it was wonderful and provided a really good opportunity to do something she'd never done before.

While another, Susanne said, "I think it could become quite obsessive," to the laughter and

agreement of the other participants.

"I find it a great tool for people to unwind and just to relax and bring joy to the lives of people," explained Schlomit.

"It is a matter of practice, and everybody can achieve something that they are proud of; and I think it connects us to the creative side that a lot of people are missing out on."

Windemere have purchased the carving knives and other equipment for Mirboo North locals to have access to learning the craft of wood carving in the future if they wish.

There is one more Wood Whittling Workshop available with Schlomit in Mirboo North on Saturday, March 29, from 10am – 3pm.

No experience is necessary and spaces are limited, to book go to: [bit.ly/4bTc5Ri](http://bit.ly/4bTc5Ri).





**Pilot Officer Samuel Donald Whiteside from Korumburra died in a night raid over Berlin in 1944.**

## Airman son of Korumburra to be honoured at Australian War Memorial

SAMUEL Donald Whiteside known as Donald or Don to his friends left the family farm in Korumburra like many others during WWII never to return.

On Saturday, March 29 the Australian War Memorial in Canberra will commemorate the service and sacrifice of Pilot Officer Whiteside as part of the daily Last Post Ceremony.

Educated at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, St. Patricks College then the University of Melbourne, Donald Whiteside's ultimate sacrifice is remembered on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour as part of the International Bomber Command Centre.

Following the outbreak of WWII the Korumburra farmer enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on June 4, 1941 receiving his navigator's beret on May 28, 1942.

In mid-November 1942, Whiteside arrived in Britain as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme and was posted to RAAF No. 460 Squadron at RAF Binbrook.

Crewing was multi-national but 460 Squadron like so many other Australian squadrons had a predominately Australian crew particularly towards the end of the war.

Almost a year later on October 3, 1943, Pilot Officer Whiteside and his crew flew Avro Lancaster B1 Bomber 'G for George' on its 59th mission.

During the Berlin Offensive from 1943 to 1944 Australian airmen such as Pilot Officer Whiteside served with Royal Air Force (RAF) Bomber Command participating in raids over Berlin.

On the night of January 27, 1944, Whiteside and his crew in Lancaster JB 637 took off from RAF Binbrook to bomb Berlin but did not return to base.

Initially posted as missing it was not until 1951 that the RAAF determined that Whiteside and his crew had been shot down by a German night fighter southwest of Berlin.

Whiteside was buried in a war cemetery nearby alongside his fellow crew members.

The Last Post ceremony at the Australian War Memorial is held at 4.30pm every day except Christmas Day and each ceremony shares one of the stories behind the 103,000 names on the Honour Roll.

To date the Memorial has delivered more than 3800 ceremonies each featuring an individual story of service, it would take more than 280 years to read the story behind each of the 103,000 names listed.

"The Last Post Ceremony is our commitment to remembering and honouring the legacy of Australian service," said Memorial Director Matt Anderson.

"Through our daily Last Post Ceremony, we not only acknowledge where and how these men and women died we also tell the stories of who they were when they were alive, and of the families who loved and, in so many cases, still mourn for them.

"The Last Post is associated with remembrance but originally it was a bugle call to sound the end of the day's activities in the military.

"It is a fitting way to end each day at the Memorial," said Mr Anderson.

The Last Post Ceremony honouring the service of Pilot Officer Samuel Whiteside will be live streamed on the Australian War Memorial's YouTube page youtube.com/c/awmlastpost.

# Battle of Waitavolo commemoration plaque placed in Wonthaggi

A PLAQUE was unveiled on the wall of the Wonthaggi Plaza Arcade last Tuesday to commemorate the 80 year anniversary of the Battle of Waitavolo, and the involvement of the 14th Battalion.

More than 30 of the men who fought and died in the battle came from Wonthaggi and the surrounding area.

The 14th/32nd Battalion were tasked with capturing Bacon Hill or Mt Sugi, as it was called by the Japanese, in New Britain, Papua New Guinea.

On March 18, 1945, following two days of attacks on the hill, the battle was won.

However, after World War II the 14th Battalion was not reraised, but the 32nd Battalion was and was part of the 58th/32nd Battalion.

This unit remained in existence until 1960 when it was renamed the Royal Victoria Regiment (RVR) and became the 1st Battalion of the RVR.

"Which is very close to our heart because Kevin (Walsh) and I both served in the same unit together," explained Captain Gary Simmons, who was the former company commander with 1 RVR.

Capt. Simmons explained that after the First World War, all Australian military units were made custodian of battle honours and as the 14th Battalion was not reraised, the RVR



**Kevin Walsh, President of Wonthaggi RSL with Dan Lucas, Vice President and Toni Cornelius Secretary, with the newly placed plaque to commemorate the Battle of Waitavolo and Wonthaggi's involvement.** ob01\_1225

became the custodian of both the 2nd/32nd Battalion and the 14th/32nd Battalion battle honours.

Soldiers from a company of the 14th Battalion, The Prahran Regiment, used what was previously the Crystal Palace Picture Theatre at the Plaza Arcade in Graham Street, Wonthaggi, as a drill hall from 1937 until the end of the Second World War, and it was also home to the first RSL club.

This connection between this place and the soldiers is why it was chosen for the plaque,

which also has a QR code linking to information about the Battle of Waitavolo.

Kevin Walsh, who has recently been elected as President of the Wonthaggi RSL commented that it's easy to forget significant historical events and often things from so long ago don't seem that important or relevant.

"Wonthaggi had a strong anti-war movement," Mr Walsh explained.

"But being antiwar should not mean we don't remember and honour the service and sacrifice of our troops.

"It is fitting that we remember them. Lest We Forget."

The commemoration ceremony was completed with a member of the Wonthaggi Citizens' Band playing The Last Post, followed by a minute's silence.

The organising and placing of the plaque was supported by the committee of Wonthaggi RSL, RSL Victoria Region 10, members of Inverloch RSL and the Phillip Island RSL, the Bass Coast Shire Council, Wonthaggi Citizens' Band, Russell Broadbent and Peter Liddle, owner of the Plaza Arcade.

## Successful careers expo at Bass Coast Specialist School

SUPPORTED by Scope, Yooralla, Max Employment, Interchange, Bass Coast Adult Education Centre, Latrobe Community Health NDIS, TheirCare and atWork Australia the Careers Expo at Bass Coast Specialist School once again proved to be an outstanding success.

With final-year students keen to show their skills at coffee-making the Careers Expo was followed by a barbecue for family and friends on the grounds of the school.

Principal Rob Sands, and Vice-Principal and Careers and Pathways Coordinator Nicole Reed welcomed more than 70 attendees to the Expo which highlighted the career pathways open to Specialist School graduates.

Part of the Bass Coast Shire Education precinct Bass Coast Specialist School is committed to developing skills for independence and community inclusion emphasising the importance of partnerships between staff, families and community.



**Emmit, Hope, Zachary and Chad final-year students at Bass Coast Specialist School.** B26\_1225

The school offers a secure and supportive learning environment for students and staff where the values of relationships, success, respect, belonging and community are nurtured.

Students are supported with a multidisciplinary framework that includes parents, caregivers, specialist trained teachers, education support staff, and

a therapy team consisting of speech therapists, occupational therapist, music therapist and visiting physiotherapist.

A primary welfare officer partially funded under the National Schools Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program completes the Specialist School team.

The curriculum at Bass Coast Specialist School provides

appropriate, challenging and engaging learning opportunities within a safe and supportive environment that helps to develop in each student the essential skills and knowledge for life as responsible, productive citizens.

More information on the Bass Coast Specialist School can be found at basscoastss.vic.edu.au.

## Calling out for a female travelling companion to go west

BRIAN is looking for a female travelling companion to share the experiences and adventures of life on the road with.

Not having travelled since COVID, Brian is excited to be heading off once again in May this year, taking his camper trailer on a three or four month road trip around Australia.

Heading across to Adelaide, then straight up through the red centre to Darwin will be the first leg of Brian's adventure.

He then plans on travelling

back down the West Coast and going via Perth before heading across the Nullarbor and back to Victoria.

Having travelled the east coast of Australia three or four times, but never the west coast, Brian is excited to get out there and do some exploring once again.

"It's just good being out on the road. I go away and I just forget about everything behind me, because I've sort of got no family, and I've sort of got no responsibilities. I own my own house. I've got good neighbours that look after

my place, and I just enjoy the open road," said Brian.

"It's good to travel with somebody, share the experiences and what have you."

The trip works out to be about 15,000 kilometres altogether but Brian mentioned that if he finds a nice spot, he is happy to stay for a few days and simply enjoy it.

At 70-years-young, Brian, whose wife passed away a few years ago, has been a bit of a handyman all his life and enjoys tinkering in the backyard on occasion.

He added that he's fairly

easy going and isn't heavily into sports but doesn't mind watching a bit of footy or cricket now and then.

Ideally he would like a female travel companion over 60 years of age, who enjoys life and being on the road, seeing the sights, and appreciates adventures.

Brian said he would be happy going away and enjoying the travel and adventures by himself if he can't find a companion.

For anyone interested, please get in touch with Brian on 0451 776 821.



# Australia retains FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup in Wonthaggi cliff-hanger

AUSTRALIA has outlasted a dogged United States of America to win a pressure-packed 2025 FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup in Wonthaggi on the weekend of March 22-23.

The event was a nail-biter from start to finish, with the Charli Cannon-led Team Australia having to come from behind to retain the trophy it first won in 2024. The Aussies eventually prevailed by just two points (77 to 79) over Team USA in a magnificent showcase of women's motocross.

Team New Zealand (174pts) and Team Africa (243pts) finished third and fourth in the expanded FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup, which was held in picture-perfect Victorian weather alongside round one of the 2025 Penrite ProMX Championship presented by AMX Superstores.

The best 14 results for each team counted towards the final standings, with the worst finish dropped from calculations.

"I'm so proud to be part of Team Australia winning the FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup for the second year in succession," said Cannon. "Of course, it was a much tougher event in 2025, but we remained focused on the task at hand.

"I'd like to thank everyone who supported us and congrats to all the teams which competed. The event was held in great spirit and camaraderie, and it was sensational to be involved in."

Aussie team captain Cannon (Honda) was imperious, utterly dominating all three motos – her smallest winning margin was 28 seconds – and receiving solid support from Taylah McCutcheon (Kawasaki) and Taylor Thompson (KTM) who both recorded a trio of top 10 finishes.

Madison Healey (GASGAS) and Oceania rookie Madi Simpson (Yamaha) also kept their noses clean, giving Team Australia the minuscule but vital edge it needed as the event went down to the wire.

Meanwhile, the event was an FIM Oceania baptism of fire for the tenacious Team Africa – Leah Heygate (KTM), Atete Benzinge (KTM), Zoe Lee



**Australia's leading ladies on the track have retained the title after a spectacular weekend in Wonthaggi.**

Waldschmidt (KTM), Zoe Botha (KTM) and Kateete Sharifah (GASGAS) – but the five riders all pushed hard and refused to wave the white flag. The captain, Heygate, was the fastest for Africa, while Sharifah didn't compete in Moto Two after a crash on the warm-up lap.

In the individual FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup standings, Cannon was first ahead of Jarvis and Turner.

## Late drama underscores spectacular weekend

The opening round of the 2025 Penrite ProMX Championship, presented by AMX Superstores, produced a weekend of spectacular competition, as the brutal Victorian circuit of Wonthaggi proved again to have the final say.

A late crash by defending MX1 champion Kyle Webster saw his main rival Jed Beaton take a handy points advantage from the first round, while Honda riders Brodie Connolly and Charli Cannon continue to assert their dominance in the MX2 and MXW categories.

On a stunning day that boasted near-perfect racing conditions, Ky Woods and Seth Thomas also opened their MX3 and MX85

accounts with clean sweeps in their respective classes.

## Kawasaki MX1

The 2025 campaign of Monster Energy CDR Yamaha rider Jed Beaton got off to a dream start at Wonthaggi. Not only did he claim the Kawasaki MX1 round win, but Webster gifted him a strong early points lead after suffering a DNF in the second moto.

The title favourites Beaton and Webster (Boost Mobile Honda Racing) traded intense blows during the AMX Superstores MX1 Pole Shootout, with the Yamaha rider getting the better of defending champion Webster.

Beaton clocked a scorching lap time of 1:43.335, just 0.22s quicker than Webster, while KTM Racing Team's Kirk Gibbs jumped up to third late in the session.

KTM Racing Team's Nathan Crawford registered the fourth-fastest time, with Repco Honda Racing rider Wilson Todd fifth.

Webster grabbed the holeshot in the opening MX1 moto of the season and tried to run and hide as Beaton quickly scrambled from a P5 start into second.

The pair gapped the field and duelled all race, but

Webster held on to win by just one second. Monster Energy CDR Yamaha's Maximus Purvis finished a distant third, while Penrite Racing Empire Kawasaki rider Luke Clout and Todd completed the top five.

A dramatic turn of events in the final MX1 moto saw Beaton take a wire-to-wire win and a sizable 10-point lead in the championship fight when Webster crashed out midway through the race.

Beaton jumped to the holeshot, and with Webster chasing hard, they stretched out a big gap over the rest of the field. Unfortunately, Webster had a big crash on the fifth lap, and even though he was able to remount, he pulled into the pits and DNF'd.

Beaton suddenly had a massive advantage over the rest of the pack, but he refused to settle and kept hammering to a 41.5-second win over Crawford and Gibbs. Recovering from an early error, Clout finished a distant fourth but comfortably ahead of Todd Waters (Raceline Husqvarna Racing Team).

Beaton's 2-1 result saw him top the round podium, with Crawford (6-2) in second and Clout (4-4) third overall. Webster finished 10th overall.



**Jacob Bolge competing for Leongatha Secondary College.**

## Jacob sprinting for athletics glory

LEONGATHA'S Jacob Bolge is hitting his stride in the world of athletics.

Competing at All Schools Victoria and representing Leongatha Secondary College in October last year, Jacob placed fourth and was 0.04 seconds off third in the 100 metres.

The competition was held at Albert Park and was a great experience for Jacob.

He was selected for the tournament after winning his heats.

Jacob counts the 100 metres as his best event.

Jacob runs with South Coast Athletics and has loved being involved in athletics since he was five years old in the Leongatha Little Athletics.

In his time, he has reached a few long jump records and aims to better his sprint times to reach more records.

Although his focus is starting to shift to playing footy for Leongatha, Jacob is still thinking about the next athletics season come October.

He is planning to compete in All Schools once again come October and will be maintaining his training schedule with coach Craig Huffer.

"My goal is just to keep going and pursuing athletics. There aren't too many people who are involved in running," Jacob said.

"I really like the community behind me (at South Coast Athletics). It's been good to see a couple of new people join in athletics recently as well."

Jacob aims to head to nationals and aspires to complete the 100 metre sprint in under 10 seconds.

## Wonthaggi Croquet

KORUMBURRA and Mornington Tournaments

On the weekend of March 15/16, eleven of our members travelled to participate in tournaments held at Korumburra and Mornington.

Five members competed in the Korumburra Singles held over two days.

Virginia Wheeler played in Block 1 winning four of her games.

Kathy Ross, Stephen Wilbourne, John and Sue Priller competed in Block 2 with Sue Priller finishing runner-up with five wins.

Three pairs travelled to Mornington to compete in a Handicap Doubles event held on March 15. Gerry Kool/Sue Cartwright and Marj Prendergast/Neil Warburton competed in Block A with the former having zero success and the latter winning two games.

Tom Lacey/Sue Baker won one of their matches in Block B.

The final was contested between the winners of Block A and the winners of Block B with the pairing of Bob Moir (Rosebud Village Glen)/Ian Hasham (Sorrento) coming up trumps over Mary Tabrah (Sale)/Stephen Beitz (Leongatha) six games to five.

On March 11 the club's annual Twilight Doubles competition commenced featuring the Offsiders, Wild Cards, Cool Cats, Terminators, Butternut Pumpkins and Tom & Co. This will run over several weeks with the final being held on May 6. Always good fun.

## New beach wheelchairs make Bass Coast beaches more accessible

AMPHIBIOUS wheelchairs are being introduced to Bass Coast Shire to make local beaches more accessible for people with mobility challenges.

Providing a seamless transition from car park and boardwalk to the water's edge these uniquely designed, beach friendly wheelchairs have large armrests and wheels to act as flotation devices to keep the chairs buoyant in calm water.

Rozalyn Fishlock a member of the Bass Coast Council Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee recently tested the new chairs at Smiths Beach alongside Bass Coast Shire Council Access and Equity Social Planner Harriet Nunan.

Designed for easy movement over sand and into the water the two new Mobi-Water floating beach wheelchairs will make it easier for people with additional support needs to enjoy local beaches with their families and carers.

Bass Coast beaches have long

been loved by local residents, visitors, and tourists but for many with mobility challenges, the simple pleasure of enjoying the sun, sand and water can turn what should be a relaxing day into a logistical challenge.

The wheelchairs will be available free for hire at Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre in Newhaven and Berninnet in Cowes.

To further improve accessibility five metres of wheelchair mats will be available at each location for hire independently or with the wheelchairs.

The wheelchair mats are made from recycled plastic bottles and create a stable pathway for wheelchair users and those who require smoother access to the beach.

The new chairs complement the existing Hippocamp All-Terrain wheelchair available at the Inverloch Community Hub which has been a valued community resource since its introduction over a decade ago.

The new chairs are a result of a collaboration between Accessible Beaches Australia, the Local Government Accessible Beaches Network and Bass Coast Shire Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee plays a vital role in shaping a more inclusive Bass Coast and includes four community members with lived experience of disability, representatives of disability focused organisations across Gippsland and Council representatives.

Together the committee members have provided a valuable insight into the challenges faced by people with disabilities and have helped to develop meaningful solutions.

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Member Rozalyn Fishlock is enthusiastic about the new wheelchairs.

"It's important because we have a lot of disabled people in our Shire and a lot of visitors with disabilities come here

for holidays.

"This is my first experience in 30 years of getting onto the beach and into the water and Council has done wonders to bring this into our community."

While the beach wheelchairs are a significant step forward, accessible toilet facilities are just as crucial for ensuring an inclusive experience in Bass Coast.

Bass Coast is home to seven fully accessible changing places and public toilets with extra features such as push button entry, height adjustable adult-sized change tables, ceiling hoists, peninsula toilets and showers.

Changing Places facilities are available at Smiths Beach, the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre, Cowes Transit Centre, and Wonthaggi's Apex Park and Guide Park.

For more information or to hire one of the new beach wheelchairs go to basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/accessibility.



Drink Gippy Tap active prize packs for young sports stars

GIPPSLAND Water is encouraging active kids to stay hydrated, with new Drink Gippy Tap active prize packs available for local sports clubs.

Each pack includes a draw-string backpack, a colourful stainless steel drink bottle and a sticker sheet for decorating the bottles.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said the packs were a way to reward young athletes and make hydration fun.

“These prize packs will be presented to kids at junior sports clubs for achievements like personal bests, contributing to a great team environment or best on ground,” Ms Cumming said.

“The initiative is part of our Drink Gippy Tap campaign, which we launched last year to promote the benefits of drinking tap water.

“It’s aimed at encouraging healthy habits and guiding people towards tap water as their drink of choice, instead of sugary alternatives.

“It’s also better for your wallet and the environment, with refillable bottles removing the need for single-use plastic alternatives.

“Kids can have fun decorating a colourful water bottle with fun, themed stickers, while learning about where their water comes from, making healthy choices, and reducing plastic waste.”

The Drink Gippy Tap active prize pack stickers and drink bottles are dishwasher safe.

Sports clubs can visit [gippswater.com.au/activeprizepacks](http://gippswater.com.au/activeprizepacks) to find out more and apply for Drink Gippy Tap active prize packs.

Phillip Island Tenpin League

PHANTOM: 1st place on 71pts Love Muscle, 2nd place on 62pts Silverfox and 3rd place on 62pts Nailing It.

2s Company: 1st place on 13pts King Pins, 2nd place on 12pts Palms and 3rd place on 11pts Him & Her.

ABL: 1st place on 90pts Storm, 2nd place on 82pts Dreamers and 3rd place 79pts The Fireballs.

Business League Early: 1st place on 14pts Balls Deep, 2nd place on 13pts Wooly Rollers, 3rd place on 11pts Turkey Slappers and 4th place on 11pts Old Timers.

Business League Late: 1st place on 16pts City Lights, 2nd place on 10pts Team Rich, 3rd place on 8pts S&R Clarke Auto and 4th place on 6pts Balls Of Fury.

Top scores:

Men – 183 Lindsay Becker, 182 Scott Lynch and 180 Troy Monk.

Woman – 180 Valma Peterson, 178 Leanne Hayes and 176 Panda.

SGB took on the Country All Juniors 2025 Championships



Bec Barclay secured a first in freestyle and third in backstroke.

IT WAS all smiles at MSAC on Saturday as the 32 SGB swimmers aged 8-16 competed in the Country All Juniors 2025 Championships, competing in the heats after finishing in the top eight for the Gippsland region a month ago.

Coaches Lorri and Sam were on hand to help their young chargers. For many of the younger swimmers, it was their first time on the big stage, seeing their names on the big screen and seeing their families in the stands.

“We are so proud of them, 50 metres off the blocks is such a big deal when you are eight,” said Lorri.

“Some of them get so nervous but they give their all and have such fun. The older kids in their last few years are on hand to help the little ones, many of them remember their first times here and how overwhelming it was. It is reassuring for the little kids to have them around and know they once felt that way too.”

On Saturday the eight to 11-year-olds swam in the morning, while the 12-16-year-olds swam in the afternoon. On Sunday, 19 swimmers returned to participate in the finals and three came back as emergencies.

The event highlights the best of regional swimming, giving swimmers in rural Victoria areas a chance to race against

others of their level and ability in a high-quality pool – something that many swimmers in regional areas don’t often get. It is encouraging for the swimmers to start young at MSAC so that when they come back in further years for other championships, they are familiar with and more comfortable and relaxed competing there.

The swimmers finish up at the April School Holidays, having a few weeks of well-deserved sleep-ins and enjoying the swim break before returning for the winter season starting in June.

Eight-year-olds: Eden Bennett, Eliana Gunn, Lathan Lucas, Lucy Pirouet, and Ryan Thornby

Nine-year-olds: Taj Kimmer, Ruby Pirouet, Mila Potter, and Mya Richer.

10-year-olds: Oliver Jarrett, Heidi Peters, and Abbie Saario.

11-year-olds: Ava Lucas, Mitchell Packer, Harper Perry, Josie Richer, and Madison Andreatta.

12-year-olds: Emma Barclay, Emily Croatto, Anna Mileto, Brooklyn Packer, and Jedda Tagell.

13-year-olds: Rex Brocklesby, and Georgia Perry.

14-year-olds: Rebecca Barclay, Isabel Croatto, Sienna Hunt, Tayah Matheson, and Finn Middleton.

16-year-olds: Molly Dettbarn, Joshua Hunt, and Zoe Paterson.

**Finalists:**

Eden Bennett: 4th Backstroke

Eliana Gunn: 3rd Backstroke, and 6th Freestyle

Lathan Lucas: 7th Backstroke

Brooklyn Packer: 8th Backstroke

Lucy Pirouet: 1st Butterfly, 5th Backstroke, 3rd Breaststroke, and 2nd Freestyle

Ruby Pirouet: 1st Butterfly, 4th Backstroke, 1st Breaststroke, and 3rd Freestyle

Oliver Jarrett: 1st Backstroke, and 1st Freestyle

Ava Lucas: 9th Butterfly

Josie Richer: 7th Butterfly, 7th Backstroke, and 8th Freestyle

Emily Croatto: 2nd Butterfly, and 2nd Backstroke

Jedda Tagell: 9th Breaststroke

Rex Brocklesby: 2nd Butterfly, and 3rd Freestyle

Georgia Perry: 3rd Backstroke, and 3rd Breaststroke

Rebecca Barclay: 1st Freestyle, 3rd Backstroke, and 8th Butterfly

Isabel Croatto: 6th Butterfly, 8th Backstroke, 7th Breaststroke, and 4th Freestyle

Sienna Hunt: 5th Butterfly, and 7th Backstroke

Tayah Matheson: 3rd Breaststroke

Finn Middleton: 8th Butterfly, and 10th Breaststroke

Molly Dettbarn: 3rd Freestyle, 4th Breaststroke, and 8th Butterfly.

Sophie McCulloch and Xavier Huxtable Win 2025 Phillip Island Pro QS 3000



Sophie McCulloch and Xavier Huxtable Win 2025 Phillip Island Pro QS 3000. Photo: WSL/Tom Bennett.

SOPHIE McCulloch (AUS) and Xavier Huxtable (AUS) claimed victory on Saturday, March 22 at the 2025 Phillip Island Pro World Surf League (WSL) Qualifying Series (QS) 3000 event. The pair overcame a massive field of Asia Pacific’s best up-and-coming surfers, all looking for a spot on the 2025 WSL Challenger Series. Cape Woolamai delivered once again, serving up clean surf in the three-to-five-foot range on Final’s Day.

Xavier Huxtable (AUS) claimed an emphatic victory at Cape Woolamai, putting on a powerful performance to overcome fellow Victorian and good friend Tully Wylie (AUS) in what was a rematch of the 2022 Philip Island Pro QS 1000 Final. Wylie looked to be the form surfer, getting an early start, and it looked like he was getting another win at this location over his good mate, a win that he also needed to guarantee a spot on the Challenger Series. Huxtable, however, had other ideas, posting a 7.40, then backing it up with a 9.00 (out of a possible 10) point ride for a critical backside snap on a

massive closeout section. Wylie came back, posting an excellent 8.00-point ride for three committed frontside gouges, but Huxtables 16.40 (out of a possible 20) was too much for him to chase down, leaving him to get one back and claim the second QS 3000 event victory of his career.

“I’m so stoked to make the final and take the win,” Huxtable said. “It’s bittersweet to beat my best mate as I want to make sure

he qualifies and we can travel the world together, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. It doesn’t get better than competing against your best mate for an event win so close to home. It’s been a sick week, and I’m over the moon to win and be on the Challenger Series in 2025.”

Sophie McCulloch (AUS) has continued her incredible return to competition, earning her second QS win in as many events with an impressive performance

at the Phillip Island Pro this week. McCulloch has only recently returned to the water after breaking her back while surfing in Margaret River almost a year ago. The former CT competitor has been awarded a wildcard into the Challenger Series but is surfing on the QS to get some reps in ahead of the season. Her return will have done plenty for her confidence as she took the win, posting some of the biggest scores of the entire event, including in the Final, where she posted a two-wave total of 16.25 (out of a possible 20).

Earlier in the day, the Phillip Island Pro Junior wrapped up at Cape Woolamai with Ellie Harrison (AUS) and Kyan Falvey each taking wins. For Harrison, it capped off a strong week with the Victorian also finishing equal fifth in the QS 3000 event.

Kyan Falvey (AUS) put on an incredible performance at Cape Woolamai to claim his maiden WSL Pro Junior event win, which was the biggest result of his career. Falvey landed a massive alley-oop air to post a 9.00-point ride and win with a heat total of 16.90.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Torradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

| TUESDAY           |
|-------------------|
| March 25          |
| ▼ 1.09am<br>0.81m |
| ▲ 7.16am<br>1.31m |
| ▼ 1.21pm<br>0.41m |
| ▲ 8.49pm<br>1.36m |

| WEDNESDAY         |
|-------------------|
| March 26          |
| ▼ 1.53am<br>0.86m |
| ▲ 8.12am<br>1.26m |
| ▼ 2.11pm<br>0.46m |
| ▲ 9.56pm<br>1.33m |

| THURSDAY           |
|--------------------|
| March 27           |
| ▼ 2.53am<br>0.87m  |
| ▲ 9.28am<br>1.22m  |
| ▼ 3.16pm<br>0.53m  |
| ▲ 11.05pm<br>1.33m |

| FRIDAY             |
|--------------------|
| March 28           |
| ▼ 4.12am<br>0.82m  |
| ▲ 11.00am<br>1.25m |
| ▼ 4.37pm<br>0.58m  |

| SATURDAY           |
|--------------------|
| March 29           |
| ▲ 12.08am<br>1.38m |
| ▼ 5.35am<br>0.71m  |
| ▲ 12.27pm<br>1.36m |
| ▼ 6.02pm<br>0.59m  |

| SUNDAY            |
|-------------------|
| March 30          |
| ▲ 1.03am<br>1.44m |
| ▼ 6.45am<br>0.54m |
| ▲ 1.36pm<br>1.52m |
| ▼ 7.16pm<br>0.58m |

| MONDAY            |
|-------------------|
| March 31          |
| ▲ 1.52am<br>1.51m |
| ▼ 7.39am<br>0.38m |
| ▲ 2.34pm<br>1.67m |
| ▼ 8.13pm<br>0.58m |

Email us your fishing photos

[news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)



# Thrilling Australian blokart championships at Waratah Bay

CALL them blokarts, land yachts or wind-sport chariots these crazy karts can sail faster than the wind reaching speeds of up to 100km/h given the right conditions.

Found all over the world including Australia which boasts seven to eight clubs, dozens of blokarts descended on Waratah Bay over the weekend for the four day 2025 Australian Open Blokart Championships.

Eighty to one hundred land sailors compete regularly in State Championships and once every two years the National Championships are held in rotation at a selected location in Victoria, West Australia, Queensland or South Australia.

Waratah Bay was chosen by the North-East Windsport Club based at Springhurst near Wangaratta because of South Gippsland's reliable and consistent winds and the wide stretch of clear, flat beach offered at low tide along Waratah Bay.

Four days of racing attracted forty of the world's best land sailors including a lone New Zealand competitor culminating with a presentation dinner and the announcement of the 2025 Australian Champions at the Fish Creek Hotel.

Spectators enjoyed lively racing in perfect, albeit slightly chilly conditions for Queensland competitors on all four days of the competition.

Skilled Blokart pilots literally flew up and down the quiet beach at Waratah supported by the Australian Blokart Association, South Gippsland Shire Council and Victorian State Government with prizes donated by Blokart International.

Blokarting is an all-inclusive sport with men and women of all ages competing against each other in two classes and four weight categories.

The Australian Blokart Association claims 200 members across Australia with the biggest fleet in Queensland which has four clubs.

Competing in both performance and production class the blokarts at Waratah Bay reached speeds of up to 50km/h assisted by strong south-westerly winds.

Commodore of the North-East Windsport Club Ken Horne could not have been more pleased with the conditions at Waratah Bay.

"It is really hard to find a wide, flat beach exposed at low tide with no rocks," said Mr Horne.

"Waratah Bay is a beautiful place to visit with the Waratah Bay Caravan Park very popular."

The State Championships at Casey Fields near Cranbourne in 2022 were dogged by flukey, changing winds but at Waratah Bay light early morning breezes picked up by mid-afternoon each day well before racing finished for the incoming tide.

President of the Central



**Ron McDonald from Anglesea competing in the 2025 Australian Blokart Championships at Waratah Bay. B71\_1225**



**2025 Australian Blokart Championships at Waratah Bay. B36\_1225**



**North East Windsport Club Commodore Ken Horne, Club Secretary Milke Reid and Commodore of the Victorian Blokart Club Matt Galvin at Waratah Bay for the 2025 Australian Blokart Championships. B83\_1225**

Queensland Blokart Club Tony Francis proved to be a stand-out competitor winning two races in the first two days of competition.

Blokart clubs offer casual group sailing days, local competitions, and social events.

The production class uses a basic Blokart design straight from the factory while performance class karts allow for additional approved upgrades such as stiffer carbon masts, an aerodynamic pod and bigger front wheels and fork.

Blokarts have a unique hand steering system so racers with lower body disabilities compete equally alongside able-bodied sailors.

Karts fold down for easy transport to events around the

world.

There are no gender-specific classes with racers sailing together.

The only divisions are by body weight to ensure larger sailors are not disadvantaged.

Blokarts have four different-sized sails making them ideal for juniors who can start as young as 12 or 14 years of age. Ken Horne said his seven-year-old grandson is already sailing.

Buoyed by the success of the 2025 Australian Open Blokart Championships Waratah Bay is now well placed to possibly attract the next world championship series after the World Championships are held at Llanbedr Airfield in northwest Wales in 2026.

The previous Blokart World Championships were hosted by the United States on Lake Ivanpah near Las Vegas in 2024.

For more information about blokart land sailing go to [blokart.com/ride/racing](http://blokart.com/ride/racing). The North-East Windsport Club can be found on Facebook or at [newc.com.au](http://newc.com.au).

## 2025 Australian Open Blokart Championships Results

Challenging racing in light conditions and wet sand patches.

### Performance:

Dan Bennett Heavy 63, Matthew O'Brien Heavy 43, Ross Webster Heavy 42, Ross Porz S/Heavy 22, Ron McDonald S/Heavy 22, Greg Devine S/Heavy 17, Jack Lamont Middle 17, Allan Phillips Middle 15, Miles Wood Middle 14, Robert Edwards Light 12, Garry Percy Light 8

### Production:

Bob Cove S/Heavy 20, Greg Devine S/Heavy 10, Luke Dynes S/Heavy 8, Jeffrey Payne Heavy 39, Dan Bennett Heavy 37, Peter Nelson Heavy 30, Nyarie Butterfield Middle 35, Ken Horne Middle 31, Werner Oswald Middle 28, Kate Francis Light 33, Kristine Deveny Light 22, Tina Coutts Light 17  
Full results available at [newc.com.au/news/2025-australian-open-blokart-championships-progress](http://newc.com.au/news/2025-australian-open-blokart-championships-progress).

## Phillip Island & Districts Darts

A BIG shout-out to all players this season – your sportsmanship and camaraderie have been second to none! With Round 3 in the books, the competition is heating up, and the league ladder is beginning to take shape.

At the top of the table, the Breakers remain undefeated, and on Monday night, they had an extra bit of Irish luck (and a few pints of Guinness) on their side. In true St. Patrick's Day spirit, they steamrolled the Mustangs 6-1, proving they'll be tough to beat this season.

Hot on their heels, Aulin kept pace, matching the scoreline with a commanding 6-1 win over the Riverboys. Miramar also made a statement, dismantling the Dart Vaders 6-1.

Meanwhile, Joe's Hornets showed their sting with a solid 5-2 victory over the Deadly Darts, while Vikings edged out Storm in a nail-biter, clinching a tense 4-3 win.

Off the oche, the real drama unfolded at the raffle table, where Lucky Bob lived up to his name, snagging the San Remo Butchers' meat tray – a result that has some calling for a lifetime raffle ban! Newcomer Stu also had a win, walking away with the crownies and no doubt earning a few new mates in the process.

It's shaping up to be an epic season, so sharpen those arrows and bring your A-game next week – same time, same place, for more thrilling darts action! Game on!

## Phillip Island Bridge

THERE is always something new you can learn playing bridge.

With that in mind, the Phillip Island Bridge Club held a seminar in the ABC of Declarer Play.

Paul and Janet Hill usually teach bridge on cruise ships travelling around the world and they kindly took time out of their busy schedule to share some of their expertise.

More than 25 bridge club members attended the event.

Using their new skills, duplicate bridge saw some keen competition, with North/South Pairs first place going to Neville Chapman and Lorrie Read with 55.36 per cent and Bronwyn Sund and John Farr taking out East/West first place with 61.01 per cent.

Trish and Don Stewart-Uden won first place in the first of two weeks of the Midweek Pairs competition on Wednesday, March 19, with 61.91 per cent.

## Bridge Pairs Champions

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2025 pairs champions Faye Rowlands and John Currier who won convincingly with a fine 66.67 per cent average board score.

Coming second was Phil and Nev Chapman with 56.52 per cent, third, was Deb Anglim and Doug McIntosh with 52.66, and in fourth position was Alan Johnston and Clive Hope with 50.97.

Master point winners in the Plate event were Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka winning with 66.67 followed by John French and Anne Gibson with 60.42 and Carol Sowden and Mary Brewis in third place with 56.25.

Wonthaggi RSL:

First: Ken Mckenzie and Marie Sands 58.70. Second: Faye Rowlands and Deb Anglim 56.25. Third: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 52.20. Fourth: Sean Munley and Anne Somerville 51.43





Peter Boradale (2), Elaine Williams (L), Bev Elliott (3) and Vern Elliott (S) were Thursday's South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners.



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's best one game winners were Clair Sheers (3), Marianne Scales (L), Louis Magrit (S) and Karen Hickson (2).



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners were David Turnbull, Ray Hin and Stan Jackson.



The South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group runner-up this week were Luke Monckton (S), Jim Noonan (L) and Jaye A-D (3).



John Rook, Theo Sholley and Fred Demenech were the Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.



Inverloch Bowling Club's social bowls winners were George Scott, Carol Waters (skip) and Phil Price.



Jan Clark, Jan Murphy and Peter Morgan won Breakaway Bowls on Monday.



Jeff Gilbert (skip), Gary Scott and Darren were the Monthly Triples winners at Inverloch Bowling Club.



Foster Bowls Club's Section B premier was Wheels with Des holding the fort and all the goodies. Absent: Ross and Karen.



Section A premiers, BMFs, Dion, Jen and Stu at the Foster Bowls Club.

BREAKAWAY

ANOTHER Monday was enjoyed with friends at Cape Pater-son as they played an awesome afternoon of bowling. The winners were Jan Clark, Jan Murphy and Peter Morgan with a total of +9. Well done to all who partici-pated. The bowlers were back at it again on Friday, and what a day was had by all. The members had some stiff competition, and the winners had to fight for their win. The winners were Linda New-man and Jan Clark with +15.

FOSTER

FOSTER Bowls Club finished off its Jack Attack competition on a high. Everyone has had a great com-petition and are keen for the next one already, which isn't un-till October. Section A's last round saw a playoff for both top and bottom positions. The BMFs, Dion, Jen and Stu held onto the top position, tak-ing out the premier prizes and receiving vouchers sponsored by the Exchange Hotel Foster and a box of malteasers. Runners-up were the Fat-ter Bastards, Alan, Justin and Baden, receiving Prom Meats vouchers sponsored by Phil Fac-ey and some Tim Tams. The rest of the results saw a shuffle of the bottom half too, leaving Hospital Facilities the wooden spooners this compe-tition. Tony, Paul and Benny took home little encouragement packs donated by the club. A top-two playoff was had for Section B. After a win with a tiebreaker, The Wheels, Des and Ross with one point extra, took out the Section B premier prizes. Runners-up went to the team

Vouchers sponsored by Ag Warehouse along with a box of Maltesers. Karen will get some too. The wooden spooners were the Pioneers, Bev, Maggie and John. First-season starters giving it a good go, receiving little encour-agement packs also. Check out all the final ladder positions and photos on the Facebook page. Also on the final night of play the winners were Crackerjack, Scott, Lyndon and Ros winning Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored by Foster Cars and Off-Road. Runners-up were Hospital Fa-cilities Paul, Tony and Benny, re-ceiving the chockies sponsored by Promontory Kitchens. Lots of lovely door prizes were on offer for the last night. The club once again acknowl-edges and thanks all the gener-ous sponsors this season. It's great of you to give the club your support. There's still lots happening at the club in March and April. Saturday social bowls will now be held every Saturday. Everyone is welcome. Please pre-enter by turning up or ringing your name in by 12.30pm for a 1pm start. Phone 5682 2061. There's one more Monthly Triples on April 10 and Bev and Charlie's six-player Medley Tour-nament is on Sunday, April 13. There's still room for teams. Phone Noleen on 0427 928 542.

INVERLOCH

THURSDAY'S social bowls saw a tight competition with the eventual winners on two wins. This team consisted of Carol Waters (skip), George Scott and Phil Price. Runners-up went to the team

of John Hallas (skip), Di Selby and Greg Edwards. The social bowls will have a new starting time, starting on April 10. Names are to be in by 9.30am with playing starting at 11am. After the first game will be a lunch break with the second game after lunch. Homemade soup will be avail-able in June, July and August. Wednesday's Monthly Triples only had one team that regis-tered four wins. This team consisted of Jeff Gil-bert (skip), Gary Scott and Dar-ren. The last Monthly Triples for this season is on April 16. There is a \$30 entry fee per team. Autumn Ivy Bowls is an eight-week competition of 28 teams of pairs. It is held from 7pm to 9pm with an entry fee of \$10 per per-son. Dates are April 1, 8, 15 and 29, and May 6, 13, 20 and 27. Register quickly or miss out. Contact John Sutcliffe.

MIDWEEK

IT WAS another great day on Thursday as the bowlers met up at Corinella to fight it out for team of the week. Terry prepared the green whilst they were welcomed in by Pauline and John. Peter once again prepared the teams helped by Clair. The weather forecast was for heavy rain over the day, but Corinella disagreed and kept the players dry for virtually the whole day. On the green, the temperature was perfect for bowls. The wind was blowing a bit but not enough to be a great prob-lem. Some great bowls were seen all

over the green. Very little by way of wrong bias. Not long now till the Royal Chil-dren's Hospital donation gets forwarded for the children so keep up the good work people. At the end of the day, the cream rose to the top with this week's winners on a score 35 being Pe-ter Boradale (2), Elaine Williams (L), Bev Elliott (3) and Vern El-liott (S). Runners-up on a score of 33 were Luke Monckton (S), Jim Noonan (L) and Jaye A-D (3). Best one game winners on 19 points were Clair Sheers (3), Marianne Scales (L), Louis Mag-rit (S) and Karen Hickson (2). A big thank you to Phil, Terry and Cheryl for all their hard work in the kitchen. Also, a huge thank you to the wonderful leaders who do all the hard work week after week. Next week, the bowlers will be meeting up at San Remo to continue the wonderful competi-tion and look forward to seeing everyone there before 10am to allow the teams to be prepared. Meanwhile, till then, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another good week at the club. It was back to social bowls on Wednesday with eighteen bowl-ers on the green. There was still a good num-ber with Triples at another local club plus a number of bowlers at Bendigo. There were two teams that were two-game winners with three bowl triples being the or-der of the day. One team won on countback af-ter both teams scored 33 points. The winners were David Turn-bull, Ray Hin and Stan Jackson with a score of two wins, 33 points and 13 shots up.

The runners-up were Fred Kel-low, John Hill and Sue Parker with a score of two wins, 33 points and 11 shots up. Thursday saw the threat of rain all morning. As a result, not many bowlers ventured onto the greens. Friday night was an outstand-ing success with a good number of 40 people booked in for the meal. A good mix of members and visitors made for a good night. Dennis, Max, Stu and Fred were lucky meat tray winners. The member's draw went off with Jeannie taking home \$80. A big thanks to Amanda and her team of helpers for a fantas-tic meal and tasty sweets. No bowls on Saturday as peo-ple are saving their energy for the Skins on Sunday. Bowls this week: Wednesday: Social bowls at 1pm. Thursday: Social bowls at 10am. Friday: Coaching at 10am. Saturday: Social bowls at 1pm.

INDOOR

TUESDAY was another great day of bowling. The winners on the day with a plus 16, winning two games, were Judy Sweetnam, Mary Spooner John Bird and Kevin. Runners-up on a win and a draw on plus five were Teresa Ireland, Helen Rook and John Rook. Friday was another competi-tive day with both teams winning two games each. The winners on plus 19 were John Rook, Theo Sholley and Fred Demenech. Coming second on plus 12 were Glenda Binch, and Dawn and Max Sweetnam. The club had a total of 44 play-ers for the week – well done to all who competed.





Runners-up of the Brian and Shirley Thomas Stableford Aggregate Board Event Elly Berryman and Heather Sullivan with winners Barb James and Anne Grist at the Woorayl Golf Club.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, March 11. Stableford: 40 players. A Grade: Barry Kerr (9) 38 pts. B Grade: Tim Morgan (20) 36 pts. NTPs: first Mark Marotti, 10th Barry Kerr and 13th Barry Kerr. Thursday, March 13: Stableford: 17 players. Winner: Steve Rose (8) 39 C/B. NTPs: first Steve Rose, 10th Wayne Knights and 13th Steve Duffield. Saturday, March 15: Sponsor: Sean Bowler. Chris Clements Cup (CCC) 4BBB Stroke Championships round one: 45 players. Winners: Mat Wrigley and Billy Wrigley 68. Chris Clements Cup (CCC) 4BBB Net Championships round one: Winners: John Stein and Ray Ludenia 59 net. NTPs: first Peter Hislop, seventh Mat Wrigley, 10th Allan Twite and 13th Wayne Knights. Tuesday, March 18: Stableford: 41 players. A Grade: Peter Johnson (12) 38 pts. B Grade: Bill Watson (27) 36 pts. NTPs: first Tim Fowles, seventh Steve Osboldstone and 13th Brian Clasby. Thursday, March 20: Stableford: 15 players. Winner: Wayne Knights (17) 40 pts. NTPs: first Mick Belvedere, seventh Shayne Harland, 10th Ross Besley and 13th Jake Cochrane. Saturday, March 22: Sponsor: Dean Crellin. Chris Clements Cup (CCC) 4BBB Stroke Championships round two: 45 players. Winners: Mat Wrigley and Billy Wrigley 70. Chris Clements Cup (CCC) 4BBB Net Championships round two: Winners: Neil Spargo and Paul Hopkins 61 C/B Ludenia 59 net. NTPs: first Peter Hislop, seventh Mat Wrigley, 10th Allan Twite and 13th Wayne Knights. Chris Clements Cup (CCC) 4BBB Stroke Champions: Gross –Mat Wrigley and Billy Wrigley 68 and 70: 138. Chris Clements Cup (CCC) 4BBB net Champions: Peter Hislop and Darryl Brain 60 and 61: 121.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was the start of the Matchplay Championship knockouts. Well done to the winners and good luck to all playing in their final round. The club also had 12 women play a Stableford game last week. With a fabulous score of 42 pts, Barb Twite (24) was the winner on the day. R/up was Beryl Brown (28) with 35 pts. BDL went to Diarne Maskell 33 pts and Johanna van den Heiligenberg 32 pts. NTPs were on the first Johanna

and Beryl on the 13th green. On Saturday, 20 women played a Stableford game, which gave two grades. Well done to A Grade winner Trudi Mantell (21) coming in with 32 pts on a c/b. The B Grade winner was Jennie Loughnan (39) with a fabulous 42 pts. BDL went to Sherrin Solly 36 pts, and Deb Wrigley and Johanna van den Heiligenberg both with 32 pts. Nearest the pins on the first and 10th went to Kerri Besley and on the 13th green Sherrin Solly.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, March 18: Dementia Australia Blue Tee Open Gentsomes. Tuesday's event was a fund-raising Open Gentsomes for Dementia Australia, hitting off the blue tees. Forty-four members and guests took to the course, enjoying a cooler day out after the rain of the weekend. Overall winners: 1: Michael O'Rafferty (14), Jeremy de Silva (8), Alan Starkey (7) and Chad Clasby (3) with an excellent total of 97 pts including 6 birdies from a lower handicap team 2: Neil MacKenzie (26), Matthew O'Brien (15), Dave Brownnett (13) and Rod MacKenzie (9) with a score of 93 pts. NTP fifth second shot: Renato Monacella, 14th: Jeremy de Silva, 16th: Michael O'Rafferty. Thursday, March 20: Invy Espy Stableford Black Tee Challenge Event. Thursday was another day of challenge for the field of 75 members and guests with a Stableford round hitting off the Black tees. Appreciation as always for the excellent sponsorship by the Invy Espy Hotel. Overall winner: Andrew Smith (17) with a high score of the day of 40 pts. A Grade winner: Mark Lafferty (6) with a score of 36 pts on a countback. Runner up: Ray Matthews (10) with a score of 36 pts. B Grade winner: Andrew Smith (17) with a score of 40 pts. Runner up: Philip Edwards (18) with a score of 36 pts. C Grade winner: David Vorwerf (23) with a score of 35 pts. Runner up: Fred Debono (23) with a score of 33 pts on a countback. Great score by Andrew Seccull, who had a day out with an eagle on the first hole and two NTPs. NTP fifth second shot: Andrew Seccull, 14th: Andrew Seccull, 16th: Bernard Skerys. Saturday, March 22: Par. Saturday was a Par round with a field of 82 members and guests taking to the course on a very pleasant day for golf. Overall winner: Nicole Stewart (50) with a high score of the day of +3. A Grade winner: Mark Wilson



Peter Hislop and Darryl Brain were Korumburra Golf Club's Chris Clements Cup (CCC) 4BBB Net winners.

(7) with a score of -1 on a count-back. Runner up: Tony Morganti (8) with a score of -1. B Grade winner: Gordon Allan (15) with a score of +1. Runner up: Daniel Jolley (13) with a score of 0. C Grade winner: Miles Wrigley (16) with a score of +1. Runner up: Russell Pentland (21) with a score of 0. D Grade winner: Nicole Stewart (50) with a score of +3. Runner up: Melinda Honig (39) with a score of +2. Great score by Phil Douglass who had an Eagle on the 18th hole. NTP fifth second shot: Trevor Bowler, 14th: Trent Price, 16th: Mark Billows.

Ladies

AS A follow-up from St Patrick's Day, 40 women played an Irish 4BBB Gentsomes. The winning team were Jenny Teasdale (27), Nan Meagher (30), Maryanne Gartner (26) and Lyn Shaw (52) finishing with 101 pts. Four shots behind were Cheryl Borg (36), Jill Steer (37), Glenyce McRobert (36) and Joc Howson (29). Down the line balls were awarded to two teams: Mel Wilder, Delia Perry, Robin Smith and Deborah Williams, and Nicole Stewart, Lynda Bassett, Karen de Groot and Karen Murchie. It was great to see some newer players amongst the winners. Nine women competed in the nine-hole competition. Marie Sands had another good round this week finishing with 21 pts. Honourable mentions to Paula Cross, 20 pts and Pam Christensen and Helen Mackenzie with 14 pts.

MEENIYAN

TUESDAY'S winner was Justin Accardi with 41 pts. Runner up was Henry Mueller 36 pts. DTL went to Lloyd Hemphill 35 pts, Leon Zuidema 32 pts, Mat Vanboven 32 pts and John Hyett 32 pts. NTPs were pro pin on the second Mat Vanboven, eighth Will Bullock, 11th Leon Zuidema and 14th Peter Riddle. Saturday was the third of the Club Championships, once again sponsored by Meeniyana IGA, which the club thanks for its generosity once again this year. The Club Champion for the 15th time was Brett McKnight 240 gross. Runner up was Ryan McKnight 241 gross. The B Grade winner was Scott Browne 255 gross. Runner up was Mat Vanboven 265 gross. The C Grade winner was Phil Hutcheson 298 gross. Runner up was Daryle Gregg 301 gross. The day's winner was Col Graeme 69 net. Runner-up was Mike Steele 70 net. DTL went to Andrew Logan 70 net, Brad Wright 71 net, Peter Wilson 72 net, Shane Bright 73



Brett McKnight (far left) was named Meeniyana Golf Club Champion for the 15th time recently.

net and Brett McKnight 73 net. NTPs were on second Shane Bright, 11th Ethan Park, 14th Brett McKnight and the pro pin on the eighth Rob Calderara (Garfield).

Ladies

WEDNESDAY, March 19, saw the first round of the Ladies' Championships with 15 players contesting three grades. The A Grade winner was Andrea Thorson with 82-11= 71 net from Dot Christie 83-11 72 net. B Grade's winner was Faye LePage 94-22=72 net from Louise Vuillermin 111-34=77. The C Grade winner was Gail Browne 120-43=73 from Pam Erving 121-43=78 net. The course is looking a treat thanks to the many volunteers who work very hard. Meeniyana ladies held their annual Olive Harris Bowl on Friday, March 21. There were 42 players. Clubs represented were Korumburra, Wonthaggi, Woorayl, Phillip Island and Foster, along with five teams from Meeniyana. The winners of the Bowl were Meeniyana 1 Faye LePage 29 pts, Jan Trease 28 pts and Louise Vuillermin 39 pts total of 96. The A Grade winner was Andrea Thorson Meeniyana 34 pts, B Grade Linda Forrester Woorayl 32 pts and C Grade Louise Vuillermin Meeniyana 39 pts. A big thanks to Olive's family for their continued sponsorship of this event. Down the line balls went to Pam Erving Meeniyana 33, Dot Christie Meeniyana 32, Elly Berryman Woorayl 32, Andrea Grenville Wonthaggi 31, Susan Straw Meeniyana 31 Lyn Jennison Meeniyana 31, Kylie Collins Foster 31. Jean Hayes Woorayl 29 and Tanya Thorson Meeniyana 29 pts.

MIRBOO NORTH

SATURDAY, March 15 and 22: 4BBB Championship. 4BBB Champions: S. Woodall and P. Woodall 94 pts. Day winners round one: M. Richter and N. Rutledge 46 pts. Day winners round two: M. Richter and N. Rutledge 47 pts. DTL: S. Evison and J. Taylor 44, T. Bradshaw and B. Bradshaw 44, G. Dawson and S. Hill-Smith 45, and T. Whitelaw and N. Bracecamp 45 c/b. NTP week one: fourth N. Baker, sixth G. Dawson and 13th R. Matthews. Week two: fourth G. Dawson, sixth S. Woodall, 13th N. Bracecamp and 16th D. Woodall. Birdies: fourth J. Kidd and J. McFarlane, sixth S. Mills, G. Dawson, T. Bradshaw, S. Woodall, T. Baker and R. Matthews, 13th M. Payne, and 16th D. Woodall. Eagles: A. Heatfield 11th. Tuesday, March 18: Stableford. A Grade: R. Madigan (10) 36 pts. B Grade: R. Thompson (23) 40 pts.

DTL: M. Richter 38, T. Bradshaw, S. Woodall and J. McFarlane 35. NTP: fourth S. Hill-Smith, sixth S. Woodall, 13th P. Woodall and 16th J. McFarlane. Birdies: sixth M. Richter and J. McFarlane.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: March 20, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Tim Skate 39. Runner-up: Nicholas Skate 38. BDTL to 36 C/B: Jamie Davidson 38, Craig O'Brien 37, Malcolm Stephenson 36 and Philip McCrimmon 36 C/B. Results: March 20, SR. 36. Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18. Winner: Kevin Bayley 18. BDTL to 15: Secondo Tiziani 17, Howard Mackinder 17, Ray Hender 16 and Andrew Hooton-Shandley 15. Results: March 22, S.R 71. Competition: Stroke. A Grade: Alan Cubbon 67. B Grade: Sam Horvath 68. C Grade: Bill Fennell 72. BDTL to 72. Ball sweep: Michael Scott 67, Stephen Judd 68, Daniel Crellin 70, Mark Tiziani 71, Ian Baker 72, Jim Jordan 72, Alan Jones 72 and John Walsh 72. Eagle: Don Dunn first. NTPs: John Walsh second, Michael Scott fourth, Doug Putt propin eighth, Andy Horvath 13th and Sam Horvath money hole 17th.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY saw two events played concurrently. The semi-finals of the 4BBB Board Event saw Jan Beaumont and Chris Hamilton beat Patsy Britt and Irene Walsh. The other match went to the 19th hole, which saw Donna Brosnan and Simone Lindsay defeat Marg Ryan and Anne Poulton. The final will be played next week. The rest of the field played Stableford and A Grade winner was Bev Sloan (19)35 pts, and B Grade winner and round of the day Layla Robertson (29)39 pts. NTP on eighth was Kaylene Hodgetts and 17th Bev Sloan. BDL went to Dawn Judkins 34, Carole Sartori, Lisa Brusamarello, Betty Bowmar and Anne Walker, all 33 pts.

Woorayl

Ladies SPONSORED by Adora Hair, the golfers played the Brian and Shirley Thomas Stableford Aggregate Board Event. On a glorious day, there were 14 players. The winners were Anne Grist and Barb James 68. Runners up were Heather Sullivan and Elly Berryman 64. BDL: Inge Giliam and Jean Hayes 62. NTPs: eighth and 17th Jean Hayes, and 11th Jenny Riseley.



RIVERSIDE – SEMI-FINALS

SECTION 1 Singles: Moe Blue 3 - 6 - 37 def Moe Red 0 - 0 – 15  
Section 2 Doubles: Warragul White 6 - 53 def Hallora 3 - 35  
Section 2 Singles: Trafalgar 2 - 33 def by Warragul 4 - 40  
The Grand Finals will be played on Saturday, March 29 at Drouin Tennis Club  
Section 1 Singles: Moe White vs Moe Blue  
Section 2 Doubles: Neerim District vs Warragul White  
Section 2 Singles: Neerim District vs Warragul

WONTHAGGI TABLE TENNIS

START your engines, here we go again. Wonthaggi Table Tennis Autumn competition has returned from the longest summer, some players fine-tuned whilst others straight from the beach with sand in the shorts and sun specks on their paddles. Ten rounds, twelve players and six teams branded by ping pong product names, a gentler fate than being branded by Charley’s slapshot. Double Fish defeated Butterfly 4 to 2  
Butterfly’s David “Jolly” Kimmins’ new pink rubber racket looked like a bubblegum paddle pop, proving his jolliness. His match with Double Fish’s Michael Chang and his albatross wingspan was much anticipated. The wingspan prevailed over pink power 4 to 2 in a best-of-seven entertaining classic. This was key to team Double Fish’s victory. Stiga def Nittaku 3 to 2  
Another tight match with Stiga’s newly minted Wonthaggi member Tim, brandishing a bandana and bravado, eclipsing Nittaku’s Braden in seven sweaty sets, converting hairdos into hair-don’ts. Braden will be a force when he shakes the sand and salt from his eyes. Luke from Stiga succumbed to Charley’s brutality in the sixth set, a notable performance from Charley. Radak def Donic 3 to 2  
Doubles are crucial in a two-player comp and proved doubly so here. This was a beauty. Radak’s Dirk and Mark shot out to a 3 Nil lead and were rehearsing the victory song before Justin and Michael clawed their way back, forcing a seventh-set decider. This match ebbed and flowed like an Invy king tide, showcasing all manner of table tennis techniques. Radak crossed the line first, winning 11 to 9 in the last set, proving guile and stoicism can overpower orderly chaos. It’s great to be back. Ladder: Double Fish 4, Stiga 4, Radak 4, Butterfly, Tonic and Nittaku 0.

LEONGATHA SMALL BORE RIFLE CLUB

2025: 50m Prone Pennant - Section A.  
Round four: FPTRC A 587.025 defeated Leongatha A 572.021.  
Daniel Croatto: 197.010, Jack Sargent: 188.006, Kenneth Hart: 187.005, Christopher Sargent: 185.007.  
Round five: Leongatha A 583.020 defeated Casterton 581.027, Kenneth Hart: 197.006, Daniel Croatto: 195.008, Christopher Sargent: 191.006, Jack Sargent: 190.005.  
Round six: Kyneton 584.021 defeated Leongatha A 570.019, Daniel Croatto: 192.008, Kenneth Hart: 190.007, Christopher Sargent: 188.004, Jack Sargent: 186.00.  
Ladder: MISC A 20, FPTRC A 16, Kyneton 16, Leongatha A 12, Casterton A 8  
2025: 50m Prone Pennant - Section D.  
Round four: Mildura 554.011 defeated Leongatha B 523.004.  
N 180.003 Kaleb Mee, N 172.000 Cameron Davidson, N 171.001 Mathew Eldridge, N 159.002 Bradley Hall, X 176.002 Robert Spratt, N - Nominated (top three counted towards team score).  
Round five: Brunswick 567.016 defeated Leongatha B 544.013.  
N 188.006 Mathew Eldridge, N 184.007 Kaleb Mee, N 172.000 Cameron Davidson, N 160.002 Robert Spratt, X 171.004 Bradley Hall.  
Ladder: Brunswick 24, Mildura 16, Leongatha B 8, Numurkah B 8  
The club shoots Friday nights at 8pm at the rifle club on the Leongatha Recreation Reserve. Any inquiries, please call R. Spratt 5664 2358.

Inverloch retain their premiership title



Section 1 Premiers: Inverloch, from left Ange Williams, Glenn Bainbridge, Bronwyn Williams, Justin Krohn, Michelle Krohn and Connor Krohn.



Section 2 Premiers – Outtrim from left Alex Beale, Nick Beale, Sara Beale, Gavin Furness, Brooke Elford and Martin Nicholas.

GRAND Finals for both sections of Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis Association were played at Leongatha – a great venue for players and spectators. Inverloch is an experienced team, and they play well together. The Westernport team won a ladies’ set and lost a tiebreaker – a great effort. There were terrific rallies and great sportsmanship all day, so regardless of the result, it was a great final. Inverloch are once again Premiers. Outtrim was the winner over Korumburra in Section 2. Outtrim won two men’s sets and Korumburra won two ladies’ sets, so it was three sets all going into the mixed with just a few games the difference. Korumburra won the third mixed but was unable to convert one of the others to get over the line. SECTION 1: Inverloch 5.35 defeated Westernport White 1.20  
SECTION 2: Outtrim 5.57 defeated Korumburra 4.53  
The Presentation Night was held after the Grand Final at Space 47 in Leongatha. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all who came along. The Brownlow of Tennis – the Most Games Won Award – was presented for both Sections. Congratulations to:  
• Section 1: Nikki Cornelis and Matt Pocklington.  
• Section 2: Sara Beale and Martin Nicholas.  
Thank you to everyone who has watched along and been a part of this year’s season. If you are playing tennis and are looking for a Saturday afternoon competition (starting in October), feel free to reach out to secretary.amdta@outlook.com.

Fun and fitness at San Remo Primary athletics day



Harry Cervai, Rocky Lawa and Jack Gilbert racing to the finish line. W01\_1225

STUDENTS at San Remo Primary School braved wet weather to take part in their annual house athletics day on Thursday, March 20. With just under 170 students participating, the day was filled with excitement and a wide range of events, including discus, shot put, long jump, hurdles, relays, and sprints. Students were divided into their four houses – green, gold, purple, and blue – competing in various events to earn points for their teams. At the end of the day, the house with the most points would be crowned the winner. “It’s a fantastic day that encourages cooperation between all students, both younger and older. Cooperation is one of our core values, so it’s very fitting,” said Virginia Baxter, San Remo Primary’s sports and arts teacher. Ms Baxter highlighted the many benefits of the event, explaining that it provides students with the opportunity to learn new

sports, work as part of a team, build relationships, and allows older students to step into leadership roles. Running for around 18 years, the athletics day continues to grow each year. “The kids love anything that involves running, especially the hurdles,” Ms Baxter said when asked about the students’ favourite events. “Lots of parents get involved too, and we’d love to see some local businesses join in the future.” Many parents were present on the day to lend a hand and cheer on their children, including Rina Derubeis, who was there to support her two kids, Harmonie and Dallas. “It’s wonderful to see them doing something they love with smiles on their faces,” Rina said. “It’s also great to see them learning new skills and breaking up their day with some physical activity.” Blue Foots House won the athletics, followed by a close second Gold Kittys.



# Improvements celebrated at Korumburra Showgrounds

UPGRADED facilities for footy and netball were officially opened at the Korumburra Showgrounds on Saturday, representatives of the various organisations involved in the project there to mark the occasion.

Korumburra-Bena netballers and their opponents can enjoy a new building, alongside the netball court, featuring two identical changerooms separated by a partition that allows the creation of a large room.

An umpires' room, first aid space and toilet and shower facilities complete the impressive setup.

The wet section of the existing footy rooms has been revamped with modern touches such as shower cubicles, the creation of an umpire's room another improvement.

Fielding a girl's footy side in 2017 sparked the idea of improving facilities for females Korumburra-Bena's secretary Nadine Smith explained.

Girls footy and netball numbers continued to grow, further highlighting the need for improvements.

It was also evident male footballers and umpires needed rooms suited to current



Member for Monash Russell Broadbent, South Gippsland Shire councillor Bron Beach, Korumburra-Bena Football Netball Club secretary Nadine Smith and Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh get set to cut the ribbon on the new netball building at the Korumburra Showgrounds. A25\_1225

standards.

Funding for the overall project came through multiple sources.

A Sport and Recreation Victoria Female Friendly Facility Grant contributed \$800,000, the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

delivered \$710,180, South Gippsland Shire Council provided \$400,000, and the Giants put in \$100,000.

The Korumburra Agricultural & Pastoral Society, which owns the Showgrounds, supported the project and contributed \$10,000.

"The new facilities for

netballers received great feedback during the 2024 season from club members, opposition teams and the community," Smith said.

The upgraded football facilities were completed more recently, but feedback during the preseason has also been positive.

## Spectacular results for Inverloch Running Festival

INVERLOCH Running Festival, March 15-16, saw some fantastic results.

### Marathon

Female: 1st: Courtney Ellis - 3:04:35, 2nd: Jennifer Hunt - 3:22:29, 3rd: Taylah Wallace - 3:27:22

Male: 1st: David Staehr - 2:40:13, 2nd: Jie Li - 2:53:27, 3rd: Blake Johnston - 2:57:16

### Half Marathon

Female: 1st: Laura Peill - 1:26:49, 2nd: Charlotte Heine - 1:29:09, 3rd: Hannah Toman - 1:33:35

Male: 1st: Andre Waring - 1:07:34, 2nd: Luke Nicholson - 1:12:49, 3rd: Dane Verwey - 1:12:51

### 14km

Female: 1st: Lissy Duncan - 50:37, 2nd: Henrietta Bridgman - 54:09, 3rd: Emily Hart - 58:30

Male: 1st: Matt Patton - 48:44, 2nd: Corey Milner - 49:29, 3rd: Blake Barnes - 50:14

### Five Kilometre

Female: 1st: Rachel Denbrok - 22:28, 2nd: Dominique Collet - 22:55, 3rd: Daisy Hunt - 24:35

Male: 1st: Bill Barry - 17:52, 2nd: Jake Reid - 19:15, 3rd: Andrew Baldi - 19:48

### Two Kilometre

Female: 1st: Matilda Fleming - 08:03, 2nd: Stella Feild - 08:28, 3rd: Georgia Craig - 08:59

Male: 1st: Nathan Moore - 06:28, 2nd: Lawson Hawking - 07:03, 3rd: Brody Couchman - 07:23

## AFL Gippsland launches Club Health Check initiative

AFL Gippsland is proud to introduce the Club Health Check.

This is a vital initiative designed to strengthen the future of local football clubs by assessing their current status and identifying key areas for growth and sustainability.

Delivered through the statewide Club Development Lead network, this program ensures that community clubs receive tailored support to enhance their operations and long-term success.

The Club Health Check is a simple yet effective online survey that provides clubs with a comprehensive snapshot of their strengths and challenges across critical areas such as governance, volunteer support, financial stability, community engagement and facilities.

By proactively assessing these aspects, clubs can develop strategic plans to ensure their ongoing viability and success.

Upon completing the survey, the clubs will receive personalised support from AFL Gippsland's Club Development Lead, including:

- Targeted recommendations based on survey results.
- One-on-one meetings to discuss specific challenges and opportunities.
- Resources and toolkits covering key areas such as volunteer engagement, financial planning and strategic growth.
- Workshops and training sessions for club officials and volunteers.
- Guidance on accessing funding opportunities and grant support.

AFL Gippsland's Club Development Lead Nicole Bertuna emphasised the importance of this initiative.

"Our goal is to empower clubs with the tools and support they need to build a strong and sustainable future. The Club Health Check provides a clear roadmap for success, helping clubs identify opportunities for improvement and take proactive steps towards long-term stability," she said.

All clubs will receive a link to the Club Health Check survey via email.

Once completed, AFL Gippsland will follow up to discuss next steps and outline the tailored support available.

To access the Club Health Check directly, visit [aflgippsland.com.au](http://aflgippsland.com.au). For more information, clubs can contact Nicole Bertuna at [nicole.bertuna@afl.com.au](mailto:nicole.bertuna@afl.com.au).

# It's Amazing to be part of the Bass Coast Breakers

THERE'S still time to throw your name in the ring and sign up to the Bass Coast Breakers.

With no previous football experience needed and a flexible approach towards personal commitments, there has never been a better time for those 16 years and up who have always wanted to give football a go to come and try.

And if playing football alongside a group of amazing women isn't enough to tempt you then The Amazing Race style training recently certainly had this scribe ready to sign up.

The first challenge involved water, a glass and carefully adding to the cup without it

spilling over.

With a friendly team of experienced players and newcomers, Bass Coast Breakers have measured their success not only on winning but on being inclusive, encouraging personal growth and development, being social and having fun. Coach Ella Angarane is hoping a Head Coach may be ready to step up and guide the women to victory this year.

So whether you are looking to jump on the field or guide the team, it's time to reach out.

Training is every Wednesday from 6pm at Dalyston Recreation Reserve. For more information contact Ella on 0438 722 639.



Tess concentrates, careful not to spill over in the first challenge of the Breakers Amazing Race training session. C03\_1225

## Power fine tune before the 2025 season commences



Power faced off against Nar Nar Goon in a practice match on Saturday. ob58\_1225



Wonthaggi Thirds player takes control of the ball. ob52\_1225





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**BEN FISHER**

Port Adelaide

Western Bulldogs

Gold Coast Suns

St Kilda

Hawthorn

Brisbane

Adelaide

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



81 Commercial Street,  
Korumburra  
5655 1024



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**MATT ROBERTSON**

Essendon

Carlton

Gold Coast Suns

St Kilda

Hawthorn

Geelong

Adelaide

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



119 Graham Street,  
Wonthaggi  
5672 1027



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**CARL LINDSAY**

Essendon

Carlton

Melbourne

St Kilda

Hawthorn

Brisbane

Adelaide

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



145 Graham Street,  
Wonthaggi  
5672 1137



11

**ALEX GEYER**

Essendon

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St Kilda

Hawthorn

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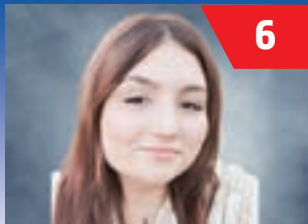
Adelaide

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



Wonthaggi 5672 5522  
Leongatha 5662 2941



6

**JAE DAVEY**

Essendon

Western Bulldogs

Gold Coast Suns

Richmond

Hawthorn

Geelong

Adelaide

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



62-64 McBride Avenue,  
Wonthaggi  
0421 162 530



12

**DARRYL MCGANNON**

Essendon

Carlton

Melbourne

St Kilda

Hawthorn

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



1 Roughead Street,  
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5662 2327



10

**KRIS BAKER**

Port Adelaide

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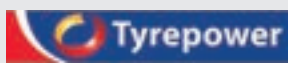
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



78-80 Watt Street,  
Wonthaggi  
5672 5760



12

**RYAN SHANE**

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Richmond

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Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



Leongatha Toyota

7-13 Hughes Street,  
Leongatha  
5662 2302



10

**CRAIG FARRINGTON  
DARREN TILEY**

Essendon

Carlton

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Richmond

Hawthorn

Brisbane

Adelaide

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



6/5 Cyclone Street,  
Wonthaggi  
Darren 0405 603 569  
Craig 0415 641 845



11

**ADAM WARE**

Essendon

Carlton

Gold Coast Suns

St Kilda

Hawthorn

Brisbane

Adelaide

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



2/88-98 Watt Street,  
Wonthaggi  
1800 358 131



11

**JUSTIN CAPORALE**

Essendon

Carlton

Melbourne

St Kilda

Hawthorn

Brisbane

Adelaide

Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



41 McCartin Street,  
Leongatha  
5662 2529



12

**LEIGH DONOHUE**

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



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| Liam Sawyer     | 13 |
| Brad Hodson     | 12 |
| Darryl McGannon | 12 |
| Keith & Eddie   | 12 |
| Leigh Donohue   | 12 |
| Matt Robertson  | 12 |
| Peter Fort      | 12 |
| Ryan Shane      | 12 |
| Aaron McGregor  | 11 |
| Adam Ware       | 11 |
| Alex Geyer      | 11 |
| Ben Fisher      | 11 |
| Carl Lindsay    | 11 |
| David England   | 11 |
| Justin Caporale | 11 |
| Craig & Darren  | 10 |
| Dylan Clark     | 10 |
| Kris Baker      | 10 |
| Warren Stewart  | 10 |
| Brett Jacobs    | 9  |
| Jae Davey       | 6  |



10

**WARREN STEWART**

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Brisbane  
Adelaide  
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



Wonthaggi Toyota  
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Wonthaggi  
5632 3503



16

**PHIL HARDY**

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



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**DYLAN CLARK**

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Adelaide  
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



1 A'Beckett Street  
Inverloch  
5674 1432



11

**DAVID ENGLAND**

Essendon  
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Hawthorn  
Brisbane  
Adelaide  
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



3/45-61 McKenzie St,  
Wonthaggi  
9701 7388



12

**PETER FORT**

Essendon  
Carlton  
Gold Coast Suns  
St Kilda  
GWS  
Brisbane  
Adelaide  
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



47 Station Street,  
Korumburra  
0417 332 141



12

**KEITH KELLY**  
**EDDIE CHANDLER**

Port Adelaide  
Carlton  
Melbourne  
Richmond  
GWS  
Geelong  
Adelaide  
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



54 Graham Street,  
Wonthaggi  
5672 1311



13

**LIAM SAWYER**

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Carlton  
Melbourne  
St Kilda  
Hawthorn  
Brisbane  
Adelaide  
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



16 McBride Avenue,  
Wonthaggi  
5672 1007



11

**AARON MCGREGOR**

Essendon  
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Melbourne  
St Kilda  
Hawthorn  
Brisbane  
Adelaide  
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



24 Inverloch Road,  
Wonthaggi  
5672 5906



12

**BRAD HODSON**

Essendon  
Carlton  
Melbourne  
Richmond  
Hawthorn  
Brisbane  
Adelaide  
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



15/17 Murray Street,  
Wonthaggi  
5672 5878



9

**BRETT JACOBS**

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Melbourne  
St Kilda  
Hawthorn  
Geelong  
Adelaide  
Fremantle

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



28 Inverloch Road,  
Wonthaggi  
5672 4770



14

**HAYDEN POPPE**

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Goannas to stay in Division 1

VETERANS

THE Gippsland Goannas Over-60 cricket team played the final game of the Echuca tournament on Thursday, for fifth/sixth position in Division 1, against the NorthEast team at the Nathalia Reserve.

Winning the toss NE batted and amassed a total of 177, for five wickets from 39 overs, when rain stopped play.

The best of the bowlers were Ian Southall, seven overs, 1/27, Bernie Symons four overs, 1/8, Graeme Ingle four overs, 1/16 and Murray Moore six overs, 1/25.

Moore took a return catch and he and Symons combined for a run out.

After a lengthy delay, the Goannas started their innings and had reached 6/97 from 24 overs when the rain returned, and the match was abandoned.

Ingle opened and made 25, Col Carmody batted at #3 and retired for 19 and Rob Taylor at #4, retired for 17, were the only batsmen to reach double figures.

The Goannas will retain their place in Division 1 for the tournament next year.

In other news, the National Over-70 team has commenced a tour of New Zealand, with Goannas Ray Smith selected and Ian Gibson as team manager.

This team will play two warm-up games and then three one day internationals over the next 10 days.



David Harris chips the ball making 33 runs for the day. ob21\_1225

Diggers ready to face the Red Caps

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

NERRENA and OMK are through to the grand final, set to be played out this weekend.

OMK is through to the big dance after defeating Wonthaggi Club in the second semi-final.

Club had finished the home and away season second on the ladder with OMK in third.

The Diggers caused the upset at Dudley Campus, Bass Coast College in Wonthaggi.

Club had won the toss and chose to bat first.

A slew of ducks troubled Club early, as they lost Chris Fraser, Jed Caddy, Justin Liscis and Lucas McRae.

Opening batsman William Speed top-scored for Club with a much-needed 43-run haul.

Eighteen runs were added by Trae Dudas-Jacobs halfway through the innings, and Alan Babu finished it off with 19 runs.

OMK bowlers Owen Fitzpatrick and Jordan Myers shared the glory, taking three wickets each.

Two wickets were taken by Justin Greenwood.

Club was bowled out and left to defend 10/142.

Robert Quaife and Russ White opened for OMK.

White made 15 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Liscis and Quaife added 22 runs before he was bowled by Luke Borne.

The partnership of Fitzpatrick and Mitchell Nicholas sealed the deal for OMK.

They made 86 and 24 not out respectively.

OMK won with a score of 2/151.

Nerrena chases down Burra in semi clash

OVER at Leongatha's East Campus, Nerrena took on Korumburra in the first semi-final.

Korumburra chose to bat first after winning the toss.

Despite losing opening



Jarvis Hynes from Glen Alvie launches it down the pitch to Inverloch. ob20\_1225

batsman Jacob Wrigley for a duck, Korumburra played a strong, consistent innings early.

Shayne Harland, Iain Riddell and Darren Scott made 29, 21 and 24 runs respectively, while Patrick Beadel top scored with 33 runs.

For Nerrena, the best bowler was Eamon Berryman, who took 4/26.

Singles were claimed by Shem Murphy, Cameron Baudinette and Gerard Murphy.

Nerrena was chasing Korumburra's score of 8/133.

Captain Brian Gannon opened for Nerrena and made 25 runs.

Fourth bat Gerard Murphy made the top score of 47 runs, and another 21 runs were made by Wayne Cocksedge.

Korumburra tried to hold Nerrena back, with bowlers Scott and Thomas Sorrell taking two wickets each.

Singles were claimed by Bryce Riddell, Harland and Beadel.

In the 35th over, Nerrena passed Korumburra's score and won with 7/134.

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Grand final contenders decided in C2

INVERLOCH and MDU are the C2 grand finalists for the 2024/25 season.

The first semi-final was played at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve between Inverloch and Glen Alvie.

The Stingrays were the favourites to win this match after finishing the season as the minor premiers.

Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bowl.

Inverloch's openers David Harris and Warren Stewart had the Stingrays off to a great start, making 33 and 49 runs respectively.

Harris was caught by Ian Thorn off the bowling of Tai Bolding, which sent in Lucas McMillan.

McMillan was the game decider, making 79 not out.

Stewart's wicket was claimed by Lucas Ton and Wayne Chapman finished off the innings with McMillan, making six not out.

Inverloch had Glen Alvie chasing 2/185.

David Hynes opened well for Glen Alvie with 62 runs.

However, Inverloch bowlers Wayne Chapman and Aedan Parker didn't allow the Glen Alvie batsmen much airtime.

Bowler Holly Williams polished off the bottom of the batting order, stopping Glen Alvie's run early.

For Glen Alvie, Charlie Andersen finished the innings 15 not out.

Tailenders Kent Andersen and Jarvis Hynes contributed 11 and 10 runs respectively before they fell victim to Williams.

Parker was the top bowler of the day, taking 4/20.

Glen Alvie was bowled out with a score of 10/136.

MDU sinks Sharks to seal semi victory

THE second semi-final was played between Phillip Island and MDU at the Cowes Recreation Reserve.

Phillip Island won the toss and chose to bat.

John Manning and Peter Francis opened for the Sharks.

Manning made 37 runs before his wicket was taken by Craig Hooper and Francis made 25 runs before he was dismissed by Kurt Sinclair.

Hooper and Sinclair swiftly worked their way through the top order, but sixth bat Jon Parry kept Phillip Island in the competition.

Parry added the top score of 57 runs before he was run out by Sinclair and Dale Thomas.

Phillip Island set the target at 7/143.

Clayton Fisher opened for MDU and made 36 runs.

Third and fourth bats Hooper and Simon McRae secured the match for MDU.

Hooper made 44 runs before he was caught by Parry off the bowling Jai Kleverkamp, while McRae made 54 not out.

Wicket-taking was shared between Kleverkamp, Sonny McMillan, Sachin Sirirathnage and captain Michael Cleary.

MDU won the day with a score of 4/144.

C GRADE

DIVISION 1

Nerrena 7/134 d Korumburra 8/133

Korumburra – 1st INNINGS:

S Harland 29, J Wrigley 0, I Riddell 21, P Beadel 33, D Scott 24, T Morrison 2, R Gallagher 11, T Sorrell 1\*, B Riddell 0\*  
Bowling: S Murphy 1/18, B Salmon 0/23, C Marinou 0/17, E Berryman 4/26, C Baudinette 1/27, G Murphy 1/18  
Nerrena – 1st INNINGS: B Gannon 25, B Trotman 3, E Berryman 10, G Murphy 47, C Baudinette 6, W Cocksedge 21, S Murphy 7, B Stein 5\*, C Marinou 3\*  
Bowling: D Scott 2/11, B Riddell 1/33, T Sorrell 2/30, S Harland 1/25, S Harland 1/25, P Beadel 1/27, S McKinnon 0/7 H Jefferis 0/1

OMK 2/151 d Club 142

Club – 1st INNINGS:

W Speed 43, C Fraser 0, J Caddy 0, T Dudas-Jacobs 18, J Liscis 0, L McRae 0, B Harvey 16, M Chrisholm L Borne 5, A Babu 19, S Liddle 10\*  
Bowling: S A Handley 1/22, R White 1/15, O Fitzpatrick 3/29, J Greenwood 2/27, B Hayes 0/21, J Myers 3/26  
OMK – 1st INNINGS: R Quaife 22, R White 15, O Fitzpatrick 86\*, M Nicholas 24\*  
Bowling: L Borne 1/22, C Fraser 0/17, B Harvey 0/21, S Liddle 0/54, L McRae 0/15, J Liscis 1/20.

C GRADE

DIVISION 2

Inverloch 2/185 d Glen Alvie 136

Inverloch – 1ST INNINGS:

D Harris 33, W Stewart 49, L McMillan 79\*, W Chapman 6\*  
Bowling: J Hynes 0/33, O Luff 0/11, W Bridle 0/24, W Simmons 0/50, T Bolding 1/14, L Ton 1/48  
Glen Alvie – 1ST INNINGS: D Hynes 62, O Luff 1, I Thorn 0, J Cuttriss 6, L Ton 6, D McGuirk 8, C Andersen 15\*, W Simmons 0, W Bridle 2, K Andersen 11, J Hynes 10  
Bowling: C Butler 0/15, I Richardson 0/28, W Chapman 2/12, A Parker 4/20, J Smith 1/4, N McMillan 0/36, H Williams 3/12

MDU 4/144 d Phillip Island 7/143

Phillip Island – 1ST INNINGS:

J Manning 37, P Francis 25, S Niven 5, W Paterson 0, M Cleary 1, J Parry 57, S Sirirathnage 1, S Di Falco 6\*  
Bowling: K Brown 0/37, L Webb 0/13, S Mcrae 0/19, C Hooper 3/11, K Sinclair 3/15, S Riley 0/35 C Fisher 0/12  
MDU – 1ST INNINGS: C Fisher 36, D Thomas 4, C Hooper 44, S Mcrae 54\*, K Sinclair 0, G Cocksedge 2\*  
Bowling: J Kleverkamp 1/33, S McMillan 1/16, S Sirirathnage 1/20, M Cleary 1/40, P Francis 0/33





Phillip Island's Heath Womersley showed solid form making 40 runs, the best for his team on the day. ob37\_1225

# Red Caps and Club make it to final showdown

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

NERRENA and Wonthaggi Club will do battle in the B1 grand final this weekend.

The Red Caps earned their ticket into the grand final after a win against Inverloch at the Nerrena Recreation Reserve.

Inverloch won the toss and chose to bat first, sending in Walter Taberner and captain Brett Debono.

A catch from James Kelly off the bowling of William Croatto saw Taberner out for seven runs.

Leigh Cole was dismissed LBW for a golden duck by Croatto, but Jack Rowe stepped up to the crease to add 21 runs.

Will Rankin made 54 runs and Debono went on to top score with 60 runs.

Nerrena bowlers Ryan Clark and vice-captain Damien Symmons went on a run to wipe out Inverloch's bottom order.

Ryan Clark took 4/60, and Croatto and Symmons took two wickets each.

Nerrena bowled out Inverloch and was fired up to chase 10/172.

Kade Berryman and Loc Roberts opened for Nerrena.

Roberts made 26 runs before he was caught by Rowe off the bowling of John Richardson.

Kelly stepped up to the crease with the score at 1/60.

At 2/100, Taberner dismissed Berryman, who had made 42 runs.

Bowler Jake Dennerley took out three Nerrena batsmen – Kelly, Symmons and Joel Renden – but Kelly and Symmons had made 30 and 42 runs respectively, which would earn the Red Caps the win.

After 56 overs, Nerrena won with a score of 5/173.

## Club storms into Grand Final after dominating win

WONTHAGGI Club cruised into the grand final with a victory over Phillip Island.

Phillip Island chose to bat first at Wonthaggi's McMahon Reserve.



Club's Shaun Tessari bowls in his team's win over Phillip Island in B1. ob33\_1225

After losing the opening batsmen early, third bat Heath Womersley came to the rescue and made 40 runs before he was bowled by Heath Dobbie.

This turned out to be the top score, with Archie Williams and Jobe Williams adding 27 and 29 runs later in the innings.

Phillip Island was tasked with defending 10/151.

David Britt opened for Club and proved to be unmoveable.

Britt made 63 runs and was not out when Club's win was decided.

Harry West opened with Britt, but he was dismissed by Womersley for nine runs.

Kai Allison also fell victim to Womersley for five runs.

Allison's dismissal sent in Lochlan McLean, who cleaned up the innings alongside Britt.

McLean made 67 not out, allowing Club to reach 2/152 off 48.5 overs.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

## Foster and Town gear up for grand final clash

FOSTER and Leongatha Town will meet each other in B2's

grand final following this weekend's semi-final clashes.

The meeting comes off the back of Foster toppling Leongatha Town in the final round of the home and away season to claim the minor premiership.

Foster played in the first semi-final against Koonwarra L/RSL in Foster.

Koonwarra L/RSL won the toss and sent Foster out to bat first.

Jack Gay and Jake Pilkington opened Foster's account with Pilkington making 10 runs before he lost his wicket to Louis Read.

Neil Henry stepped in next.

Gay made 22 runs before he was bowled out by Cambell Riseley and Henry top-scored with 91 runs.

Henry was caught by Brad Anderson off the bowling of Riseley, but his contribution proved to be game-changing, as Koonwarra L/RSL's bowlers made quick work of the rest of the batting order.

The bowling honours went to Riseley, who claimed 4/26.

Three wickets were taken by Britney Thomas.

Foster was bowled out at 10/198 but was more than up to the challenge.

Koonwarra L/RSL's third bat Nick Arnup but the only significant impact on the scoreboard with 21 runs before he was caught by Chris Ford off the bowling of Henry.

Vice-captain Adam Drury added 13 runs later in the innings, with no other batsman cracking double digits.

Ford was Foster's star bowler, taking 4/12, while three wickets fell to Henry.

In the 35th over, Koonwarra L/RSL was defeated with a score of 10/80.

## Town dominates with batting blitz

DESPITE a decent score from the Imperials, Leongatha Town proved to be a stronger side in the second semi-final.

Playing at Leongatha's Scorpion Park, Town quickly lost opening batsman Mark Hardy for one run after his wicket fell to Martin Reidy.

This resulted in the powerful partnership of Trent McRae and Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe.

Both eventually dismissed by Reidy, McRae made a whopping 152 runs and Jayasinghe made 121 runs to set an unreachable target for the Imperials.

Colin Bruce finished off the innings with 33 not out.

Reidy was the star of the show for the Imperials, taking 4/82.

The only other wicket was claimed by Kane Maskell.

Leongatha Town's score was 5/351.

The Imperials got themselves off to a great start with Gary Sauvarin making 40 runs.

Captain Samuel Vagg and Andrew Meyer contributed 34 and 31 runs respectively, while Kristian Gray made the top score of 55 runs.

However, Town bowler Lachlan Gill slowed the Imperials' run rate as he claimed 5/60.

Three more wickets were taken by Frazer Livingstone, and singles were claimed by captain Levi Hickey and Rory Gillatte.

The Imperials were defeated with a final score of 10/210.

# Goannas outplayed by Geelong

VETERANS

GAME three in Division 1, Pool A, saw the Goannas play Geelong at Nathalia.

This wicket had not been used in previous rounds and the Goannas won the toss and batted.

Graeme Ingle opened and retired on 16 after 30 balls.

Col Carmody retired on 13, but the Goannas were 3/41 at drinks (20 overs).

Jim Armstrong, 12, was the only other Goanna to reach double figures, as Ingle and Carmody both returned to finish with 29 and 14x respectively as the score reached 86, all out, after the first ball of the 40th over.

Geelong also was not able to score quickly, and if international rep Ian Davis had not scored 27 and former Victorian captain Chris Carr, 17x, the result may well have been different.

Geelong passed the Goannas' score with eight wickets down in the 29th over.

The Goannas best bowlers were Rino Metlikovec, seven overs, 3/13 and Neil Meredith, six overs, 2/19, with Peter Anton, Bernie Symons and Murray Moore each taking a wicket.

Catches were taken by Metlikovec, two, Ingle and Ian Southall.

Goannas played NorthEast Vic for position 5/6 following this match.

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

## Nerrena 5/173 d Inverloch 172

**Inverloch – 1st INNINGS:** W Taberner 7, B Debono 60, L Cole 0, J Rowe 21, W Rankin 54, J Mottram Carter 6, J Richardson 1, S Hayes 2, D Cashin 9, C O'Flynn 0, N Dobbie 0\*  
**Bowling:** W Croatto 2/24, R Clark 4/60, J Checkley 0/11, C Dougherty 0/8, T Harris 1/42, D Symmons 2/20  
**Nerrena – 1st INNINGS:** K Berryman 42, L Roberts 26, J Kelly 30, D Symmons 42, J Renden 2, C Dougherty 9\*, T Harris 1\*  
**Bowling:** J Dennerley 3/51, C O'Flynn 0/14, J Richardson 1/19, D Cashin 0/10, W Taberner 1/20, W Rankin 0/23, N Dobbie 0/27

## Club 2/152 d Phillip Island 151

**Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS:** C Epifano 7, T Asurumuni 4, H Womersley 40, A Finlayson 18, M Arceo 13, D Womersley 2, A Williams 27, L Ferrari 0, J Williams 29\*, K Wilkinson-Loines 3, T Allan 1  
**Bowling:** J Williamson 2/32, S Roche 1/31, S Tessari 0/12, M Nizar 2/18, H Dobbie 3/45, B Evans 2/13  
**Club – 1st INNINGS:** D Britt 63\*, H West 9, K Allison 5, L McLean 67\*  
**Bowling:** H Womersley 2/43, H Arceo 0/32, J Williams 0/25, D Womersley 0/24, T Allan 0/13, A Williams 0/14

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

## Foster 198 d Koon L/RSL 80

**Foster – 1st INNINGS:** J Gay 22, J Pilkington 10, N Henry 91, C Ford 9, B Davy 16, D Caldwell 1, B Busuttill 0, Dan Garlick 0, T Garvey 16\*, S Chaseling 2, B Gay 0  
**Bowling:** G Boxall 0/23, L Read 2/44, M Boswell 1/29, C Riseley 4/26, N Arnup 0/27, S Chadwick 0/8, B Thomas 3/28  
**Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS:** K Thorne 7, G Boxall 4, N Arnup 21, L Read 9, B Anderson 4, N Grimes 8, M Boswell 8, A Drury 13, A Boxall 0, C Riseley 2\*  
**S Chadwick 0**  
**Bowling:** C Ford 4/12, J Gay 1/24, N Henry 3/20, S Chaseling 2/21

## Town 5/351 d Imperials 210

**Town – 1st INNINGS:** M Hardy 1, T McRae 152, P Jayasinghe 121, R Gilliatte 16, L Bowman 4, C Bruce 33\*, M Carter 10\*  
**Bowling:** M Reidy 4/82, C Bruce 0/61, K Gray 0/21, L Anderson 0/49, J Jeffery 0/51, K Maskell 1/81  
**Imperials – 1st INNINGS:** G Sauvarin 40, K Maskell 5, S Vagg 34, K Gray 55, A Meyer 31, L Anderson 0, C Honeysett 21, F Botha 1, C Bruce 7, C Rickard 2, M Reidy 1\*  
**Bowling:** L Gill 5/60, P Jayasinghe 0/14, T McRae 0/21, L Hickey 1/13, L Ashton 0/18, F Livingstone 3/35, R Gilliatte 1/20, C Bruce 0/24





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## LEONGATHA &amp; DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Daniel Mock (Phillip Island) 57 ; Joel Brann (Club) 5/26

A2: Aaron Kaddatz (Nyora) 139 ; Lewis Rankin (Inverloch) 3/32

B1: Lochlan McLean (Club) 67\* ; Ryan Clark (Nerrena) 4/60

B2: Trent McRae (Town) 152 ; Lachlan Gill (Town) 5/60

C1: Owen Fitzpatrick (OMK) 86\* ; Eamon Berryman (Nerrena) 4/26

C2: Lucas McMillan (Inverloch) 79\* ; Aedan Parker (Inverloch) 4/20

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& UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS**GRAND FINAL**  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
MARCH 29 & 30**A GRADE, Division 1**  
(90 overs each day) - 11am START**Phillip Island v OMK**  
WONTHAGGI TURF  
Ashleigh Stride  
Shane Moore**A Grade, Division 2**  
(90 overs each day) - 11am START**Inverloch v Nyora**  
SCORPION PARK 1  
John Schelling  
Ken Scrimshaw**B GRADE, Division 1**  
(70 overs each day) - 11am START**Nerrena v Club**  
NERRENA  
Brad Phillips  
Warren Williams**B GRADE, Division 2**  
(70 overs each day) - 11am START**Foster v Town**  
FOSTER GOLF  
Graham Wightman  
Glenn Plymin**GRAND FINAL**  
SATURDAY MARCH 29**C GRADE, Division 1**  
(35 over Innings) - 11am START**Nerrena v OMK**  
EAST CAMPUS  
Ian Salmon  
Michael Thomas**C Grade, Division 2**  
(35 over Innings) - 11am START**Inverloch v MDU**  
INVERLOCH FG  
Geoffrey Parkinson  
Tyson Tootel**Emergency Umpires:**  
Les White  
Neil Grabham  
Noel Grayden  
Steve Williamson**Local  
cricket**South Gippsland  
and Bass Coast**Sentinel-Times**

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The Phillip Island cricket team won their way into a fourth consecutive Grand Final by defeating Wonthaggi Club on their home ground. Photo: Peter Cleeland

## Sharks and Diggers push out the ladder leaders

### A GRADE, DIVISION 1

IN A semi-final weekend full of upsets, OMK and Phillip Island have landed the coveted A1 grand final spots for the 2024/25 season.

A strong season from Nerrena saw it finish the season on top of the ladder and four games clear of fourth-placed OMK.

The two teams battled it out in the first semi-final at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve over the weekend.

Nerrena won the toss and chose to bat first.

Jack Curtis opened well with 30 runs, but Hayden Funnell and Tadgh Gannon were both dismissed for ducks at the hands of Travis Pickering.

Thomas Cameron, Mitchell Clark and Timothy Wightman tried to turn the match around with 18, 15 and 27 runs respectively, but the pressure was too great for the bottom half of the batting order and wickets fell to Pickering, Jacob Lamers and Peter Dell.

Pickering was OMK's best bowler of the day, taking 5/44.

Four wickets were claimed by Jacob Lamers.

Nerrena was bowled out 10/111, which proved to be a gettable target for OMK.

It was a gradual warmup for OMK, but as it gained momentum, it delivered the score it needed to earn a ticket to the grand final.

Batting at second drop, captain Koby Brann got the ball rolling with 24 runs.

Jacob and Xavier Lamers added 28 and 23 runs respectively, and Thomas Wyatt top-scored with 37 runs.

Nerrena's bowling honours were shared between Josh



Club's Gavin Britt works the ball cleverly through the covers to collect a few more runs. ob44\_1225

Trease and Wightman, who claimed 3/44 and 3/56 respectively.

Jarrold Hoy and Archie Gannon took two wickets each.

However, they ultimately couldn't hold OMK back and the Diggers stole the win with a final score of 10/176.

### Island stuns Club to steal Grand Final spot

OVER at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve, another upset was taking place between Wonthaggi Club and Phillip Island.

Club had ended the season second on the ladder, a game clear of Phillip Island.

However, it would be Phillip Island who would secure a first-innings win in the second semi-final.

Phillip Island won the toss and made the wise decision of

sending Club in first.

A rough start saw the first five batsmen quickly dismissed, the score sitting at a worrying 5/14.

Jakeb Thomas and Gavin Britt tried to give Club the boost it needed with 35 and 34 runs respectively.

However, another 25 runs from Fraser West was the only other significant score of the innings.

Phillip Island's high-pressure bowling was the work of Timothy Niven and Max Royal, who took 4/25 and 4/39 respectively. Club was all out with a score of 10/120.

Phillip Island launched into its innings with opening batsman and man-of-the-match Lachlan Cleeland making 33 runs.

Captain Daniel Mock led his team to the first innings win with 57 runs, as Club's bowling

pro prowess overpowered the rest of the batting order.

Club captain Koby Brann claimed 5/26 and West and Mark McCall took two wickets each.

Phillip Island finished with 10/144.

Club played its second innings, with Mitch Thomas and Alexander Geyer opening.

Thomas made 15 runs before he was caught by Royal off the bowling of George McCausland, and Geyer was caught by Jarrod Black off the bowling of Niven for nine runs.

The partnership of Brann and Ryan Thomas allowed Club to gain some traction.

Brann made 52 runs before his wicket fell to Royal and Ryan Thomas was not out at the end of the innings with 48 runs.

Another 15 runs was contributed by Jakeb Thomas.

Club quickly amassed 5/152 within 18 overs and believed it could bowl out Phillip Island so opted to declare.

Cleeland opened Phillip Island's second innings and was there to stay, ensuring Phillip Island would progress to the grand final.

Cleeland made 38 not out, which was the only significant score Phillip Island produced throughout the second innings.

Club pulled out all the stops to bowl out Phillip Island, with Brann and Jakeb Thomas taking two wickets each and singles claimed by James Sheerin and West.

However, Phillip Island managed to fend off Club's attack long enough and was 6/64 at stumps.

The final clash between Phillip Island and OMK will be played out this weekend at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve.



A GRADE DIVISION 1

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>OMK 176 d Nerrena 111</b>   |    |
| <b>Nerrena – 1st INNINGS</b>   |    |
| Jack Curtis b: T Pickering .....   | 30 |
| Hayden Funnell c: K Brann b: T Pickering .....   | 0  |
| Tadgh Gannon c: P Dell b: T Pickering .....  | 0  |
| Thomas Cameron c: K Brann b: J Lamers .....  | 18 |
| Mitchell Clark c: E Lamers b: T Pickering .....  | 15 |
| Timothy Wightman c: N Creed b: J Lamers .....  | 27 |
| Jarrold Hoy b: T Pickering .....   | 4  |
| Mitchell Croatto b: P Dell .....   | 0  |
| Darcy Berryman c: K Brann b: J Lamers .....  | 2  |
| Archie Gannon not out.....   | 2* |
| Josh Trease c: Z Lamers b: J Lamers .....  | 4  |
| Extras (1w, 3nb, 5lb) .....  | 9  |
| <b>Total 10 / 111 (60.3 Overs)</b>   |    |
| Bowling: T Pickering 19-6-44-5, P Dell 22-10-21-1, J Lamers 11.3-2-30-4 (3nb), E Lamers 8-2-11-0 (1w)        |    |
| <b>OMK – 1st INNINGS</b>   |    |
| Clayton Quaife lbw: J Trease .....   | 2  |
| Paul Fermanis c: T Cameron b: J Hoy .....  | 4  |
| Ethan Lamers c&b: T Wightman .....   | 12 |
| Koby Brann c: T Cameron b: A Gannon .....  | 24 |
| Jacob Lamers b: J Hoy .....  | 28 |
| Noel Creed lbw: J Trease .....   | 18 |
| Thomas Wyatt lbw: A Gannon .....   | 37 |
| Zavier Lamers c: J Trease b: T Wightman .....  | 23 |
| Peter Dell c: M Croatto b: J Trease .....  | 16 |
| Travis Pickering not out.....  | 5* |
| Nicholas Auddino c: J Trease b: T Wightman .....   | 0  |
| Extras (2lb, 5b) .....   | 7  |
| <b>Total 10 / 176 (84.4 Overs)</b>   |    |
| Bowling: J Trease 19-8-44-3, J Hoy 13-4-32-2, A Gannon 17-6-32-2, T Wightman 30.4-8-56-3, D Berryman 5-4-5-0 |    |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Phillip Island 144 &amp; 6/64 d Club 120 &amp; d-5/152</b>  |     |
| <b>Club – 1st INNINGS</b>  |     |
| Mitch Thomas c: D Mock b: T Niven .....  | 1   |
| Alexander Geyer c: J Black b: G McCausland .....   | 2   |
| Stewart Beaumont c: J Black b: M Royal .....   | 4   |
| Ryan Thomas lbw: T Niven .....   | 1   |
| Joel Brann c: L Cleeland b: T Niven .....  | 4   |
| Jakeb Thomas c: G McCausland b: T Niven .....  | 35  |
| Gavin Britt c: L Cleeland b: M Royal .....   | 34  |
| Fraser West c: J Black b: M Royal .....  | 25  |
| James Sheerin c: T Niven b: M Royal.....   | 6   |
| Jack Sheerin c: T Niven b: K Lane .....  | 1   |
| Mark McCall not out .....  | 0*  |
| Extras (2w, 2nb, 3lb) .....  | 7   |
| <b>Total 10 / 120 (62.3 Overs)</b>   |     |
| Bowling: G McCausland 13-6-15-1, T Niven 15-6-25-4 (1w), M Royal 14.3-1-39-4 (2nb), Z Brown 6-1-14-0 (1w), T Niven 4-1-11-0, K Lane 10-4-13-1  |     |
| <b>Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS</b>  |     |
| Lachlan Cleeland lbw: J Brann .....  | 33  |
| Kurt Lane c: G Britt b: F West .....   | 4   |
| Brodie Johnston c: ? b: M McCall .....   | 12  |
| Daniel Mock c: J Sheerin b: J Thomas.....  | 57  |
| Thomas Niven c: S Beaumont b: F West .....   | 14  |
| Jarrold Black lbw: M McCall .....  | 5   |
| Kohen Beaumont c: J Thomas b: J Brann .....  | 9   |
| Max Royal not out .....  | 0*  |
| Timothy Niven c: J Sheerin b: J Brann .....  | 0   |
| Zac Brown lbw: J Brann .....   | 0   |
| George McCausland c: F West b: J Brann .....   | 0   |
| Extras (4nb, 3lb, 3b) .....  | 10  |
| <b>Total 10 / 144 (60.3 Overs)</b>   |     |
| Bowling: J Brann 12.3-4-26-5 (1nb), F West 9-4-18-2, J Thomas 9-3-23-1 (1nb), M McCall 10-7-20-2, J Sheerin 15-4-34-0, R Thomas 5-0-17-0 (2nb) |     |
| <b>Club – 2nd INNINGS</b>  |     |
| Mitch Thomas c: M Royal b: G McCausland .....  | 15  |
| Alexander Geyer c: J Black b: T Niven .....  | 9   |
| Joel Brann c: J Black b: M Royal .....   | 52  |
| Ryan Thomas not out .....  | 48* |
| Jakeb Thomas c: D Mock b: T Niven .....  | 15  |
| Fraser West run out: D Mock.....   | 2   |
| Gavin Britt not out .....  | 8*  |
| Extras (3lb) .....   | 3   |
| <b>Total d-5 / 152 (18 Overs)</b>  |     |
| Bowling: G McCausland 8-0-37-1, T Niven 5-0-38-2, T Niven 1-0-22-0, M Royal 3-0-41-1, K Lane 1-0-11-0  |     |
| <b>Phillip island – 2nd INNINGS</b>  |     |
| Lachlan Cleeland not out .....   | 38* |
| Kurt Lane c: M McCall b: J Thomas .....  | 2   |
| Brodie Johnston b: J Thomas .....  | 2   |
| Daniel Mock b: J Brann .....   | 5   |
| Thomas Niven lbw: F West .....   | 5   |
| Jarrold Black b: J Brann.....  | 2   |
| Kohen Beaumont st: J Sheerin b: J Sheerin .....  | 8   |
| Max Royal not out .....  | 0*  |
| Extras (2b).....   | 2   |
| <b>Total 6 / 64 (37.5 Overs)</b>   |     |
| Bowling: J Brann 13-8-10-2, J Thomas 7-4-8-2, M McCall 4-3-2-0, J Sheerin 8.5-3-25-1, F West 3-0-7-1, R Thomas 2-0-10-0                        |     |



Mitch McGrath from MDU gets off a clean hit making 18 for the day, with Inverloch fielders at the ready. ob31\_1225

# A2 giants to battle it out

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

INVERLOCH and Nyora will go head-to-head in the A2 grand final this weekend. Both sides have been juggernauts this season, claiming first and second position on the ladder respectively, well ahead of the rest of the pack.

In the first semi-final, Inverloch secured a win over MDU.

Playing at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve, MDU won the toss and chose to bat first.

Opening batsman and vice-captain Mitch McGrath managed to put 18 runs on the board, but the rest of the top order struggled to make an impact under the pressure of Inverloch bowlers Lewis Rankin, Ty Debono and Jesse Dugard. Rankin had Inverloch's best bowling figures for the day, taking 3/32, including the dismissal of captain Joel Sinclair for a golden duck.

Dugard, Debono and Rhys Newman took two wickets each.

Steve Arnup, Tharindu Nuwan and Jai Bright made 21, 23 and 22 runs, getting the game back on track for MDU.

In the end, MDU was bowled out 10/128.

Inverloch made the wise decision of opening its innings with the partnership of Riley Harris and Newman at the crease.

Newman top scored with 50 runs before he was dismissed by Sembakuttige Chathura Lakshan.

Callum Asbury and Jack Butcher were quickly dismissed for four runs and a duck respectively at the



Jesse Dugard from Inverloch executes a flying bowl to the MDU opponent. ob27\_1225

hands of Wayne Prosser and Lakshan, but that saw Dylan Clark enter the game.

Clark saw out the innings with Harris.

Harris put 40 runs on the board and Clark scored 30 runs.

Inverloch knocked over the winning runs in the 80th over, with a score of 3/130.

## Killy concedes defeat as Nyora nab Grand Final place

A 139-RUN haul from batsman Aaron Kaddatz contributed significantly to Nyora's finals campaign.

Nyora hosted Kilcunda-Bass and opted to bat first after winning the toss.

Opening batsman Henry Dolphin set the tone of the match with 57 runs.

Kilcunda-Bass bowlers Cameron Davidson and Brad Wright worked their way through the batting order until fifth bat Kaddatz joined Dolphin at the crease.

They had caused the damage before Dolphin was caught by Jaydan Tregear

off the bowling of Harrison Berry, and Kaddatz was caught by Shaun Lucas off the bowling of Tregear.

Nyora wasn't finished, as Benn Hayes added 61 runs and Aaron Thompson made 50 runs.

Nyora's winning tally was 9/377.

Davidson, Wright and Tregear were Kilcunda-Bass' best bowlers, claiming two wickets each.

Davidson and Robert Wallace opened the batting for Kilcunda-Bass.

Wallace made seven runs before he was dismissed LBW by Mitch Rowe.

With the score at 1/20, Wright entered the crease.

Davidson made 20 runs, and Wright went on to top score with 77 runs.

Tregear later contributed 35 runs.

For Nyora, Thompson had the bowling honours, taking 3/39.

Vice-captain Aidan Simmons and Hayes claimed two wickets each.

Kilcunda-Bass conceded defeat when it was all out 10/188.

A GRADE DIVISION 2

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Inverloch 3/130 d MDU 128</b>   |     |
| <b>MDU – 1st INNINGS</b>   |     |
| Paul Le Page b: L Rankin .....   | 6   |
| Mitch McGrath b: T Debono .....  | 18  |
| Wayne Prosser lbw: J Dugard .....  | 0   |
| SC Lakshan c: J Butcher b: L Rankin .....  | 4   |
| Joel Sinclair b: L Rankin .....  | 0   |
| Steve Arnup c: J Butcher b: J Dugard .....   | 21  |
| Tharindu Nuwan c: J Dugard b: C Newman .....   | 23  |
| Jai Bright b: R Newman .....   | 22  |
| Sam Bright b: R Newman .....   | 14  |
| Dylan Clark not out .....  | 9*  |
| Scott Browne not out.....  | 9*  |
| Mark Cantwell lbw: T Debono.....   | 1   |
| Extras (3w, 1nb, 3lb, 3b) .....  | 10  |
| <b>Total 10 / 128 (69.4 Overs)</b>   |     |
| Bowling: L Rankin 19-6-32-3 (1w, 1nb), J Dugard 15-4-28-2 (1w), T Debono 6.4-2-10-2 (1w), R Newman 10-5-10-2, C Newman 16-7-37-1, J Strickland 3-1-5-0 |     |
| <b>Inveroch – 1st INNINGS</b>  |     |
| Riley Harris not out .....   | 45* |
| Rhys Newman c&b: SC Lakshan .....  | 50  |
| Callum Asbury run out: W Prosser .....   | 4   |
| Jack Butcher c: S Arnup b: SC Lakshan .....  | 0   |
| Dylan Clark not out .....  | 30* |
| Extras (1lb) .....   | 1   |
| <b>Total 3 / 130 (80 Overs)</b>  |     |
| Bowling: S Bright 19-10-23-0, M Cantwell 11-3-30-0, S Browne 13-5-31-0, SC Lakshan 31-16-34-2, T Nuwan 6-1-11-0  |     |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Nyora 9/377 d Kilcunda-Bass 188</b>  |     |
| <b>Nyora – 1st INNINGS</b>  |     |
| Henry Dolphin c: J Tregear b: H Berry .....   | 57  |
| Scott Peatling b: C Davidson .....  | 2   |
| Jake Henry c: S Lucas b: B Wright .....   | 4   |
| Jy Hull c: A Conron b: B Wright .....   | 6   |
| Aaron Kaddatz c: S Lucas b: J Tregear .....   | 139 |
| Colin Knox lbw: R Brown .....   | 18  |
| Benn Hayes c: J Tregear b: B Rookes .....   | 61  |
| Reece Cordeux b: C Davidson .....   | 8   |
| Aaron Thompson c: C Davidson b: J Tregear .....   | 50  |
| Aidan Simmons not out .....   | 4*  |
| Mitch Rowe not out .....  | 0*  |
| Extras (2w, 5nb, 16lb, 5b) .....  | 28  |
| <b>Total 9 / 377 (90 Overs)</b>   |     |
| Bowling: C Davidson 19-1-60-2, B Wright 19-7-59-2 (4nb), H Berry 14-1-70-1 (1nb), B Rookes 10-3-40-1 (1w), R Brown 8-1-38-1, M Grayson 3-0-13-0 (1w), J Tregear 17-0-76-2 |     |
| <b>Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS</b>  |     |
| Cameron Davidson c: H Dolphin b: A Kaddatz .....  | 20  |
| Robert Wallace lbw: M Rowe .....  | 7   |
| Brad Wright c: J Hull b: A Thompson .....   | 77  |
| Matthew Grayson c: J Hull b: A Simmons .....  | 3   |
| Ash Larcombe b: A Simmons .....   | 0   |
| Jaydan Tregear c: A Thompson b: B Hayes .....   | 35  |
| Aaron Conron lbw: A Thompson .....  | 4   |
| Shaun Lucas b: B Hayes .....  | 6   |
| Ben Rookes c&b: S Peatling .....  | 5   |
| Harrison Berry lbw: A Thompson .....  | 19  |
| Ryan Brown not out .....  | 1*  |
| Extras (1nb, 6lb, 4b) .....   | 11  |
| <b>Total 10 / 188 (61.4 Overs)</b>  |     |
| Bowling: A Kaddatz 15-3-40-1, M Rowe 7-1-29-1, A Simmons 9-2-21-2, A Thompson 16-5-39-3, H Dolphin 5-0-19-0, B Hayes 8-3-26-2, S Peatling 1.4-0-4-1 (1nb)                 |     |

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## Patterson delivers Silver at World Athletics Indoor Championships

Leongatha's Eleanor Patterson secured silver in a record-breaking day as fellow high jumper Nicola Olyslagers became the first Australian to win back-to-back at the global meet.

Photo: Jacob Gower / Australian Athletics.

AUSTRALIA has reached rare air today at the World Athletics Indoor Championships in Nanjing, China as Nicola Olyslagers (NSW) soared into the history books to become the first Australian to go back-to-back at the global meet, while Eleanor Patterson delivered silver in a stunning one-two finish.

Their efforts secured Australia's fourth and fifth medals in China, making the campaign the most successful World Athletics Indoor Championships for Australia on record.

The Olympic medallists both cleared 1.97m in a heart-stopping final, with Patterson only edged out on countback after an

earlier miss at 1.92m.

Together, the high-flying duo toppled the Olympic champion and world record holder Yaroslava Mahuchikh (UKR), who despite having entered the competition as the world leader, could not clear 1.97m, leaving her to settle for bronze.

Speaking after her golden defence, Olyslagers reflected on the significance of the moment as well as the strength of Australian athletics.

"When I was out there competing, we were really testing a new run up. That's something I learned from Yaroslava. She had the courage to try something new in an Olympic

year, and that meant that I too could have the courage to do something new and big," Olyslagers said.

"It was a joy being out there. There's something beautiful about China and I felt like I needed to make the most of it. When Eleanor cleared 1.97m, it reminded me of the Australian Championships in Adelaide last year when we went head-to-head so China felt like being at home, and that too gave me courage to bring my best. I think we bring the best out of each other.

"And for Australia, this the best thing that could possibly happen winning gold and silver and for record medals. The night isn't

even over yet. The Olympics was great, Indoors is great. We're really going places as a sport."

Patterson, who claimed her fifth consecutive global medal, said it was "pretty cool to see Australia go 1-2".

"It's always an honour to wear the green and gold and it feels like yesterday was Paris and today we're in China. I would have loved to have jumped higher, but I'm really proud. I've changed my run up completely, and in a lot of ways I would have loved more consistency before competing, but I love still being able to bring out some of my best performances."

Patterson will now turn her

attention to Oceania's one and only World Athletics Continental Tour Gold meet, the Maurie Plant Meet – Melbourne on Saturday, March 29, with the silver medallist looking to raise the bar to two metres.

"100 per cent, it's definitely the goal. Two-metres is well within my reach again and I'm in really good form to do that this year," Patterson said.

"It's also such an incredible honour to win my fifth global medal. We keep changing the colours between Nicola, Yaroslava and myself, and hopefully later this year in Tokyo (at the World Athletics Championships), I can win my sixth."

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