



Over \$229,633 raised for the Royal Children's Hospital

Phillip Island CFA members Lino, Gary, Angie, Georgia, Rhyce, and Kyle with the old fire truck on Thompson Avenue were out raising money for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. See more on pages 18 & 19.

Heroes recognised for brave conduct

TWO tales of unwavering valour have emerged in this year's Australian Bravery decorations announcement last week by the Governor-General with Samuel Haycroft and Thomas Robinson amongst 28 individuals commended for brave conduct and eight bravery medal recipients.

Guardian angel of the waves

SAMUEL Haycroft has been commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a man from a capsized boat off Ventnor Beach back on July 29, 2015.

On the evening of Tuesday, March 26, the Governor-General announced 50 Australian Bravery Decorations to recognise the courageous acts of 89 people, with Samuel recognised for his act of

bravery nearly a decade earlier.

"On behalf of all Australians I congratulate the recipients of Australian Bravery Decorations. Confronted with danger, each chose to help someone. Their bravery is commendable, and their selflessness is inspirational," the Governor-General said.

Samuel shared that he was a resident in Ventnor at the time. "I got a text from a neighbor asking if I could hear someone yelling for help? So, I stepped out onto the back veranda, and sure enough I could hear a voice.

"I began jogging through the street, following his voice and it took me down to the beach, there was a four-wheel drive parked at the edge of the water, maybe half a dozen people and the high beams were on and pointed out to sea – where

sure enough that's where his voice was coming from."

"I looked around and there was a teenager with his malibu board, I grabbed a torch from someone nearby put it in my mouth, picked up the board and started paddling out in the freezing cold water.

"I needed that torch to direct me to his voice, and sure enough a couple of hundred metres out the swell started to pick up, and I could see the man sitting on top of a capsized tinny," he said.

The man was blind and without a life jacket. Samuel remained calm in a crisis, directing him to the surfboard, where they both began paddling in. "I was kicking, he was paddling – but the water was freezing. I could hardly feel my legs," said Samuel.

Continued page 3

April
GARDENING
Pages 24-25

Sweeping Bay Views



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Herors recognised for brave conduct

From page 1

Samuel said he could see the headlights of the four-wheel drive on shore, and he knew help was coming. "I continued to kick to get him to shore, but it was a jet ski that was passing by that helped us. The jet ski got the man on board – I remained in the water and could see him being loaded into an ambulance, but I still had to keep paddling and get myself out of the freezing cold water," explained Samuel.

"It wasn't until now, that I heard that he was alive and well and living in Queensland."

"It was just my initial instinct to help someone in distress, despite feeling uncomfortable and unsure of the conditions out in the water."

Thomas commended during armed arson attack

VISITING their Coronet Bay holiday home in spring of 2019, Mr Thomas Robinson and his wife faced a man banging on their front door around 3am, claiming that someone was after him and requested to use their phone to call the police.

Mr Robinson was commended by the Governor-General for brave conduct during this traumatic incident after the man struggled to use the phone and threw it across the room in frustration – Mr Robinson instructed his wife to



Phillip Island local Samuel Haycroft commended for brave conduct. Photo: Bari.Ann Kyle.

leave and call triple 0.

The intruder then picked up a box of matches from the kitchen bench and began lighting small pieces of paper on fire, all whilst Mr Robinson was trying to calm him down. The man then grabbed a gas lighter and continued to set fire to the paper, also pulling down the window blind and spraying an aerosol to act as an accelerant.

Mr Robinson tried to obtain a fire extinguisher to put out the fire, but the man grabbed a

knife and told him to put the extinguisher down. Mr Robinson approached the man but was pushed back, injuring his leg.

Acting erratically, the man grabbed Mr Robinson's shirt. He held on for some time, alternating between threatening Mr Robinson and apologising.

The fire progressed, and the house filled with thick smoke. They went down on their knees to get under the smoke, where he eventually dropped the knife,



Thomas Robinson has been recognised in this year's Bravery decorations after an armed intruder set fire to their holiday home.

but tossed other items onto the flames. The men crawled along the hallway and Mr Robinson assisted the man outside where they were met by emergency services.

In an interview with the Sentinel-Times Mr Robinson confirmed that the family received counselling for the distressing event, the home was salvaged and has since been restored – a holiday home that has been in the family since 1995.

Phillip Island reflects slow return of internationals

NEW data has revealed that Victoria is lagging behind the nation on the return of international tourism.

The latest visitor survey data from Tourism Research Australia has confirmed Victorian international tourism spending is at 73 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, compared to 96 per cent in New South Wales and 94 per cent in Queensland.

In Phillip Island's case, international visitor numbers are in worse shape, still down at 30-40 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, but they are on the improve according to Destination Phillip Island Regional Tourism.

Despite not being aware of any up-to-date comparisons with other states, Destination Phillip Island General Manager Kim

Storey said the Island's international visitor figures were still trailing well behind numbers in 2019. "The international bookings haven't returned to their best levels yet but they're improving. You've got to remember that China started back late but we are seeing promising signs. In January the true holiday arrivals went ahead of international friends and family arrivals for the first time which is good," said Ms Storey this week.

"We would expect airline holiday arrivals to be back at capacity by the end of the year.

"And they are doing things to promote Victoria. We are hosting the International Tourism Exchange in Melbourne this year, in May, and we've got operators from this area going up to that.

"We'll also be hosting visits here before and after so international trade can take a closer look at what we've got and we would expect improvement out of that.

"They're working on other programs too, but we are seeing steady improvement in international visitor numbers."

While overall combined national and international tourism spending in Victoria continues to rise, the Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) warns Victoria's growth has stagnated and has called on the State Government to scrap its upcoming short-stay accommodation tax as well as develop an underground solution to the Melbourne Airport Rail Link.

Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sport and Events, Sam Growth,

has criticised the State Government for a lack of action, saying a range of regional Victorian hospitality venues have gone into administration or closed permanently, as cost-of-living pressures and increasing taxes hamper business conditions.

Alongside interest rate rises and higher insurance premiums, said Mr Groth, venue operators have cited energy price increases and increases in state taxes and charges, such as liquor license fees, as key factors.

"International tourism remains below pre-pandemic levels, overall tourism performance has Victoria lagging behind New South Wales and Queensland after losing our second place during the pandemic, and regional businesses continue to suffer."



Wonthaggi police recover stolen vehicles, arresting alleged offenders

TWO vehicles stolen from Inverloch overnight on Easter Saturday were recovered by Wonthaggi police, with four alleged offenders arrested and facing serious driving charges and theft.

A silver Nissan Navara and a white Toyota Hilux, both damaged, have been returned to their owners following forensic analysis.

"We got calls during the morning of erratic vehicles driving around the Bass Coast area, believed to be the two vehicles that were stolen overnight," Senior Sergeant Jason Hullick said.

Police tracked the Navara in Wonthaggi, following its path via gouge marks left in the road due to the fact the car's right rear tyre had blown.

Two males, aged 15 and 17, were arrested on Cameron Street, Wonthaggi, alleged to have been passengers in the Navara before jumping out.

The Navara was then tracked to Blue Water Circle in Cape Paterson, where the alleged driver, a 16-year-old male was arrested with assistance from the community, reportedly having dumped the car and fled on foot.

The Hilux was located a short time later, dumped in Wonthaggi, with a fourth person then arrested at the intersection of Korumburra Road and McKenzie Street, being the alleged driver of that vehicle.

All those accused of being in the stolen Navara are from Leongatha, while the 18-year-old male alleged to have been driving the Hilux is from the southeastern suburbs of Melbourne.

The alleged drivers of the two stolen vehicles were charged and bailed and will appear at Korumburra Magistrates' Court, with charges including reckless conduct endangering life, unlicensed driving and theft of motor vehicles.

The two alleged passengers will be charged on summons to appear in court.

Police Easter road operation results

OPERATION Nexus over the Easter period resulted in a number of offences being detected on roads in the Bass Coast Police Service Area, including three drink drivers, four drug drivers, one unlicensed driver, 31 speeding offences, two seat belt offences and 11 unregistered vehicles.

There were also two cyclist offences recorded.

No mobile phone offences were reported.

Russell Broadbent MP
Federal Member for Monash

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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

 WED Apr 3 Showers easing. Wind AM: W 20-30km/h Wind PM: S-SW 15-20km/h 12° 18°	 THUR Apr 4 Cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: Light 10° 19°	 FRI Apr 5 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h 9° 22°	 SAT Apr 6 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: E-SE 15-20km/h 11° 23°	 SUN Apr 7 Shower or two. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: S-SE 15-25km/h 12° 21°	 MON Apr 8 Shower or two. Wind AM: S 15-20km/h Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h 12° 19°
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IN BRIEF

Country road safety survey open

RACV is asking Victorians to provide feedback about how safe they feel on roads in regional Victoria as part of their My Country Road survey. The survey is open and will run for six weeks. The survey uses an online interactive map that shows high-speed roads with large concentrations of crashes causing death or serious injury in regional Victoria. The map highlights roads with speed limits of 80km per hour or higher where there have been fatal or serious crashes for the five-year period between 2018 and 2023. Participants can provide feedback by clicking on one of the highlighted roads and filling out a survey. Take part in the My Country Road online survey at racv.com.au/haveyoursay

Time to turn the clocks

THE weather may be tempting us with summer days still, but nights have certainly dropped and with it the first Sunday in April approaching it is time to turn the clocks back one hour – and gain the extra hours sleep. As the clock strikes 3am on Sunday, April 7, turn your time keeping devices back one hour – that is to 2am. Some electronic devices may automatically change the time. Daylight savings will return on Sunday, October 6.

The Small Business Bus is coming to Mirboo North

WHETHER you are starting, building or transforming your business, the Small Business Bus can help you develop your business ideas and capabilities. Business advisors from Monarch Institute can help you with one-to-one tailored advice. These 45-minute sessions are confidential and free! Bookings are essential. When: Thursday April 11, 10am – 4pm Where: Sir Paul Edmund

Strzelecki Monument, opposite 44 Ridgeway Strzelecki Highway, Mirboo North Find out more information or book now: bit.ly/4aawmA3

Kids to hit the books for Premiers' reading challenge

CALLING all Victorian children and young people to explore, learn and enjoy the world through reading, it's time to embark on this year's Premiers' Reading Challenge. The Challenge encourages students between early childhood and Year 10 to read a set number of books during the year, with their efforts recorded online. A book list recommends age-appropriate texts that children might like to try, but any book counts towards their Challenge totals. This year's 'Explore, Learn, Enjoy' theme captures the excitement and sense of adventure that reading gives us all. Children who have not yet started school are also encouraged to join the Challenge by reading 40 books with the help of their families – with picture books, short stories, poems or non-fiction books in any language all eligible for the Challenge. In 2013, the Challenge was expanded to include young children from birth to five, following strong evidence indicating that reading to young children from birth promotes brain development and language learning. Students participating can read books in Languages Other Than English and use alternative supports and resources. For more information on the Challenge and to see the book list, visit vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge.

Concern about Loch's Bells Road Bridge

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council responded to concerns expressed by a local resident about works at the Bells Road Bridge in Loch, saying the bridge has undergone a full

refurbishment involving deck reconstruction, and sandblasting and painting of girders underneath. Work has occurred as part of council's Bridge Rehabilitation Program, with council noting that bridges are assessed by an independent contractor every two years. "The works commenced in December and are now complete, pending the installation of guardrail," a council spokesperson said, indicating that final stage is part of a wider guardrail program intended to be undertaken should costs permit. Should that occur, it would address the resident's concern that there are no side barriers, having noted there is a fair bit of truck traffic on the bridge and you come onto one end of it on an angle. "If you drive onto it at a fair pace, you think you are going to drive off the edge," the resident said. While pleased with the sandblasting work carried out, he expressed dissatisfaction with the standard of concreting done. Sentinel-Times is awaiting further comment from council after another inspection takes place. The bridge is open for use council confirmed.

Did you witness an assault?

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after two Bass Coast Highway Patrol officers were assaulted in Foster on Thursday, March 21 at 10.30am on Main Street, Foster. It's understood the police officers were conducting investigations into traffic offences when they intercepted a vehicle. A 58-year-old male from Port Welshpool has been charged with multiple offences and remanded in custody to appear at Latrobe Magistrates at a later date. A 20-year-old male also from Port Welshpool has been charged with similar offences but bailed to appear at Latrobe Magistrates at a later date. Investigations into the assault on the two police offers is

ongoing and police have requested anyone with mobile phone footage or dash cam footage between 10.30am and 11am on March 21 on Main Street and in the Foster area to please come forwards. Information can be provided anonymously to Crimestoppers at 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime/ or to contact Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 1400.

MP calls for rebuild funding for Foster PS

THE NATIONALS Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien has called on the State Government to fund a fully rebuilt primary school for Foster. Speaking in Parliament last week, Mr O'Brien highlighted that Foster Primary School's main building was built in 1965 and is certainly showing its age. "The school has asbestos issues throughout and literally has chunks of brickwork falling off its exterior," Mr O'Brien said. "It does not make financial sense for the school to continue to throw money at maintenance for things that clearly need to be replaced. "I have been working with Foster Primary School and its wider community since I was first elected in 2015 to highlight the need for new facilities. It's simply not acceptable that our children and teachers have to put up with these conditions." Mr O'Brien said The Nationals had committed to providing \$3 million to fund the rebuild in 2022, but the Government had failed to match that commitment. "I collected and presented the State Government with over 1000 signatures on a petition backing the project, but despite the enormous community support shown the Government has continuously failed to finish the job. I am now calling on the Government to ensure that the funds are committed in the 2024-2025 State Budget to ensure that this crucial project can be undertaken as a matter of priority."

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Coal mine hosts multi-agency training exercise

IT WAS a sight to behold last Tuesday as Wonthaggi SES, Wonthaggi Fire Brigade, Bass Coast Police, Ambulance Victoria paramedics and State Coal Mine Tuesday night volunteers participated in a group training exercise at Wonthaggi's State Coal Mine under the expert guidance of Parks Victoria State Coal Mine staff Holly Gloster, Anthony Jones and Phill Price.

The training exercise is part of the mine's WorkSafe requirements with emergency services having previously gathered over the years to perform various rescue and drill scenarios.

Tuesday's scenario was an opportunity for SES members and paramedics, including a volunteer Ambulance Community Officer, to work closely with Parks Victoria personal to ensure procedures are up to date as they look to commence walk-in, walk-out underground mine tours in the near future.

"(Tuesday) gave all agencies the opportunity to work together with a collaborative approach as a team," Ambulance Victoria acting senior team manager Bass Coast Anthea Chester said noting it was a great exercise to learn from and ensure agencies were prepared for the unfamiliar environment when the mine reopens to tourism.

"It better enables us to be prepared so we can deliver best care for the community and visitors to the area."

"It was a really good night and has allowed us to learn in advance what is possible rather than during a



Parks Victoria staff and Wonthaggi SES members head underground for a familiarisation exercise ahead of the scenarios. C10_1424

real-life event. We were really impressed with the equipment SES had and working with them to get the patient, in this case a 75kg dummy, safely up the incline."

The first exercise involved the extraction of patient with an ankle injury, whilst the second was a patient suffering a suspected cardiac arrest.

Local senior sergeant and municipal emergency response coordinator Brent Muir was on hand from Bass Coast police and watched over the scenario, whilst local firefighters were on hand to support and assist where necessary.

State Coal Mine volunteers assisted with mine familiarisation and support.

"The training was successful with excellent collaboration and learnings for all participating agencies," Senior Sergeant Muir stated.

It's not the first-time

multi-agency exercises have occurred at the mine with the local SES and CFA crews undertaking a wide array of training exercises including underground fire scenarios.

"It was a really good opportunity for familiarisation around the mine," Wonthaggi SES unit controller Jarrod Hargreaves explained.

"The multi-agency aspect was great. It was great to have Brent Muir on scene in his role as the new municipal emergency response coordinator; and having AV a part of the multi-agency scenario was a huge opportunity as we find ourselves working more closely with them these days too."

"Our (SES) members were also able to practically apply skills that we don't often see used in our space, particularly around the ropes - it was good skills building."

"It was also a good

opportunity for the incident controllers from each agency to develop a small command team under the control of VicPol and watch how that team worked together to help coordinate the response."

The training scenario was a good opportunity for the State Coal Mine to test their emergency management procedures and is a crucial part of keeping the prospect of underground mine tours open in the future.

For other local agencies, the training scenario provides the opportunity for members to further enhance their skills.

"It's an opportunity for our firefighters and members to work with other agencies," Wonthaggi Fire Brigade second lieutenant Kevin Else explained.

"During this scenario we played a supporting role from above ground, but previously we have run training exercises replicating electrical fire scenarios and extraction of patients."

Parks Victoria have recently announced on their website that they will reopen walk-in, walk-out tours whilst the drift car works are in progress. Walking tours are scheduled to re-commence in mid-2024.

Tours were suspended in 2020 when engineering inspections revealed the rail 'drift car' and the track it runs on, no longer met modern safety standards.

The State Coal Mine restoration project is expected to be completed in late 2024 or early 2025 according to the Parks Victoria website.



Easter Saturday vehicle accident in Wonthaggi

EMERGENCY services attended a collision in Wonthaggi on Saturday March 30, at the intersection of Murray and McKenzie Streets.

It is understood a man was driving out of a car park on Murray Street, where he collided with a utility.

His vehicle then collided with another car and a power pole.

The man was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The occupants of the other vehicles were not injured.

The exact circumstances of the incident are to be determined, but it is understood the man had a medical episode.

Any witnesses are advised to contact Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100.

Wonthaggi police issue beach safety reminder

FOLLOWING a tragic summer of drownings in the local area and after a recent chat with surfer Gavin about the rescues he and fellow surfers have carried out at Kilcunda, Wonthaggi police again remind people not to take risks when visiting beaches.

"Remember to download the Beachsafe App, which provides detailed information from beach patrol status and facilities and hazards to weather, swell and tide."

The app can be downloaded from beachsafe.org.au/apps through the Apple Store or Google Play.

Visitors to Cape Woolamai stranded

VISITORS from the Melbourne area became stranded on the foreshore at Cleeland Bight, near Spew Hill, during the late afternoon on Easter Saturday, with the three adults and two children having gone into scrubland at Cape Woolamai.

Officers from Cowes, San Remo and Wonthaggi Police Stations, along with volunteer surf lifesavers from the Woolamai Beach SLSC and a rescue helicopter from Life Saving Victoria, responded to a report of the stranding.

Police stressed that despite the group reading signs advising people not to enter the area, they did so anyway, becoming marooned by the high tide and unfriendly terrain.

"This necessitated a significant response of emergency services, and thankfully due to the excellent local knowledge of volunteer surf lifesavers and local police, the five people were quickly rescued without injury," police stated.

"This was a good result but is another big reminder for everyone to be aware of water dangers and to be safe at our local beaches."

Overnight rain impacts South Gippsland Shire

MONDAY night's rain led two Leongatha households to call on their local SES unit for help, its members also clearing a large gum tree from the South Gippsland Highway at Meeniyah, while those at Leongatha business Approved by ED spent Tuesday morning dealing with flooding.

The tree call out came about 4.30am, with the SES crew having to tackle the approximately 10 metre gum with chainsaws to clear the road.

Leongatha SES unit controller Matt Saario said about 60mm of rain fell overnight, with more in some areas.

Water came through the roof at both Leongatha properties the SES visited.

Matt said that while there was damage to tiles at the first property, only a bit of water got in, with blocked gutters at the second property resulting in overflow into the house and causing a bit of damage.

Approved by ED owner

Elliot Davies said it is the third or fourth time water has entered the premises through the ceiling but this is the worst instance despite the fact the roof was believed to have been fixed.

He estimated that between half and three quarters of the building was impacted, with water approximately half an inch deep.

Computers at the front of the office and laptops were hit by the deluge, with staff doing

their best to dry the electronic equipment.

There was extensive work required to remove surface water from the floor before efforts to dry it.

While it is made from vinyl, it was uncertain whether water had damaged the glue underneath.

"There'll probably be a bit of mould," Elliot said, noting the ceiling appears to be sagging a little, but he is hopeful it can be dried out effectively.

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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

Mayor's Message



Cr Clare Le Serve



HOPE you all had a safe and happy Easter break! Last week we had a couple of community resilience and recovery sessions which were filled with lively engagement with multi-agency partners such as CFA, SES, Victoria Police, AusNet and others. Agencies provided support and answered questions from residents, as well as providing practical and hands-on support for recovery and disaster resilience. With our agency and government partners we continue to provide support to individuals and communities recovery from the storm and power outage events, and I continue to be inspired by the collaborative community spirit across our Shire.

I also attended an industry briefing hosted by Destination Phillip Island and I'd like to share with you some exciting developments and initiatives that are taking place in our beloved Bass Coast Shire.

As your Mayor, it is my privilege to keep you informed and engaged in the progress and opportunities that are shaping our community.

I am pleased to announce that the Bass Coast Shire Council has commenced work towards attaining Ecotourism Destination Certification through Eco Tourism Australia. This important step represents our commitment to enhancing our nature-based tourism destination with a strong emphasis on ecotourism principles. Through cultural and natural interpretation, education for visitors, and active engagement of local businesses in sustainability practices, we aim to create a vibrant

and sustainable tourism ecosystem. This process will span approximately 12 to 18 months, and we look forward to working with our key partners and industry to achieve this.

In line with our commitment to fostering economic growth and development, we are delighted to work collaboratively with businesses and industries, including exciting new projects like the Isle of Wight on Phillip Island. Our partnership initiatives focus on upskilling, development, and growth opportunities, such as the upcoming "She's on the Money" event on Tuesday, April 30, at RACV Inverloch, and the opening of nominations for the 17th annual Bass Coast Business Awards as mentioned last week. These events not only celebrate our local businesses but also contribute significantly to our region's economic prosperity.

As we continue to grow and evolve, sustainability remains a key priority. We are committed to ensuring that Bass Coast grows in a sustainable and inclusive manner, preserving our natural assets and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

I encourage you to stay engaged and participate in the upcoming industry session on sustainable tourism, as well as our community events and initiatives. Together, we can create a thriving, resilient, and sustainable Bass Coast for generations to come.

Please make sure you're signed up to Engage Bass Coast and across our social media platforms to get up to date information and of course, have your say!



Destination Phillip Island Industry Forum at Berninnet.

Recognising the value of tourism on Phillip Island and San Remo

THE Phillip Island and San Remo Destination Management Plan (DMP) has been released and was shared on March 25 with industry, community and local government stakeholders at the Destination Phillip Island Industry Forum at Berninnet.

The purpose of the Destination Management Plan (DMP) is to recognise and realise the full value of tourism by ensuring it is a positive force for people, nature, and economy over the next 10 years.

General Manager of Destination Phillip Island Kim Storey said "this plan identifies the importance of stewardship of this destination, that a vibrant tourism industry supports our region's economic prosperity and contributes to the livability of the region."

The ultimate aim is to create lasting, net-positive impacts and support a thriving tourism sector. It

is designed as a framework that will evolve over time to provide strategies and measure success to guide tourism management and its impacts on our community.

The DMP builds upon and supersedes the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 (VES2035) and draws on the most up-to-date collective intelligence across all key stakeholders to ensure the plan remains balanced and strategic. The development has been sponsored by Destination Phillip Island (DPI) and supported by a Steering Committee including representatives from the Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC), Phillip Island Nature Parks (Nature Parks) and the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR).

"This Phillip Island and San Remo Destination Management Plan Towards 2035 sets out to go beyond the sustainable

management of place to having a regenerative mindset. We want to ensure that our environment continues to thrive, our businesses are leaders in doing what's right, and that our stories, history, and rich culture are celebrated and shared with our visitors from all over the world," said Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve.

"This plan treads a careful balance between supporting economic growth through environmentally sensitive development and high-value visitor attraction, whilst promoting a regenerative mindset within the tourism industry," added Catherine Basterfield Phillip Island Nature Parks CEO.

From June 2023, the Steering Committee invited the Phillip Island and San Remo community and tourism stakeholders to embark on a six-month project that consulted over 400 people across multiple forms of listening and feedback

including surveys, in person workshops and in-depth interviews.

Five strategic Guiding Principles form the basis of the Plan and inform key focus areas.

The purpose is defined as "Tourism for the Greater Good" supported by the principles of –

- Building a resilient tourism ecosystem
- Caring for our environment and community
- Improving visitor movements
- Enhancing our visitor experience
- Sharing our story with impact

The plan will be overseen by the plan custodians, made up of representatives from Destination Phillip Island, Bass Coast Shire Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks and a future action plan will be established from the Key Focus areas within the Guiding principles.

Entries open for the 17th Bass Coast Business Awards

BASS Coast Shire Council is excited to announce that entries are now open for the highly anticipated 2024 Bass Coast Business Awards. This annual event now in its 17th year, celebrates the exceptional achievements of businesses within the Bass Coast community and provides a platform for recognition and networking.

The Bass Coast Business Awards continue to showcase the diverse talents and contributions of local businesses. The awards are divided into two categories:

- Judged Categories: These categories recognise

businesses that excel in various aspects, including innovation, customer service, sustainability, and community involvement. A panel of judges will evaluate the entries and select winners based on predetermined criteria.

• People's Choice Awards: These awards allow the community to participate by voting for their favourite businesses. This is a fantastic opportunity for businesses to engage with their customers and build strong relationships within the community.

Mayor, Cr Le Serve expressed her enthusiasm for

this year's awards, sharing that the Bass Coast Business Awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our local business community.

"We encourage all businesses in Bass Coast to participate and showcase their achievements."

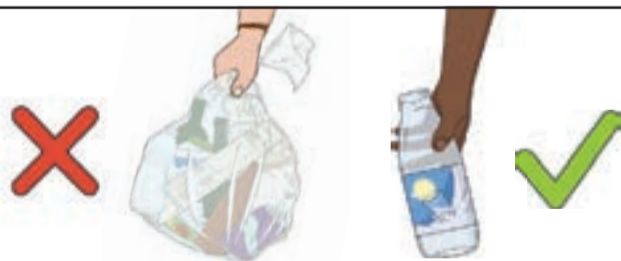
"There are also some real economic and promotional benefits for businesses that get involved and I encourage everyone to support the 2024 Awards and again make the Awards night a highlight of the year," said Cr Le Serve.

Previous entrants have

said the awards process gives them a chance to assess and improve on their business operations, and entering this year could be the first step to even greater success for your business. Just by going through the Awards process, you get the opportunity to stand back and reflect on your businesses successes and challenges and identify potential opportunities for the future.

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

basscoast.vic.gov.au/businessawards



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The story of the Tunnel Rats added to the Vietnam Veterans Museum

TWENTY two years ago, Vietnam Veteran Jim Dowson went to the old veterans museum in San Remo, there he met an old man who planted a seed, and last week that seed bloomed.

The man at the museum asked Jim who he was.

Jim told him.

Three Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers in Vietnam between 1968 – 67, otherwise known as Tunnel Rats.

“Our job was to go down the holes, with a 9mm pistol and a torch, and that’s what they nicknamed us, the tunnel rats,” Jim explained.

The man said to Jim, “You had a tough time you boys and you should tell your story.”

As Jim walked out the man said, “Don’t forget that story.”

But, it wasn’t until six months ago, when Jim and his mates from 3 Troop visited an unwell comrade in Adelaide, that the words of that old man hit the Veteran.

“You better do something before you’re all down,” Jim thought, and so he began putting together their story.

A frame encompasses memorabilia from the 3 Troop Tunnel Rats, including their written story with nine signatures from the men, photographs of the veterans taken both in Vietnam and more recently in Australia, a Citation for Gallantry – awarded in 2018 and medals earned.

This unique and valuable piece of history was presented



Vietnam Veteran Jim Dowson organised the telling of the Tunnel Rats story, which Wendy Anderson from the museum, said is an important addition to the collection and holds great interest for groups and school children. ob07_1424

to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Wednesday April 28, and is now available for the public to view.

Mateship forged through adversity, is the title of their story.

It begins:

Young men who met as strangers, the sapper of 3 Troop bonded for life during their 12 month service in Vietnam.

The challenges, sadness, happiness and humour they shared created memories to last a lifetime, leaving an indelible mark on each engineer.

The sappers of 3 Troop are assigned as engineer support to 3rd Battalion (3RAR) joining 1 Field Squadron.

Two sappers attached to each infantry platoon assist with tunnel, bunker and village searches, field defence, the disarming of mines and booby traps, and the use of explosives for demolition and disposing of unexploded ordnances.

Each vet’ will also add their own photographs and medals to individual frames which will become part of the collection displayed in the museum. “It’s an important addition

to the museum, because it’s from veterans and by veterans and the reason we have the museum here in the first place is to keep a place that is the spiritual home for Vietnam Veterans,” said Wendy Anderson, the museum’s education and interpretation officer and volunteer collection manager.

“This group is also not largely represented, so it can be added to the collection and Tunnel Rats are of great interest to groups and particularly to school children that come in.”

And now twenty two years later their story has finally been told.



Clive Kilgour, Wonthaggi Justice of the Peace attended an award ceremony at Parliament House last week for forty years of service.

Clive receives award for forty years as a JP

LAST week, Wonthaggi local Clive Kilgour went to parliament house where he was awarded a certificate for forty years of service as a Justice of the Peace (JP).

“It was nice to have it (the award ceremony) in that facility. I haven’t been there before, so it was quite a good experience,” said Clive.

Clive was working at Bass Coast Health when the need arose for someone to certify and sign off documents in the social work department.

One of the local members put Clive’s name forward, he got the position and has been doing it ever since.

Clive has worked out of the Wonthaggi Police Station from time to time, but the majority of his JP work is based at his home.

He is listed on the JP finder website and people can go directly to Clive to get their documents certified and signed.

Even after forty years of doing the volunteer role, Clive commented that he is still happy doing it.

“I’ll just continue on doing it, as its not a big demand on my time and its quite good to be able to help people.”

An update from VicGrid

VicGrid is planning a new transmission line to connect offshore wind energy to the power grid in Gippsland.

We’ve identified a broad study area that starts approximately 6km from the coast near Giffard and travels northwest past Stradbroke West to Willung, across to Flynns Creek and then to the Loy Yang Power Station.



[engage.vic.gov.au/
offshore-wind-transmission](https://engage.vic.gov.au/offshore-wind-transmission)

Want to know more?

Drop in to an information session

Wednesday 10 April 4.00pm - 7.00pm	Stradbroke Recreation Reserve and Hall 4971 South Gippsland Highway, Stradbroke
Wednesday 17 April 4.00pm - 7.00pm	Flynn Community Hall Widdis Way, Flynn
Tuesday 23 April 4.00pm - 7.00pm	Giffard West Public Hall 3877 South Gippsland Highway, Giffard West
Wednesday 24 April 4.00pm - 7.00pm	Gormandale Mechanics Institute Main Road, Gormandale
Tuesday 30 April 4.00pm - 7.00pm	Rosedale RSL Hall 23 Hood St, Rosedale
Wednesday 1 May 4.00pm to 7.00pm	Seaspray Public Hall Futcher Road, Seaspray
Thursday 2 May 4.00pm - 7.00pm	Port of Sale – Wellington room 70 Foster St, Sale
Wednesday 8 May 4.00pm to 7.00pm	Traralgon Arts Centre 32 Kay St, Traralgon

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Easter egg hunt excites

TWO hundred children were thrilled to take part in the Easter egg hunt at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum on Easter Sunday.

Run by the Korumburra Lions Club, the sold-out event invited children to visit the park, enjoy a beautiful day out and leave with a few chocolaty treats.

They also had the opportunity to play games, participate in the colouring competition and had a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Entertainment was also provided by local musician Karyn Calvert.

“The whole concept of the day is a fun community event. The Lions Club ran the easter egg hunt last year in conjunction with South Gippsland Shire Council. This year, we took the organisation of it on ourselves. It was a bit of learning experience, given that Easter – before COVID – was always a major event. This is the second year since COVID we’ve had the Easter egg hunt and it’s great to see the kids enjoying themselves. It’s been a good exercise,” Korumburra Lions Club president Roger Powell said.

“We had three different times for the Easter egg hunt, and the hunting areas were split into three age groups to give the older children a bit more of a challenge. They had to collect five gold blocks, head back to the headquarters and swap the blocks for a bag of Easter eggs. The feedback I was getting was a lot of smiles.”



Leongatha’s Bonnie Pavia, Matilda Pavia, Isla Pavia, Hunter Moreland and Camden Pavia with their haul at the Easter egg hunt at Coal Creek.

“It was a great event the Lions were happy to be part of it. We see it as the revival of Coal Creek. We also had the Friends of Coal Creek volunteers helping out. It takes a lot of effort and energy to organise, and to see the kids enjoying it makes it all worthwhile.”

Around 30 volunteers were on hand throughout the day, managing the kitchen and overseeing the hunt and the colouring competition.

The colouring competition was judged by Roger and prizes were awarded to the winners.

Whilst the event was sold-out, the park remained open for visitors who also enjoyed watching the joy of Easter.



Korumburra’s Summer Haire and Matilda Hurst enjoyed their Easter at Coal Creek.



Chelsea Masterman-Smith took part in the colouring competition at Coal Creek.

Easter bonnets at the ready for a parade to remember

EASTER bonnets were at the ready on Thursday at Connecting 2 Australia, as participants took to the Opportunity Shop floor for a parade.

The parade was one of a number of activities on Thursday that included colouring in easter egg baskets, hot cross buns, an egg hunt and pin the tail on the rabbit, to name but a few.

Participants had a blast as music was played and they made their way in a large circle around the floor, some even joining to form a conga line.

Winners for the easter bonnet competition were Joe, who created the funniest bonnet; Sue, the most imaginative; and Sally, the most colourful.

“It’s been a fantastic day,” co-ordinator Kim explained as participants laughed and chatted along the way.



Connecting 2 Australia participants took part in a parade around the Opportunity shop on Thursday afternoon, much to the delight of all in the shop. C08_1424



Two of the winners Sally and Sue display their Easter bonnets. Sally won for most colourful, whilst Sue took out the prize for most imaginative. C04_1424

Traineeships and training onsite in Foster

PROM Country Aged Care has partnered with Registered Training Organisation, Partners in Training to deliver nationally accredited training in Individual Support and Ageing Support onsite in Foster.

CEO Paula Gibb is proud of the care Prom Country Aged Care provides to its community.

“We are looking to the future and want to ensure we have a workforce that continues to support Foster and our residents”, she said.

“We know that our service is deeply immersed in our community. We value our employees and know that our local carers have invested their interest in caring for our elderly.

“This joint initiative with Partners in Training Australia, is to provide upskilling opportunities and skills development to our existing workforce. Additionally, we seek to offer training and employment to the wider community so that we can recruit new workers for the future and build our capacity in the region.

“For existing care staff, we are pleased to offer access to further skills on the job so that they can transition into leadership roles and support our Nurses. The Certificate IV in Ageing Support will provide carers with further clinical skills and medication competency. We will be encouraging our staff to take this opportunity to upskill through the Traineeship Program so that they can continue to work as they learn. Training will be delivered by an experienced Nurse Educator one day per week.

“Furthermore, we invite our community to join us and begin gaining the skills to become a personal care worker. Partners in Training will deliver the Certificate III in Individual Support on site in our facility. We are wanting to encourage as many locals to consider a career in this very rewarding and meaningful role.

“Training in the Certificate III will be one day per week. Interested applicants can attend this training and complete their placement at Prom Country Aged Care For those who are ‘work ready’, we have a number of traineeships available now. Selected trainees will attend training and be paid to learn and work.

“So, take this golden opportunity to work in the Health and Community industry. We invite you to contact us today and join us at Prom Aged Care”.

For further information and to book your attendance send your contact details to Libby O’Dwyer at 0438 878 725 or lodwyer@pta.edu.au.

An information and enrollment session will take place on Wednesday, April 17.



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South Gippsland Shire Council News

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

South Gippsland Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest from our community to be a part of the South Gippsland Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

The new Committee will provide input on access and inclusion issues, and feedback that will inform the development of an Access and Inclusion Plan for South Gippsland. The plan is aimed at ensuring everyone in our community has equal access to public spaces, goods, services and facilities.

The committee will be made up of 15 members – nine community representatives and five organisational members (organisations that work with people who experience disability, barriers to inclusion due to their gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation etc.).

Interested community members should have experience living with a disability or caring for someone with a disability or lived experience of other barriers to inclusion.


Our goal is to have systems in place to make sure everyone in our Shire can participate in both public and professional life meaning everyone has the resources and opportunities they need to be a part of the things they want to be a part of.

If you believe you can make a difference as part of the South Gippsland Access and Inclusion Committee, we encourage you to fill out an EOI form at:

yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Be a part of the change, making South Gippsland a more inclusive region for everyone.

Recovery Support - Emergency
Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760



Recovery support is available for people impacted by the 13 February Victorian storms. Understanding the support available can be challenging, particularly for people who might not be used to asking for help. Depending on what you need, recovery support can be as simple as telephone advice on what services are available, or connecting you with programs that can help you. If you were severely impacted by the storm, you may be eligible for a recovery support worker. They can work with you over time to find and access the support you need.

To find out more, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 or visit www.vic.gov.au/recovery-support

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 17 April 2.00pm
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

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

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

Please contact the Governance Team for questions about Council Meetings

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

STORM-RELATED GREEN WASTE AMNESTY

Council’s storm-related Green Waste Amnesty will finish on 2 April at all transfer stations aside from Mirboo North. Storm-related green waste will still be accepted at Mirboo North Transfer Station until 30 April.

The Amnesty was put in place to assist residents with clean-up efforts after the February storm event. The end date has been bought forward at other Transfer Stations as demand for storm-related green waste disposal has abated in those areas.

From 2 April, the Mirboo North Transfer Station Times will open on:

Wednesday: 1.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday: 1.00pm to 5.00pm
Saturday: 9.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 4.00pm

For more information and transfer station open hours, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/transferstationtimes

REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

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

Tender closes 2.00pm AEST on Tuesday 16 April 2024.

Documentation is available from Council’s e-Tendering Portal:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha
03 5662 9200
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Kerryn Ellis delighted to extend her commitment to South Gippsland Shire

RECENTLY reappointed South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis is proud of what has been accomplished during her time in the role and has many ambitions for the shire's future, having been contracted for another five years.

Councillors endorsed Kerryn's reappointment during their March council meeting, albeit the ongoing CEO was unable to be present.

"This is terrific news for the organisation and for South Gippsland," mayor Clare Williams said following the meeting.

"We are fortunate to have a CEO of Kerryn's calibre and we have achieved so much under her strong, considered leadership."

The mayor added that the CEO's reappointment provides council and South Gippsland Shire with a solid foundation for the years ahead.

Sentinel-Times chatted to the ongoing CEO about her achievements thus far, and what improvements for the shire she is looking forward to being part of in the future.

While she considers there have been many highlights, Kerryn spoke of three that stand out.

The first of those occurred just after she started the job in March 2020, with the development of council's Community Support Package during COVID.

"We had our Budget almost fully drafted and we actually went back and found \$2 million out of a small council budget to support the community through the pandemic period, which is a project that's now been independently evaluated, and we've had fantastic feedback about it," Kerryn said.

"I was proud of how agile we were as an organisation to get that happening and supporting people as quickly as we did."

The refurbishment of the Leongatha council offices is another of the highlights, with that project nearing completion, Kerryn explaining why action was needed.

"They had not been touched for well over 20 years when I started and they were antiquated, with no environmental



South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis has been reappointed.

sustainability features; the air conditioning didn't meet occupational health and safety requirements, and the building didn't meet disability access requirements," she said.

Kerryn stressed that while there had been extensive conversation over a number of years about building new council offices in Leongatha, that would have cost at least \$10 million and potentially much more.

The refurbishment cost is in the vicinity of \$4 million.

"At a significantly reduced cost, we were able to provide a contemporary modern workplace for staff and community visitors," Kerryn said, adding that the facility will look fantastic once cladding is complete.

Having commenced her role during the period when administrators had replaced elected councillors, the CEO spoke of the importance of restoring community trust in elected local representatives.

Kerryn has enjoyed watching the current councillor group work closely with the community, observing that the organisation and its councillors are now sector leading.

"We have a low staff turnover rate and have won numerous awards and

accolades and I'm frequently asked to share our success story with other councils," she said.

While delighted with the shire's progress, the CEO sees great potential for South Gippsland over the next few years.

Kerryn expects to see opportunities arise through the establishment of offshore wind energy generation in the area, along with exciting innovations in farming and agribusiness.

She looks forward to continued improvements in local tourism and the resultant economic boost.

The potential creation of a unique cultural tourism offering on Yanakie land near Wilsons Promontory, recently purchased by the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, is a likely visitor drawcard Kerryn is excited about.

She also looks forward to seeing the benefits for South Gippsland Shire of Parks Victoria improvements being made to facilities at Wilsons Promontory, including new accommodation and new cultural heritage experiences, that will further boost the visitor experience.

Kerryn noted the Great Southern Rail Trail extension from Welshpool to Hedley

will soon be complete and that improvements will be made along the trail such as the installation of interpretive signage and seating.

She envisages ongoing improvements in the local arts and hospitality scenes.

"It's an exciting time for South Gippsland and I'm really honoured to have the opportunity to continue to work with councillors and the community," the CEO said.

She noted that more frequent and severe weather events present a challenge for council, requiring it to work closely with community and find innovative approaches to improve resilience.

With council elections taking place later this year, Kerryn is ready to welcome the chosen councillor group and help set them up for a successful term.

She also intends to build on relationships established during her time with South Gippsland Shire Council.

"I've worked hard to deepen our working relationships and partnerships right across the region, with State Government, business, and other councils, and I am excited now to take advantage of those partnerships to deliver great outcomes for South Gippsland," Kerryn declared.

Mayor's Message



Cr Clare Williams



HELLO South Gippsland.

It's been a busy Easter in South Gippsland with festivities, markets, and egg hunts keeping families entertained. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Easter spending quality time with friends and family... perhaps you also received a treat from the Easter Bunny.

Speaking of furry friends, this year's pet registrations are due on or before April 10. If you need to update your pet's details, please visit Council's Customer Service counter Monday to Thursday, 10am - 3pm or contact our Customer Service Team on 5662 9200.

Upcoming Workshops:

A small business mentoring workshop is coming up on April 4 which is a great opportunity to get one-on-one business advice. There's also the 'Save Money in the Home This Winter' occurring on April 16 which is a great way to learn how to be energy efficient over winter. You can find out more at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

Upcoming Events:

There are some exciting events coming up in April including 'A Birthday at the Park'. This event will be an activity-filled celebration of Coal Creek's 50th birthday and will be held on April 20. Featuring a variety of entertainment including historical displays and demonstrations, pop up theatre, rides and more, this is an event not to be missed. Enjoy food and drink, stay for a few hours or into the evening, and celebrate the history of Coal Creek.

In the essence of celebrating history, Poowong is also set to celebrate their 150-year milestone on April 19, 20 and 21. Organised by the Poowong Community Consultative Committee, the celebrations will include a Friday night dance, a BYO Basket Tea, children's activities, displays of historical items and more. Reminisce with the Poowong community, and enjoy the celebrations.

Introduction to Local Government:

Later this month I will be chatting to children from St Laurence O'Toole Primary School in Leongatha as part of an 'Into to Local Government' information session. This program provides children with an overview of government functions and the services that are provided through Council.

If any other local schools are interested in participating in a similar session, please give Council a call on 5662 9200, we'd love to run further programs. I'm looking forward to being involved and delivering an interesting session for our future generation.

Gippsland Caravan Camping Leisure Roadshow

at Lardner Park near Warragul

April

12th Friday 9am to 4pm

13th Saturday 9am to 4pm

14th Sunday 9am to 4pm



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Work continues on the exterior of the South Gippsland Shire Council office building in Leongatha. A02_1424

Final stage of South Gippsland Shire Council office revamp

FINAL stage works on South Gippsland Shire Council's main office refurbishment in Leongatha are continuing, entailing the replacement of external cladding.

Works include removal of asbestos-containing materials.

With the building dating to the 1970s, its aged and deteriorating exterior needed renewal, a council spokesperson explained.

"The works will help improve the aesthetics and provide a modern update," she said.

Council stated the cost of the external works is just under \$989,000 (excluding GST).

Internal improvements previously took place, including installation of new kitchen facilities and bathrooms, a reconfigured office space, improved accessibility and the introduction of energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting and better insulation.

Plumbing and electrical and security system improvements were also made.

"A refurbishment of the municipal office in Leongatha was required to modernise the office space and to meet accessibility and environmental requirements," the council spokesperson said.

It was explained that reconfiguration of the office space was influenced by the pandemic and the need to accommodate social distancing.

"The works undertaken were modest and were the minimum amount required to make the building functional and compliant," council stated.

The total works will cost approximately \$4 million (excluding GST), including a contract variation of \$117,700 (excluding GST), which was necessitated by the discovery of significant structural issues during the internal phase of the project that required rectification.

The total cost also includes a number of smaller contracts that fall beneath council's procurement threshold and are therefore not publicly disclosed but total over \$1 million over a five-year period, with these contracts relating to works such as interior fit-out and furnishing, elevator refurbishment and accessibility upgrades.

Commitment to children and families

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council has set a framework to provide guidance as it works with service providers, government agencies and the community to support children and families in reaching their full potential, having formally adopted its Children and Families Plan 2024-2028 at its March public meeting.

The plan was developed through extensive research and engagement with families, children, agencies, council officers and councillors.

Identifying the services delivered in South Gippsland Shire for children and their families and the effectiveness of the support provided was considered in developing the plan.

Consultation included an online community survey, a short hardcopy survey, pop-up engagement activities, online focus groups, and targeted discussions with community and early years agencies, council officers and the project steering committee.

Nearly 700 primary and pre-school aged children had their say, speaking about what they love most about their community and what they would like to see improved.

An Annual Action Plan will be developed and implemented to achieve the key themes outlined in the recently adopted document, with annual reporting against the intended projects and initiatives, along with reviewing of the Children and Families Plan every five years.

Among the themes described in the now adopted Children and Families Plan is the aim to provide welcoming and inclusive places and spaces for



South Gippsland Shire mayor Clare Williams looks forward to council being able to provide better services and environments for families with the assistance of the recently approved Children and Families Plan 2024-2028.

all children and families, and accessible and responsive services for them.

The Children and Families Plan calls for spaces and places for children and families to be accessible to those of all abilities and have features that enable children to explore and use their imagination.

Childcare, kindergarten, schools, community centres, libraries, parks and playgrounds are some examples of

places and spaces for children and families.

Services are broken into universal categories such as childcare, kindergarten, maternal and child health, as well as targeted services such as early intervention, disability services, and family relationship programs and family violence services.

Another key theme underpinning the Children and Families Plan is that

all children and families in South Gippsland deserve the opportunity to thrive.

That includes ensuring the most vulnerable children and families receive the additional support they need and that the voices of children and families are heard and considered in planning and service delivery.

The desire to ensure children and families are connected and engaged in their local community, feel safe and have a sense of belonging is identified as crucial.

The value of partnerships and collaboration in strengthening outcomes for children and families is also highlighted.

"By working together, service providers, community organisations and government agencies are able to achieve much more than they can individually," it is stated in the new plan, with that being identified as more important in regional and rural communities where services and infrastructure can be dispersed.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Clare Williams spoke of the importance of the Children and Families Plan and how it was developed.

"The extensive engagement process with our local children, families and service providers has enabled us to understand what is needed in South Gippsland to allow our youngest residents and their families to thrive.

"Moving forward, the Plan will help drive action for council to provide better services and environments for our valued community members," Cr Williams said.

Historic cars shine at Apex Park on Easter Saturday

The Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club held a successful Easter Display at Wonthaggi's Apex Park on Saturday. In beautiful weather, a good crowd turned out to view the variety of makes and models on display. Fifty cars were presented by members of the club. David Dewar is pictured with his 1929 Chrysler 65 (right) and his wife Judy's 1962 Triumph Herald 1200. The club

– which is now more than 250 members strong – holds the Easter Display yearly, and also participate in two events a month. Members also enjoy weekends away and will be heading to Heyfield for the Vintage Farm Machinery Rally in May. In November, the club will host its Show 'n' Shine at the Dalyston Recreation Reserve for the second time after a successful inaugural year in 2023.



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ROSE LODGE FETE

Come and join the fun and support your local community

Saturday, April 6 • 9am-1pm

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

- Devonshire Tea available • Sausage Sizzle • Books
- White Elephant Stall • Raffles • Plants Stall • Arts & Crafts
- Cake Stall • Woodwork • Live Music and much more.

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

Poowong School students are passionate about sustainability

POOWONG Consolidated School is taking some great strides in sustainability and students have a few projects underway in an effort to become a five star school under the Sustainability Victoria's ResourceSmart Schools program.

A Green Team has been set up, which encompasses a passionate group of 12 students, and a Garden Club, made up of 30 equally passionate students has been established.

The Green Team meets weekly and is responsible for a range of activities and events that contribute to the sustainability of the school.

Schools are recognised and rewarded through certification of sustainability projects, which are obtained by completing of modules and meeting benchmarks for resource use and are valid for four years.

Schools can progress from one star up to five stars and move towards becoming a Leadership School.

Poowong rejoined the program in 2023 under the guidance of new science teacher Lauren Dobie.

Lauren has an interest in gardening, being outside and in sustainability and found the students were also keenly interested in these things and in going along to the garden club.

With the support of the community and with such passionate students, the program was rolled out.

The school is currently rated as a one-star school and are



Poowong Consolidated School is working on becoming a sustainable school with a passionate Green Team involved in activities that contribute to the sustainability of the school. The recent School Harvest Festival.

currently working on the next modules.

Lots of work is being carried out on the Waste module, with the school starting to compost and installing bins around the school, diverting kilos of food waste from landfill.

The grade fours are also actively working on a landfill experiment looking at how food decomposes as compost and comparing it with the worm farm.

"We have made some massive changes in a short amount of time, that even sometimes I forget, and then I think that's new and that's new. So that's really exciting," said Lauren.

"We're a while off our third star but we have also made some massive, massive changes with our waste module. So that would be our next star."

The Poowong School also has a space called 'The Forest' which

is used for creating a connection with the outdoors but also as a place children can come and build dens.

This has also been integral to the biodiversity module that the school is also working on.

The school has been planting native herbs and potatoes and taking more care of the gardens to build soil health.

"They (the students) really love that they lead it. My green team is so passionate, they just love coming to the meetings every week because they love talking about it. They love it every time they get a job or something that they can run."

The students successfully ran a School Harvest Festival in February where they cooked, sold or transformed fresh produce from the school and the community.

More recently students ran hot lunches, where they picked potatoes from the garden, cooked them and then served them.

"They just get so proud, they are just so proud of themselves," said Lauren.

A new Green Team will be picked in the middle of the year, however, Lauren commented that the current members have enjoyed it so much they don't want to leave, yet new members are already asking when they can begin.

They say that from little things, big things grow. Poowong Consolidated School might be a small school but it's accomplishing great things.

Gippsland launches new tourism strategy

A COLLABORATIVE partnership between Destination Gippsland and Food and Fibre Gippsland has seen the completion of a new strategy document to lead the way for more visitor experiences in the agritourism sector.

The recently completed Towards 2030 Gippsland Food, Drink & Agritourism Strategy aims to position Gippsland as the go-to epicurean travel destination in Australia by 2030, celebrated for its diverse, distinct, and authentic food, drink and agritourism encounters.

The strategy is one of the recommended outcomes of the Gippsland Destination Management Plan 2022.

This Strategy focuses on enhancing exposure for Gippsland, consolidating visitor conversion, and creating appealing and immersive food, drink and agritourism experiences to drive a greater contribution to the region's overall visitor economy in an impactful, inclusive, and sustainable way.

The State Government's roadmap for growth, Experience Victoria 2033 has identified food and drink products and experiences as key to maximising Victoria's tourism growth plans for the visitor economy over the next ten years. Gippsland is one of the first regions in Victoria to complete an in-depth strategy and action plan to guide and enable primary producers to diversify for visitors to enjoy our first-class produce. The document also supports the National Agritourism Strategy, launched in 2022 and developed by Australian Regional Tourism.

Destination Gippsland CEO Terry Robinson said, Gippsland is a key agricultural region in Victoria.

"We are thrilled to be able to deliver our strategic findings in this document, to assist the region to realise our growth potential in this important experiential sector."

Ben Gebert, CEO of Food and Fibre Gippsland further advised the broad food and fibre production profile of the Gippsland region, coupled with the natural assets and curated experiences make for an ideal food and drink visitation destination.

"Food and Fibre Gippsland applauds the hard work of DG in bringing this strategy to fruition and looks forward to our continued joint efforts to elevate the sector."

Mirboo North storm benefit lunch

ON WEDNESDAY March 20 the Drouin Men's Shed put on a free lunch for approximately 90 locals at the Mirboo North Hotel. This event was organised to acknowledge the work done by locals and service groups to clean up after the recent severe storm damage and also bring the community together and lift their spirits.

Dave, Zandra and their staff provided stunning lunches (parma, salad and chips) with drinks, cake and coffee with impeccable service – a great lunch. It was mentioned that many appreciated this break from the immense amount of work (both physical and form-filling) that had been involved since the storm.

All those who came were given

a raffle ticket and with a host of prizes, including tools, cash and gift vouchers.

The prime movers from Drouin Men's Shed were Brian Williams (President) and Jimbo Hunt (Vice President) Thanks must also go to GIVIT, U3A, Baw Baw Shire and local Church members for their support, especially for the donations of food hampers.

All agreed that it was a very positive experience. Drouin Men's Shed will pass photobooks of this event onto the relevant local organisations.

RIGHT: Drouin Men's Shed president Jimbo receiving a plaque of appreciation from Cheryl from the U3A.



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Mo and Oli are looking forwards to showing off the autumnal colours of Phillip Island as guests save 20 per cent this April.



New Wilsons Prom Tour with Wanderer Adventures

WANDERER Adventures is excited to launch its newest day tour cruise from Wilsons Promontory.

The Ultimate Day Cruise is a full day adventure that includes the unique sights of South Point, Australia's most southern mainland lighthouse and lunch at the incredibly beautiful Sealers Cove beach.

The tour includes close encounters with local wildlife including birds, local seal colonies and iconic natural landmarks.

Guests travel in amphibious boats, reaching secluded parts of the Prom that few get to see. Wander Adventures caters to all dietary needs with morning tea, lunch, and snacks provided.

This tour is an invitation to explore the unspoiled corners of one of Australia's most beautiful national parks. It's the perfect day out for nature lovers and intrepid explorers.

The Ultimate Day Cruise tours start operations last Wednesday (March 27). The cruise runs every Wednesday and Saturday departing from Tidal River at 10.30am and returning approx. 4pm and explores the waters of Victoria's first marine national park.

A tour highlight is seeing the granite monolith of Skull Rock which has been sculpted by wind and waves and is surrounded by crystal blue waters. Visitors get up close and personal with an Australian fur seal colony, observe local birdlife, including the majestic white bellied sea eagle and regularly see dolphins and migrating whales.

Wanderer Adventures offers the lowest price cruises at The Prom. Jump on board the Ultimate Day Cruise for just \$295pp.

For more information visit: wandereradventures.com.au/Ulimate-Day-Cruise



Victoria's CMAs awarded as finalists in National Banksia Awards

VIC Catchments, the peak body for Victoria's ten Catchment Management Authorities, including West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, has been announced as a finalist in the 35th National Banksia Sustainability Awards in the Nature Positive category.

Award finalists showcase new frontiers in sustainability. Revealing the short list, Banksia Foundation CEO Graz van Egmond praised finalists for their commitment to sustainability and social impact, and for the wide range of entries.

"Across the categories this year, we have seen an incredible diversity of entries and finalists, from sole traders to large enterprises, all thinking and working creatively and effectively to combat climate change and inequity."

"At a time when innovative solutions are desperately needed to ensure a climate resilient world, it is a joy to be able to celebrate even more Australian organisations who are contributing to building a more sustainable and equitable future for all," Ms van Egmond said.

Vic Catchment's submission in the newly created 'Nature Positive' category tells the story of how Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) across the state have been "change makers" for waterways transforming landscapes, engaging communities and supporting Traditional Owner self-determination as a priority.



Azure Kingfisher, recently fledged juvenile, Pig Swamp in Victoria's North Central Catchment Management Region – Kingfishers are water birds and found in healthy waterways across the State.

"The Vic Catchments forum was established in February 2017 to showcase Victoria's integrated catchment management framework," said Cath Jenkins, Chair of Vic Catchments.

"Reflecting on the collective impacts over 25 years and also focussing on achievements from 2022-23, the submission demonstrates the many nature positive activities of CMAs

across the state."

"We were delighted to showcase the breadth of work only made possible through strong partnerships. We can't do it alone, so this exciting announcement is for everyone we are lucky to work with in caring for Victoria's catchments."

CMAs are responsible for the integrated planning and co-ordination of land, water and biodiversity management in

each catchment and land protection region. Each CMA is structured to maximise community involvement in decision making.

The statewide achievements are documented each year in the Statewide Achievements Brochure.

Winners will be announced at an awards presentation on April 4, at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Should dog owners be concerned?

VETERINARY clinics in the Latrobe Valley have been reporting an increase in parvo virus cases over the past few weeks. In fact, the Moe Veterinary Centre has seen over 11 dogs die from the disease, and vets throughout the region are reporting similar numbers. So, is it a risk to dogs in the neighbouring areas of South Gippsland and Bass Coast? Short answer yes.

Parvo virus is highly contagious with symptoms including vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, reduced appetite and tummy pain in mainly puppies and adolescent dogs, although it can also affect unvaccinated older dogs. Symptoms progress quickly and even with treatment it can be fatal.

Owner of Moe Veterinary Centre Dr Laura Thorbecke, who previously worked for the Tarwin Veterinary Group, told the Daily Mail it's the worst outbreak she's seen in the region. "I've been a vet in Gippsland for more than 10 years and have seen more cases present in the last month than I've ever seen before in my career."

Dr Thorbecke is urging local pet owners to ensure their furry friends are vaccinated. "The number one thing that owners can do to keep their pets safe is to have them vaccinated. Vaccination is very protective, so making sure puppies receive a full vaccination course and adult dogs are kept up to date with their boosters is vital."

The challenge is that once an environment is contaminated it often persists for a long time, meaning dogs are at risk even if they don't socialise with other dogs or leave their properties.

Active local dog owners' group, Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association has highlighted the issue and prompted some feedback:

Talking to many dog owners since hearing about this outbreak some months ago, that don't vaccinate their dogs. They tell me "there are no dog diseases around and it's purely to scare animal owners by vets to make money." Their statements are false and misleading.



Grade 6 Activity Days 2024

Monday 22 April

Grade 6 Students St Laurence Leongatha and Our Lady Star of the Sea Cowes
Information will be provided directly to schools

Monday 29th April

Grade 6 Students from St Joseph's Wonthaggi and St Joseph's Korumburra
Information will be provided directly to schools

Monday 6th May

Grade 6 Students from St John's Koo Wee Rup and Government Schools
Visit our website for registration form



Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College

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



New Leongatha Rotary Club member Andrew Newton is welcomed by president David Leslie.

Encouraging young people to join Rotary

LOCAL Real Estate branch manager Andrew Newton is pleased to have become a member of Leongatha Rotary Club, having been inducted in February.

He was part of the club's Show 'N' Shine event on St Patrick's Day, despite the 5am start time being a touch on the early side for someone who describes himself as "not a morning person".

Andrew was one of many volunteers needed to make the fundraising event a success, displaying his friendly personality as he helped on the gate and guided stall holders to their sites.

Originally approached to join Rotary about a decade ago, he had too many commitments at the time.

They included running the Leongatha branch of Alex Scott & Staff, which he continues, being on the Korumburra-Bena Football Netball Club committee and a part of a school council as well as being on the Real Estate Institute Board for the country membership.

While he is still busy with work, Andrew now has more staff, giving him the chance to find some free time on weekends during which he can volunteer.

He continues being part of the Leongatha Lyric Theatre group but is now free of other roles he held previously, and originally expected to join Rotary later this year after the July production of the group's 'Into the Woods' in which he is a member of the cast.

However, he discovered the club offers considerable flexibility and could accommodate his current commitments, enabling him to join sooner.

"They approached me and said, 'We'd like you to join now and do what you can through this year and get more heavily involved later in the year,'" Andrew said.

Having always belonged to community groups and observing the contribution Rotary makes, Andrew was keen to join the organisation and help where he can.

He explained that the club strives to bring in new members with different skill sets to complement its existing membership, highlighting a couple of ways in which he is well positioned to contribute.

"From a point of view of organisational skills, I've organised a lot of different events over the years, and I'd like to think that I can put things together if they need it," he said.

The connections built through his vast experience in local business will come in handy should he be called on to help organise various community events.

Andrew is also ready to play a part in shifting items for Leongatha Rotary's furniture and book shop at the town's old fire station.

His father Bob has influenced his desire to assist community.

"My dad being in so many community groups over the years taught us to get involved and help your community and what's involved with that as far as time commitments and getting your hands dirty, to chip in and help out where needed," Andrew said.

He reflected on his induction into Leongatha Rotary Club, which took place at the Mossvale Park property of member Jeremy Curtis.

"The club and the members are welcoming and they've got a great culture," he said, noting it was a terrific setting with a great spread of food and that it was a friendly occasion despite the need to observe induction formalities. Andrew encourages others to join up.

"There are a lot of good volunteers in Rotary there, but they do need some help and some young blood coming into it, both male and female, and it would be good to see some other next generation Rotarians," Andrew said.

Mum's call for epilepsy support

HAVING epilepsy is like a "superpower" for young Jack Ashton, and his mum doesn't want him segregated because of it.

As Gippsland Southern Health Service's Director of Nursing at the Leongatha Campus, Kylie Ashton supports many worthwhile causes, but the Make March Purple campaign to shine the light on epilepsy is particularly close to her heart.

Kylie has shared Jack's story to help break down the stigma around epilepsy and in the hope that more funding can be secured for potentially life-saving research.

Kylie hopes Jack's classmates when he goes to school next year will have the opportunity to learn how to recognise and help if he has a seizure, not be shielded from learning about this part of Jack.

Jack was diagnosed with epilepsy when he was just four months old, though Kylie believes he may have had the condition even earlier. "As he got older, it just became clearer," she said.

At the time Kylie worked in a remote Western Australia hospital and faced some early challenges in getting the right support but after consulting a paediatrician a care plan was developed.

"Being diagnosed at such a young age has meant epilepsy has been a large part of the narrative of his little life," Kylie said.

"As Jack has gotten older, he has developed ways to let us know when a seizure is imminent, showing signs that he has some awareness that something isn't right."

Jack's epilepsy requires him to take a medication known commonly as keppra



Director of Nursing, Kylie Ashton is sharing Jack's story to break stigma, hoping for more funding and awareness for epilepsy research.

twice a day, he is also prescribed emergency rescue medication in case of prolonged seizures.

The medication is working well. Jack hasn't had a seizure since December 2022 after experiencing them every six to eight weeks prior to that.

"They were quite severe seizures, Jack would stop breathing, but the medication seems to be holding him quite solidly at the moment," Kylie said.

There are many different types of seizure disorders. Jack is classified as having generalised seizure disorder, he experiences tonic seizures, meaning he doesn't tremor or shake like others but has sudden tension or stiffness, stops breathing and falls to the ground.

It usually takes 1-1.5 minutes for him to start breathing again.

With her full-time work at GSHS, Kylie admits the seizures can be scary for Jack's carers.

"The best piece of advice is



to stay calm," she said.

"Epilepsy and other seizure disorders can be quite scary for both the person having the seizure and those who are there to witness it. The main thing is to call for help, stay with them, clear the area around them, reassure them and place them in the recovery position on their side after the seizure checking that their airways are clear and they're breathing. For Jack, anything greater than three minutes is considered a long seizure and I ask that Jack's carers, family included, call the ambulance at this point."

Despite the lack of seizures over the recent months, Jack remains at risk and his condition and medication are regularly reviewed.

The potential for relapses means Kylie wants Jack's daycare, kindergarten and school friends to be aware of what to do if needed.

"Children having an epileptic fit can be segregated for safety and comfort, but if Jack has a seizure, I don't want him to be segregated

because the kids that see him, if they know how to manage it, are going to be the ones able to save him in the play yard.

"They need to become his heroes if he has a seizure."

Kylie said Make March Purple was important for shining a light on epilepsy and pushing for more research.

"There are a lot of great causes out there and while every cause is important, this one is particularly close to me because it relates to my family," she said.

"It's extremely important that we continue to raise awareness and support research into the development of new and innovative treatments and of cause strive to discover a cure.

"Research has done so much for epilepsy. There are implantable devices, changes in medication and treatment options that weren't available 10 or 20 years ago. Without research, we wouldn't have had those breakthroughs, but it has to keep going."

Jack is meeting all milestones.

"He's not at all compromised," Kylie said.

"Epilepsy is like his superpower. There have been times when Jack has had a seizure, and we have had to consider if it was caused by the activity he was engaged in or if the timing of the seizure was unfortunate such as falling from height off a slide.

"He is the youngest of four and a real go-getter. He's a kid you want to wrap in cotton wool, but he is also the kid won't let you and he loves to push beyond all physical boundaries to take risks. He just goes off like a bull at a gate on the next adventure. He's not at all risk adverse."

Close shave for a cause at St Joseph's Primary

WITH his Canadian cousin impacted by leukaemia, St Joseph's Korumburra Primary School student Oscar Olsen decided to sacrifice his hair for the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave, his mate Joe Tripodi joining in, and the pair underwent a transformation on Wednesday morning.

By that stage they had already raised a combined \$3330 towards blood cancer research, having commenced with the aim of generating \$1000 to the cause.

The boys had an excited audience of fellow students, staff and relatives as they were transformed.

Oscar's cousin is 12-years-old, the same age as him, with blood cancer tending to strike young people.

It's the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australian children.

"Every day 53 people are told they have blood cancer and 16 people lose their life," the Leukaemia Foundation states.

The now close-cropped Oscar put extensive work into creating his mullet, something that began as a joke in 2020 during the pandemic, with his cousin Krystal Condoluci acting as his hairdresser and helping the style evolve.

It was only fitting that she



Jacqui Nobile tends to Joe Tripodi while Krystal Condoluci gives Oscar Olsen a close shave. A03_1424

took charge of the clippers on Wednesday following a team effort to remove Oscar's longer locks.

"I've given him the mullet all these years so it's my turn to cut it off," Krystal declared.

"I had to teach him what a mullet was to begin with, then he just fell in love with it, and we've made it as feral

as possible."

As well as the fundraising aspect of their efforts, Oscar and Joe's sacrificed hair will serve a couple of purposes.

Longer locks go towards the creation of wigs for those suffering hair loss due to cancer treatment, while shorter hair will be used in mats to soak up oil spills.

Oscar's dad, James Olsen, spoke of his son's decision to shed the hair he has kept lush and well-maintained.

"To know he's cutting it off for such an important cause makes me very proud," James said as the close shave continued.

Earlier, just before the cutting began, Oscar's grandmother Jean Olsen was philosophical about the impending loss of his mullet.

"It's all part of life," she said.

"I commend him for his effort to raise the money for somebody in great need."

Following his transformation, Oscar seemed perfectly satisfied with his new appearance, delighted to help people get through leukaemia by contributing to research and the development of wigs.

While Joe elected not to have so much taken off, he too sported a greatly altered and innovative look and was equally proud to have helped.

"I feel good because I've donated hair and I've raised money," he said.

The World's Greatest Shave continues to be an iconic fundraising campaign, bringing Australian schools together to champion a good cause for over 25 years.

Visit bit.ly/3PCDRaw to donate to Oscar's World's Greatest Shave page.

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Donate and help other children like Milly



Mackenzie jumped out of the car at Bass McDonalds to put money into Joan Kerr's tin for the Royal Childrens Hospital. ob10_1424



Allan and Joan Kerr from Kernot CFA are experiencing their first year shaking the tins for the Good Friday Appeal. ob12_1424



Judi Coles from Corinella CFA with Casper contribute to the collection for the Royal Children's Hospital at Bass McDonalds. ob13_1424



Bianca and Autumn shake their tins and do their bit at Bass McDonalds drive thru. ob14_1424



Ken Opitz of Kilcunda CFA has been rattling the tin for about six years and receives a generous donation from Endy on Friday morning. ob16_1424

"MILLY was having seizures throughout the day and at night, so that's why we had to have the surgery. It was our only option because the medication wasn't working anymore."

In September last year Milly Wagenaar was just four-months-old when she started having seizures at night.

After having an MRI, Milly was diagnosed with epilepsy and a brain lesion which was causing her to have the seizures and part of the epilepsy.

At the worst point, Milly was having up to 70 seizures a day, while in hospital, which were eventually able to be controlled with medication and the family took their baby home.

But then in December, a few days before Christmas, the seizures started again.

Neurologists referred the family to the Royal Children's Hospital, because by then, the only way to control the seizures was through surgery.

Milly's first Christmas was spent in hospital where she underwent another MRI and a PET scan in preparation for the surgery, and then went home to await a date for the operation.

Last week, on Wednesday March 26, and coinciding with Purple Day, which is a day observed to raise awareness and promote understanding of epilepsy, Milly successfully underwent surgery.



Amy and Milly Wagenaar from Wonthaggi in Royal Childrens Hospital following Milly's operation to remove a brain lesion which was contributing to epileptic seizures.

"They managed to get a lot of the brain lesion out and remove all that tissue, but the lesion was connected to her right arm and leg movements. We think that she's probably going to have a permanent disability from that because at the moment she's not moving her right arm and leg at all," explained Amy Wagenaar, Milly's Mum.

The ten month old had been awake after the operation, was in a stable

condition and was interacting with her mum.

Milly also got to face time her older brother, five-year-old Rory, who was the only one in the family able to raise a smile out of Milly, to everyone's delight.

It will be a few more days before the swelling on Milly's brain goes down and a full assessment of her condition can be made, and rehabilitation will likely follow.

Amy is full of praise for the

work of the neurology team, including the doctors, nurses and cleaning staff who have been available, helpful and responsive around the clock for Milly and Amy.

"It's a little bit sad because she spent her first Christmas in hospital and now she's spent her first Easter in hospital, but she's in the best place possible," Amy said.

Milly's brother, grandparents, parents and great aunt celebrated Easter and Amy's birthday on Good Friday with cake and a play in the sandpit in the hospital.

Amy said she is grateful for all the support they've received from family, friends and St. Joseph's School in Wonthaggi, where Rory attends, as well as all the money donated to the Good Friday Appeal.

"Until you're in this situation, you don't realise exactly what the appeal means and where that money goes, but the support you get from all the hospital staff is just unbelievable, and you feel like you owe them so much because they just help you, unconditionally," said Amy.

"If we didn't have this hospital and this medical team for Milly, we don't know where we'd be right now. She looks healthy, but she's not well and just to have the support of this place; even if you just give one dollar, it goes a long, long way."

New approach but another good outcome for Tommy

TOMMY Brown's friendly manner and commitment to raising funds for the Royal Children's Hospital again proved a successful combination, with the popular Korumburra local raising \$4000 this year.

Known for raffling off a wheelbarrow of goods for the cause, Tommy took a new approach, running meat raffles in the weeks leading up to Good Friday, followed by an Easter Egg raffle drawn on the day.

"We've done that so we didn't have to keep hitting businesses for donations," Tommy said, explaining the meat trays and easter eggs were purchased, with profits from ticket sales going to the Good Friday Appeal.

The Easter Egg winners were drawn at The Middle

Hotel in Korumburra on Good Friday evening.

Tommy was busy throughout the day encouraging people to buy tickets, something they were more than happy to do.

He thanked Middle Hotel publican 'Fish' for his ongoing support for Tommy's fundraising efforts, also acknowledging that of the local supermarket.

"Ben Fisher, he's not only been my best backstop, he's been my righthand man and I'd be lost without him and the hotel, and the IGA," Tommy declared, having again sold tickets at both businesses.

As always, Tommy is appreciative of the generosity of those who entered the raffles and made donations towards the Good Friday appeal.



Tommy Brown displays the first prize in his Easter Egg raffle. A35_1424

Leongatha Fire Brigade supports Good Friday Appeal

WHILE Good Friday is a sacred day for Christians, in Victoria it is also a special occasion due to the crucial funds raised for the Royal Children's Hospital, and now also regional paediatric health services, with plenty of opportunities around South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires to contribute to the cause.

Sentinel-Times caught up with Leongatha Fire Brigade's Louise Black and Nathan Hawkins on Friday morning as they collected donations for the Good Friday Appeal.

Louise, previously with Benalla Fire Brigade, has long been part of the fundraising effort on Good Fridays, this

being her second time collecting in Leongatha.

Having young grandchildren, she is confident that should they need the Royal Children's Hospital they will be in good hands.

"We need to support a hospital that cares for our young kids," Louise said.

Nathan echoed that sentiment.

"It's a good cause to help sick children in need," he said.

While Louise expressed concern about the fact many people no longer carry cash, donations began to flow in during the short time this scribe was present.



Leongatha Fire Brigade member Louise Black collects for the Good Friday Appeal. A07_1424



The Fish Creek and District volunteers were out in force on Friday raising funds for the Royal Children's Hospital.

Over \$229,633 raised for Royal Children's Hospital

THE cost-of-living crisis is biting, but there's no denying the Royal Children's Hospital annual Good Friday Appeal always brings out the best. From the volunteers who donate hours rattling tins to the organisers who put in many hours behind the scenes to pull off incredible events and then there are those who donate – it's a team effort, and this year was no different.

This year over \$229,633 has been raised in South Gippsland and Bass Coast including:

- \$54,000 and counting in San Remo
- \$23,459.95 by the South Gippsland Fire Brigades Group including Fish Creek, Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay, Walkerville and Waratah Bay

- \$40,700 in Wonthaggi
- \$35,717 in Korumburra
- \$31,903 on Phillip Island
- \$12,561 in Inverloch
- \$8660 in Poowong/Loch/Nyora
- \$2716 in Kilcunda
- \$1452.15 by Corinella and Grantville-Kernot Fire Brigade members at Bass
- \$1600 in Leongatha
- \$1009 in Boolarra
- \$1923 in Cape Paterson
- \$13,932 in Mirboo North

And funds are still rising as donations continue to be counted in some locations.

Phillip Island Fire Brigade members were out in force on Friday as members and volunteers raised a total of \$10,940.40 for the Good Friday Appeal.

Inverloch Fire Brigade raised

over \$5000 in cash with online donations still being tallied, whilst Kilcunda Fire Brigade raised \$2716, Corinella Fire Brigade \$1452.15 and Leongatha Fire Brigade approximately \$1600.

Korumburra raised a little over \$35,000 thanks to the Austral Hotel and The Middle Pub Korumburra's auctions, Tommy Brown's raffles, cardboard collections and tins around town.

The San Remo community raised over \$54,000 on Friday with the final count still rising as Jim's Bait and Tackle count the final pennies from their Easter Fishing competition (finished Monday).

San Remo CFA raised \$18,043 exceeding last year's total of \$17,194, whilst Bean'd

Café raised \$500 with \$1 donated from every beverage purchased.

San Remo Hotel-Motel and San Remo Discount shops were also part of the action raising the difference through raffles, Walk for the Kids and a silent auction.

"Bob Andrews has done an incredible job organising a lot of this event," CFA member Sarah explained noting the hard-working volunteers who also gave up time on Friday and in advance to pull off the successful fundraiser for the Royal Children's Hospital.

South Gippsland Fire Brigades Group were also amongst the mix out and about with co-ordinator Jan thanking all the volunteers for their help and those who donated.



Jimmy Kyle auctions Bomber Zach Merrett's signed jumper. A33_1424



Sarah Davies and daughter Savannah look forward to the Korumburra auction to raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital. A32_1424

Another big fundraising day in Korumburra

THE GENEROSITY of bidders and the local businesses that donated auction items, combined with the selling skills of SEJ auctioneer Jimmy Kyle made for another successful Good Friday afternoon at the Middle Korumburra Hotel, raising about \$5,000.

Over 40 lots were sold, with a signed print of Carlton footy star Charlie Curnow fetching the spectacular price of \$710.

When the VB pack came up for grabs, auctioneer Jimmy made it clear it wasn't his favourite beer.

"We may as well tip that stuff straight down the drain," he declared shortly before the pack fetched an impressive \$160 for the cause.

Easter hampers, footy boots signed by Western Bulldog Cody Weightman, nights away in San Remo and Thornton, chicken feed, lawn seed, and artworks were among the diverse offerings.

An Essendon footy jumper signed by current Bombers skipper Zach Merrett fetched \$300.

Young local Savannah Maskell was a reminder of the importance of the day, sporting a t-shirt with the simple message, 'I love RCH'.

"She spent quite a bit of time in there when she was a bit younger," her mum Sarah Davies said, adding that the family was at the Royal Children's Hospital last Good Friday when Savannah had her tonsils removed.

Sarah spoke of the importance of the Good Friday Appeal.

"It's huge; it's such an incredible place and the staff and volunteers are great and caring," she said.

Other locals Bec and Steph Wylie and Jacquie Snooks love an auction and came to support the Good Friday Appeal, with the large gathering showing plenty of people felt the same.

Attendees enjoyed live music in the lead up to the auction, including an engaging performance from 'Fatty'.

'Bluey' paid a visit, her popularity with the kids remaining strong, and children also enjoyed colouring in during what was a fun day for all.



Rhyce, Kyle and Wayne were out and about on Good Friday rattling the tins for a good cause.



Phillip Island CFA members and volunteers back at the counting booth.



The Smith family who were collecting in Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay.

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

Why every dollar counts at budget time

AN interesting post and lively discussion on social media over the weekend about the condition of the bridges on Olsen's Walk and the need for constant work to keep the Korumburra Botanic Park in the state we'd all like to see highlights an important and timely point.

At this time of the year our local councils are applying the finishing touches to their annual budgets, and while they like to highlight the works and services that are included, they don't often produce a list of projects, programs and community requests that can't go ahead for lack of funding.

It's a list we'd like to see.

Certainly, the community of Korumburra would like more funding for the Korumburra Botanic Park, but through the 'Friends' group they've accepted that there's only a certain amount of funding available.

It highlights the fact that every dollar counts where councils are concerned and why areas of waste, and overspending must be ruthlessly stamped out.

At the February meeting of the Bass Coast Shire Council, local resident, Mal Pinkerton, asked a pertinent question about 'Operational Efficiency Improvement Targets' and frankly did not get the proper response from council.

"What are the council's operational efficiency improvements targets for 2024?" he wanted to know. "Please provide a list."

Turns out council doesn't have a target for efficiency. It should. So should South Gippsland Shire.

"Council does not have formal efficiency targets. Council is required to keep growth contained within the rate cap and notes that in recent years the rate cap has been well below CPI, imposing a significant efficiency factor," said Council in response.

It completely misses the point of the question to be talking about the rate cap and limited funding, accept to acknowledge that a level of efficiency is being forced on the council rather than planned for and embraced.

The fact is that priorities change and areas of spending, including but not limited to employee costs, expected to balloon out to \$37 million at Bass Coast next financial year, must be reviewed and justified in minute detail every year... because every dollar counts.

We know this because the annual rounds of community grants at both shires, which closed in the past few days, are always heavily oversubscribed with requests for great community projects, like the bridges on Olsen's Walk.

Our councillors need to make an artform of questioning the funding priorities in their annual budgets, and also probing areas of waste and possible improvement.

And in the case of Bass Coast, they should be demanding detailed performance reports, separately, on both the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre and Berninneit centre, if they are to acknowledge that every dollar counts.

Vox Pop

What are you most looking forward to during the school holidays?



Priscilla Ting

"I'm in high school now, it's a big change. I like the holidays because I get to spend time with my family, and just relax, let go and have fun."



Zeke Boyd Metselaar

"Being able to do whatever I want and watch as much TV as I want."



Mila Lowe

"I want to go to the beach and to the park."



Leni Lowe

"I like going to the park and going to watch the footy."

Thank you to all assisting with storm recovery

TIME and time again I am reminded just how lucky I am to be the local MP for a community as outstanding as Gippsland South.

The recent storms and prolonged power outages upended the lives of many, particularly within the community of Mirboo North. And while the recovery is still far from over for many, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a role in the recovery efforts.

There have been many unsung heroes in the midst of this disaster, but it would be remiss of me if I did not single out all those contributing selfless efforts through the community volunteer coordination hub initially at the Mirboo North RSL and now at the Men's Shed.

Unfortunately, there will no doubt be more support needed over coming months. If you are in a position to assist financially, the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (www.gerf.org.au) is accepting donations to enable it to provide financial assistance to those impacted by the storm. Donations can be made online or at any NAB branch.

On behalf of all those affected and to everyone who has played their part, I say very sincerely, thank you for your efforts.

Danny O'Brien MP, Member for Gippsland South

Excessive clearing at Tarwin Lower Cemetery

I HAVE been visiting Tarwin Lower cemetery over decades as it is a "local flora/fauna gem" including a huge diversity of orchids and a precious wildlife corridor.

When I visited on Monday, February 26 I was horrified to find a huge area of the understorey had been totally removed by a bulldozer - similar to the clear-felling practices of Vic Forests until recently.

On further enquiry I understand that this has been implemented by the Cemetery Trust for removal of weedy wattles.

Surely this could be done more sensitively with employment of arborists and selective removal. Future weed management could include the removal of wattles/pittosporum and blackberries at an earlier stage in their growth.

During past visits I have sighted koalas, echidnas, wombats, wallabies, kangaroos, a multitude of reptiles, insects and bees as well as an abundance of birds. I can provide a list.

I enjoy the flora immensely and look forward to seeing the seasonal changes on each visit. As you will be well aware these remnant bush lands provide huge benefits for local farmers. They preserve massive carbon stores.

This brutal removal of entire understorey

along with the weedy wattles has destroyed precious habitat, released much carbon into the atmosphere and as I understand from numerous scientific papers - it has rendered this area more susceptible to fire.

While the trust manages this public land well as a cemetery, there is no interest in its unique irreplaceable value from a flora and fauna /wildlife corridor perspective and a less destructive and heavy handed approach to the wattle/weed problem, has not been considered or implemented.

Dr Alicia Polakiewicz MBBS

Focusing on the ratepayers

I REFER to Michael Giles "Comment" in (March 19) Sentinel Times.

Under Clare Le Serve we have a vast improvement since the last mayor resigned. Finally, we can ask questions and we have a bit of transparency. Finally, we have less federal political issues, less climate change, less reconciliation and less virtue signalling.

Congratulations also to CEO Greg Box for getting out of the ivory tower and unlike his predecessor actually going out and speaking to ratepayers in this shire.

What we want is more on "roads, rates and rubbish" and all the things council should concentrate on. Of course we want a more centrist council that, as Michael Giles describes it, has "families, services, transparency and value for money at its core". If you can actually find the money ... and I wish you good luck with that now that this State is broke.

And yes, we should have had a \$5 million revamped arts centre with an aquatic centre on Phillip Island as long promised, but unfortunately large egos took over this thought process.

Are we happy - no! But this is what we voted for - at least some of you did.

Time for a reset, rethink and a change.

Rob Parsons, The Gurdies

Senior finals cricket should be played on turf

THE 2023/2024 season has ended, and I could not believe that the Leongatha Cricket Association allowed the B grade finals to be played on synthetic wickets when a turf wicket was available.

During the season, B grade games are played on both surfaces. Cricketers would jump at the opportunity to play on turf anytime. A semi-final game I watched, was played on a synthetic wicket when a short distance down the road, a turf wicket was available. The weather was perfect all the week. Both teams had a mix of junior players in the teams. It was the perfect opportunity for those juniors to gain experience on

a turf wicket for their development. Especially a final. All other cricket associations in the Gippsland region would not hesitate to play all games on turf. In fact, most of the senior clubs in Gippsland have turf wickets.

Furthermore, Country Week Cricket and inter zone cricket are played on turf. Hence it makes sense that cricket should be played on turf at every given opportunity.

Fred Debono, Inverloch

Thank you to our local heroes

REPRESENTATIVES from AusNet, SES, CFA, the State Government and Cr Geoff Ellis and others met with locals at the Community Recovery Meeting at the Grantville Hall on March 22.

They deserved the heroes' welcome and grateful thanks of the community that locals gave the CFA after they saved Grantville and surrounds in the bushfires of January-February 2019. Thankfully, though belatedly, towards the end of the evening, locals did show their unanimous appreciation through sustained applause.

However, for much of the meeting, the emphasis was on sharing problems, grievances and suggested solutions.

Though AusNet and Telstra were widely criticised, most people appreciated what those on the ground did to get things back to normal as soon as possible. Without AusNet and Telstra workers and emergency services doing their best and working long hours in dangerous conditions in a situation on an unprecedented scale, things could have been far worse.

Some people seemed to have unrealistic expectations of emergency workers, such as those in the SES. They seemed to mistakenly think they were Government workers, not volunteers.

It was concerning to learn of a legally blind woman living alone having no power and no way of communicating for the five days her power was off. Another person had serious food poisoning and couldn't get help, and one resident was found dead in their house.

Some residents came up with positive suggestions re: communications, and recommended all residents with special needs should be registered with Council so Red Cross could check on them in future emergencies.

Since the meeting I have heard of one man who rushed to help a neighbour trapped in a car between fallen trees on The Gurdies-Kernot Road. These and other community-spirited people like them, along with our emergency personnel and our community centre personnel who gave great support to locals during the outage, are our local heroes. Thank you.

Meryl & Hartley Tobin, Grantville

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE NEWS



LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

EVERY Wednesday, Leongatha Community House (LCH) is your ride to convenience. Our community bus picks up folks from Leongatha, Korumburra, Koonwarra, Meenyan, Dumbalk, Dollar, and neighbouring areas, making a pit stop in Leongatha for errands, appointments, or a quick coffee fix. Reserve your spot by calling our office at 5662 3962, everyone is welcome, a small fee applies.

Exciting updates are in store for Term 2, and we're thrilled to share a glimpse of what's new:

Friendship Group: Starting April 8 and running the second Monday of every month, join us for camaraderie, laughter, and support as we forge lasting bonds within our community.

Drawing Workshop with Constance Barker: Say goodbye to stick figures and hello to honing your drawing skills. Learn to draw what you see, not what you think you see.

Fun with Photography with Pauline Bridges: Delve into macro, oil and water, night, and Milky Way photography in this theory-based course.

Term 2 isn't just about indoor activities; we've got exciting outings planned with our Community Bus! Join us for visits to the Yarram Murals, Op Shop Tour, Fish Creel Tea Cosy Festival, Dandenong Market and Fountain Gate – keep your eyes peeled for pop-up outings. Plus, in collaboration with Leongatha Men's Shed, we're offering a day trip to Wonthaggi, complete with a lunch stop at Workmens and a tour of the Desalination Plant. For more details, contact us or check our term flyer.

With over 35 programs on offer this term, there's something for everyone at LCH. Drop by to say hello or visit our website for more information. Remember, Leongatha Community House is your house – your ideas are always welcome!

We're currently seeking volunteers eager to make a difference! If you're passionate about serving your community, we'd be thrilled to welcome you aboard. We have positions available from Monday to Friday, including roles such as Gardener, Community Bus Driver, and Administration Support.

Leongatha Community House is a registered mutual obligations provider, meaning your volunteering efforts can fulfil mutual obligations requirements. So why not join us in our mission to support and enrich our community? Get in touch today to learn more about how you can get involved and make a meaningful impact.



16 Bruce Street, Leongatha
PH: (03) 5662 3962
www.leongathacommunityhouse.org.au



Deb Leonard, Tim Mulligan, Ras Lawson, guest speaker Cathy McGowan, Liz Glab and Inge Mitchell.

Insight from Cathy McGowan

CONTINUING the running theme of guest speakers with experience running successful campaigns for independent community representation in Canberra, the Politics in the Pub event hosted by Voices for Monash recently proved to be enlightening and delightful!

Featuring community advocate and former independent MP for Indi, Cathy McGowan AO, as guest speaker sharing stories and details from her two successful campaigns and time in Canberra over the journey to now, where she travels the country connecting with local communities who want better political representation.

A fierce advocate for community representation, the proud 'dairy farmer's daughter' described her journey growing up in the country and how dairy co-ops worked for the farmers and locals rather than concentrating resources and power in Melbourne and Sydney – likening the duopoly in politics between the Lib/Nat coalition and Labor to the supermarket power of Coles and Woolworths.

Community has been

central to her journey across a career in consultancy before politics (where she advocated and organised health service for rural communities struggling to receive care) with those skills transferring to her ability to mobilise a movement for her two successful campaigns and then translating that acumen and organisation to her role as local MP representing the voice of the people in her region.

Host for the evening, Deb Leonard, asked how being an independent is different from being a party member. Cathy explained that as an independent, the community shaped her policies and achievements – from building more mobile phone towers in the many blackspots, to implementing better mental health facilities in rural towns, to improving transport across the electorate. Not constrained by party politics, Cathy, and her successor Helen Haines MP, have been able to focus on issues that are vital to their community.

Cathy advocated for listening to the community via kitchen table

conversations and community engagement, that was the key to building her platform in her first term in Canberra. Voices for Monash are now mirroring this formula for success and are conducting Kitchen Table Conversations and listening events all over the Monash electorate.

Cathy said the community have a vital role to play in achieving better representation; "Only doing the work will community representation come to be" she said.

Deb Leonard said that Voices for Monash are actively working on increasing community engagement and ensuring they are listening to the voices of all communities across the electorate to determine how they want to be represented.

"But we need more of you involved!" says Deb.

"If you're interested in mobilising and have a skill set, resources and networks then please connect with Voices for Monash via our website and social channels".

More information can be found at voicesformonash.org.

VIEW donates koalas to wildlife care shelter

INVERLOCH VIEW Club members recently put their significant handicraft skills to work for the benefit of the local Bunurong Wildlife Care Shelter. By donating handcrafted soft toy koalas to be sold by the centre they hope to raise much needed funds for the care the shelter provides to local wildlife.

The shelter has a dedicated and busy team of volunteers who undertake rescues, work closely with local vets and provide short and long-term care for wildlife. The care they provide aims to restore sick, injured or orphaned wildlife to full health and return them as quickly as possible to the wild.

Bunurong Wildlife Care is a registered charity that relies on public support via donations towards the cost of food and medical treatment for wildlife in their care. Every animal species has its unique dietary and medical needs which can be quite expensive to provide.



Inverloch VIEW Club President Heather (right) and Jess Guzetti pose with some of the toy koalas handed over to raise funds for the shelter.

The Inverloch VIEW club members were excited to use their skills to support such a worthy cause which benefits our local community by helping to maintain the local fauna that makes Inverloch such a wonderful place to live.

If you wish to discover more about the VIEW Club, its connection with the Smith Family and how you can participate in or support the Inverloch club contact Heather on 0412 463344. General information about the

Smith Family and VIEW club is available at view.org.au and thesmithfamily.com.au.

For information on the Bunurong Wildlife Care Shelter or to make donations, go to bunurong-wildlifecare.au.

The shelter also has a range of ethically hand-made plush soft toys (Leckie and friends) or keyrings which may be purchased. Straight forward donations are also welcomed and appreciated.

LIFE Moments



Celebrating a diamond wedding anniversary

ON WEDNESDAY, March 26, Bob and Elsie Olney celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary at Carinya.

The dedicated leisure and wellness team, alongside talented kitchen staff, spared no effort in recreating the magic of their wedding day.

The kitchen team crafted a scrumptious three-tier lemon-flavored cake, reminiscent of Elsie and Bob's original celebration.

Bob is one of Carinya's centenarians and Elsie will be turning 100 in May.

Congratulations on the incredible milestone!

Send your birthday, anniversary or baby photos to news@sgst.com.au

• FAITH FACTOR

A relationship so rich

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

FORGIVENESS is at the heart of the Christian Faith in which Jesus taught us to call God, Father.

We know God is merciful from the example of Jesus and the parable of the prodigal son. How do we reconcile Jesus' words in Mt: 18:6, "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for them if a great millstone were hung around their neck and thrown into the sea", with a loving and forgiving God?

The same Jesus who said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," also said, "when I am lifted up from the earth (i.e. crucified) I will draw all people to myself".

Forgiveness is meant to convey the love, mercy, and goodness of God. Given that Jesus wants people to have an experience of the love of God, to draw them into his family, those who callously sin by misusing forgiveness and mercy as a means to abuse the vulnerable and therefore tarnish the hard-earned image of God, must be especially displeasing to God.

Jesus especially had a message for those who were hard hearted and refused to listen and consider the plight of the suffering in the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

Who will come to believe in God and respond to the commandment to love God with their whole soul, mind, body and strength if by the misuse of mercy and forgiveness the image of a loving God is corrupted and turned on its head?

The answer of course is no one. It is immensely sad that scandal can make it hard to see God as good and loving, sad for the people who are denied a personal and supportive relationship with him. Incredibly sad because this relationship is so rich that millions of Christians have preferred to lose their lives rather than their relationship with Christ.



Annie Smith, the versatile and engaging vocalist, prepares to captivate audiences with her enchanting performance at the upcoming Inverloch Jazz Club event, 'Animated with Annie'.

Animated with Annie at Warrawee

INVERLOCH'S vibrant jazz scene is set to come alive once again as the Inverloch Jazz Club gears up for their next musical extravaganza on April 7. Hosted at the prestigious Warrawee Club on A'Beckett Street, the afternoon promises a fusion of captivating melodies and rhythmic beats. Kicking off at 2pm with the club's Annual General Meeting, attendees will be treated to a special performance titled 'Animated with Annie' following.

Headlining the event is the incomparable Annie Smith, a seasoned vocalist renowned for her versatility and theatrical flair. With an illustrious career spanning many jazz festivals and collaborations with various bands, Smith's vocal prowess has consistently mesmerised audiences.

Joining her onstage are a stellar line-up of jazz virtuosos, each bringing their own unique flair to the performance. Ian Christensen on saxophone, Peter Barker on drums, Geoff Woods on double bass, and Neil Taylor on piano complete the ensemble, promising an afternoon of unparalleled musical brilliance.

This will be another amazing theatrical music event that Annie is well known for.

She will have the crowd in fits of laughter and drowning in waves of their own applause. You really should not miss this great show.

Whether you're a seasoned jazz enthusiast or simply looking for an afternoon of soul-stirring entertainment, "Animated with Annie" is sure to delight music lovers of all ages. Mark your calendars for April 7 and prepare to be swept away.

For further details contact Neville, 0418 398 379. Cost to non-members is \$18.



Matt Smith receives Brendan Lynch Memorial Award

IN A touching ceremony at San Remo CFA, Matt Smith was honoured with the Brendan Lynch memorial award, a testament to his exceptional service to the community. The award, presented last Tuesday evening (March 26), recognises members who exemplify the spirit of dedication and selflessness that Brendan Lynch embodied during his time with the brigade.

Named after the late Brendan Lynch, a beloved former member known for exceeding the call of duty, the award serves as a tribute to his enduring legacy. Matt's commitment to San Remo CFA and his community has made him a deserving recipient of this prestigious honour.

Joined by San Remo CFA Captain, Mark Thiele, and Brendan's wife, Carmie Lynch, San Remo CFA acknowledges Matt Smith's invaluable contributions noting "we are very lucky to have him."

Immerse yourself in new open water swimming book

MELBOURNE bayside photographer, Fiona Basile, has released her latest book, Immerse, a stunning 144-page, hard-covered photographic book celebrating the beauty and joy of an open-water swimming community in Seaford, on the Mornington Peninsula. Though many of the swimmers in the community are local to Seaford, there are a number who come from further afield including Frankston, Mount Eliza, Carrum, and even Doncaster East.

Fiona explains, "When Melbourne was locked down for many months during the 2020/2021 COVID pandemic, locals found solace in the soothing and welcoming waters of the bay, and in the fellowship and friendships that formed during this time. From a handful of people who took up open water swimming during COVID lockdowns, the group has now grown to more than 90 people."

Fiona's own open water swimming journey at Seaford started during the 2021 COVID lockdown. Needing to get out and do something different, she ventured down to Seaford pier at dawn to find a small group of swimmers making their way to the five-knot marker pole off the shore. Given it was winter, and freezing, she thought they were crazy. While standing at the end of the pier, a pod of dolphins swam by the swimmers in close proximity, leaving Fiona and the swimmers feeling



Fiona Basile was welcomed to Inverloch Library last Monday where she spoke of the benefits of open water swimming.

exhilarated.

"Following that amazing experience, I started chatting to the swimmers back on shore and was invited to join them. I went again the next day, and despite the freezing temperatures (it was winter!), I jumped in. And the rest is history!"

As time went by, Fiona started taking photographs while she swam in the water and started learning more about the swimmers' stories. Inspired by the photos and the stories, she embarked on a 'heart project' for 2023, which has been the creation of Immerse – a celebration of a special open water swimming community. Amidst the gorgeous seascapes and open water photographs, the book features 35 inspiring

swimmers who share how open water swimming has improved their health and wellbeing, and zest for life, while fostering a deep sense of community, connection, care, and gratitude.

Fiona has gone on to share these stories in a series of author talks around Melbourne and parts of coastal Victoria, including Port Fairy and most recently, Inverloch. Twenty locals attended the talk last Monday, March 25, hosted by Jess Martin and the team at Inverloch community library. There, Fiona was able to connect with locals, including many members of the Inverloch Icebergs, who engaged in a lively discussion during the QnA session. Many of the Inverloch Icebergs shared of their own stories of community

and connection through open water swimming.

"The Inverloch community were so warm and welcoming and had many of their own beautiful stories to share of open water dipping and how it's been a gift in their lives," said Fiona.

"There is such a strong community bond among the dippers, and I loved connecting with them, and creating some new friendships, too!"

"It was also really special to join the Inverloch Icebergs the following Tuesday morning for an early morning moon-lip dip in the inlet, with a highlight being when the group broke out into a beautiful harmony of song. It really is unique and special being immersed in the open waters, experiencing the beauty of nature, with like-minded people. And no, I don't think about what else is in the water!"

Fiona hopes the reader of Immerse will be inspired to take up her invitation: 'Dive in, immerse yourself in the inky, deep waters and enjoy all that it brings. You never regret a swim, or dip!'

Immerse is a book that has captured the hearts of many and is perfect for anyone who loves swimming, the beauty of nature, and the ocean, and for anyone who values fostering and building community, connection and care (for self, others and the natural world). Copies can be ordered online from Fiona's website at fionabasile.com/immerse.

Searching for dinosaur eggs, not Easter eggs

THE SUN was shining and there wasn't a whisper of a breeze as children and adults searched The Caves beach along the Inverloch coastline for evidence of dinosaurs.

Guiding them on their search was Palaeontologist Mike Cleeland, who works for Bunurong Coast Education and regularly takes groups to show them the wonders of the natural world.

Last Friday the Dinosaur Discovery group were on the hunt for eggs, not the chocolate kind, the elusive dinosaur kind.

Australia is the only continent on which dinosaur eggs have not yet been found, Mike informs the group.

So, they search.

The dinosaur discoverers bring Mike their finds – sandstone, mudstone and conglomerate rocks are among dolerite lava, and some have petrified wood, coal and twigs in them.

Max Webster from Langwarrin finds a rock with dinosaur food in it. Dinosaurs ate conifers and part of one has been fossilised.

Mike commented that people enjoy the Dinosaur Discovery because it has the allure of finding something significant.

The last significant discovery from The Caves site

was a dinosaur tooth with a serrated edge indicating it was carnivorous, and it was found by a year ten school student.

But unfortunately, no dinosaur eggs were found on the day.

Mike shows the group ripple marks in rock sediment which are often found with dinosaur footprints in them.

After leaving the beach the group heads to Wallace Park and are given rocks from Mt Gambier to break up and the group begins chipping away with their hammers.

Excited children showed their finds to Mike, with small fossils protruding from the rocks.

Sea urchin spines and shell fragments were found, with these special pieces able to be kept and taken home by the dinosaur discoverers.

Over the school holidays there are many great activities held by Bunurong Coast Education including, Rockpool Rambles, Wildlife at Night, Estuarine Ecology, Native Plants and Animals, Making Art from Nature and much more.

RIGHT: The hunt was on for the elusive dinosaur egg, and Rune reckons he might've found a couple! ob21_1424



Mike with Max Webster from Langwarrin who found a rock with fossilised conifer in it which would have been food for the dinosaurs. ob20_1424



A Poowong celebration for 150 years

THE POOWONG township's 150th anniversary celebrations will see the town buzzing over the weekend of April 19, 20 and 21, as three days of events, activities and gatherings have been planned.

Poowong was settled in 1874 and 2024 marks the 150th anniversary of the town. The weekend will pay tribute to and celebrate the township, its history and its people.

Many of Poowong's groups have joined forces to plan and contribute to make the weekend fun, vibrant, nostalgic and informative.

"There will be something for everybody," said Jenny Watson, one of the many organisers.

The weekend will kick off and rock on with an Old Time Dance at the Poowong Public Hall on Friday night from 8pm to midnight.

Silhouettes, a five-piece band will keep dancers on their toes. Tea and coffee will be provided and attendees are invited to bring a plate to share. Entry is \$20.

Saturday will see a home game of football and netball played, with Poowong versing old rivalries Nyora, at the Poowong Recreation Reserve.

The Poowong Pioneer Chapel grounds will showcase the towns rich farming and agricultural history with historical agricultural machinery, equipment and vehicles on display, that have strong connections to the people and families of the town.

Inside the Chapel, patrons can read about the history of Poowong and delight in old photographs, relics and items that have lasted throughout time in the Historical Society's display.

Or people can simply enjoy the charming atmosphere of the church itself, the oldest public building in the shire and built from the gum trees that grew in the area; and that is still lined with the original pews and stained glass windows.

Both displays will be open from 10am - 12 noon Saturday and 10am - 3pm Sunday.

The CFA Fire station will be open and the captain will be on hand for a chat, and the library will be open to browse, or check out the tennis club.



Original buildings from early 1900s still stand in Poowong today and 150 years of history will be celebrated in the town in April, with all invited to come along.



Poowong Pub - still the same over a Century later, will join in the fun for the weekend of anniversary celebrations with live band HARPIN On playing on the Sunday afternoon.



Poowong was settled 150 years ago in 1874 and a photo of the township in 1906 This and other historical memorabilia, equipment, machinery and photographs will be on display for the towns 150th anniversary.

Stay satiated with coffee and snacks from the Uniting Churches Mya Mya café, open from 10 - 1pm, or tuck into a burger or snag from the Community Gardeners BBQ and have a chat about growing vegies and all things plant related with the local growers.

Saturday night from 7pm will see the formal celebration of the townships 150th Anniversary held at the Poowong Public Hall, and Poowong community members are all invited to attend.

The celebration will see the launch of Poowong's 150th Anniversary Book, 'Since We Were a Century,' with an additional twenty five years of community highlights, people and events documented and reprinted in the new edition.

The unveiling of two special art works will also take place.

Metal etchings featuring a local scene and a town building will be revealed, and both

will be permanently mounted on the eastern wall of hall.

A special 150th anniversary cake from a local bakery will also be a delicious highlight.

A rolling sequence of historical and town related photos will be shown on a reel in the hall on Saturday night and Sunday, which many locals contributed photos to.

"There's some absolutely amazing photos to have a look at," said Jenny.

Attended are invited to bring their own basket supper or the Lions Club will be cooking up a BBQ and the Danish Bake and Smokehouse will be preparing a feast outside the Hall from 5pm Saturday and for Sunday lunch.

Sunday morning will pay respect to the towns fallen diggers with an RSL flag raising ceremony and laying of the wreaths at the cenotaph built in 1922, in the main street of Poowong at 9.30am.

A combined churches service with morning tea will be held in the Poowong Public Hall from 10am.

The Principal of the Poowong Consolidated School will be holding school tours for those interested from 11.30am - 1.30pm and the kindergarten will be open at the same time.

The CFA will be open from 10am - 2pm with Landcare also set up there for chats and information between 11am - 2pm.

The Community Garden will be open for people to wander through, throughout the day, and the Sports Centre will be open from midday.

The Poowong Hotel will join in the fun with live band "HARPIN On" entertaining crowds from 2pm.

For bookings or enquiries for the Saturday night celebrations contact Jenny Watson on 0407 675 685 or Fay Beverly on 0427 595 955. Tickets are \$10 pp and RSVP Friday April 5.

Friends of Coal Creek embrace special milestone

FRIENDS of Coal Creek (FOCC) president Roger Powell and the organisation's other members are counting down the days until the Saturday April 20 celebration of the attraction's 50th birthday, and they'll be dressing the part in Edwardian era outfits.

"We think that the 50th birthday of Coal Creek needs to be celebrated because it is a major milestone," Roger said.

"When you consider how Coal Creek was put together back in the late sixties, early seventies, the work that was done by community, businesses and council was astronomical and we basically built a village from nothing."

Roger added that roads and infrastructure had to be built with work done primarily by volunteers and with donated money.

He reflected on the historical importance of the park, its buildings and collection of artefacts and the information it houses.

"You can go back in time to somewhere around 130 years ago because that's what the village represents," Roger said.

"I think this is something that should be celebrated, the fact we have got a place of living history, which is pretty rare these days."

FOCC members are excited about the birthday event that will offer a mix of history, musical entertainment and food and drink.

They will parade in the streets, mingle with attendees, and assist staff, having a presence in the Coal Creek buildings, most of which are expected to be open.

The Edwardian era ran between 1901 and 1914, part of the period during which mining occurred at Coal Creek.

There will be a fitting day on April 6 at Coal Creek for those FOCC members who haven't already found their perfect costume for the birthday celebration, with Roger saying others with tickets to the celebration can also come to the fitting session and find an outfit.

Tickets to Coal Creek's 50th Birthday Celebration can be booked online at trybooking.com/1188707 costing \$15 for adults, \$8 for concession card holders and children aged 5-16 years, and \$40 for families of two adults and two children.

There are also options to pre-purchase food boxes.

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Kirkdale, a beautiful five-acre property will be on display over the weekend of April 20-21.

Showcasing the best for Gardivalia

GIPPSLAND is a beautiful place to visit especially in autumn and Gardivalia's festival of gardens are looking forward to showing off West Gippsland at it's finest. So put the dates on your calendar, bring your friends and have a great time as Gardivalia opens on Saturday April 20 and Sunday April 21.

Visit Tall Timbers at Piedmont, a large garden in a natural bush setting with plantings of many exotic trees and shrubs around water features such as a creek, cascade and large ponds. Light refreshments will be on hand by Neerim South CWA and Maranatha International.

Laurie Collins Sculpture Garden in Jindivick has over 60 metal sculptures, among the beds and trees. The home of Red Tree Gallery there will also be demonstrations of plasma cutting of metal.

In Drouin West visit the lovely rural garden of Killara. Cottage style Killara incorporates lots of flowers, roses, proteas, succulents, hydrangeas, camellias, shady trees, lawn and even a vegetable garden. A plant stall, crafts and light refreshments will be on offer with proceeds going to Hayley Morris and her family. Hayley (32) and her young family recently received the heartbreaking news that Hayley has developed stage four metastatic breast cancer. Tragically, there is no cure. It is a matter of making the most of the time they have together as a family and a visit to Killara will go towards the Morris family – Hayley, Wayne, Banjo (4), Lottie (2) and Eden (8 months) in helping relieve the medical

and household bills.

In Copelands Road, Warragul you can walk around Wrens Wood, a five-acre garden with oaks, gums, maples, conifers, roses, buddlejas, rhododendrons, camellias, fruit and nut trees, a vegetable and berry garden, a forest of vines and ferns, and orchids. Flower and plant stalls, a coffee van and pizza van will round out the offerings at Wrens Wood with proceeds going to Abbey Gardens Lifestyle programs.

Tucked away at the end of a long driveway is Jenny's Garden, 35-year-old garden of mixed flowering plants and exotic trees that runs into a sloping acre of mainly native trees creating a small forest for wildlife.

Close by is Stonehaven, an ornamental garden with stone features, beautiful maples, natives, bulbs and roses.

Next door is Kirkdale, a beautiful garden of five acres with 100-year-old trees, large lawn areas and lake built in the 1990s filled with Japanese maples, many oak trees, conifers and natives.

At Trafalgar South is Bellissimi Alberi a delightful garden that will bring all your senses alive. Forest pansies, birches, magnolias and more. Pathways lead to lush flower beds that daffodils, iris, azaleas and roses share. Some plants for sale.

Proudly sponsored by Drouin & District Community Bank Bendigo Branch, Baw Baw Shire Council and Warragul Gazette. Visit gardivalia.com.au for more information.



The lawn area has been gradually disappearing as new gardens have been created over the years in Judy's one acre property.

Two inspirational South Gippy gardens opening for one day

GARDEN lovers are in for a Saturday treat with the chance to visit two delightful private gardens opening in Inverloch, with Open Gardens Victoria on Saturday, April 6. The gardens are each owned by mother and daughter Judy Morcom and Sue Jarvis.

Set just off the Bass Highway as you enter Inverloch from the Wonthaggi end, Judy's Garden is an inspiring owner-designed garden set on one acre. When Judy and Allan Morcom purchased the property 16 years ago, it was little more than a farm paddock with a stand of mature trees at the rear of the property and the headwater of Ayr Creek running at the front in an open drain.

"Originally we planted lawn at the front, but our land is very flat and Inverloch's wet winters made for very soggy lawns," says Judy.

"Now raised gardens occupy this space, with a dry riverbed to drain the area."

The garden is planted with about 80 per cent native plants, selected for the contrasting colour of the foliage, and includes an array of banksias, kangaroo paws, a grass tree, acacias, leptospermums, leucadendrons, and proteas. These plants provide a haven for many native birds, including honeyeaters, wrens, parrots, and the bossy wattle birds. Close to the house, a fishpond is surrounded by a lush fernery.

The productive vegetable garden supplies Judy and Allan with all the veggies they need in spring and summer, and during the winter, snow



Sue enjoys making and collecting garden art and you can find these dotted throughout the garden which adds another level of interest.

peas, onions, garlic, and broccoli keep them going.

Judy enriches her soil with wonderful compost made on the property using horse manure, garden waste, and autumn leaves.

Located just a six-minute drive away at the other end of Inverloch, Sue Jarvis' one-acre garden was just a vacant block 3.5 years ago. The garden is a mix of mostly native plants, with some foliage plants dotted throughout to provide colour and texture.

"I first started planting the sides of the block to create a windbreak and screening from the road," says Sue.

"Then slowly we've formed the gardens one-by-one, using topsoil in some areas to build up and assist with drainage."

Sue is a bird lover, and this young garden has a strong focus on planting native flowering plants for nectar-feeding birds and bushy shrubs for sheltering visiting blue wren families. King parrots have also started frequenting the garden.

A lovely, raised vegetable garden provides fresh veggies all year round, with three round Corten steel herb gardens placed close to the house for easy access. Towards the rear, an apple, apricot, avocado, lemon, mandarin, and orange tree have been planted, along with a kiwi fruit vine tumbling over a handmade support built by Sue. This area has recently been added to with additional raised vegetable garden areas for zucchinis, cucumbers, and pumpkins.

At the rear of the property, Sue and her husband Lochie have transformed an old cubby house into a wonderful hook house and run.

Open Saturday April 6 (only) from 10am to 4.30pm.

Judy's Garden: 9 Nesci Court, Inverloch

Sue's Garden: 33 Estuary View, Inverloch

Tickets: Adults \$10, Students \$6, under 18 free

Tickets available at the gate or via Trybooking

For more information about open gardens and events, visit opengardensvictoria.org.au

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A visual spectacle brush screening blocks out sights you prefer not to see whilst creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. C18_1424

Transform your backyard this weekend

AS warm days linger and daylight savings remains until Sunday, there's ample opportunity to enlist the kids in backyard projects these school holidays; and incorporating screens is a fantastic way to do so.

Backyard screens offer a versatile solution, whether you're seeking windbreakers, privacy from neighbours, or a personal oasis. Strategically installed, they define different zones and block unsightly views.

With Van Steensel Timbers stocking a wide range of quality screening solutions, you don't have to venture far to stock up.

Elevate your outdoor space with stylish metal décor screens, boasting various laser-cut designs that seamlessly blend into any setting, perfect for separating spaces or creating visual spectacles.

New in store, embrace the allure of timber screens, featuring horizontal, herringbone, or diamond patterns, ideal for patio accents or fence embellishments, while also providing coverage to hide utilities without obstructing them completely. The timbers natural red brings out a variety of colours in plants and hedging.

For ultimate privacy, Van Steensel's brush and bamboo screens offer discreet concealment, catering to diverse stylistic preferences.

For a natural and eco-friendly option, consider bamboo screens, offering easy maintenance and seamless blending



A vast array of screens are available at Van Steensel Timbers to transform your backyard oasis over the school holidays. C12_1424

with outdoor surroundings, while brush screens provide a unique texture and appeal, perfect for creating a cosy outdoor area.

Classic lattice screens and fence extensions are also available, perfect for boundary delineation or supporting climbing plants, along with artificial leaf screens.

DIY enthusiasts can unleash their creativity with merbau decking screens, with Van Steensel Timbers offering all necessary materials and guidance – just head in store with measurements of your space.

So where to start this weekend?

- Start by assessing the layout and size of your outdoor area to determine the number and placement of screens needed.
- Choose a material to complement your outdoor aesthetic.
- Incorporate greenery or climbing plants to soften the look and add a touch of nature.
- Enhance the ambiance with outdoor lighting to illuminate the screens and create a cosy atmosphere during evening gatherings.

With everything conveniently available in one place, you can walk in for your screens and leave with plants, tools,

mulch, potting mix, fertiliser, and more.

Van Steensel Timbers, trusted partners for quality timber, hardware, and building materials since 1965, pride themselves on providing for both tradespeople and DIY enthusiasts.

Open seven days a week Monday to Friday 7am - 5pm, Saturday 7am - 12pm and Sunday 9am - 2pm, visit their Grantville store on the corner of Bass Highway and Dalyston-Glen Forbes Road.

Let Van Steensel Timbers be your trusted partner for all your screening and timber needs!



Nesting boxes for wildlife

IT CAN take many decades for a hollow to form in a tree, and hollows provide important havens for native wildlife to shelter, survive and breed.

Landcare members are involved in planting thousands of trees each year, the problem with this is, according to Loch-Nyora Landcare President Malcolm Brown, those volunteers will be dead by the time the hollows form.

"We need to make as many hollows as we can because that's habitat for wildlife. So you can do that to a point, by using nesting boxes," explained Malcolm.

Different species of wildlife often choose a hollow for specific reasons, so nesting boxes come in a variety of shapes and sizes with holes of various diameters to cater to different animals.

One with a tiny hole could cater to a sugar glider, whereas one with a big hole would be good for a brushtail possum and bats will crawl into a box with only has a slit for an opening, and they'll hang upside down and sleep there during the day and then come out at night. Malcolm has organised an information session on nesting boxes as he believes the responsibility has largely fallen to volunteers.

"We can't rely on governments to protect our native wildlife. It's just not going to happen. It's not going to happen in our national parks or through government campaigns and all of those kinds of things," said Malcom.

"Government depends more and more on giving volunteers grants so that the volunteer goes out and does the work for the government."

In an upcoming presentation at the Loch Hall, Wildlife Victoria will speak about nesting boxes, including what they are, where they can be put, how to install them and where to get them.

As well as educating locals on nesting boxes, Wildlife Victoria have templates available for people to build the boxes themselves.

Malcolm is hoping that the local Men's Shed will agree to make the nesting boxes, if people are willing to pay for the timber.

"Then the nesting boxes can go off to people who can make homes for wildlife," said Malcolm. Nesting Boxes for Wildlife will be a free event held at the Loch Hall on Sunday April 7 at 11am.

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Maria Condoluci, and Sarina and Jean Olsen look forward to watching students Oscar Olsen and Joe Tripodi having their mullets cropped for a cause at St Joseph's Primary School in Korumburra. A06_1424



Emily and Marnie proudly displayed their Easter bonnets on Thursday after making them earlier in the day. C01_1424



Michelle and Danny were all smiles for the camera after parading around Connecting 2 Australia's opportunity shop. C02_1424



Lee and Sally were having a great day at Connecting 2 Australia with a wide range of Easter activities taking place. C03_1424



Locals Tony and Michele Dwyer are ready for the OMK auction on Saturday. A27_1424



Locals Laura, Hazel and Julian Stone check out what's on offer at the OMK clearance sale on Saturday. A29_1424



Lucas Dickins, Abbie Vos and Lauren Dickins at the Inverloch Lions Community Market on Easter Sunday.



Brenda Carey and Jasmine Prestidge picked up some berries from the Inverloch Lions Community Market.



Louis and Henry Hardisty explored the Inverloch Lions Community Market on Easter Sunday.

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at World's Greatest Shave, Connecting 2 Australia's Easter bonnet parade, OMK Clearance Sale, Good Friday Appeal auction at Middle Hotel Korumburra, Vietnam Veterans Museum memorabilia donation, Inverloch Lions Community Market and Inverloch Art Show



Jim Dowson, Craig and Carol Cornell from Adelaide, Helen Dowson and Dominic Iervasi from Inverloch, attended the Vietnam Veterans Museum to catch up and celebrate donating new memorabilia to the museum. ob02_1424



Locals James and Frankie Fowles relax before the Good Friday Appeal auction at Korumburra's Middle Hotel. A30_1424



Locals Bec and Steph Wylie and Jacquie Snooks support the Good Friday Appeal at the Middle Hotel Korumburra. A31_1424



Albert Dowson from Wonthaggi served in the 1969 Infantry and Bob Sutton of Inverloch served in the First Battalion between 1968 - 1969, celebrating new memorabilia being given to the museum. ob03_1424



Norm Cairns, Mark 'Jacko' Jackson and Gary Pohlner, Vietnam Veterans who are grateful their stories are being told to the younger generations. ob04_1424



Richard Korff, Mark Jackson and Ken Arnold were pleased to be at the presentation for the Vietnam Vets memorabilia last week. ob05_1424



Jenny Geary and Freya Kitney ventured to the Inverloch Lions Community Market on Easter Sunday.



Inverloch's Inge and Greg McMahon spent Sunday morning admiring the Inverloch Art Show.



CROSSWORD

No. 55 - by 'Johnno2' of Cape Paterson

CRYPTIC CLUES

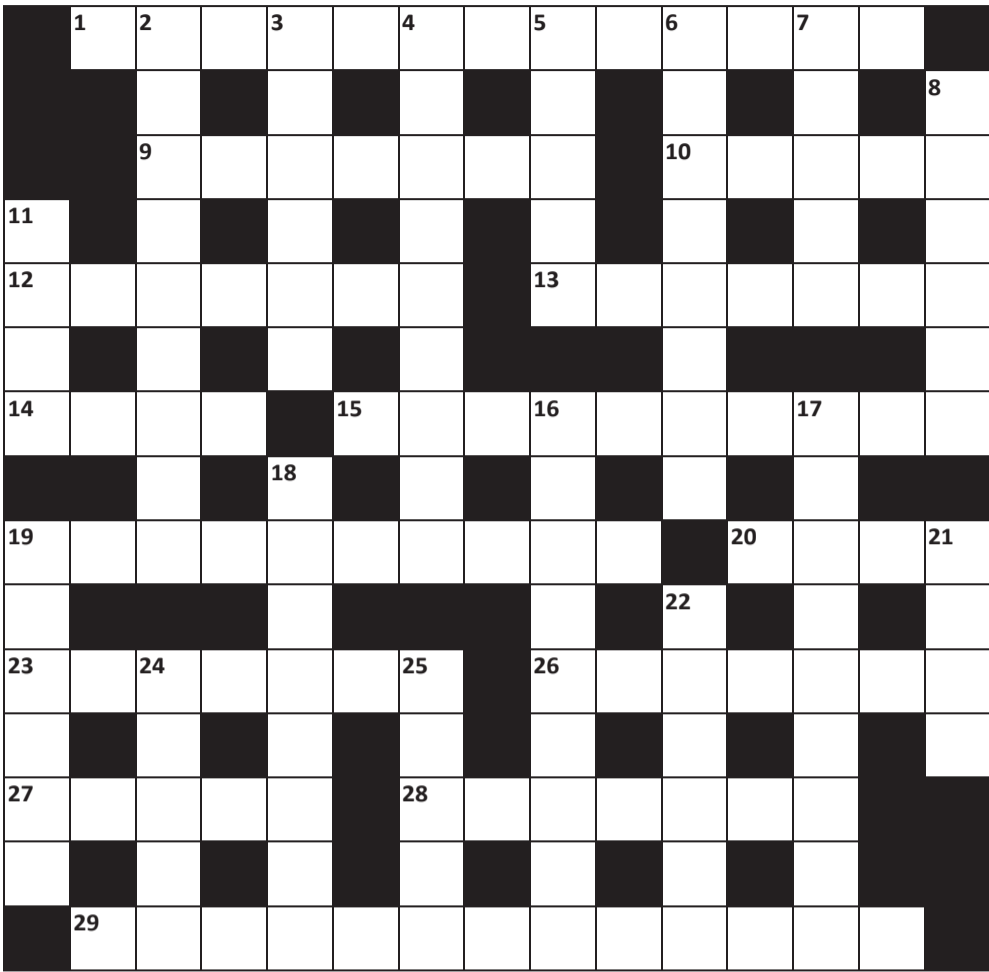
[Note: 17-down's a new word for me, too - though I'm sure that doesn't mean we're in it!]

ACROSS

- 1 Top parliamentarian's choice:
- Joining Left;
- Moving first to oust its leader (5,8)
- 9 Screen a 1-across broadcast (7)
- 10 Up to you:
- Sound;
- Getting number backlit (5)
- 12 Checks ego, hits reset (7)
- 13 A *Time* worker in Los Angeles, from another US city (7)
- 14 Won a 1-across tussle, originally at expense of Cabinet leader (4)
- 15 Reinvention of a 1-across; so appropriate (10)
- 19 Circulates threat tape, say: again? (6,4)
- 20 Rookie taps switch for a 1-across (4)
- 23 A 1-across, flying East-West predominantly (7)
- 26 Delirious question: Exchange gold for tin of water? (7)
- 27 Lessee loses first right to access (5)
- 28 Schedules Silver Top Taxis to drop off the 1st Eleven (7)
- 29 1-acrosses live here over there (7,6)

DOWN

- 2 The Stones? The Granites? (4,5)
- 3 A 1-across, on/off as a car maker once (6)
- 4 Spooner's secondary schoolers botched an eligibility assessment (5,4)
- 5 Grandma called this, too: '*Nina*, not *Ian* - a *girl's* name!' (5)
- 6 Rowing great backs a 1-across (8)
- 7 A 1-across goes 'au naturel' to dine at home (3,2)
- 8 Make happy runs in 'triple-A' season (6)

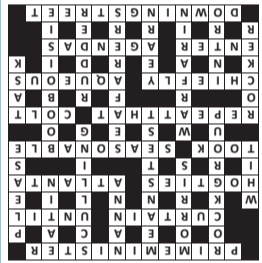


- 11 Bit a 1-across, spitting out naked flame (4)
- 16 Mariners' odds of step-grandma ultimately arousing a 1-across (9)
- 17 Raspberry smell is nice, even for class of clots (9)
- 18 Fighting - well, getting partly into - clots' treatment (8)
- 19 2-down member's chair? (6)
- 21 Enquire after team leader's job (4)
- 22 Heading management facility is a 1-across, with hesitation (6)
- 24 Leading international net telco's retail outlet, opening shortly (5)
- 25 Long attention to 27-across? Yes and no (5)

STRAIGHT CLUES

- 1 Top parliamentarian here, and elsewhere (5,8)
- 9 Screen, drape (7)
- 10 Up to, when as a conjunction (5)
- 12 Checks, binds (7)
- 13 Capital of US's Georgia (7)
- 14 Won, or otherwise appropriated (4)
- 15 Appropriate to the conditions (10)
- 19 Say again? (6,4)
- 20 A rookie, youngster (particularly equine) (4)
- 23 Predominantly, mainly (7)
- 26 Of, or like, water (7)
- 27 Access, go into (5)
- 28 Schedules, to-do lists (7)
- 29 UK 1-across's address (7,6)
- 2 E.g. The Rolling Stones; also, the granites, say, generally and collectively (4,5)
- 3 A former British car maker (6)
- 4 A financial (assistance) eligibility assessment (5,4)
- 5 Another name for a grandma (5)
- 6 A type of rowing (8)
- 7 Dine at home, or inside at least (3,2)
- 8 Make happy, satisfy (6)
- 11 Bit, skerrick (4)
- 16 Mariners (9)
- 17 The class of clots, silly people (9)
- 18 A treatment for blood clots (8)
- 19 A member of e.g. The Rolling Stones; also, a type of chair (6)
- 21 Job (4)
- 22 Boat's facility to control or steer its heading (6)
- 24 Opening (words, music), in short form (5)
- 25 Long, wish (for) (5)

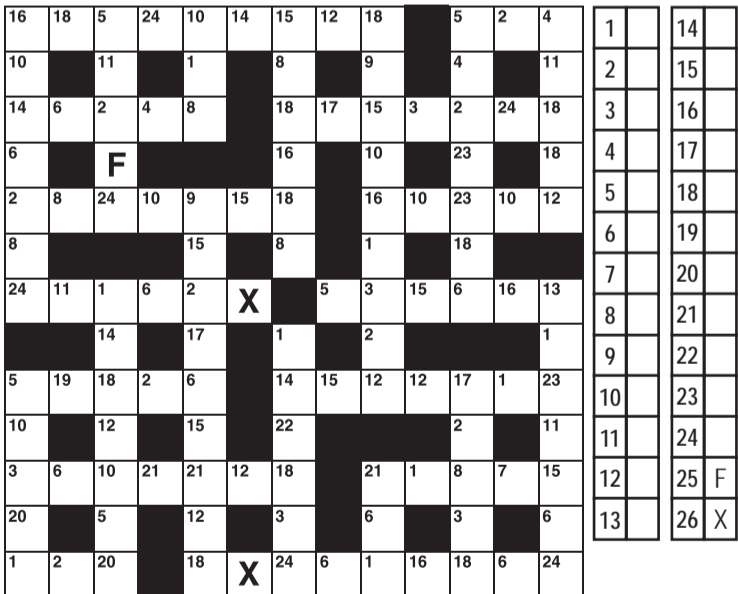
SOLUTION



CODEWORD

No. 171

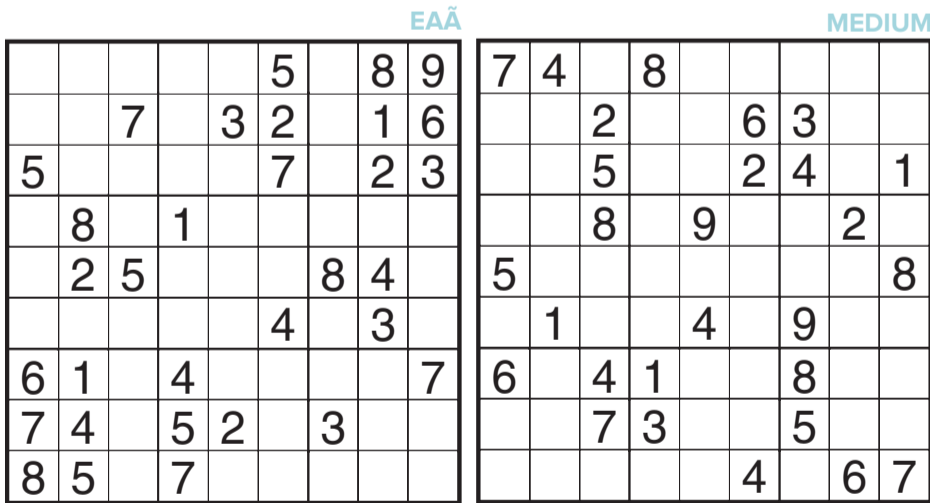
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

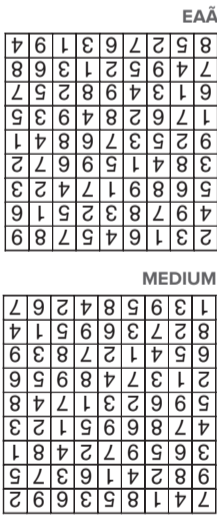
No. 221

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.



2903 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © **pagemasters.**

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

- 1. The process of writing in shorthand is known as what?
- 2. How many petals do geranium flowers usually have?
- 3. Which river runs through the city of Budapest?
- 4. Nicholas Hoult and Teresa Palmer (pictured) starred in which 2013 film based on a novel by Isaac Marion?
- 5. What is an adze?
- 6. Where is the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center located?
- 7. Kevin Bartlett played 18 seasons at which AFL club?
- 8. Who is the protagonist of H. Rider Haggard's 1885 novel *King Solomon's Mines*?
- 9. What number was the last Apollo mission?
- 10. Which part of the lamb is known as the 'fry'?



ANSWERS: 1. Stenography 2. Five 3. Danube 4. *Warm Bodies* 5. An edged woodworking tool, similar to an axe 6. Houston, Texas 7. Richmond Tigers 8. Allan Quatermain 9. Apollo 17 10. Liver

WORD SEARCH

No. 131

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



- ACUPUNCTURE
- AFTERLIFE
- ASIA
- BAMBOO
- BUDDHA
- CHI YOU
- DAOISM
- DRAGON
- GREAT WALL
- HENAN
- JADE
- KAIFENG
- KINGDOM
- KITE
- LACQUER
- LIAO
- LUOYANG
- NANJING
- PANDA
- PORCELAIN
- QIN SHI HUANGDI
- QING
- RICE
- SHANG
- SILK
- TERRACOTTA
- VILLAGE
- XIAN
- YANGTZE RIVER
- YELLOW SEA
- YIN YANG
- ZHONG
- ZHOU

SECRET MESSAGE: Pearls of ancient wisdom



Enhancing farm dams for stock and biodiversity: What difference does a year make?

By South Gippsland Landcare Network

COME and see the changes that have occurred since Jillian Staton and Bruce Whittaker altered their farm dam to restrict stock access for productivity and biodiversity outcomes. We will discuss the results of monitoring to compare the impacts of three different farm management systems (restricted, total stock exclusion and unrestricted access) on:

- water quality
- macroinvertebrate (waterbug) levels
- frogs, wildlife and pest species.
- We will also hear about:
- the role farm dams can play in native fish conservation strategies.
- managing vegetation around farm dams, including azola and phragmites.

Presenters include:

- Jillian Staton: a landholder's perspective
- Ty Matthews (Deakin University) and students Jasper Davis and Balin Branch-Spence
- David Carew (Carew Environmental)
- Matt Bowler (WGCMA)

When: Thursday, April 18, 10.30am – 2.30pm
Lunch included.

Where: Cape Liptrap. Address provided after registration.

Registration essential. Places are limited. More information: cassie@sgln.net.au

Natasha's seed bombs win Sustainable Product of the Year

WONTHAGGI business Native Seed Box has won the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Shows Sustainable Product of the Year 2024.

Natasha Ballard is the founder and owner of Native Seed Box which has been creating seed bombs for the past five years and have been in business since 2021.

The bombs are rolled in the Wonthaggi workshop and are stocked in over 50 stores and posted to customers all over the country.

Seed bombs are clay, soil and seed rolled into a ball that can literally be thrown and grown and are good for urban gardens, hard to reach or wet places or areas where there's slippage.

The micro business was nominated by one of their small stockists and Natasha was both thrilled and shocked to receive the award following the judges unanimous decision.

"I was just really surprised they chose our small product," said Natasha, whose product was up against those from well-seasoned and much bigger companies.

120,000 people attend the prestigious International Flower and Garden Show over the four days and this year's theme was sustainable gardens.

"Everything that we do is 100 per cent sustainable, to the point of, we have solar panels when we run our machine and all our product is home compostable, so you can chuck the whole thing in your compost and it will break down. There's no plastic in any of our products, packaging or postage," explained Natasha.

The business has also recently acquired a seed bomb rolling machine, which is a well-protected, secretive invention and



Natasha Ballard of Native Seed Box from Wonthaggi won the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show Sustainable Product of the Year 2024.

one of only about 12 known machines across the world.

It can produce thousands of balls compared to hand rolling and this means scalability and growth for the business.

"That has been exciting for us because it's going to allow us to move into and explore the possibility of which is really where my heart and passion lies, and that is revegetation are rewilding projects."

"We can actually make a difference, but we're still making a difference in urban gardens. We want people to celebrate natives."

Natasha is also holding seed rolling workshops at schools.

"Educating and spreading the message is an important part of I think it's like a more of a holistic approach to encouraging people to celebrate natives, plant lots of plants, plant lots of flowers for wildlife, for pollinators. It's got to move things in the right direction."

The award is an indication to Natasha that people, communities and industries are starting to turn towards sustainable products, and it's a boon not only for her micro business but for the Australian environment.

"I think it's a win for pollinators. It's a win for native gardens and sustainability and wildlife," said Natasha.

Creating accountability & managing underperformance

April 17 1pm – 2pm (AEST)
Leona Watson,
speaker and coach

JOIN this livestream event to develop accountability within the farm workplace and uncover tips to manage the challenges that arise along the way.

"If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen" takes on a whole new meaning thanks to Leona's insights around leadership, team engagement, culture and resilience.

Leona delivers customised "truth bombs" that pack a punch, challenge, and inspire teams and Managers – to step up and create the workplace and success they aspire to. These human factors drive Leona, to help businesses uncover the 'gold' within their business.

Leona's thought-provoking insights around leadership, team engagement, culture and resilience are a direct result of her unique work and personal experiences, including kayaking with killer whales!

An award-winning entrepreneur, Leona founded Cheeky Food Events, delivering over 2500 customised team and leadership events, before she sold after 17 years. Leona observed the best and worst of leadership and culture, witnessing 85,000 colleagues, striving to have fun and connect on a team and company level.

The lessons Leona shares as a Speaker & Coach, including her own epic failures and wins, are always relatable and challenging.

Head to bit.ly/3VwvKQO to book your free tickets.



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NCFH partners with Udder Delights for farmer health

A NEW specially branded Brie will help to shine the spotlight on farmer health, wellbeing and safety across Australia.

The Double Cream Brie has been developed as part of a new partnership between the National Centre of Farmer Health (NCFH) and Udder Delights.

Each Brie sold will raise 20 cents for the work NCFH does in supporting farmer health, wellbeing and safety and the branding will spread the centre's message across the country.

The cheese features a brief description of the centre and a direct link to the Farmer Health website.

NCFH Director Dr Alison Kennedy said that while the centre had previously worked with corporate partners to deliver farmer health checks, this was a new and exciting style of partnership.

"The fundraising is fantastic, but the branding and expansion of our reach will have a

tremendous impact on our service," she said.

"While we greatly value the funds raised to grow our work to support the health, wellbeing and safety of farmers, we are particularly excited about the opportunity to promote our services and resources to a much broader audience across Australia."

Dr Kennedy said there was no set fundraising goal, but NCFH hoped the relationship with Udder Delights would grow over time.

"These corporate partnerships allow us to reach a larger audience of farmers across Australia and help fund the research, development, delivery and evaluation of our programs nationally," she said.

"We continue to see higher rates of suicide in farming communities and high levels of farm injuries and fatalities on farm so our work to prevent these risks is essential."

One of Udder Delights' farmer suppliers, Rick Gladigau, said farming could be isolat-

ing, which could lead to mental health issues. "It's great to hear that there are organisations out there helping farmers out across Australia. The NCFH need all the help and funding to be able to help the backbone of Australia's fresh food supply."

"I'm pleased that Udder Delights can help to raise awareness and funding towards farmer health, wellbeing and safety and support NCFH's focus on preventing and early identification of risk factors associated with the farming community through research, education and farmer health services," he said.

Udder Delights is a premium dairy company from Lobethal, South Australia, that works with local dairy farmers to create handcrafted, delicious dairy products.

The Double Cream Brie is available in Coles supermarkets and a larger wheel of Triple Cream Brie is also available in independent supermarkets across Australia.



Udder Delights' farmer supplier, Rick Gladigau, is glad people are looking out for farmers.

Handle with care: bobby calf transport requirements

AGRICULTURE Victoria is keen to remind producers of their responsibilities when transporting bobby calves.

Agriculture Victoria conducts regular audits of bobby calves at saleyards, calf scales and abattoirs.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Welfare Compliance Program Manager Veronica Campbell said Agriculture Victoria Authorised Officers still find unfit calves being supplied for transport and sale, and calf trailers that are over-crowded or don't meet the prescribed requirements.

The requirements for transporting bobby calves are detailed within the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock. These standards are

mandatory in Victoria under the Livestock Management Act 2010.

Ms Campbell said everyone along the supply chain is responsible for bobby calves, including sellers, buyers, transporters, scale operators, livestock agents and saleyard and abattoir staff.

Bobby calves that are fit for their intended journey must be healthy and alert. They should weigh at least 23 kilograms, be strong, able to bear weight on all four limbs and able to rise from a lying position. Their hooves should be firm, and their navels dry, wrinkled, withered, and shrivelled.

"If a calf isn't fit to load, appropriate arrangements must be made for its care or treatment. If in doubt, leave it out."

"Bobby calves must be assembled and transported to ensure delivery in less than 18 hours from last feed with no more than 12 hours spent on transport, unless moving between rearing facilities where the journey must be less than six hours."

Calves must be fed, within six hours of loading. Anyone in charge of bobby calves must have a record system that identifies when the calves were last fed prior to transport.

Ms Campbell said calves must be adequately protected from the weather during transport and be kept clean and dry. In practice this means the trailer or crate should have an enclosed front for protection and appropriate bedding or material on the floor of the trailer to reduce the risks of slipping.

"All bobby calves must have sufficient space in the livestock crate to be able to lie down on their sternums during transportation. It should also be remembered, it is an offence in Victoria to use an electric prod on calves, regardless of whether or not the electric prod is working. Anyone who uses or places an electric prod on a bobby calf can be prosecuted."

For further information regarding bobby calf welfare visit the Agriculture Victoria website, call 136 186 or consult with animal health and welfare staff at your local Agriculture Victoria office. Anyone wishing to make a specific complaint regarding livestock welfare can contact Agriculture Victoria at aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au or phone 136 186.

Introducing methane reducing technology into the paddock

NEW research is investigating the potential of a lick-block formula that could help reduce methane emissions from livestock.

This research is part of a collaboration between Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), the University of Sydney and commercial company, Agcotech. The research will provide valuable information for the potential for delivering methane-reducing feed additives to Australian livestock in a wide range of grazing applications.

Prof Luciano Gonzalez at The University of Sydney is part of the research team and he said lick blocks were one potential delivery solution for feed additives, extending the reach of additives from controlled feeding environments such as feedlots to extensive grazing environments such as pasture.

He said early results from a pen trial with young steers saw an average 12 per cent direct abatement of methane, while also allowing bodyweight to increase at 0.78 kg/hd/day on oaten hay.

"We are trying to replicate dry feed conditions with our grazing cattle, as that is where there is significant potential to reduce overall methane emissions for our industry," Prof Gonzalez said.

"We have started on low dose of active ingredients to ensure best animal welfare, with no set back of cattle at this stage of trials."

"Farmers are unlikely to use technology unless it is production focused as a priority. The research goal is to turn that methane into body weight, rather than allow that energy to go to waste."

Charles (Chick) Olsson,

Chair of Agcotech, said he saw an opportunity for Australian red meat to demonstrate its environmental credentials.

"It is a path, our industry has started on, an aspirational goal that has got the whole Australian science community involved with beef and lamb improvements via reductions in methane," Mr Olsson said.

"We plan to slowly introduce new technology that is safe, cost-effective, and mitigates methane emissions for all ruminants. We are currently developing molasses blocks, feed pellets and liquid feed as carriers for our natural range of plant extracts."

CN30 Project Manager, Julia Waite, said in the future, graziers looking to include a supplement with methane reduction benefits should be able to choose from multiple options – both in terms of the active

ingredient and the method of delivery.

"Grazing properties vary in their management regimes and risk appetite – which impacts the kinds of technologies that would be suitable," Ms Waite said.

In addition to productivity and safety trials, MLA is exploring how these additives can reach livestock in extensive systems.

"Across the portfolio we have active trials looking at dosing through the water supply, lick-block through to a more out-there biodegradable bolus," Ms Waite said.

"The advantage of lick-blocks as a delivery mechanism is that the technology is familiar to producers, so there's one less unknown when considering adoption and for many, it may fit in with their existing supplementation regime."

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DEATHS

BROWN, Robert Leslie:

22.11.1946 - 31.03.2024.

Formerly of Kardella.

Passed away peacefully on March 31, 2024, in Bairnsdale.

Loving husband of Norma.

Father to Renee and Daniel.

Grandfather to six.

Grafted forever into the vine.

For Funeral Details please visit our website at www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

GLASGOW, John (Jack):

15.02.1931 - 15.03.2024.

To many, Jack was a character, a loyal, kind and caring man. To me he was a thoughtful and special friend. You will never be forgotten. Happy days fishing for snapper, Jack.

-- Gail.

JACKMAN (nee Muir), Helen:

31.12.1942 - 26.03.2024.

Passed away peacefully at Korumburra, aged 81 years.

Loved by all who knew her.

MICHAEL, Geoff:

Loved uncle of Steve and Deb Lovie, great uncle to Jared and Rae, Nathan and Alicia, great great uncle to Tannah and Jaxon.

Memories to keep of happy times.

It's time to rest peacefully XX

DEATHS

MICHAEL, Geoffrey Alan:

01.11.1945 - 27.03.2024.

Passed away peacefully at Leongatha Hospital.

Dearly loved husband of Joan.

Much loved father of Ashleigh, Rohan, and Paul.

Fond father-in-law of Rachel, Olga (dec.).

Loved pop of Zoe, Colby, and Tahlin.

Fond friend of Taylor and Max.

Fond brother-in-law of Rodney (dec.) and Glenice.

Loved brother to Shirl (dec.), Vida (dec.), Noelle, Bub, and Barry.

Special thanks to doctors and Staff at Woorayl Lodge and the Leongatha Hospital for all their caring attention.

Forever in our hearts.

MULLANEY, Allan:

Passed away peacefully on March 26, 2024, after a short illness.

Loved husband of Shirley (dec.).

Loving dad and father-in-law of Anne-Marie and Michael, Amanda and Paul, Steven and Diane, and Andrew (dec.).

Loved grandpa to all his grandchildren.

Forever in our Hearts.

DEATHS

OPRAY (nee Moore), Natalie Caroline:

05.06.1935 - 21.03.2024.

Passed away peacefully at Carinya Lodge, Korumburra.

Much loved wife of Hugh (dec.).

Loving mother of Ray (dec.), Roy, Gary (dec.), Lois, and Wendy.

Mother-in-law to Ray and Doug.

Proud nan of Margaret, Jessica, Tamara, Ryan, and Elizabeth.

Forever in our Hearts.

SMALL (Scott), Evelyn:

A dear friend of 83 years, travelling companion and a wonderful neighbour to the Studhams.

Evelyn, you made my life richer having you in my life.

With much sadness.

-- Glenda Tessari and family.




VAGUE, Dennis:

Dear Vague family,

On behalf of everyone at the Wonthaggi Cricket Club, we extend our deepest condolences to you during this difficult time. Dennis was a cherished member of our cricket family, and his presence will be profoundly missed. Sincerely, Wonthaggi Cricket Club.

DEATHS



VAGUE, Dennis:

Our College community is devastated by the tragic passing of Dennis Vague whose dedication to our students has extended for over forty years.

Dennis (Vaguey) was not only synonymous with our College, but he was also a most significant community member who was valued for his outstanding ability to connect with all, combined with his exceptional humour.

Dennis was a true and genuine character; we are devastated, and our thoughts are with Gayle, Kara, Ben and their extended family.

WARE (nee Oates), Dorothy Eileen:

Passed away on March 26, 2024.

Loved wife of Jack (dec.).

Loving mother and mother-in-law of Graeme and Marg, Peter and Margaret, David and Tracey.

Loved Nana of Rebekah, James, Leon, Luke, Lauren, Matthew, Harrison, Justin, Mitchell, and Daniel.

Great Nana to George, Verity; Ted, James, Molly; Ben, Anna; and Maxine.

Treasured Memories.

DEATHS



WARE (nee Oates), Dorothy Eileen:

27.11.1931 - 26.03.2024.


Beloved daughter of Jack and Emily Oates (dec.).

Much loved sister and sister-in-law of Harry and Joyce Oates (dec.).

Gwen and Max (dec.) Milnes, Don (dec.), and Janice Oates,

Gladys and Dietmar (dec.) Junge.

Forever in our hearts, now at peace.




FUNERALS

ILLINGWORTH:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs. Audrey Illingworth will be held at the Leongatha RSL, corner Smith Street and Michael Place, Leongatha **TOMORROW**, Thursday, April 4, 2024 commencing 11am.

Private Cremation.




Phone: (03) 5662 2717

JACKMAN:

A Graveside Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs Helen Jackman will be held at the Poowong Cemetery 646 Loch-Poowong Road, Tuesday, April 9, 2024, commencing at 11am.

This service will be livestreamed, to view please visit www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au



Phone: (03) 5662 2717

LESLIE:

A Funeral Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs Doris Leslie, will be held at the Handley Funeral Service Chapel, 24 Anderson Street Leongatha **TODAY, WEDNESDAY** April 3, 2024, commencing at 1pm.

Private Cremation.



Phone: (03) 5662 2717



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FUNERALS

MICHAEL:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr Geoffrey Alan Michael will be held at the Leongatha RSL, crn Smith St. and Michael Place, Leongatha on Tuesday April 9, 2024, commencing 2pm.

This Service will be livestreamed, to view please visit www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

A Burial Service will precede the above Service at the Leongatha Cemetery commencing 1pm.

All welcome.



Phone: (03) 5662 2717

MULLANEY:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Allan Mullaney will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, commencing at 11am.

A Private Cremation will follow.



OPRAY:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs Natalie Caroline Opray will be held at the Korumburra Uniting Church, Bridge Street, Korumburra on Friday April 5, 2024, commencing 11am.

This Service will be livestreamed, to view please visit www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

A Burial Service will precede the above service at the Korumburra Cemetery commencing 10am.

All welcome.




Phone: (03) 5662 2717

WARE:

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Dorothy Ware will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi **NEXT FRIDAY**, April 12, 2024, commencing at 11am.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.



IN MEMORIAM

GAGE, Shirlene Louise:

10.04.1952 - 28.03.2015.

Forever In Our Hearts. Remembered Every Day.

-- Russell and family.

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

PATCHING, Brian:

Brian's family would like to thank everyone who attended Brian's memorial service and for all the cards, and flowers, and all the prayers offered.

Also, the District Nurses who were a great help and the wonderful St Paul's ladies catering team who are great at their work.

-- Helen, Michael, Jude, and family.

PILMORE, Bernie:

Wendy would like to thank all the friends for their cards and friendship, also thanks to the Historical Car Club for allowing Bernie's farewell to be conducted at the shed.

Thank you to the caterers for the food.

Also, thanks to the doctors and nurses at the hospitals where he was cared for.

FOR SALE

FILING CABINETS

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

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Small squares, this season, good quality, \$10 per bale, free delivery. Phone 5657 3291.

GARAGE SALES

LEONGATHA:

Trease Street. No. 8 Craft Sale! No. 21 Handyman Sale! Friday, April 5, Saturday, April 6, Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9. 9am - 3pm.

MEENIYAN:

7 Blackburns Road, Saturday, April 6, 8am.

Plumbing fittings, household items, BBQ, 3-seater couch, CD's and DVD's and other miscellaneous items. ALL CHEAP!

NORTH WONTHAGGI:

11 Wallace Street, Saturday, April 6, 9am onwards.

Antiques, collectables, and man cave items. Total clean out!

GARAGE SALES

WONTHAGGI:

20 Outlook Drive, Saturday, April 6, 8am. Quality goods, bed linen, 2 velvet rocking chairs, and lots more.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Sentinel-Times Classifieds

SITUATIONS VACANT



Bookkeeper (Trainee or Experienced)

Small not-for-profit organisation in Foster is looking for a Bookkeeper to join the friendly team in the office. The position involves supporting the Manager across the different administrative functions of Manna Gum Community House and undertaking a range of weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual tasks associated with Manna Gum's financial management and reporting using MYOB software.

Please send a current resume and cover letter to office@mgch.org.au
Full Position Description available at mannagumcommunityhouse.org.au

Applications close: Friday, April 12



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LIBRARY MANAGER (Campus Librarian)

Full Time, Ongoing Position

Bass Coast College is seeking a suitably qualified Library Manager to join its team.

Role Description is available on the Department of Education's online job advertisement and recruitment management system Recruitment Online.

Applications need to be submitted through Recruitment Online <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/careers/Pages/advacsSCH.aspx>

Applications close:
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

LB1319

PUBLIC NOTICES



CARING FOR SAM'S CHILDREN

Please support the fundraiser for Sam Fraser's children, to help cover the cost of their care and education. To donate, go to gofund.me/b6e777cb, or search gofundme.com for "Caring for Sams Children".

Tarun Farrugia late of 3/55 Peart Street Leongatha, Victoria, deceased.

CREDITORS, next of kin, and others having claims in respect of the estate of the above named deceased, who died on 16 October 2023 are required by the administrators, Susan Lee Shrubshall and James Emmanuel Farrugia, c/- Suite 1, 60 Chapel Street, COWES VIC 3922, to send particulars of their claims to them by the 4th day of June 2024 after which date the administrators may convey or distribute the assets, having regard only to the claims of which they then have notice.

Contact David Luscombe
DAVID LUSCOMBE & ASSOCIATES
PO Box 101
COWES VIC 3922
Ph: 03 5952 2725

LB1321

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.

SITUATIONS VACANT



CLEANING CONTRACT

Tender submissions are invited for the provision of cleaning service to Wonthaggi Primary School, commencing May 1, 2024

Tender documents available from Monday, April 15

Contact Georgina Kibble, Business Manager on 5672 1600 for further information.

HMY1360

Multiple Positions Vacant



Senior Management Accountant, ICT Systems Support Technician, Fleet & Facilities Coordinator, Team Leader Service Delivery, Optimisation and Planning, Asset Management and Planning Manager, Corporate Planning Senior Officer

South Gippsland Water is launching our 2040 Vision and Strategy, guiding us toward our vision to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations. To progress this vision, we are seeking skilled, enthusiastic and community focused people to fill a number of vacancies.

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
- 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.

Senior Management Accountant

- Permanent Part Time or Full Time - Negotiable
- Band 8 - \$102,562.88-\$113,614.61 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

ICT Systems Support Technician

- Permanent Part Time or Full Time - Negotiable
- Band 5 - \$68,593.77-\$77,917.52 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Fleet and Facilities Coordinator

- Permanent Part Time or Full Time - Negotiable
- Band 6 - \$81,081.04 - \$87,400.20 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Team Leader Service Delivery, Optimisation and Planning

- Permanent Part Time or Full Time - Negotiable
- Band 8 - \$102,562.88-\$113,614.61 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Asset Management and Planning Manager

- Permanent Part Time or Full Time - Negotiable
- Senior Executive Officer \$140,395.00-\$150,395.00 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Corporate Planning Senior Officer

- Permanent Part Time or Full Time - Negotiable
- Band 7 - \$89,711.34 - \$99,088.82+ Leave Loading + Superannuation

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply.

Applications Close: Monday April 8, 2024 at 9am

Upcoming Recruitments – Opening in April

- Wastewater Treatment Technologist
- Project Engineer – Electrical Instrumentation and Control
 - Water Treatment Plant Operator
 - Procurement Senior Specialist
 - SCADA Technician
 - Digital & Data Senior Lead
 - ICT Network Security Engineer

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> and follow the instructions to sign up for job alerts.

LB1312

1300 851 636 | www.sgwater.com.au

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Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Sentinel-Times

Employment

Complete jobs listing online | www.sgst.com.au



Personal Carers

Prom Country Aged Care is seeking highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join our team at Prom Country House in Foster, South Gippsland. Prom Country Aged Care is a community-based, not for profit, residential aged care service. We provide ageing in place residential care services as well as short-term respite care for our local community. Our 68-bed home is fully accredited to Government standards.

Prom Country Aged Care pays generous above award wages and offers significant Salary Packaging. Qualified and students currently studying Certificate III in Individual Support are encouraged to apply. Excellent salary available – circa \$59k (pro rata) + super + salary packaging

All enquiries and applications to: Carolyn Little, HR Coordinator
T: 03 5682 0800 E: carolyn.little@promcountryagedcare.com.au

Lifestyle and Leisure Staff

0.6 EFT – 3 days a week (flexible) • 2 positions available

Prom Country Aged Care are seeking 2 staff for the Lifestyle and Leisure team. This is an amazing team of skilled staff who work together to implement recreational activities for residents that promote enjoyment and stimulation and meet their individual leisure and therapy needs. If you are looking for a unique opportunity to support best practice for resident care within their medium-sized aged care residence. We are a community based NFP residential aged care service in beautiful Foster providing ageing in place residential care services as well as short-term respite care for our local community, then this is the job for you.

About the Role:

The Lifestyle and Leisure positions work within the care team supporting the aged care service to embed continuous improvement and best practice within the organisation. These roles have a strong focus on provision of consistently high-quality recreational activities and programs that meet resident needs along with undertaking social, cultural and spiritual assessments for residents. Objectives include compliance to aged care standards and current legislation.

The Benefits:

- Excellent salary available – circa \$61k (pro rata) + super + salary packaging
- Lovely, medium-sized aged care residence
- Beautiful home located in South Gippsland
- Flexibility with work hours
- Career progression - learn aspects of program coordination
- Collaborative & progressive organisational culture
- Diligent & capable clinical care team on site

The Requirements:

- Cert IV Leisure & Lifestyle or Diversional Therapy or equivalent
- Demonstrated experience in planning, delivering and evaluating recreational and rehabilitative programs, preferably in the aged care industry
- Demonstrated excellence in communication and interpersonal skills

This is a truly unique opportunity, so if you have the necessary skills & experience, please contact **Margaret Roach**, Lifestyle & Leisure Coordinator for a confidential discussion and further information on 03 5862 0800 or email: margaret.roach@promcountryagedcare.com.au

Cleaner (Part time)

We are searching for motivated, reliable & enthusiastic individuals to join our cleaning team. This is a varied role ensuring all the cleaning needs of the facility are met, including interaction with residents, families, and staff.

Previous experience preferred, but willing to consider motivated individuals looking for a start. Excellent salary available – circa \$49k (pro rata) + super + salary packaging.

All enquiries for cleaning roles to: Julie Woloschin, Cleaning Services Coordinator
T: 03 5682 0800 M: 0431 172 807 E: julie.woloschin@promcountryagedcare.com.au

LB1316

PUBLIC NOTICES

OPTUS

PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A NEW 5G MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT
435 HESLOP ROAD, NORTH WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

The proposal forms part of the Connecting Victoria Mobile Program (CVMP), which constitutes a State Government effort aimed at improving mobile and broadband connectivity throughout the state. The primary objectives of this program include job creation, bolstering local businesses, and improving connectivity for the residents of Victoria.

1. The proposed mobile base station comprises of one new thirty-five (35) metre monopole with a new triangular headframe atop the monopole, three (3) panel antennas on the new headframe with provision for nine (9) future AAUs, one (1) 600mm parabolic antenna mounted below the headframe, one outdoor cabinet within a new 8.8m x 8.8m fenced compound, and ancillary equipment associated with operation and safety of the facility, including remote radio units, cabling and GPS antenna.
2. Optus requires planning permit for the facility from Bass Coast Shire Council. A Planning Application will be lodged with Council.
3. The proposed infrastructure will comply with the ACMA EME regulatory arrangements. An EME Report and further information can be obtained from www.rfnsa.com.au/3995018/consultation.
4. Optus has appointed CPS Technology & Infrastructure as planning consultants to undertake community notification on their behalf. We welcome your feedback and questions on the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: CPS Technology & Infrastructure, (02) 9300 1700, submissionsVIC@cpstech.com.au or sent to Level 15, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

JEN2326



Jane and Peter Hudson, and Lyne Hodges with the winner of the Blair Art Prize. The grand prize was won by Rhyll artist Jill Rogers.

Art Show inspires

RECORD numbers attended the 36th Inverloch Art Show throughout the Easter long weekend.

All artworks were displayed in the Inverloch Hub, and a function was held to open the show on Friday night.

The winner of the grand prize – the \$2000 Blair Art Prize – was announced on the night.

Rhyll's Jill Rogers was delighted to win with her acrylics piece No Man is an Island.

The prize was named in honour of the late Blair Hodges, who touched the lives with many with his quiet generosity, kindness and community spirit.

"The committee surprised me last year by naming the major prize The Blair," Lyne Hodges said.

"He would be very proud and humbled by the recognition."

Ellen Palmer Hubble received the People's Choice Award for her piece Cow Belle.

"We had a mammoth first day and a steady flow of people throughout the weekend. We feel it was one of our best years yet in terms of attendance," Inverloch Art Auxiliary president Deb Watson said.

"We were up on sales this year. It was

very well supported by the locals and visitors. The quality of the art was just wonderful.

"We'd like to thank our sponsors for their generosity and providing the prizes, it's greatly appreciated."

The art show is a major fundraiser that supports the creation and distribution of food boxes to the community.

The food boxes are put together by Tracee Brusamarello – a member of the Inverloch Art Auxiliary – and the team at Inverloch Foodworks.

These boxes are then distributed through the social workers at Bass Coast Health as demand requires.

This year's art show was a great success with a wonderful array of works including water colours, acrylics, oils, metalwork, ceramics and jewellery.

"What everyone is saying is that its such a diverse range. There are some fabulous big statement pieces that have sold and there really is something for everyone. It's wonderful," Lyne said.

The Inverloch Art Auxiliary was backed by a team of talented and energetic volunteers, who were a fabulous addition to the committee.



Volunteers Sue Hughes, Jackie Moss and Jane Hudson were ready to welcome Inverloch Art Show goers on Easter Sunday.

Green waste recovery to benefit Mirboo North

THE STATE Government is helping to fast-track the clean-up of storm debris in Mirboo North and ensure the benefits of any valuable green waste that's recovered are passed on to the local community.

Emergency services have been on the ground since the storms on Tuesday February 13, removing fallen and hazardous trees, opening roads and supporting the restoration of critical infrastructure.

Now, the huge volumes of debris collected and stored is reaching capacity and action is needed to process it.

Minister for the Environment Steve Dimopoulos announced this week extra facilities will be established to process storm debris and that all proceeds from the sale of any by-products will be invested back into the community.

Emergency Recovery Victoria will establish up to eight new facilities across South Gippsland in partnership with local Councils.

These facilities are expected to process more than 300 tonnes of sawlog, 3000 tonnes of firewood and fine green waste that can make 4000 cubic metres

of mulch.

This work will be coordinated by the Clean-up Recovery Taskforce and ensure nothing goes to waste, with green waste reused and turned into products like firewood and mulch. Any profits generated from the sale of these products will be reinvested in the community through the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation.

The Mirboo North and District Community Foundation is a community run organisation that provides funding for local initiatives and not-for-profit organisations as well as making funds available for community members in need.

DEECA is working with mills and forest contractors to ensure that high value timber and other green waste can be processed locally.

Storm impacted locals can still dispose of their green waste without charge, courtesy of gate fee rebates and the waiving of waste levy fees at local processing sites.

For more information, visit vic.gov.au/recovery-support.

Lights, camera and Scotty's favourite

IT'S been an evolution that has graced our screens since the first episode aired on June 1, 2003, when the first winning team of Adam Thorn and Fiona Mills transformed a rundown apartment complex in Bondi.

Fast-forward twenty-one years, and Channel Nine's The Block is on our own front door as contestants on the reality renovation show transform Island Cove Villas on Justice Road in Cowes.

"It's the 20th season of the block – it's a major milestone for all of us," The Block creator and executive producer, Julian Cress, stated on a sunny Friday morning.

The site was a buzz as television crew, builders and the all-important contestants went about their day – it was bathroom week, and as luck would have it, waterproofing was the topic on everyone's lips.

"We've made over 900 episodes of the show in that time, but this series is particularly meaningful, and we really wanted to celebrate the 20th anniversary by making the show in a great location – we had to really look hard," Julian said.

"Finding a holiday park on an island is something that we've never done before, and I think that will really resonate with Australian families who are fans of the show because Phillip Island is a family holiday destination.

"It has a wonderful community who have really embraced us coming here and everyone on the crew is having a great time."

It's no secret The Block's first location was Daylesford, but as luck would have it, Daylesford's loss could be one of the best series yet.

"(The site) was listed on Domain for sale," Julian exclaimed.

"It was like a revelation to find it because we really were starting to get a bit desperate for where we were going to make the show and suddenly this popped up.

"We thought wow, this is perfect. It's an amazing TV set – probably the best location we've ever had, but equally the end product will be one of the best we've ever produced, and I think these houses will be so aspirational for Aussie families looking for a holiday home. I think it will attract a lot of people who see the show to come down here and have a look.

"Our show is not only going to be watched by Australian families, but it will also be broadcast in 170 territories around the world and translated into many different languages – I think that will be a real boom for tourism as well.

"I was at the penguins last night and it's such a multicultural experience. There are so many different people who come here, and I think The Block can do a lot for Phillip Island's tourism in the future as it rolls out over the next two to three years around the world."

So, if the Grand Prix Circuit and Live Penguin TV during COVID hasn't put Phillip Island on the radar then chances are The Block will.

As for how filming is going.

"The first month of filming –



Phillip Island Nature Park ranger Ben Thomas with Shelley Craft and senior research officer Paula Wasiak during recent filming at the Penguin Parade.

it's been perfect. A great way to get into island life," Julian said.

To stay ahead of the contestants, the framing and roofing is now complete. A huge accomplishment in one week when for one house, half was still non-existent.

Fan favourite from 2022 Tom Calleja can also be spotted amongst the mix on site, continuing with the show as a plumber after wrapping his own season.

"It's always good to be back," Tom smiled.

"I love the community vibe on The Block – it's totally different to last year, and our season. It gets easier and easier for these contestants," he added laughing.

"I haven't been a part of a coastal block, so it will be interesting to see what the contestants bring this year compared to a city or country one. So far, all the bathrooms are pretty different than usual on The Block..."

"The island is really growing on me. I was a bit closed minded at the start, but the longer I stay the more I like it, everyone is lovely. The locals seem pretty welcoming of it all."

As for how being in front of the camera to the side feels.

"It's different. There are no stress levels – I'm not working to the same harsh deadlines, I'm not sleep deprived, I go home to a nice bed each night. But it's still really fun. Being on the other side is awesome, my relationships keep growing with everyone behind the scenes.

"It's a fun workspace and a good environment," Tom added.

"To be honest, understanding that none of it is scripted. It's pretty raw, it's just organised chaos that works."

After a sneak peek inside the first completed room, all this writer will tease is that I'll definitely be tuning in for some inspiring ideas to refresh my own home, particularly when the businesses are on our own doorstep... Hello Tyde...

Local scaffolders, water

proofers and a multitude of trades have been employed whether sub-contracted or employed through Aidan O'Shannessy of Nine In Six, The Block's official builder.

"We've got between 80-150 tradies on site a day, depending on what we are doing," Aidan explained.

"We've got quite a few local trades. A few of the contestants have local chippies, local plasterers, local scaffolders.

"We've employed five to six local people for administrative roles through to labouring.

"It's all going to plan, it's a hell of a lot to do in a small period of time. The setting helps, it's been lovely weather, everybody's in good spirits... It feels like one of the calmer vibes of the show we've had for a while."

But it's not just the businesses, trades and hospitality venues reaping the rewards of the influx of temporarily permanent individuals, those with short term accommodation are also winning, with Nine In Six alone renting 13 to 14 houses around the island.

And as for two of the most important people on the show...

"We are loving island life," Scott Cam beamed.

"And the people of Phillip Island, Millowl as we know from yesterday, are so friendly and nice, everywhere we go people say g'day, hello – it's like I'm on The Truman Show."

"I'm loving it!" Shelley Craft added – a huge smile from ear to ear.

"We got the VIP treatment at the penguins last night and it makes us feel like we've had the Phillip Island experience now, all we need to do is get to the racetrack, do a few of the vineyards..."

"We've been to a beautiful French restaurant – Richard and Ash, they're fantastic. We've making ourselves very much at home."

For Shelley the drive to and from the Island allows her to decompress and ensure a smooth day ahead.

"By the time I get to work I'm

in a joyous mood, ready for a good day, and I think that really reflects in the contestants. The fact we've got this much space to work with – everyone's got their own areas, no one's on top of each other, and there's the island time. The minute they drive out the gate they're not in the hustle and bustle of the city – I think that is keeping everyone a bit calmer this season."

From scones with jam and cream delivered to Scott from his neighbours Fay and Frank to Shelley enjoying a coffee with the owner of the b'n'b she's staying in, locals are making everyone feel at home.

"We're a very close-knit family (the crew), we've worked together for many years, so we're working but it's almost like we're on holidays."

As for how the crew are embracing life outside the Cove.

"I'm really looking forward to taking my kids to (the penguins) – and having them down here. It's such a wonderful experience and to see the facilities, they're breathtaking. It's one of the best run tourist attractions I've ever seen. Amaze n' Things is definitely on the list for the holidays," Julian added.

"My family is coming down in a couple of weeks, so I'm looking forward to taking the kids to see the penguins and kicking Sarah-Jane's arse at mini golf like I always do!" Tom said.

For Scott, he is looking forward to a visit from his wife that will no doubt involve some bike riding, winery visits and going out for lunch and dinner.

And the one thing that continuously came up – the gym! So, no doubt the local gym owners are loving the influx of crew, contestants and tradies that are calling the island home temporarily.

As for the all-important question – what is Scotty's favourite location?

"We've been to twenty locations over the years, and this would be in the top two... It's absolutely magnificent," Scott exclaimed.



Korumburra locals are lamenting how long it is taking to upgrade Olsen's Walk at the Korumburra Botanic Park. Can you help?

Why it's taking time to fix Olsen's Walk

THE state of the bridges on Olsen's Walk at the Korumburra Botanic Park has again been highlighted on social media over the weekend with members of Friends of Korumburra Botanic Park turning the discussion into a call for volunteers to help with maintenance on the park and the walk.

The park has long been established as a project on which the Korumburra community, through the 'Friends', is working closely with council to maintain but more help is needed.

Here's the flavour of the Facebook post:

"I am both sad and angry about how the Council is mismanaging the Korumburra Botanic Park and Olsen's Walk, which I have been informed is actually part of the Park.

"Just as many others believe, I think it is a wonderful asset belonging to the town, beautiful with an amazing ambience. But it has now been 2½ years since the council blocked off Olsen's Walk posting signs which state the walk is temporarily closed. It is becoming apparent the council has reduced the funding allocated to the Botanic Park.

"The mowing of the lawned area now waits until it is knee high. As a result, after the mowing there are large clumps of mowed grass that kill the grass underneath. The dead grass has progressively been replaced by weeds. Today it is covered in weeds.

"Olsen's Walk has been left to become totally overgrown, except for one small loop of the track in front of the picnic area. I used to run into visitors frequently who always had so much praise for the whole Botanic Park. Now, there are no tracks to wander along and long itchy weeds to spread a picnic blanket on."

Korumburra Community Noticeboard administrator Shirley Arestia turned the conversation into a positive.

"Friends of Korumburra Botanic Park are doing an amazing job working with the South Gippsland Shire Council. They volunteer their time and would love the support from other volunteers. Olsen's Walk wasn't a Shire project, it was created by a volunteer who had a vision, who never came to Facebook to brag or complain."

Friends of Korumburra Botanic Park hold regular working bees and events at the 12-acre space it manages with the South Gippsland Shire Council. Follow their Facebook page or make contact with one of the members of the group and make as commitment to helping out.



Keith Hall and Max Crawford at the '74 Ranceby presentation night.



Charlie Ware once took all 10 wickets in an innings.



Russell Hayes played at Kongwak, Woodleigh and Lang Lang.



Barry and Ruth Johns are Life Members of both the Red Hill and Boneo Cricket Clubs.



Woodleigh Kernot Cricket Club premiers in 1974 were, back from left, umpires Daryl Smith and Terry Fisher (sen), Russell Hayes, Graeme Otto, Charlie Ware, Evan Jones, Garry Knox, Tony Ware, Peter Collis, Charlie Ware (sen), John Ware, front from left, Max Crawford, Keith Hall, Cam Crawford (captain), Bill Brook, Barry Johns, Tony Day and Keith Challis.

Remembering Woodleigh Kernot Cricket Club

By Garry Knox

IT'S been fifty years since Woodleigh Kernot won the first of four cricket premierships.

The Woodleigh Kernot team from 50 years ago were recently asked to remember the '74 grand final – remember their roots in a rural community, and where life has taken them over the 50 years since.

The stories were circulated online to players and supporters.

The Woodleigh Kernot Cricket Club (WKCC) virtual reunion started at Christmas and finished last week.

Nearly all players or player's families responded.

Some players are no longer with us, Graeme Otto is in Perth, Max Crawford is 92 with memories of his century at the showgrounds and an umpire revealed a long-held confession.

The reunion became as much a reflection of social history as cricket history.

All of our cricketers came from farming stock, all could reach out and touch the Woodleigh to Kernot Road.

Team bonding was not necessary.

This is a summary of the stories that piqued the interest of Woodleigh and Kernot families past and present over the past 10 weeks.

The first new photo to surface at the virtual reunion was from Keith Hall's daughter Bev.

A great picture of Keith Hall and Max Crawford at the Ranceby presentation night admiring the Ranceby shield and the '74 Premiership certificate.

We think this grand final was Keith's last game before his enthusiasm for life shifted to lawn bowls and numerous aviation adventures.

We were given access to Evan Jones' eulogy.

It captured every aspect of

Woodleigh life fifty years ago.

Keith Challis was not in the team but very much a part of Woodleigh cricket.

"Played cricket to make up the numbers," he said, now living in Main Street, Nyora.

He watches every game of Nyora cricket and football.

Tony Ware remembers losing blood at the crease thanks to a Peter Vick bouncer.

Brother Charlie remembers Tony taking a crucial catch "out in the deep" in that grand final.

Tony remembered playing for Ranceby Association in the Westernport Sunday competition in '74.

Ranceby won it in that year.

Rhonda Day told us that husband Tony very much enjoyed the company of his cricketing teammates.

At Kongwak, he played with Russell Hayes and when they both ended up with dairy farms at Woodleigh and Loch respectively, they reunited in their cricketing whites at Woodleigh Kernot.

Tony led us to a Premiership in '76. Russell was perhaps the best bowler going around at the time.

Both played in all four WK premierships in the seventies and a fifth if you count Leongatha's Lightning Premiership.

The Leongatha Lightning Premiership – an innings consisted of eight six ball overs – was three preliminary matches, a semi final, and a grand final all on the one day.

The annual event attracted more than 20 teams, some from Melbourne.

Russell went on to bigger cricketing things at Lang Lang Cricket Club and now lives near Portland.

Charlie and Tony Ware,

Graeme Otto and Garry Knox were the four teenagers in the team.

Our Captain was Cam Crawford. His enthusiasm back in '74, along with "the four kids," the newly recruited Russell Hayes and Tony Day and the dairy farmers of the day created a winning combination.

One of those dairy farmers was Barry Johns.

He and his wife Ruth came to Kernot to milk cows for Bruce Campbell.

Both are life members at both clubs.

They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year.

Bill Brook gave us the lighter side of Woodleigh Kernot cricket.

He mentioned his regular pre-game whiskey with good mate Evan, swapping a tethered black goat for a white goat in the middle of the night, our visitation to Coal Creek to examine the Woodleigh Railway station, the fundraising strippers in the Jeetho Hall was well organised by Wilbur Collis and raised enough money for a new pitch at Nyora, how the Ashes were created inside and then outside the Loch pub, and the ritualistic fence painting in Loch's main street after a winning grand final.

He even named the alleged culprits.

Bill Brook maintains an extensive collection of clippings from his time playing football at Loch and cricket for WK.

We inserted a few of his favourite clippings in the virtual reunion.

Robert Hughes gave us a piece extolling the virtues of Ranceby cricket.

Rule changes added another 10 years to the life of Ranceby Cricket, but not sufficient to stave off its

demise.

He mentioned the smell of Pennyroyal at the Loch oval, and the pre season job of linseed oil on treasured cricket bats.

"Better to celebrate that we were lucky enough to share the Ranceby experience, rather than mourn its demise," Robert said.

We acknowledged our opposition in that '74 Grand Final.

Poowong's Alex Miller gave us a hint of where his players are now.

Chris Gasgoyne, Graham Edwards, Ken and Bruce Salmon, Tony and Alex Miller, Geoff Ferguson, Peter and Michael Vick, David Ryan, Alan Trigg all played for Poowong. The scores Woodleigh Kernot 181 and 92 defeated Poowong 81 and 105.

The '74 Grand final was played at Hallora.

One of the umpires divulged via the virtual reunion that his well-kept secret for 50 years involved him at the bowlers end at what turned out to be the last over of the grand final.

So intent was he, so engrossed, he very nearly let out an appeal for LBW when a Russell Hayes delivery hit the Poowong batsmen on the pads.

He strangled his appeal and duly gave the batsman out.

WK began its celebrations.

He went on to umpire many subsequent Ranceby grand finals.

Charlie Ware had one of the biggest stories to tell but in true Charlie style he ordered that "this better be brief."

Charlie has the rare honour of once taking all 10 wickets in an innings.

The 16 part WKCC virtual reunion can be found on Facebook on the Kernot Community page.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

WEDNESDAY April 3	THURSDAY April 4	FRIDAY April 5	SATURDAY April 6	SUNDAY April 7	MONDAY April 8	TUESDAY April 9
▼ 12.06am 0.74m	▼ 12.43am 0.79m	▼ 1.26am 0.82m	▼ 2.24am 0.82m	▼ 2.42am 0.78m	▼ 4.09am 0.67m	▼ 5.24am 0.51m
▲ 6.09am 1.40m	▲ 6.49am 1.36m	▲ 7.45am 1.31m	▲ 9.00am 1.28m	▲ 9.35am 1.30m	▲ 11.05am 1.40m	▲ 12.18pm 1.55m
▼ 12.11pm 0.32m	▼ 12.52pm 0.36m	▼ 1.44pm 0.42m	▼ 2.49pm 0.50m	▼ 3.12pm 0.57m	▼ 4.40pm 0.61m	▼ 5.59pm 0.61m
▲ 7.22pm 1.49m	▲ 8.16pm 1.42m	▲ 9.22pm 1.38m	▲ 10.32pm 1.37m	▲ 10.39pm 1.39m	▲ 11.37pm 1.45m	

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

SGB sends strong team to National Championships

THE Gold Coast Aquatic Centre will be the focus of Australian Swimming as the National Swimming Championships heat up next weekend.

Twelve South Gippsland Bass (SGB) swimmers will don the clubs purple national team cap as part of the event, swimming in the Multi Class, Age and Open sections of the Championships.

The MC and Age event runs from April 6 to 14 and the Open event April 17 to 20.

In the lead up to the Olympics in Paris this year, these events are very competitive, and a lot of attention is focused on the swimmers as they search for future Olympians.

Head coach Dylan is proud of his squad.

“To make the National Swimming Championships is a superb effort. For the SGB swimmers, who train in our local pools, it’s nothing short of amazing to be so competitive. We had a good number qualify, as well as a number who were oh so close and were almost here,” he said.

Dylan is looking forward to seeing the swimmers compete.

“They have trained hard and really worked for their inclusion at the event. We have five swimmers competing for the first time and that is pretty exciting for them to be able to come along. I hope they enjoy the experience and at the end of the week are proud of their efforts,” he said.

The SGB team will be coached by Lorri McKenzie, Dylan Muir and Caiden Gill.

The swimmers competing are:

Gemma Cook: 50m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle

Zac Sherar: 100m Breaststroke, Medley Relay. Freestyle Relay

Max Brocklesby: 400m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 200m Freestyle, Medley Relay, Freestyle Relay



South Gippsland Bass' Nationals team features, back from left, Billy Fisher, Cormac Flynn, Hugh Munro, Zac Sherar, Will Simmons, Max Brocklesby, front from left, Dylan Muir coach, Rahni Matheson, Miah Roberts, Claudia Croatto. Absent: Isabella Lynch and Sophie McKenzie.

Cormac Flynn: 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke, Medley Relay

Billy Fisher: 50m Breaststroke, Freestyle Relay

Hugh Munro: 200m Backstroke

Will Simmons: 200m Backstroke, 100m Backstroke, Medley Relay, Freestyle Relay

Miah Roberts: 50m Backstroke, 100m Backstroke, 200m Backstroke, 400m Individual Medley

Claudia Croatto: 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke, 200m Breaststroke

Rahni Matheson: 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke

Isabella Lynch: 100m Breaststroke

Sophie McKenzie: 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke, 200m Breaststroke

Also in attendance will be

former SGB swimmer Olivia Holmes who currently trains with St Peters Western in Queensland but has been back training over the Easter break with her SGB teammates.

Miah Roberts, returning for her second Nationals Championships, is excited to see her swim friends again from other clubs.

“I’m looking forward to competing at such an amazing place and I’m hoping to make the A Final in the 100m Backstroke. I have to try drop a second to do that, but I’m really keen to try,” she said.

Claudia Croatto, who is also returning, is looking forward to improving her placings from last year, where she finished in the top 30.

Claudia, has her birthday

just before the meet, meaning she is one of the youngest in her age group – groups are determined by your age on day one –, however this doesn’t faze her, and she is also hoping to finish top 20 this year.

For first timer Max Brocklesby, it’s a whole new experience.

Max has qualified for three individual events and representing the club in two relays.

He hopes to finish in the top 20 for the 400m Freestyle.

“I think I can do it. Others from our club have done so and I’ve been talking to them and getting tips and I feel fairly confident,” he said.

The events are live streamed on 9Now and many SGB swimmers will be watching their teammates from home.



Debbie Anglim and John French are proud winners of the Summer Pairs Championship. They were awarded the trophy after three weeks of competitions. Congratulations on a most consistent performance over the three rounds.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

MARCH 26: six tables competing at Wonthaggi RSL.

In a tightly fought contest master point winners were: First: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 58.89 per cent. Second: Faye Rowlands and Richard Poole 57.04. Third: Sue Edwards and Ruth Harvey 52.96. Third: Deb Anglim and Denise Allitt 52.96. Fifth: Clive Hope and Lois Dwyer 52.59. Sixth: Mary Brewis and Carol Sowden 51.85.

A reminder of the clubs’ times and venues for play: Tuesday 12.45pm for a 1pm start at Wonthaggi RSL. Thursday 9.15am for a 9.30am start for learners and supervised play. Friday 12.45pm for a 1pm start at Inverloch Angling club.

All most welcome. Further details available on the club’s website South Gippsland Bridge Club.

New grant to boost sustainability in commercial fishing

A NEW grant aimed at reducing emissions in Australia’s commercial fishing sector by 30 percent has been announced by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) in collaboration with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).

Startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are eligible to apply for a competitive grant of up to \$100,000 and projects that demonstrate feasibility, may further apply for a grant of up to \$1 million to develop a proof of concept.

The initiative, known as the Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII), will foster innovative solutions to enhance the energy efficiency of Australia’s commercial fishing sector. This will be achieved through the adoption of renewable energy sources and low-emission technologies, which have the potential to revolutionise Australia’s fishing fleets and related services.

By adopting energy-efficient technologies, the fishing sector can reduce carbon emissions, benefit from cost savings and position itself to capitalise on the growing market for sustainably sourced seafood.

FRDC Managing Director, Dr Patrick Hone, believes there’s a growing market for sustainably sourced seafood and the BRII will help deliver better outcomes for all.

“The cost of doing business is increasing. Innovations to help reduce our carbon emissions, reduce costs and improve our energy and production efficiency will benefit the environment and make Australia’s seafood sector world-leading economically,” Dr Hone said.

Successful applicants will receive funding from DISR and be connected to industry experts and stakeholders by FRDC, to accelerate the implementation of their solutions.

To find out more, including how to apply, visit business.gov.au/BRIL. Applications close 5pm AEST, April 18, 2024.

This program aligns with the Australian Government’s Net Zero commitment and the National Reconstruction Fund’s focus on renewables and low emission technologies.



Business winners, from left, Natasha O'Neill, Jaykob and Steele Turnbull. cTenpin02_1424

Phillip Island Tenpin results

LEAGUE Results:

2s Company: 1st place on 15pts Pinpushers, 2nd place on 11pts Him & Her and 3rd place 10pts Jail.

ABL: 1st place on 75pts Knackers, 2nd place on 72pts Storm and 3rd place on 66pts Kool Kats.

Business finals:

Last week the top four teams from early and late business league went head-to-head and competed in a knockout tournament to see who would be crowned this season’s champions!

Balls Deep (Toby Durdin, Cameron O’Shaughnessy and Geoff Argaet) and New Image Painting (Jaykob, Steele Turnbull and Natasha O’Neill) who originally both came in fourth place were now the last two teams left standing for the

evening.

Balls Deep finished on a total of 588 pins whilst New Image Painting took out the win for the evening finishing on a total pinfall of 595! Only seven pins in front.

Thank you to all out other teams that participated on the evening, we will see everyone next season.

BIG SCORE ALERT

Our highest score ever in the centre has been bowled! On Thursday (March 28) Jason Bence bowled a whopping 277.

Our highest score ever in the 17 years we have been open. A huge congratulations is in order!

Do you think you can beat him? We dare you to come down and try!



Karen Hickson (2), Steve Hickson (S), Elaine Williams (L) and Michael Saunders (3) were this week's South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners.



Runners up were Gerry Didink (S), Robyn Dahl (3), Sonja Grant (L) and Mick Sheers (2) for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group.



The best one game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group were Michael Dady (S), Marites (Mae) Soledad (L), Frank D'Unienville (2) and Laurie Bell (3).



Thelma Kavanagh, Fred Demenech and Helen Rook were Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls' Tuesday winners.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners were Rod Beech and Lyn Tagell.

LEONGATHA

THE match committee was able to entice 16 teams to play in the Monthly Triples event, which was a good effort considering that some bowlers have joined the grey army and started their journey north.

The weather was kind, which enabled bowlers to experience pleasant conditions on the green.

Sponsoring the competition was RMBL Investments, represented by Andre.

The ladies who worked in the kitchen and the bar girl Delma worked tirelessly to provide food and liquid to the bowlers.

The program for the day was two games of 12 ends before lunch and two games of 10 ends after lunch.

Results were tallied on completion of play and the winners were announced and presented with their prize money by the sponsor Andre.

There was no surprise when the winning team was announced being John Newcombe, Peter Forrest and Graeme Cornell from Philip Island with a score of four games + 25.

Newc has had more wins than breakfasts since his team started travelling the long distance from the Island and his acceptance is appreciated.

The second place getter was Ron Symmons, Russell Trotman and Bruce Fidler with a score of four games + 9.

They had their fortune as indicated by the small margin of nine shots.

The third-place prize was collected by Rod Jackson, Stan Holch and Mal Grant with a score of three games + 34.

They cleaned the sheet with 26/0 shot victory in their third game and the losers protested at

having to drop their dacks.

Can you blame them?

The best game prize went to Graham Hoskin, Graeme Watkins and Wendy Watkins from Fish Creek with a score of +10. Hocko and team are regulars, so it was pleasing to present them with a prize.

The Monthly Triples program is now completed for the season and bowlers look forward to next season.

The South Gippsland Homes Triples was held on Saturday, March 23, it was played in the afternoon only, being two games at 10 ends of two bowl triples.

This event was to encourage business/barefoot bowlers and people who were attendees at 'try bowls' to experience the format and the scoring system of normal bowls.

There were 42 players all up with 12 from barefoot and two from try bowls, of these four people filled out membership application forms which will take the total of new members to at least 32 over the period of try bowls and business/barefoot bowls season.

The prize winners on the day were:

First was the team skipped by Sue Symmons with two wins + 15.

Second was the team skipped by Vito Serafino with 2 wins + 13.

Third was the team skipped by Bruce Douglas with 2 wins + 12.

Best game was won by the team skipped by Harry Forrester with + 6.

A practical joker brought laughter to the audience when a new bowler was having difficulty delivering a bowl on the intended bias.

The practical joker had rotated the stickers on the new bowler's bowls consequently the bowl was delivered on the wrong bias.

Who said that lawn bowls can be boring?

Cricketers receive a substantial penalty for tampering with the ball.

Kitty club is on again this Friday night so if you need a good feed at a reasonable price rock up to enjoy the hospitality at the Leongatha Bowls Club.

MIDWEEK

FORTY-EIGHT of the family of bowlers turned up to San Remo to once again fight it out for team of the week.

It was great to see a few new faces included in the 48.

The group looks forward to their continuing attendance at games.

The weather was mild to cool, the wind was little more than a breeze.

Excellence was the order of the day as very few wayward shots were seen anywhere across the greens.

Thanks go to Gwen, Claire and Bobby for setting up in the morning as well as all their efforts in the kitchen cleaning up after all our efforts to mess it up (not on purpose).

Let's not forget Haydn and Mick behind the bar keeping the thirsty members happy.

There was lots of laughter and banter on the green as usual.

It really is such a joy playing with so friendly a group each week.

This week's lucky winners on 34 points were Steven Hickson (S), Michael Saunders (3), Karen Hickson (2) and Elaine Williams (L).

Runners up on a score of 32 were Gerry Didink (S), Robyn Dahl (3), Mick Sheers (2) and Sonja Grant (L).

Best one game winners on a

score of 23 were Michael Dady (S), Laurie Bell (3), Frank D'Unienville (2) and Marites (Mae) Soledad (L).

Great to see Rob jumping in and, not only standing in for John who is still unwell, but also for helping Peter with the teams and the scoring.

Next week, the bowlers will be meeting at Lang Lang to once again fight it out for team of the week.

The group looks forward to seeing the fine attendance figures repeated and hope to see everyone return.

Please be on site by 10am to allow enough time to prepare the teams.

Meanwhile, the group wishes all and sundry a really happy Easter with family and friends.

WONTHAGGI

THINGS are not as busy now that pennant has finished.

Wednesday saw 24 bowlers grace the greens on a fine sunny day with a slight breeze.

The format for the day was three bowl pairs over two games of 12 ends.

The club welcomed Brett a visitor from Kilkivan, in Queensland, who has family in Wonthaggi.

There were two teams that were two game winners with one team were clear winners on the day.

That team was Rod Beech and Lyn Tagell with a score of two wins and 37 points.

The runners up were Aldo Sartori and John Migliorisi with a score of two wins and 31 points.

Thursday saw a good number of bowlers on the greens for social bowls.

Saturday saw 46 bowlers grace the greens on a fine sunny day

with little or no breeze.

The format for the day was Bunny Hop, with all teams playing four games of five ends.

The winners after five ends stayed while the loser moved to their right.

There were two teams that were four game winners, with the winners being a team of three, being Rob Westbrook, Scott Miller and Aldo Sartori with a score of four wins and 22 points.

The runners up, also a team of three, being Merryn Quilford, Wayne Mattock and Michael Raman with a score of four wins and 21 points.

Bowls this week: Wednesday is Turkey Triples Day, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am and Saturday social bowls at 1pm.

Don't forget about the Basket Cabaret on Saturday, April 27, at the clubhouse.

There is a list near the kitchen so put your name down for a table for a good night out with live music.

Have a good week and good bowling.

INDOOR

DUE to the Good Friday holiday, Tuesday was the only competitive day of bowling, with some members having a fun day on Friday.

There were 25 players competing on Tuesday.

The winners had an amazing plus 38, which is a record for the club.

Congratulations to Helen Rook, Phylis Peterson and Fred Demenech on the incredible win.

The runners up on plus 16 were Linda Newman, Thelma Kavanagh and Sylvia Mattock.

Both teams won two games each.

FOSTER

Ladies

WHAT a great roll up for Foster ladies par.

Thank you to Jenny Alexander for sponsoring the day and donating the raffle. Winners were very taken with their beautiful, hand-crafted presentation cards.

A Grade's winner was Barb Warren with + 3. Barb is continuing her good form.

B Grade was won by Kaylene Morris with an impressive +4 on a count back from Elisa Nudelman.

NTP went to K. Deeley on 17th and sixth Rachael Brown.

BDTL went to Suzanne Anderson +4, Kylie Collins +2 and Di Walker square.

The club was pleased to see so many playing on Wednesday, and hope everyone enjoyed the good weather and golf. The nine-hole comp was won by Kate Avery.

Raffle winner was a lucky Suzanne Anderson

Pennant: Section 1 lost to Phillip Island 1 1/2, 3 1/2.

Section 3 won from Korumburra 3/2.

Next week, April 10, is the Anne Williams Foursomes Knockout qualifying round and GV Doris Chambers qualifier.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, March 26. Stableford: 29 players.

A Grade: Barry Kerr (10) 37 points.

B Grade: Doc Dixon (34) 39

NTPs: first Peter Van Agtmaal, 10th Don Hislop and 13th Craig Kerr.

Thursday, March 28: Stableford: 22 players.

Winner: Chris McConnell (18) 36 points. NTPs: first Ross Besley and seventh Ross Besley, and 13th Peter Johnson.

Saturday, March 30: Par: 63 players.

Sponsor: Iain Riddell.

A Grade: Iain Riddell (14) +4.

B Grade: Dale Wyhoon (21) +2.

NTPs: first Ray Ludenia, seventh Mick Belvedere, 10th Barry Kerr and 13th Blake Cosson.

Ladies

LAST Wednesday, Korumburra held its Foursomes Championships and it was wonderful to have 15 pairs competing. Congratulations to the Scratch winners, Kerri Besley and Merrissa Cosson, who won with 94.

Heather Grist and Jenny Blackmore were runners up 97 and next best were Johanna van den Heiligenberg and Julie Hillberg, finishing with 98.

Well done to Heather and Jenny, who won the net event, with 74 net.

Maree Wittingslow and Karen Sorrell were close to be runners up, 75.5, net and Kim Enbom and Dianne Maskell were third with 78.5 net.

The event on Good Friday was enjoyed by the participants with all proceeds from the day's competition and raffle, \$892, donated to the Royal Children's Hospital appeal.

Tanya Wrigley won the women's comp with a great score of 43 points.

Runner up was Karen Sorrell 39 points and Sherrin Solly won a BDTL with 38 points.

NTPs were Sherrin on the 13th and Chris Rickard first.

The men's competition was won by Peter Cosson 40 points and Henry Matser was runner up, 37 points.

BDTL went to Roy Fleming and



Winners of the Ann Debenham Anti Cancer Shield Maryanne Gartner (A Grade), Jo Miles (B Grade) and Cheryl Borg (C Grade) with sponsor Ian Debenham at Leongatha Golf Club.



Korumburra's Foursomes Champions are Merrissa Cosson and Kerri Besley, scratch winners, pictured with net winners Heather Grist and Jenny Blackmore.

Peter Hislop, both 36 points and Peter van Agtmaal and Blayke Spokes, both 35 points. NTP winners were Rooster Dunn first, Jake Wrigley seventh and Murray Webb 10th.

Jake also had an eagle on the 16th.

Thank you to Uncle Bobs, Carol Stiff and the Kings prizes, Alpine Country in Morwell for kindly donating the raffle prizes. The prize winners were first Deb Wrigley, second Karen Sorrell, third Murray Webb, fourth Brian Clasby and fifth Inge Giliam from Woorayl.

There was perfect weather on Saturday for the Par event. Kerri Besley (16) had a terrific score with three up and Gail Beer (31) also had a nice two up to be runner up.

Jennie Loughnan (39) won a BDTL with one down and the only NTP was Lorraine Knox on the 13th.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY 2 Ball Ambrose event: March 26.

Tuesday's 2 Ball Ambrose event had a field of 60 members/guests with excellent scores being a highlight.

Overall winners:

1. Alan Starkey and Chad Clasby with a net score of 61.25.

2. Neale Gillin and Kevin Michael with a net score of 62.

3. Colin Bear and Greg Ellt with a net score of 63.75.

NTP fifth second shot: Paul Kennedy at 3.35m. NTP 14th: Colin Bear at 1.41m. NTP 16th: Dean Kellett at 3.41m.

Thursday Par: March 28.

Thursday's Par round had 69 members/guests enjoying a great day on course, with a 9am shotgun start and players choosing their preferred coloured tee.

A Grade winner: Doug Clemann (14) with a score of +5.

A Grade runner up: Peter Hodder (143) with a score of +3.

B Grade winner: Peter Hartigan (18) with a score of +5 on a countback.

B Grade runner up: Jeffrey Brewer (17) with a score of +5.

C Grade winner: Joe Lowell (21) with a score of +2.

C Grade runner up: Alan Sperling (29) with a score of +1.

Great score by Bert Borg with an eagle on the second hole.

NTP fifth second shot: Ian Barlow at .48m. NTP 14th: Craig Hutchinson at 1.90m. NTP 16th: Craig Hutchinson at 2.67m.

Saturday Stableford: March 30.

This Stableford round off the black tees had an excellent field of 102 members/guests enjoying sublime conditions, with some outstanding scores registered.

A Grade winner: Rod Hopcraft (13) with a score of 46 points.

A Grade runner up: Lee Wilson (7) from the Moe Golf Club with a score of 38 points on a countback.

B Grade winner: Jason Dennerley (15) with a score of 42 points.

B Grade runner up: Darren Read (16) with a score of 39 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Trevor Bowler (20) with a score of 41 points on a countback.

C Grade runner up: John Housley (19) with a score of 41 points.

D Grade winner: Chris Lay (25) with a score of 40 points.

D Grade runner up: Mandy Moyle (31) with a score of 39 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Richard Price at .53m. NTP 14th: Stuart Smith at .98m. NTP 16th: Gerard Glackin at 2.58m.

Ladies

IT was perfect autumn weather for the Ann Debenham Anti Cancer Shield Board event and the 36 competitors.

The annual stall, which is run in conjunction with this event was extremely well supported and raised \$1270 for the Victorian Cancer Council.

The raffle provided each year by Noreen Williams, raised a further \$120. Since the stall and raffle began in 1975 over \$50,000 dollars has been raised.

Thanks must go to the Debenham family for their sponsorship of this event each year.

A particular thank you to the women that gave up their game of golf to organise the stall.

The scores were exceptional given the recent coring.

A Grade was won by Maryanne Gartner (26) with 39 points on a count back from Chris Lay.



The Good Friday charity event at Korumburra for the Royal Children's Hospital appeal was won by Peter Cosson and Tanya Wrigley. Some of the raffle winners present on the day were Deb Wrigley, Karen Sorrell and Murray Webb.



Wonthaggi Golf Club's grade winners were Marg Ryan, Anne Walker and Simone Lindsay.

One of the newer members, Jo Miles (33), won B Grade with 39 points, her first Board event win.

Cheryl Borg (41) was very excited with her C Grade win and the 40 points that she amassed.

Winners of balls down the line were Chris Lay 39, Deb Miller and Joy O'Sullivan 38 and Trish Owen 37 points.

Nearest the pin on the 14th went to Karen Bear, Chris Lay was closest on the 16th and Joc Howson was closest with her second shot on the fifth.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: March 28, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Dio Apostolopoulos 39.

Runner up: Roger Kilpatrick 38.

BDTL to 35. Ball sweep: Bruce

Betts 38, Ian Murrells 37, John

Guest 37, Keith Ridout 35 and

Gino Hennequin 35.

Results: March 28, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front

nine-hole. Winner: Blake Cornelis

20. Runner up: John Davis 18.

BDTL to 17 C/B. Ball sweep: Keith

Ridout 17 and A. Hooton-Shandley

17 C/B.

Results: March 29, Good Friday

Stableford.

Winner: First: Inoke Baudromo

39. Second: Blake Cornelis 38.

Third: Steven Laing 37. BDTL to

34.

Ball sweep: Ian Baker 36, Ashley

Chetland 36, Kevin Bayley 35,

Eric Van Agtmaal 35, Daniel Van

Agtmaal 34 and Michael Craven

34.

Ladies' results: March 29, Good

Friday Stableford.

Winner: First: Simone Lindsay

40. Second: Marg Johnson 36.

Third: Kaylene Hodgetts 35.

BDTL to 33. Ball sweep: Wendy

Cross 34, Catherine Bolding 34

and Wendy Jordan 33.

Results: March 30, S/R 71.

4BBB 18-hole:

Winner: A: Simon O'Halloran

and Sam Dennis 42.B: Blake

Cornelis and Scott Williams 47.

BDTL to 44 C/B.

Ball sweep: Ian McDonald and

Daniel Crellin 46, Ken Cuman

and Miles Foster 45, Willy Wil-

liams and Paul Cornelis 44, Eric

Van Agtmaal and Peter Liddle 44,

Andrew Cox and Grant MacKen-

zie 44 C/B.

Eagle: Sam Dennis seventh.

NTPs: Andrew Hopkins second, Frank Loughran fourth, Greg Sutherland propin eighth, Simon O'Halloran 13th and Miles Foster money hole 17th.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY saw the final of the Board Foursomes between the teams of Lisa Brusamarello and partner Pam Hanley against Irene Walsh and Donna Van Veenendaal.

It was closely fought, and it took to the 19th hole for Irene and Donna to win and become the 2024 Foursomes Champions.

The rest of the field played Par with the grade winners being A Grade Anne Walker (18)-2, B Grade Marg Ryan (27)-1 and C Grade and best score on the day Simone Lindsay (33)+1.

NTP on second was Kay Hodgetts and eighth Jo Farmer.

BDL went to K. Sheerin sq, Chris Hamilton-1, Catherine Bolding, Kaylene Hodgetts and Chris Yann (all -3).

WOORAYL

Ladies

THERE is always a mixed response to Par but 22 ladies were happy to take on the challenge.

Thanks to the sponsor Lyn De'laney for the beautiful cyclamens.

A Grade winner was Pauline Lancaster (23) with +1.

The hottest golfer for the day was B Grade winner Ann Poole (27) with +7.

C Grade winner was Dianne O'Connor (43) who came in with a square.

BDL were Bev Bridge +4, Inge Giliam, Jean Hayes-1 and Lyn De'laney -1.

NTP's were eighth Jenny Riseley, 11th Pauline Lancaster and 17th Dianne O'Connor.

The gobble girls were Jean Hayes, Elly Berryman fourth (birdie/gobbler) and Pauline Lancaster ninth (birdie/gobbler).

A special thankyou to the Easter eggs supplied by some kind members.

Best wishes for a safe and Happy Easter to everyone.



82 participants and volunteers gathered on Easter Saturday for the Grand Ridge Rail Trail Park Run.

Park Run returns at Grand Ridge Rail Trail

EASTER Saturday, after six week's absence, 82 participants and volunteers gathered at the picnic table to support the joyous return of our beloved parkrun.

The sun was shining and the air was fresh - what a beautiful morning for walking, jogging and running!

Well done Natalie Jukes and Susan De Silva for taking the first step. We had 10 visitors from Karkarook, Birdsland, Pakenham, Traralgon, and Inverloch.

Mal Dunn, Shane Archer, Rob and Kerriann Arthurson, Jess Boys, Brian and Allyson Opray, Lachlan Bramley, Lucinda Palmer and Daniella Davis - wonderful to see you join GRRT parkrun.

Hope you enjoyed your visit to this beautiful course and will come back soon.

Alan McKenzie achieved his 50th milestone today with his trusty doggy friend Mia by his side, Alan enjoyed the return of GRRT parkrun.

He has done 49 at GRRT parkrun and one event at Gladstone QLD parkrun. Fourteen people smashed their previous records today. Renee Baddock (1:03:11), Eden Baddock (1:02:54), Harper Baddock (1:02:41), Greg Dell (43:05), Jan Hamilton (37:47), Penny Newman (32:20), Paul and Toby Watson (30:01), Katie Hamilton (29:08), Lisa Worden (28:23), Brylie Hamilton (28:15), Issy Bowden (24:59), Mick Bolding (24:17) and Tim Bowden (21:09). Congratulations and well done on your wonderful efforts.

It was business as usual when RD Jodie thanked volunteers, welcomed visitors and first timers at the briefing until she informed us about the scar of the devastating storm on the trail.

Her voice was emotional and I could feel the pain. I'm grateful that I was warned and mentally prepared. What I noticed most today was a sharp scent from freshly cut trees at first. My olfactory sense was already awakened when I hit that corner. So much light was coming through those branchless trees. Still majestic, tall trees but our beloved green canopy was gone. I needed to breathe in deep to absorb. I felt a tight lump in my throat. I've seen the change through photos; however, nothing prepared me for actually being there amongst

By Etsuko Yasunaga

damaged trees.

Still, I could see the beauty in the changed landscape. Stillness and peacefulness were present. I kept on running, focusing on the sound of my footsteps. As I headed towards the turnaround sign, faster runners were already coming back towards me. Some were seriously focused but many had big smiles on their faces. People were just so happy to be out and exercising again on the trail.

The return of regular parkrun means so much to Mirboo North community. It was indeed such a joyous occasion to be celebrated. The landscape may have changed drastically but the pulsating heartbeat of parkrun is still present in people, in the community spirit. Oh boy, talk about the unbreakable and resilient spirit of community! Mirboo North has shone brightly. On my return uphill run, I accepted the changed scenery as a new reality and I'm now OK with it.

Ever since the devastating storm of February 13, I've been thinking of helping GRRT parkrun. I chose to volunteer today with other Wonthaggi Road Runners because I love the beautiful course and the tight knit community of Mirboo North. It was so lovely to catch up with familiar faces of GRRT parkrun community. I'm so looking forward to visiting here again soon.

Today's event was made possible by 15 dedicated volunteers. Jodie Pincini as run director, Christine Slavin and Andy Chisholm as timekeepers, Anne McDonald handled finish tokens, Miriam Strickland as event day course check and barcode scanner, Stephanie and Henry Collins were tail walkers and Sue Charlton, Renee, Eden and Harper Baddock as parkwalkers, Anne Holland was our photographer and Rongshang (Linda) Zhang sorted finish tokens. Liz Radcliff helped with equipment storage and delivery, and Etsuko Yasunaga as report writer. Our roster is bare so please put your name down on volunteer roster whenever you can. It's really a wonderful way to start your weekend to connect with others because parkrun brings out the best in people and its community.



Jimmy Kyle and Paul Wilson of SEJ with OMK president Russ White. A23_1424

OMK clearance sale rakes in funds for new practice facility

OUTTRIM Moyarra Kongwak Cricket Club's plans for new cricket nets and practice pitches received a major funding injection, with the Diggers' Easter Saturday clearance sale generating about \$20,000, a fifth of the \$100,000 estimated project cost.

With SEJ auctioneer Jimmy 'Hollywood' Kyle exhibiting his usual selling skills and humour, the sale grossed just over \$200,000, the club earning commission towards its cause.

"There were over 100 registered buyers, some from Warrnambool, Ellinbank, Lynbrook, Dandenong, and plenty of local support," OMK's Amy White said.

She added that the whole community will benefit from the new cricket nets.

The club has previously secured \$30,000 towards the project from Cricket Australia and \$10,000 through a South Gippsland Shire Council Community Grant.

The White's silage wagon fetched the most at Saturday's sale, going for \$64,000, making for handy commission for the Diggers.

A large crowd turned out in the sunny conditions.

Some had their eyes on practical farming equipment, while others were drawn to items that were no longer fit for their original purpose but were perfect for parts or a new purpose.

Locals Tony and Michele Dwyer were there before action got underway to check out what was on offer, with Tony



Robert and Alan Holcombe look forward to the clearance sale getting underway at Outtrim Recreation Reserve. A22_1424

interested in an available seed drill, while Michele was captivated by an old spud planting machine that would be ideal for a garden ornament.

Alan Holcombe had his sights on a generator, quad bikes and various small items such as hand tools and was interested to see what price they brought.

Robert Holcombe was taken with farming machinery and equipment, particularly older items, also praising the club's hospitality as he enjoyed his cup of coffee.

Action started with a huge range of odds and ends donated to the fundraising effort.

A 1996 XR200 motorbike was one of the early successes, selling for \$800.

Even an old toilet was sold.

There was a flexible approach taken with lower value items; if one failed to attract attention, a few others were added to the lot to sweeten the deal.

OMK president Russ White expressed his appreciation to those who contributed to a terrific day.

"A big thank you to the boys from SEJ for donating their time, and Elders Korumburra for donating their bookkeeping facilities (for the day to register bidders and keep track of sales)," Russ said.

The contribution of all those providing items for sale and the volunteers who helped in the leadup to the event and on the day was much appreciated.

Darts fly at packed Phillip Island Darts League

THE Phillip Island and Districts Darts League kicked off the Easter week with a bang on Monday night! The darts centre was at capacity with a crowd buzzing for a night of friendly competition.

Four thrilling matches kept spectators on the edge of their seats. The night saw some nail-biting finishes, with games being decided on the very last leg.

A major upset rocked the league as the Dart Vaders defied the odds, defeating the previously undefeated That's

All in a dramatic showdown. Could this be the start of a new challenger emerging?

In other matches, the Jaggers edged out the Riverboys in a close 4-3 contest, while the Vikings and the Breakers secured victories against the Storm (4-3) and the Mustangs (6-1) respectively.

The Vikings currently hold the top spot on the leaderboard, but with several teams hot on their heels, the competition promises to be fierce in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to Kirk, who walked away with the coveted San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle prize, and to Irene, who became the lucky winner of the Easter hamper!

A Note for Easter: Please remember there will be no darts competition next Monday, April 8, to allow everyone to enjoy a safe and happy Easter break.

We look forward to seeing you all back at the oche on Tuesday, April 9, for another exciting night of darts action!

Leongatha Little Athletics Presentation Evening



Under 6 – Henry White (runner-up PB Champion), Jaris Campbell (joint PB Champion), Ethan McKnight (joint PB Champion), Harry Livingstone (joint runner-up Age Champion), Spencer Burns (Age Champion), Amity Hutchinson (Age Champion), Georgie Luykx (PB Champion), Absent: Toanui Hunnam (joint runner-up Age Champion). A09_1424



Under 7 – Mae Matthews (PB Champion), Elise Giliam (Age Champion), Jett Cope (runner-up Age Champion), George Reidy (PB Champion), Patrick O'Malley (Age Champion) and Ted Adams (runner-up Age Champion). A10_1424



Under 8 – Camden Pavia (joint PB Champion), Hunter Moreland (runner-up Age Champion), Roman White (Age Champion), James Prain (runner-up PB Champion), Maverick Hawkins (joint PB Champion), Finn Hutchinson (joint PB Champion), Leila Vagg (runner-up Age Champion), Isla Pavia (runner-up PB Champion) and Pheobe Perczyk (Age Champion). Absent: Harlow Rendon (PB Champion). A11_1424



Under 12 – Che Hawkins (PB Champion), Hudson Beyers (Age Champion), Mackenzie Evans (runner-up PB Champion), Reaghan Van Dillen (runner-up Age Champion) and Isabella Giliam (Age Champion). Absent: Alexis Gostling (PB Champion). A15_1424



Under 9 – Olsen Campbell (PB Champion), Isabelle O'Malley (Age Champion), Zoe Nobile (runner-up Age Champion), Trey Cope (Age Champion), Samuel Christensen (runner-up PB Champion), Hunter McRae (joint PB Champion), Tyler Comer (joint PB Champion) and Edward Howden (runner-up Age Champion). Absent: Elena Gardiner (runner-up PB Champion). A12_1424



Under 15 – Isabelle Egan, Tallarah Murdoch (PB Champion), Ella White (Age Champion), Jacob Bolge (Age Champion) and Manning De Gooyer (PB Champion). A18_1424



Under 10 – Spencer Ozols (joint runner-up Age Champion), Jack Logan (joint runner-up Age Champion), Archie Livingstone (PB Champion), Angus Rowe (runner-up Age Champion), Nathan Moore (Age Champion), Felicity Perczyk (Age Champion), Sienna Anthony (runner-up Age Champion), Absent: Astrid Harris (PB Champion) and Sadie Rendon (runner-up PB Champion). A13_1424



Certificate of Achievement for 2023/24 Season recipients – Manning de Gooyer, Jacob Bolge, Archie Francis, Tallarah Murdoch and Beau Glenn. A21_1424



Under 11 – Jason Jose (runner-up PB Champion), Dylan Fraser (PB Champion), Jake Fraser (runner-up Age Champion), Aiden Cook (Age Champion), Peyton Campbell (joint runner-up PB Champion), Ruby Shields (PB Champion), Arya O'Malley (Age Champion) and Harriet White (runner-up Age Champion). Absent: Rachael Kooloos (joint runner-up PB Champion). A14_1424



Under 16 – Archie Francis (Age Champion) and Heidi Nicholas (Age Champion). Absent: Lexie Francis (PB Champion). A19_1424



Multi-Class – Gemma Cook (PB Champion) and Samantha Heneghan (Age Champion). A20_1424



Under 13 – Tara March (runner-up PB Champion), Amy Stevic (joint PB Champion), Beau Glenn (runner-up Age Champion), Alexandra White (joint PB Champion), Eve Hanson (Age Champion), Tyler Fraser (Age Champion) and Ambrose De Gooyer (PB Champion). A16_1424




Under 14 – Charlotte Evans (Age Champion), Beth McDuffie and Imogen Cruickshank (PB Champion). A17_1424

FOOTY TIPPING


Sentinel-Times


Competition



18

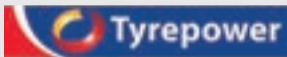
PHIL HARDY
Melbourne
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Carlton
Western Bulldogs
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



Bass Coast **LIGHT ENGINES**
317 White Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4017



16


KRIS BAKER
Melbourne
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Fremantle
Western Bulldogs
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



78-80 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5760



17


KEITH KELLY
EDDIE CHANDLER
Melbourne
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Carlton
Western Bulldogs
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



54 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1311



18


BEN FISHER
Melbourne
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Fremantle
Western Bulldogs
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



81 Commercial Street,
Korumburra
5655 1024



18


ADAM WARE
Adelaide
Brisbane
Essendon
Sydney
Fremantle
Western Bulldogs
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



2/88-98 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
1800 358 131



19


DARRYL MCGANNON
Adelaide
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Carlton
Geelong
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



1 Roughead Street,
Leongatha
5662 2327



15


BRAD HODSON
Adelaide
Brisbane
Essendon
Sydney
Fremantle
Geelong
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



15/17 Murray Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5878



17


DAVID ENGLAND
Adelaide
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Fremantle
Geelong
GWS
St Kilda
Hawthorn
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



119 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1027



18


SHANE COOKE
Adelaide
North Melbourne
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Carlton
Western Bulldogs
Gold Coast Suns
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



Leongatha Toyota
7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5662 2302



17


PETER FORT
Adelaide
Brisbane
Essendon
Sydney
Carlton
Geelong
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



47 Station Street,
Korumburra
0417 332 141



21


HAYDEN POPPE
Adelaide
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Carlton
Western Bulldogs
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6


6/6 Cyclone Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 2543



14

JACK GILCHRIST
JASSY BATROUNEY
Adelaide
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
Sydney
Carlton
Western Bulldogs
GWS
St Kilda
Collingwood
LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2


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LEADERBOARD
AFTER ROUND 3

Carl Lindsay	21
Hayden Poppe	21
Craig & Darren	20
Dylan Clark	20
Aaron Rigby	19
Darryl McGannon	19
Adam Ware	18
Ant Cook	18
Ben Fisher	18
Justin Caporale	18
Phil & Cathal	18
Phil Hardy	18
Shane Cooke	18
Warren Stewart	18
Alex Geyer	17
David England	17
Keith & Eddie	17
Peter Fort	17
Rod O'Neill	17
Kris Baker	16
Brad Hodson	15
Jack & Jassy	14
Steve Curtis	9



18

WARREN STEWART

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Western Bulldogs
- GWS
- St Kilda
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



Wonthaggi Toyota
346 Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi
5632 3503



17

ROD O'NEILL

- Melbourne
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Geelong
- GWS
- St Kilda
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



28 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4770



20

DYLAN CLARK

- Melbourne
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Western Bulldogs
- GWS
- St Kilda
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



1 A'Beckett Street
Inverloch
5674 1432



18

ANT COOK

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Geelong
- GWS
- St Kilda
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



15-19 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5637 3300



21

CARL LINDSAY

- Melbourne
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Geelong
- GWS
- St Kilda
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



145 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1137



17

ALEX GEYER

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Fremantle
- Geelong
- GWS
- Richmond
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



2/5-7 Korumburra Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 5522



9

STEVE CURTIS

- Melbourne
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Geelong
- Gold Coast Suns
- St Kilda
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



16 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
5672 1007



19

AARON RIGBY

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Geelong
- GWS
- St Kilda
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



24 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 5906



20

**CRAIG FARRINGTON
DARREN TILEY**

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Geelong
- GWS
- St Kilda
- Collingwood

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



55-57 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
Darren 0405 603 569
Craig 0415 641 845



18

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Phillip Island's Meika White looks down the court for her next move.



Inverloch-Kongwak wing attack Lily Debono looks to make her next pass in the U17s match against Cora Lynn.



Phillip Island goal shooter Lil Mewett aims for goal in Saturday's B Grade match.

WEST GIPPSLAND

RESULTS

A GRADE
Phillip Island 48 d Warragul Industrials 37
Inverloch-Kongwak 44 d Cora Lynn 34

B GRADE
Phillip Island 41 lt Warragul Industrials 55
Inverloch-Kongwak 54 d Cora Lynn 28

C GRADE
Phillip Island 18 lt Warragul Industrials 23
Inverloch-Kongwak 30 lt Cora Lynn 32

D GRADE
Phillip Island 23 d Warragul Industrials 22
Inverloch-Kongwak 30 d Cora Lynn 26

17 & UNDER
Phillip Island 53 d Warragul Industrials 18
Inverloch-Kongwak 29 d Cora Lynn 26

15 & UNDER
Phillip Island 29 lt Warragul Industrials 42
Inverloch-Kongwak 13 lt Cora Lynn 33

13 & UNDER
Phillip Island 16 lt Warragul Industrials 25
Inverloch-Kongwak 7 lt Cora Lynn 41

11 & UNDER
Phillip Island 24 d Warragul Industrials 11
Inverloch-Kongwak 5 lt Cora Lynn 21

GIPPSLAND

RESULTS

A GRADE
Bairnsdale 34 lt Traralgon 43

B GRADE
Bairnsdale 29 lt Traralgon 50

C GRADE
Bairnsdale 34 lt Traralgon 46

17 & UNDER
Bairnsdale 26 lt Traralgon 47

15 & UNDER
Bairnsdale 39 d Traralgon 24

13 & UNDER
Bairnsdale 17 lt Traralgon 39



Claire McNamara considers her options, as Inverloch-Kongwak takes on Cora Lynn in the U17s.



Phillip Island wing attack Abbey Clarke was under the defensive pressure of Warragul Industrials' Ella McIntosh in Saturday's C Grade match.



Inverloch-Kongwak's Renee Pilkington contests for the rebound with Cora Lynn goal shooter Annabel Sheppard.



Ella Duggan battled to keep the ball in play.



Inverloch-Kongwak's Ella Sadler focuses on the goal ring in during Saturday's A Grade match.



Phillip Island's C Grade goal shooter Katelyn Jones takes a shot.



Inverloch-Kongwak's A Grade wing attack Lanni Pryor looks to move the ball down the court.

Support flows at Surf2Cinq



Hugo and Myles Tehan at the finish line of Surf2Cinq on Easter Saturday.



Callum Campbell, Rai Ducret, Zac Nicol and Kaila Ducret at the Surf2Cinq starting line at Venus Bay.



Angus and Susan Rowe ran in Surf2Cinq at Venus Bay.



Sam and Simone Busija travelled to Venus Bay to be part of Surf2Cinq on Easter Saturday.



AFL eyes on Wonthaggi's Jack Hutchinson

Turns out Wonthaggi Power might not see too much of Jack Hutchinson coming back from Collingwood's VFL side if the raps on his potential follow their present trajectory.

According to AFL Media's Cal Twomey "VFL forward Jack Hutchinson has emerged as an early candidate for the mid-season rookie draft".

In his first two games this season, Hutchinson has kicked three goals, one against Sandringham and two against Brisbane while his former Power teammate Ryan Sparkes has been equally impressive with a blistering 22 disposals first up, 10 kicks and 12 handballs, followed by 18 possessions against Brisbane in a narrow loss.

But it seems to be Hutchinson who has captured the interest of recruiters at this early stage, ahead of the midseason draft at the end of May.

Here's what Twomey had to say on the AFL's news site:

"Hutchinson, a powerful medium forward who attacks the ball and launches at marks, made his debut for the Magpies' VFL side last week. He had previously caught the eye of scouts in the practice matches and kicked a goal from nine disposals against Sandringham in round one.

"The 22-year-old will need to play three state league games to be eligible for the mid-season rookie draft under the AFL rule introduced last year, having played for Wonthaggi last season in the Gippsland League.

"His coach at Wonthaggi was former Magpie Jarryd Blair, who was in attendance at RSEA Park last week for the VFL clash.

"Clubs are watching Hutchinson closely given his exciting traits in the air and presence inside 50 and he is shaping as a clear option for the mid-season draft, which has spawned mature-age success stories such as Jai Newcombe, John Noble and Sam Durham in recent seasons."

In theory, both Sparkes and Hutchinson could line up for the Power in their first-round clash against Warragul at Western Park this Saturday, April 6 before turning out next for Collingwood against Carlton at Ikon Park on Sunday, April 14 at 2.05pm which could be the ideal time for local footy followers to get down and see the local duo play in the black and white.

Those interested can view Hutchinson's first VFL goal by tapping the following link: twitter.com/i/status/1771048506683224194

Local Umpires Shine at Marvel Stadium



SOUTH Gippsland Umpires Association was strongly represented at the Good Friday Auskick game at Marvel Stadium, with Max Carter, Luke Scholz, Zahli Dixon, Zhi Xia McNeil, Georgia Bell, Zack Scholz, Rylan Bell and Michael Dillon its participating umpires.

"Everyone who participated had a fantastic time and it was great to be part of a day that supports a wonderful cause," SGUA Director of Umpiring Gary Scholz said.



FOOTBALL



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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

-- SENIORS --

Phillip Island 17.15.117 d Warragul Industrials 7.12.54

Inverloch-Kongwak 9.11.65 d Cora Lynn 7.14.56

-- RESERVES --

Phillip Island 15.6.96 d Warragul Industrials 6.4.40

Inverloch-Kongwak 10.5.65 d Cora Lynn 8.7.55

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Sea Eagles win first clash of the season



Inverloch-Kongwak's Marcus Toussaint contests the ball against Cora Lynn's William Thomas.

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS			
SENIORS			
Traralgon	16.11.107	d	Bairnsdale 10.12.72
RESERVES			
Bairnsdale	5.11.41	d	Traralgon 5.10.40
THIRDS			
Traralgon	11.6.72	d	Bairnsdale 5.8.38
FOURTHS			
Traralgon	22.12.144	d	Bairnsdale 0.0.0

THIS WEEKEND'S DRAW	
SATURDAY, APRIL 6	
ELLINBANK	ROUND 1
Poowong v Yarragon	
Lang Lang v Trafalgar	
Nilma Darnum v Nyora	
Buln Buln v Neerim South	
Catani v Longwarry	
Ellinbank - BYE	

GIPPSLAND	
ROUND 1	
Bairnsdale v Drouin	
Moe v Morwell	
Warragul v Wonthaggi	
Leongatha v Traralgon	
Maffra v Sale	



Jordan Tomas boots a goal for Inverloch-Kongwak.



Inverloch-Kongwak's Jarvis Harvey tries to reclaim the ball from Cora Lynn's Matthew Briggs.

A COMPETITIVE clash between rivals Inverloch-Kongwak and Cora Lynn opened the 2024 West Gippsland Football Netball Competition season on Easter Sunday.

The Easter Sunday crowd did not disappoint with spectators arriving in droves to see how the reigning premiers would fare against the new recruits in the Cobras' lineup.

It was a tough game and proved to be a challenge for both sides. Inverloch-Kongwak held the play early in the first quarter, but only managed four behinds.

It was young gun Tate Cumming who managed to kick the first goal of the season for the Sea Eagles, getting the ball rolling.

However, Cora Lynn also found some momentum late in the quarter and was up by one point at the siren.

Inverloch-Kongwak composed itself in the second quarter, allowing it to control the play a little more.

The Sea Eagles retained the ball for most of the term and made the most of their opportunities in front of goal.

The defence worked hard to ensure the Cobras could not increase their scoreboard pressure, and the Sea Eagles went into halftime with three goals of breathing room.

Cora Lynn wasn't done, however, and managed to outscore Inverloch-Kongwak in the third quarter.

Scoring opportunities were scarce though, with the defence working overtime at both ends of the ground.

With one quarter left in it, Inverloch-Kongwak still had the lead, but it had diminished to 11 points.

The close clash culminated in the Sea Eagles hanging on to a nine-point win to kick off the season.

Inverloch-Kongwak coach Leigh Cole said the win was a team effort, with great contributions across the board.

"It was a tough contest all round and both sides defended very well. It was great to see the contributions made by the whole team, including some of our new players and younger players – some of which have only played up to five Senior games. We were lucky to hold on to the four points, but it was a good performance," he said.

Inverloch-Kongwak will face Warragul Industrials away on April 13 – another tough side that made an appearance in the 2023 finals series.

The Sea Eagles will take the small opportunity to recuperate after round one, but will ramp up its training ahead of the upcoming clash.



Phillip Island's Aaron Harris looks to break from the pack.

Bulldogs steamroll Dusties with train-like precision

THE annual Easter clash has become a marquee game of the West Gippsland league. It was all set for a massive game with last year's runner up versus last year's fourth placed Warragul.

On a glorious day the Island was on full display with their brand-new surface that resembled a bowling green. North of 3000 people were in attendance to see the season opener that did not disappoint.

Quarter one started with new number one ruckman Daniel Bourke taking on the man mountain Mark Bradley. The return of elite onballers Jaymie Youle and Zac Vernon was on display early in the game with Zac Vernon's speed from contest and Youle courage and attack on the ball. Not to be outdone the sublime skilled Hayden Bruce was breaking lines and delivering the ball inside 50 at will. Youle finally broke through with a classy snap from 40 metres out. It was evident that Island was moving the ball with speed and defence led by Captain Taylor, Mark Griffin and Daniel Pearce were all standing tall. Quarter time scores Phillip Island 3.4 22 to Warragul 2.2 14.

The second quarter started with Jordan Patullo showing his usual courage and going back with the flight on multiple occasions to prevent Warragul's ball movement. Down the other end his brother Jesse was starting to duke everything that came his way. New recruits Aaron Harris, Charlie Bruce, Josh Ryan and Tom Baulch ("Prime Train") were all having a big impact. The Island was starting to flex their muscles kicking 4.5 to Warragul's 2.2 in the second quarter to take a 51-28 half time lead.

The premiership quarter came, and the Island put the game out of reach kicking 6.2 to 1.4 to extend their lead 89 to 38. This quarter was dominant, ball movement was fast



Billy Taylor takes down Industrial's Nic Visser with Hayden Bruce ready to pounce. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.

and controlled, tackling pressure and hunt around the contest was infectious. Step up Thomas Baulch ("Prime Train") kicking 4 goals for the quarter and showing why there was such a buzz around the island for his arrival. Kai Mackenzie was showing a clean set of heels out of traffic and connected well with Billy Taylor who had the ball on a string.

Three quarter time brought a strong 300 plus people around the Island boys for their final address. The vibe from the crowd and the players showed there is some genuine belief building within the group. Coby Olarens Shaw started the quarter how he played the entire game by beating his opponent and providing drive from the backline, Walton continued to play through the midfield and back using the ball with ease. Not being content with the score line, the Island put the foot down to extend the lead 117-54. The Bulldogs look fit and well drilled and ready for another big season ahead.



A specky for Daniel Bourke in Easter Saturday's clash against Warragul Industrials. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION RESULTS

PHILLIP ISLAND FOOTBALL CLUB

117 54

PHILLIP ISLAND	WARRAGUL IND
Phillip Island 3.4 7.9 13.11 17.15 (117)	Warragul Ind 2.2 4.4 5.8 7.12 (54)

GOALS, Phillip Island: Thomas Baulch 8, Aaron Harris, Travis Woodfield, Jaymie Youle 2, Hayden Bruce, Jesse Patullo, Max Walton 1 each
BEST: Thomas Baulch, Hayden Bruce, Jordy Patullo, Charlie Bruce, Jesse Patullo, Jaymie Youle
GOALS, Warragul Ind: Anthony Munkara 3, Kyle Beveridge 2, Shane Brewster, Luke Walker 1 each
BEST: Kyle Beveridge, Travis Ogden, Michael Debenham, Shane Brewster, Nic Visser, William Grummisch

RESERVES
Phillip Island 15.6 (96)
Warragul Ind 6.4 (40)

GOALS, Phillip Island: Nick Anderson, James Nicolaci, Brady Ross 2, Kirby Fuller, Ryan Ladson, Thomas Macrokanis, Jace Nichol 1 each
BEST: Jack Keating, Nick Anderson, Tyce Kleverkamp, Will Macrokanis, Finlay Cousins
GOALS, Warragul Ind: Luke Marriott 2, Joshua Bradley, Kiel Vann, Thomas Vickery 1 each
BEST: Darcy Norton, Jack Commadeur, Mitchell Jamieson, Ryley Hughes, Luke Marriott, Shane Ingham

THIRDS
Phillip Island 2.2 6.8 6.8 7.13 (55)
Warragul Ind 0.1 0.1 4.2 5.3 (33)

GOALS, Phillip Island: Gianni Caffieri, Jack Huther 2, ChaCha Fischer, Charles O'Garey, Max Taylor 1 each
BEST: Daniel Caffieri, Gianni Caffieri, Jasper Cashman, Noah Williams, Jack Huther
GOALS, Warragul Ind: Declan Burton 2, Regan Awty, Joshua Lee, Zac Tepper 1 each
BEST: Regan Awty, Rylan Butler, Campbell Gibbons, Harrison Radcliffe, Zac Tepper

FOURTHS
Phillip Island 4.3 6.6 9.8 10.9 (69)
Warragul Ind 3.5 (23)

GOALS, Phillip Island: Harrison Carlon, Jack Larsson 2, Harry Arceo, Blake Murphy, Sam O'Garey, Archie Ross, Samuel Schuller, Xavier Williams 1 each
BEST: Xavier Williams, Harrison Carlon, Blake Murphy, Lachlan Eastwood, Jack Larsson, Sam O'Garey
GOALS, Warragul Ind: Alex Ingham, Noah Smith, Zachary Thompson 1 each
BEST: James Patterson, Noah Smith, George Morgan, Ky Bannister, Rylan Butler, Alex Ingham

INVERLOCH-KONGWAK FOOTBALL CLUB

65 56

INVERLOCH-K	CORA LYNN
Inverloch-K 2.4 6.7 7.9 9.11 (65)	Cora Lynn 2.5 3.7 5.10 7.14 (56)

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Taite Cumming 3, Jarvis Harvey 2, Dylan Clark, Clinton McCaughan, Paul Pattison, Jordan Tomas 1 each
BEST: Thomas Wyatt, Paul Pattison, Xavier Hughes, Andrew Soumilas, Dylan Clark, Trent Bacon
GOALS, Cora Lynn: Chase Blackwood, Heath Briggs, Lachlan Coverdale, Nathan Gardiner, Cory Machaya, Liam Taylor, Tristan Warkuss 1 each
BEST: Tristan Warkuss, William Thomas, Heath Briggs, Luke Black, Luke Hartley, Matthew Ryan

RESERVES
Inverloch-K 2.1 5.1 9.3 10.5 (65)
Cora Lynn 2.0 4.2 4.4 8.7 (55)

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Rem Dal Pozzo 4, Maxwell Scott, Dylan Taylor 2, Corey Casey, Liam O'Neill 1 each
BEST: Harry McInnes, Rem Dal Pozzo, Jacob Strickland, Dale Lawton, Emmet Taranto, Mitch Hewitson
GOALS, Cora Lynn: Josh Wilson 3, Luke Foreman, Jayden Frazer 2, Dylan Ross 1
BEST: Jake Boccari, Owen Hartley, Dylan Ross, Corey Brook, Thomas Arnett, Luke Foreman

THIRDS
Game was abandoned.
FOURTHS
Game was abandoned.



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Support flows at Surf2Cinq

A HUGE success-ful Surf2Cinq Fun Run was held in Venus Bay on Saturday.

Moving the event from Easter Sunday to Easter Saturday proved to be a great decision from the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club with 237 runners and walkers taking part – 50 more than last year.

A total of \$6000 was raised for the club, which will go towards equipment for patrolling and training.

Money was raised through registrations, merchandise sales, a sausage sizzle and generous community donations.

Forty-two volunteers from the club were on hand to ensure the day ran smoothly.

Runners and walkers had the choice of taking part in the 2.2km, 6.6km, 8.2km or 10km legs.

The finish line remained set up until the very last

participant crossed, much to the delight of those involved.

The 2.2km event proved to be very popular amongst families, with parents encouraging children to take part in the run.

“It was a great day and we had wonderful engagement from the community,” club president Kimberley Gee said.

“We are thankful for the support from the community. Equipment can be very expensive, and we rely on fundraising to keep the club going and ensure we continue to provide a high quality service on the beach. The community has been fabulous.”

Kimberley and the club also thanked the Tarwin Lower CFA for assisting during the event.

“The CFA helped with the set up and their assistance was a big asset. We are very thankful.”



Fiona Long, Irene Webb, Kate Glasson, Karen Woolf and Rupert, and Megan Barrow took part in Surf2Cinq on Easter Saturday.

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