

Sentinel-Times

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- VFA's abalone raid sparks calls to keep fisheries

ON FRIDAY, April 5, at 5pm on Gap Road, VFA Fisheries Officers apprehended two men who allegedly took a total of 281 abalone, many of which were undersized, from the restricted area of the intertidal zone – water less than two metres deep – on the southern side of the island near Pyramid Rock.

The bag limit for abalone is five in Victorian waters, according to the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA).

The pair, both from Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, driving a blue Holden Commodore sedan, had their vehicle, abalone, diving equipment and phones seized. VFA confirmed they were charged and bailed and will appear in court at a later date.

VFA confirmed the investigation is ongoing, with VFA spokesperson stating, "We'll continue to focus on major fisheries crime, which presents a risk to the sustainability of our fisheries.

"We know the vast majority of Victorian fishers do the right thing and large-scale, illegal fishing is not accepted by the community."

Kelly Ward was at the scene on Friday evening and witnessed the raid by Victoria Police and VFA, stating that VFA were watching them come in from out of the water.

Kelly and her partner, who is working on a rock wall project in Silverleaves to reduce erosion, were parked on Gap Road when police and VFA pulled over the blue Holden Commodore.

"It wasn't the first time they had done it. There was evidence on their phone that they'd done it quite a few times – the week before, they'd caught 300. The investigation has been ongoing from what I can gather," said Kelly.

Kelly mentioned that she often sits at the Stony Point boat ramp and observes people arriving with loads of fish.

Continued page 3



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VFA's abalone raid sparks calls for more fisheries

From page 1

"It's disgusting. I heard about the VFA cuts before I saw this firsthand, and it just shows that we need more fisheries out on the water, not less. It is just unbelievable!"

Kelly is not alone with recreational fishers in arms about the termination of 27 fisheries officers in the Port Phillip Bay and Western Port Bay.

"Prior to the announcement they were trying to fill a vacancy," owner-operator Island Offshore Charters San Remo Craig Martin stated, noting there were currently four officers dedicated to this area.

"They cover a huge section of the coast. They're understaffed anyway and can't check everybody, there's probably 10 per cent who are doing the wrong thing, but most (fishers) don't run the risk."

Mr Martin is astonished that Fisheries have made the decision to terminate on-the-ground boots and that it has been signed off at a ministerial level given the creation of Fisheries was to protect the environment.

"The Fisheries Authority Act of 2016 states that fisheries are to monitor, investigate and enforce compliance... they're in breach of their own rules," Craig continued also noting the Victorian Fisheries Act 1995.

"The fact that the four (fisheries officers) were able to see what was happening (on Friday), monitor it, and actually make the bust, shows just how hard these guys work and how dedicated they are to their job. Under the new proposal, there



Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) seized 281 abalone from two men on Friday, April 5. The pair were charged and bailed and will appear in court at a later date.

will be one fisheries officer per 27,7000 fishers. Other states on average have one fisheries officer to 5000-10,000 fishers.

"They've got a mammoth task ahead of them, and I just can't see any justification for what they're trying to do.

"What we saw on Friday was that these people were dumb enough to load abalone into their car in front of the general public – it's major crime."

According to another local, boat owners have already been approached on the jetties to sell their boats at a premium with one condition, the boat stays in their name.

"It's a joke," the other

fisherman stated. "Every other state is looking to increase and recruit fisheries officers."

The call for fisheries officers to remain in place comes as the parliamentary report into Victoria's withdrawal from the 2026 Commonwealth Games reportedly cost Victorian's \$589 million.

"It's an absolute fiasco. They blew \$589 million on the Games but they're trying to save \$10 million," the fisherman continued.

Poachers and offenders have already been stating that they thought fisheries officers were out.

"They busted a guy fishing off

the rocks last week, not only was he way over on numbers, but also undersized. And he said, 'Ah you got me. I thought you guys were finished.'

The start of what is to come, the public should be concerned according to Mr Martin.

"You can't expect the public to self-regulate. It's only going to get worse – in two years there will be bugger all left along the coast," Mr Martin stated.

"The more you sit down and think about what they're proposing, the worse it gets. Whether you're a beach walker, fisherman, or diver, it's going to affect everything."

According to Mr Martin, it'll start onshore with the shellfish and go out from there.

"It's been very well managed until now."

The VFA will be restocking more than \$5.7 million of fish if poachers have their way, though questions have also been raised by fishermen after VFA reported an all-time record of 11.5 million fish were released into Victoria's lakes and rivers, and where the monies were obtained for the extra restocking over the original budget.

Over a quarter of a million people have viewed the video posted by Island Offshore Charters on Friday evening as the offenders were arrested and fisheries surveys the bust.

Anyone who sees or suspects illegal fishing anywhere in Victoria should ring the 13FISH (13 3474) reporting line.

The Sentinel-Times will have more to follow on this story over the coming weeks.

Big dry prompts desalination plant order

FOR the first time since March 2022, the State Government has placed an order for 50 gigalitres of water from the Victorian Desalination Plant at Wonthaggi.

The decision follows Geelong storages hitting a six-year low of 42.2 per cent and the first double-digit annual decline in Melbourne's water storage levels since the Millennium Drought.

Melbourne's water storages are 78.1 per cent compared with 91.5 per cent at the same time last year – a difference of 230 billion litres. This decline is due to below-average rainfall in Victoria over the past 12 months.

Minister for Water Gayle Tierney said the government was making sure there is enough drinking water for Melbourne and Geelong while supporting the state during dry conditions.

"We're making sure that families in Geelong and Melbourne have access to an affordable, safe and secure drinking water supply and the Desalination Plant is critical to delivering this," said Minister Tierney.

"We know that in a severe drought storage levels can drop by 20 per cent in as little as a year, which is why we're acting now to avoid water restrictions and put us in a strong position for the long term."

According to the government, the recent hot and dry conditions, including Victoria's driest summer in more than a decade, are expected to continue through autumn increasing our reliance on stored and desalinated water.

Wonthaggi's desalination plant can provide up to one-third of the Melbourne's annual water demand, underpinning supply not just for Melbourne but also surrounding areas including Geelong and parts of Gippsland including South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

Since opening in 2007, the Victorian Desalination Plant has produced 455 billion litres of fresh drinking water for Greater Melbourne and regional areas, despite having a capacity to produce 150 billion litres of water-a-year.

Notwithstanding this modest output, an Infrastructure Victoria report last month indicated future expansion plans for the plant, increasing its production capacity by 50GL a year to keep up with predicted water security needs.

Approximately 80 people are employed at the site on Lower Powlett Road, Wonthaggi.

'Convoy for Conversation' rally against VFA's proposal

THE fight against the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) proposal to cull five fisheries officer (FO) jobs from Phillip Island, two FO positions from Lakes Entrance and two from Mallacoota is ongoing; in protest to the recent proposal, regional residents who prefer to remain anonymous attended the 'Convoy for Conversation' – a peaceful rally to fight for the future of recreational fishing and future fish stocks.

The rally took place on March 29, with support on the steps of Parliament from industry, fly-fishing groups and recreational

anglers, as well as VRFISH executive officer Ben Scullin.

Eighty boats were towed into Melbourne, organised for stakeholders by stakeholders, a protester stated, with approximately 15 cars and vans with kayaks and anti-proposal messaging.

"With the recent raid on Phillip Island on Friday, April 5, anonymous bystanders are sending a clear message to the state government to reconsider their job cuts and save the waters from overfishing," another stated to the Sentinel-Times this week.

"We need to protect the

fisheries that protect our waters; this type of activity would go undetected if they close the Cowes Fisheries station."

VRFISH, which represents up to 1.1 million people, is advocating against the proposed mass retrenchment of Fisheries Officers, requesting the state government to hear the voice of the community.

RIGHT: The community gathered on the steps of Parliament on March 29 with clear messaging to protect fisheries that protect Victorian waters.



Melina BATH MP
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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND



TUE | Apr 8

Possible shower.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

11° 20°



WED | Apr 9

Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

9° 21°



THUR | Apr 10

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

10° 25°



FRI | Apr 11

Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

13° 25°



SAT | Apr 12

Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

13° 29°



SUN | Apr 13

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

17° 28°

IN BRIEF

Police called to suspicious grass fire in Newhaven

TWO San Remo CFA units responded to reports of a fire on Anderson Street in Newhaven at around 1.03pm on Tuesday, April 1. Crews discovered a grass fire and Victoria Police were called to the scene.

Police confirmed the fire is not being treated as suspicious. Officers located a man at the scene who allegedly refused to provide his details. The 55-year-old Newhaven man was taken into custody until his details were confirmed.

He was released and is expected to be charged on summons.

The incident was deemed under control at 1.15 pm and safe at 2.03pm.

ANZAC Prize open to secondary students

THE Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien is encouraging local secondary students to enter the 2025 Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize competition.

"This competition, which has been held annually since 2005, is a great opportunity for secondary students (Years 9-12) to increase their understanding and appreciation of the Spirit of ANZAC," Mr O'Brien said.

"Submissions can be made in an array of formats including but not limited to an essay, poem, short story, or even a musical composition.

"This year is of particular significance as the ten students who are awarded the 2025 Spirit of ANZAC Prize will receive a fully funded study tour to visit Gallipoli on the 110th anniversary of the ANZACs' landing on April 25, 1915.

"This is an amazing opportunity for the students who are lucky enough to embark on this study tour."

Entries close on Monday, April 28, 2025.

To read the eligibility criteria, apply and learn more about the prize visit vic.gov.au/spirit-anzac-prize-student-competition.

Minister Dimopoulos further erodes coast fund

ON MARCH 19, the State Government announced \$15 million "to address coastal erosion, safety risks and access issues along Victoria's coast".

Although the exact nature of the works was not detailed, \$10 million of that funding was to "deliver restoration work and repairs where it's needed most including at Black Rock, Inverloch, Loch Sport, Tooradin, Silverleaves and Warrnambool.

However, last week Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos announced a further erosion of the \$10 million fund by announcing that \$1.4 million would be hived off for a grants program "to improve coastal access and safety at Victorian beaches".

"Grants of up to \$150,000 are available for coastal Crown land managers, including volunteer committees of management and local governments, to reduce coastal risk through identification, mitigation and monitoring of risks," said the government.

Meanwhile work started last week on coastal protection measures at Silverleaves, east of Cowes, expected to be in place before forecast high tides during April. The start to work promoted considerable discussion on social media about whether the works will be effective, what is causing the problem and whether or not buybacks and retreat should be on the table.

Check smoke alarms

AS VICTORIANS wound their clocks back last weekend fire-fighters are reminding people to test their smoke alarms to ensure they are in working order. On average, 18 people die in house fires in Victoria each year.

Fire Rescue Commissioner Gavin Freeman AFSM warned that in a fire, every second counts.

Victorians are encouraged to check their smoke alarms as they change their clocks.

Get your workplace in order

THE Leongatha Business Association is offering "an inspiring and practical session with Tristan White", founder of The Physio Co and author of *Culture Is Everything*, at Sweet Life Café, 1 Bair Street, Leongatha on Friday, May 2.

Tristan built one of Australia's best places to work and now he's bringing his insight and energy to Leongatha.

And while there may be no such thing as a free lunch, the LBA is shouting a free breakfast, starting at 7.30am, so come hungry and ready to learn. Register your interest at Eventbrite.

Walk in support of refugees

COMMUNITY members are invited to join a Palm Sunday Walk for peace and justice, showing support for a kinder more compassionate world that welcomes the strangers who come to our shores seeking peace and safety.

South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees (SGRAR) organises the walk, with those wanting to participate meeting under the mine whistle at Wonthaggi's Apex Park at 2pm on April 13. Email sgrar07@gmail.com or call Felicia Di Stefano on 0478 225 047 for further information.

Female jogger chased by male

WONTHAGGI Police Station are seeking information from the local community regarding a male who chased a female jogger in South Dudley on Sunday morning, April 6.

Police have been told that at about 8.40am, a female was running along the pathway of South Dudley Road, near the Wonthaggi Wetlands Reserve, when an unknown male got up from a bench near Epsom Street. The male then ran after the female and chased the female into Heron Drive, then

into a track on the wetlands.

The male was observed to be acting erratically and was possibly mentally distressed.

The male is described as Caucasian, aged 35-45 years old, having a medium build and wearing a light grey coloured tracksuit. The female victim was later approached by three other people in the area, a male jogger, a female walker wearing purple clothing, and a female on a bicycle. Police are appealing for these three people to contact police as they may have witnessed the incident, along with anyone who has information. If you have any information regarding this matter, please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestopperspersvc.com.au/report-a-crime.

EOI now open on Light Box Lane

CALLING all artists. Expressions of Interest for exhibitions for Light Box Lane for next year are now open. Light Box Lane is an outdoor gallery for images and sound located in the western lane of The Union Theatre in Wonthaggi.

The exhibition space is a place of cultural expression and experimentation where artists present new work and test combinations of image and sound. Expressions of interest close on Sunday, April 27. Visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/lightbox.

AFLW Demons head to South Gippsland

AFL Gippsland is thrilled to announce that the AFLW Melbourne team will be bringing their energy and excitement to the South Gippsland region for a community camp on May 19 and 20. This fantastic opportunity will see elite female footballers from the Demons connecting with local students through school visits, supporting local football clubs, and providing invaluable coaching and guidance in their football. A community welcome event will also provide a great opportunity for fans to meet their heroes.

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Sand placed at the foot of sand bags to protect the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club washed away by the next high tide.

Inverloch Beach is vanishing and so is accountability, they say

INVERLOCH beach is vanishing before our eyes according to the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group (IFAG) which has called on all levels of government to take urgent, meaningful action on the worsening coastal erosion crisis.

"Enough is enough," said IFAG.

Erosion of the dunes is threatening Inverloch's beach, infrastructure and way of life.

After years of inaction, failed interventions, and countless consultant reports, community frustration has reached a tipping point according to IFAG.

The Inverloch Foreshore Action Group is demanding

transparency, long-term solutions, and a shift away from the current retreat policy which prioritises short-termism over permanent protection.

"Inverloch will not be ignored, we need real political backbone, what we're seeing is enough," said IFAG Chairperson Kim White.

According to IFAG, sand placed by contractors at the toe of sandbags last week to protect the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club was partially washed away by the evening's tide.

"While the tide was high at three metres it was not a king tide and underscored the vulnerability of the Inverloch

beach even in mild conditions" said Mr White.

"We acknowledge Bass Coast Council's efforts to monitor and protect the beach, but this shouldn't be their job, and it certainly shouldn't fall on the ratepayer.

"This is a state government responsibility.

"Why not do the job once and do it properly?" said Mr White.

"One must ask whether this is a deliberate strategy to minimise community feedback."

IFAG is calling on the Victorian Government to acknowledge the current project is underfunded in all phases, admit that sand renourishment is a

temporary fix not a solution, remove policy barriers that restrict the exploration of alternative protections, and commit to genuine two-way consultation not pre-determined outcomes.

"Bottom line is this project must serve Inverloch's long-term interests not just tick a short-term policy box.

"The beach, the town and the community cannot afford another summer of bureaucratic excuses."

Bass Coast Shire's foreshore erosion response can be found at basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/environment/foreshore-erosion-control.

Stage two Penguin Parade accessibility works to start in April

THE second stage of construction works to make Phillip Island's magical Penguin Parade more accessible will start this week.

From April 7, construction teams will remove the ageing boardwalk behind the general viewing stands and replace it with a new all-access pathway to bring visitors even closer to the little penguins on Summerland Beach.

Phillip Island Nature Parks has advised that daytime access to the general viewing stands and the beach may be restricted during construction with large machinery using the boardwalks and St Helens Road between 7am and 4pm.

The works are expected to be completed by December.

Kym Evans, Projects and Planning Manager at Phillip Island Nature Parks, said priority would be given to environmental sensitivities and the well-being of wildlife during the building works.

"These works will be carefully managed every step of the way," Ms Evans said.

"Qualified wildlife officers will oversee the project to safeguard local wildlife during all phases of construction, and we encourage visitors to follow all instructions from staff and observe the signage to ensure a smooth process. We will also work to minimise the impact on the nightly Penguin Parade operations."

Stage one of the works, funded by a \$5 million grant from the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund, was completed in December 2024, providing a new accessible looped boardwalk, upgraded Penguin Plus viewing platform and a new guided tour platform.

Stage three will see upgrades to the remaining sections of the boardwalk to complete the all-accessible looped boardwalk, with hopes that construction will start in 2026. Dependent on funding, stage four will replace the existing general viewing stands and skybox and will involve further designs to combat coastal erosion.

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Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead

ON Tuesday, April 2, we marked 80 years since the Country Fire Authority (CFA) was officially established. This incredible milestone stems from a legacy of community strength and bravery, born out of the 1939 Black Friday fires and the important findings of the Stretton Inquiry.

For eight decades, CFA volunteers and staff have stood on the frontlines, not just across Victoria, but here in Bass Coast. From bushfires and floods to road accidents and house fires, their dedication to protecting lives and homes in our community is truly inspiring.

The roots of the CFA go back even further, with the first volunteer brigades forming more than 170 years ago during the Goldfields era. That proud tradition of local service continues today, with our own CFA members carrying it forward with skill, care and heart.

I want to acknowledge Damien O'Connor, Group Officer of Bass Coast Group of Fire Brigades, who has dedicated an incredible 45 years to the CFA. Damian's parents were both members before him, and his own family has continued that tradition over the years.

He shared that he loves the camaraderie of the CFA, describing it as being like a big family. For Damien, it's a big part of his life and a privilege to give back to the community he loves. His story reflects the deep commitment and connection that runs through so many of our CFA volunteers. Thank you, Damien, for all that you continue to do for Bass Coast.

It was a pleasure to visit CFA Wonthaggi recently and meet with local members. Hearing their stories and seeing the strong bonds among the team was a powerful reminder of the dedication, professionalism and quiet heroism that exists within our local brigades. Their willingness to give their time, skills and care speaks volumes about the spirit of our Bass Coast community.

To every CFA volunteer who plays a role in keeping our region safe, thank you. You are the heart of community resilience, and your efforts are deeply valued by everyone in Bass Coast.

Race against time to beat the Easter king tides

EMERGENCY coastal erosion protection works have begun at Silverleaves and Inverloch in a race against time to beat the fast approaching Easter king tides.

Bass Coast Shire Council and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) started work on both sites last week within days of each other.

The work is part of a \$15 million package recently announced by the Victorian Government to address coastal erosion recently debated in state parliament.

Nationals MP Melina Bath said she was working to hold the government to account.

"Clearly coastal erosion is a widespread issue impacting other locations such as Inverloch, Loch Sport, and Tooradin however Labor must reset the agenda and engage with local communities for a planned acceptable long-term strategy.

"The Silverleaves community deserve certainty for their homes, and this can only be achieved with funding for long-term solutions to manage and mitigate coastal erosion," said Ms Bath.

The work now underway at Silverleaves is aimed at protecting the foreshore, coastal vegetation and beach infrastructure from further erosion over the predicted Easter tides.

The work involves constructing a stepped rock bag wall extending 150 metres eastward from the existing rock wall.

Rock bags are now being prepared off site and the main work onsite will begin this week with some minor work to be done before the rock bags are installed.

Temporary access restrictions, pathway detours, and traffic management will be put in place for public safety with emergency vehicle access maintained at all times.

Bass Coast Council has expressed its appreciation for the community's patience and cooperation during these essential works.

One local resident said she hoped the coastal erosion protection work would not end here.

Sand is being taken at low tide from a deeper section of the Silverleaves beach below the high



Gunnar, Cathy and Harold Sirel watching sand renourishment works at Inverloch. B28_1425

tide line using excavators and dump trucks.

The beach sand is then being placed at the foot of existing dunes to protect the upper beach area against wave erosion.

A geotextile bag wall is expected to be installed by the end of August.

At Inverloch, the sand renourishment works around the Lifesaving Club are expected to include dune stabilisation and extensive re-vegetation work.

Bass Coast Council is placing almost 100 cubic metres of sand at both ends of the surf beach around the Lifesaving Club which now needs renourishing after recent high tides and big swells.

"We have two excavators and a nine-tonne dump truck working in unison," said a spokesperson for Bass Coast Council.

Glenn Morris President of the Inverloch Tourism Association and member of the Inverloch Coastal Advisory Network said he was less than satisfied with the recent funding announcements from the State Government.

"The Minister has announced a \$15 million package of works to address coastal erosion risks at a number of at-risk coastal sites along the Victorian coast yet when you look at the official announcement only \$10 million is allocated to six locations, Black Rock, Inverloch, Loch

Sport, Tooradin, Silverleaves and Warrnambool.

"The other \$5 million has been allocated to works in the Mornington Peninsula and Great Ocean Road communities.

"We are in the dark on how much funding is allocated specifically for Inverloch which in itself is frustrating."

"No State Government funding has also been allocated to protect Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road," added Mr Morris.

"This is of great concern to the Inverloch community.

"We have Federal funds enabling 100,000 cubic metres of dune construction but the required scope involves more than 200,000 cubic metres of sand.

"What we want to see is the State Government provide the balance required that will enable the recommended Dune Construction work of 200,000 cubic metres to be completed this year.

"Why are we not seeing a commitment to do the job required?

"Instead, we end up doing only half the job," said Mr Morris.

According to Mr Morris, since 2010 Inverloch surf beach has lost an estimated 250,000 cubic metres of sand to erosion.

"The problem is real," said Mr Morris.

"It seems crazy not to replace at least what we have lost.

"The sand placement works undertaken around the Surf Lifesaving Club is an example of

trying to apply a band-aid solution which will see the band-aid ripped off after the next king tide."

The parliamentary debate on the Save Silverleaves petition, which amassed 4370 signatures in three weeks, was led by The Nationals and tabled on Wednesday, March 5.

Ms Bath said it was time for a reset and called on the Allan Government to work collaboratively with the Silverleaves community and local government to plan and implement long term adaptations.

"To date the Allan Government's response to the seriousness of the coastal erosion crisis has been piecemeal and residents felt abandoned," said Ms Bath.

"The loss of 16 metres of foreshore in two years is unsustainable.

"The government's own report from 2024 called for two stages, installation of emergency geotextile revetment by the end of the 2025 summer and the development of a long-term plan for Silverleaves.

"While the community is relieved to finally see graders and tip trucks, the geotextile sandbags will not be in place until the end of winter, six months late."

An information page on the Bass Coast plan for Silverleaves can be found at engage.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/silverleaves.

Danny O'BRIEN MP State Member for Gippsland South

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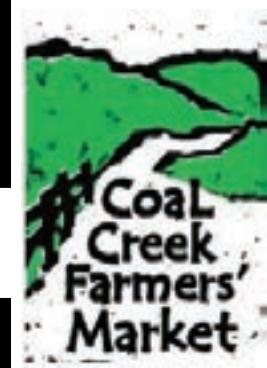


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Angry residents petition Bass Coast Council over gravel roads

By Bruce Wardley

SLOW down and stop ripping up our roads is the war cry of Wonthaggi and Phillip Island residents fuming over Bass Coast Council plans to rip up sealed roads.

One Wonthaggi couple reliant on a walker and walking stick say they have been forced to give up walking because of the state of the roads around their home.

Nearby Campbell Street is dangerous according to the couple.

Brown Street, the nearest alternative road for walking, was returned to gravel 10 to 15 years ago.

"Once you have a walker you can't walk the back lanes," said the elderly woman.

"Brown Street needs better drains, and the gravel replaced with bitumen."

Married for 65 years and residents of Wonthaggi for 25 years the couple claim Bass Coast Shire has never done any traffic counts stating "a lot of traffic comes through here."

The couple claim a council grader is lucky to come once a year and occasionally a load of gravel is dumped in Brown Street.

"They sent the water cart around once last summer," said the resident. "The dust is awful it's a health hazard."

"I have a walking stick but find it difficult to go for a walk," added the woman's husband.

"It would be better to use side roads if they were sealed or properly maintained."

Footpaths in the area are described as very patchy and



Gravel roads create dust in Brown Street, Wonthaggi. B15_1425

surrounding roads "are all the same".

The couple who are well into their 80s claim getting to medical appointments can be difficult with the nearest bus stop 500 metres away.

"We have three bus stops."

The closest bus stop is Easton Street, but that street has no pedestrian pavements and "you have to cross Campbell Street."

Brown Street is an alternative, but Brown Street is a gravel road with no pavement at all.

The third option is Hagelthorn Street. Hagelthorn Street has no footpaths and also has an unmade section of road.

The couple complain Bass Coast Council is not concerned enough about people, and people's ability to enjoy the town they have moved to.

"We love this town. People are nice in Wonthaggi.

"We're just trying to get council

to make life a little bit more comfortable.

"With the aid of walkers, we should be able to use the bus to get to the library."

Residents from Queen Street in Wonthaggi have joined residents in Rhyll and Cowes with petitions condemning Bass Coast Council's plans to turn their sealed roads into gravel.

"We have seen first-hand what the council's gravel and crushed rock roads look like," said Queen Street resident Peter Carden. "A section of Scenic Drive in Cowes that runs off Red Rocks Road after turning in from Ventnor Road was rehabilitated a couple of years ago."

"To say local residents were not happy would be an understatement."

Dust in the house, health, accessibility for people pushing prams and walkers are all key issues according to Mr Carden.

"It's a joke."

Mr Carden claims Bass Coast Council talks about transparency and communication but as far as transparency is concerned they have missed the point.

"Council has provided no details as to when the work is likely to start nor any timelines as to when a petition should be submitted.

"If work is likely to commence in May or June a petition would have to have been submitted by 5pm last Friday, April 4."

Why the sudden rush?

"With a four-lot subdivision underway in Queen Street why on earth would council rip up a bitumen surface when their gravel alternative would turn into potholes and mud during winter with heavy vehicles and tradies vehicles coming and going?" said Mr Carden.

Council refers to the works as 'rehabilitation', restoring a damaged road pavement to its original standard or improving its condition, often involving replacing or reinforcing layers of the road base and surface.

"Clearly the people making these decisions have no idea," said Mr Carden.

Mr Carden asked councillors if they would agree to have their own roads ripped up and converted to gravel.

"At the very least a meeting of affected ratepayers with council is needed," he said.

Bass Coast Shire has an information page on dust suppression treatment at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/dust-suppressant-seal-removal.

Inverloch boat ramp car park resurfacing ready for Easter

BASS Coast Shire Council is getting ready to resurface the Inverloch Boat Ramp car park, making it smoother and more durable for everyone who uses it. The works, funded by both Bass Coast Shire Council and Better Boating Victoria, are part of our ongoing effort to improve local boating facilities.

The project kicks off on Monday, April 14 and will be wrapped up by Thursday, April 17 so the car park will be ready to go in time for the Easter long weekend. A1 Asphalt will be carrying out the works under Council's annual supply contract, with a total investment of \$150,000.

What's happening?

- The existing sealed car park will be resurfaced with new asphalt.
- Line marking will be reinstated to improve traffic flow and safety.

What you need to know:

- The Inverloch boat ramp and jetties will be closed while the works are underway.
- Traffic control measures will be in place to keep everyone safe.
- Boat ramp users should plan ahead and use alternative facilities during this time.

For more information, please contact Council's Infrastructure Delivery team.



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Record \$23.75M paid for Coles in Cowes

A PRIVATE investor from Melbourne has paid the highest price ever for Phillip Island real estate, outlaying \$23.75 million for the Coles supermarket freehold in Cowes.

The price paid represents a secure 4.6 per cent return on investment.

Promotional material issued by sales agents, Jones Lang LaSalle, prior to the sale advertised a substantial 9555sqm landholding with over 200 metres of prime retail frontage offering "unparalleled future development potential with favourable Commercial 1 Zoning".

The gross building area was advertised at 3661m².

The expressions of interest process was highly competitive with 17 formal EOIs but with a local buyer ultimately outbidding national and international interest.

A spokesperson for JLL said the exceptional result could be attributed to the strength of the asset, featuring a rare net lease structure and strong performance of the supermarket with the tenant paying percentage rent.

The sale of Coles Phillip Island was the best Victorian supermarket transaction since other notable transactions in regional Victoria, including Woolworths Torquay in December 2020 and Coles Woodend in March 2021.

The sale price eclipsed the \$15.03 million paid in November last year by Adrian Portelli for the Block properties in Justice Road.

As well as local interest, the agents reported considerable interest from Chinese investors following a resurgence in Chinese tourism to Phillip Island to see its world-famous Penguin Parade.

The cost of squatting: unwanted guests' impact on Wonthaggi homes

By Trent Westaway

SQUATTING has become an unfortunate reality for many property owners in Wonthaggi, affecting the local real estate market in ways that are difficult to ignore.

With squatters occupying vacant homes, the ripple effect is being felt by sellers, buyers, and landlords alike.

Mick Chambers, a fourth-generation local, has seen Wonthaggi transform from a quiet town to the thriving coastal area it is today.

With over 15 years in real estate, he's gained a deep understanding of the market and the obstacles that arise when properties are overtaken by squatters. One such example is a property on Graham Street, which Mick recently dealt with.

"It's had squatters in there for quite some time. The owner has tried to sell it a couple of times but hasn't been able to. When we took it on, I asked the police to do something about it. They went down and asked the squatters to move on, but they came back quickly."

The impact on the market is undeniable. Squatting not only devalues the affected property but also hurts neighbouring homes.

"It makes it hard to sell the property. We can't get access to walk through the property, it's hard to have inspections, and it devalues the property," said Mick.

Squatters often leave properties in poor condition, leading to costly repairs and extended time on the market.

"Generally, many of these houses aren't looked after too well, and there's damage to them. Then it impacts the surrounding houses. If the price of that one goes down, then it makes the next-door neighbour's house go down in value. It trickles down to all the other properties."

Squatters' rights, which make it difficult to remove them, fur-



Licensed estate agent Mick Chambers believes squatters are impacting property values in Wonthaggi. WO1_1425

ther complicate the issue.

"Squatters have rights that make it hard for us to ask them to leave. You can't just send the police to kick them out. You've got to go through VCAT to evict them, and that's a huge process. That can take a long time and is very costly," Mick explained.

For homeowners looking to sell, squatting presents additional challenges. Properties with squatters, or those in close proximity to squatted homes, often struggle to attract buyers.

"It's just the reputation change. The narrative used to be 'I don't want to buy near a housing commission home,' but now the focus has shifted a bit to houses with squatters."

As Mick points out, the broader economic situation also plays a role in escalating squatting incidents. Rising land taxes, vacant residential taxes, and higher interest rates have forced many property owners to sell their homes, which only contributes to

the strain on the rental market.

"The biggest holes in the rental market come from the fact that the landlords are paying so much for their properties, they don't want to keep them anymore. One in three of our properties for sale now would be landlords' properties. They're selling them because they can't afford to keep them."

The shortage of rental properties adds to the strain. With demand at an all-time high, legitimate renters find it increasingly difficult to secure homes, while squatters occupy properties that are no longer in rentable condition.

"The properties that squatters are in are properties that are not usually at a standard to rent. But it does stop developers, or owners, from knocking down their properties," Mick explained.

The financial implications for property owners dealing with squatters are significant. Not only do they face the cost of repairs, but legal fees associated with

evicting squatters can add up quite significantly. Prolonged time on the housing market can also result in further financial losses.

"You've got to pay for repairs, you've got VCAT to pay for, and you've also got the loss of value to the property," Mick notes.

"You also have to consider the time on the market, as these houses are not likely to sell quick unless they're extremely cheap."

While these challenges are formidable, there are ways to prevent squatting from occurring in the first place.

"You've really got to board them up properly. Act quick because once squatters are in, it's a lengthy process to get them out," Mick advises.

Despite the setbacks caused by squatting, Mick remains optimistic about the future of Wonthaggi's property market.

"I don't think it has hurt our market a huge amount. Our market is still going okay and is still quite strong. You're always going to have those properties that are difficult to sell or those with squatters, but the overall market remains relatively healthy."

However, the challenges of squatting, coupled with the broader financial pressures on property owners, suggest that the issue may persist for some time.

As Mick explains, "The new land tax is just unfair. A person that's done well for themselves and worked hard all their life and bought themselves an investment property, they're the ones that are getting hit – they just can't afford to keep that second home anymore."

For now, it's clear that the effects of squatting are reverberating across Wonthaggi's property market. The combination of legal complexities, property taxes, and the rental crisis means that squatting could remain an ongoing concern for property owners and real estate professionals in the area.

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Authorised by R. Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, 46C Albert St Warragul VIC 3820

Fire Services Levy stalls in Parliament

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the decision to stall the deeply flawed proposed Fire Services Levy Bill and says the reprieve must be used to iron out the fundamental issues facing farmers and regional communities.

It's a statement echoed by many in South Gippsland.

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund was set to be introduced on July 1 and subsequently change the Fire Services Property Levy. The new fund would support a broader range of emergency services including VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management and Emergency Recovery Victoria, not to mention the Emergency Management Commissioner and Chief Executive positions within Emergency Management Victoria and Secretary to the Department of Justice and Community Safety, to the extent of emergency management; alongside CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria.

VFF President Brett Hosking said while farmers would be breathing a temporary sigh of relief, legitimate concerns still linger regarding the proposed cash-grab.

"This is a step in the right direction. The government tried to push through a flawed tax without consultation and they have clearly failed to secure the numbers. I thank those MP's who have demonstrated strong leadership slowing the passage of this new tax without proper community and stakeholder consultation.

"We have families struggling with skyrocketing costs, and



Farmers and regional leaders have rallied against the proposed emergency services and volunteers fund, demanding fairer consultation and greater transparency from government.

farmers battling drought, bushfires, and rising expenses. A cost-of-living crisis is not the time to introduce an unnecessary new tax. The stalling of the Bill gives us hope and more time, but we must see sweeping changes to the proposal," Mr Hosking said.

Mr Hosking said there would be no letting up on the opposition towards the Bill, despite last week's stall.

"Our message to the government couldn't be clearer. Talk to us, consult with us and work collaboratively to get ideas that actually work and don't risk taking a sledgehammer to the livelihoods of hard-working Victorian farmers," Mr Hosking said.

Earlier this month, The Nationals Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien stated, "Under the pretext of supporting volunteers,

what Labor is actually doing is taxing Victorians more for services that have always been core government business funded from consolidated revenue."

"Victorians already pay for public service agencies such as Emergency Management Victoria, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Triple Zero, and now they're being asked to pay even more," he continued.

The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath agrees, stating "Ultimately this fire services and volunteers fund will be used to fund core government services and the fact the government has used the word volunteers is a slight on our volunteers."

Under the rebranded levy, residents and commercial ratepayers are expected to pay double



what they currently are and farmers almost triple.

As previously reported by the Sentinel-Times, a 80.5 hectare grazing property, for example, at Tarwin Lower for \$2.9 million, which previously attracted a Fire Services Levy of \$1108 on last year's rates notice, will see a rise to \$2683 this year – more than double. Commercial dairy farmers in the region could be expected to pay \$5000 or more just for the emergency services levy alone.

And during February's council meeting both Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and former South Gippsland Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey spoke out about the Fund with Mr Hersey stating he believed the tax had been "introduced by stealth".

According to the latest Census data there are 28,734 occupied private dwellings across Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

The only reprieve for the roughly 1000 CFA volunteers, and couple of hundred SES volunteers locally, within the Fund is under section 20D, a volunteer offset, but who and how this offset will be administered by is yet to be determined, and who will even be eligible is another question altogether, that's not to mention that hardworking volunteers will first have to pay the tax and then navigate the rebate process.

Member for Eastern Victoria Dr Renee Heath didn't hold back last week when stating "Despite the Treasurer's promise that volunteers would be exempt, we've now learned that they must first pay the tax out of pocket and then navigate a bureaucratic rebate process that can take up to two months. Worse, the exemption is capped at \$4,150 – leaving many farmers to foot bills between \$5000 and \$10,000."

On Saturday, Dr Heath followed up stating, "This bill pretends to back our emergency services but most of the money won't go to CFA trucks or local brigades, and we do know that our firefighters across the state of Victoria will receive less than they do now."

"This will push up grocery prices, it'll push up rental prices," Dr Heath continued.

The Legislative Council will resume in five weeks following the federal election, however, it's unknown when the debate will continue after the government shut it down during last week's session.



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**South Gippsland
Shire Council**

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Upcoming Business Support

Council is partnering with the Small Business Mentoring Service to offer free support opportunities for local businesses in April!

Small Business Mentoring

Small Business Clinics provide 45-minute mentoring sessions, available online or via phone on Wednesday 9 April 2025.

Whether you are planning, starting or wanting you grow your business, an experienced business mentor will provide tailored, one-on-one advice to guide you in the daily management of your business.

To register, visit
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/small-business-clinic

Additional mentoring sessions will be available throughout the year. Stay up to date on Council's website and socials.

Building Masterclass Series

Another business support opportunity is the three-part Masterclass on building business resilience.

This exclusive workshop series focuses on equipping participants with the tools to identify risks, develop networks and increase resistance to financial and operational challenges.

The Masterclasses will be held in Korumburra on 29 April, Leongatha on 20 May and Foster on 17 June.

For more information or to register, visit
www.sbms.org.au/events

Leongatha Memorial Hall Project Workshop



As part of an upcoming project, Council is seeking input from community members who currently use Memorial Hall and the adjoining precinct, and those who would like to use the space in the future.

Join us on Thursday 10 April at either 2.00pm or 7.00pm for an activity-based, interactive workshop in the Hall.

For more information, visit
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leongathamemorialhallproject

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 2.00pm. Details will be available on Council's website:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

SOUTH GIPPSLAND CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

All are invited to attend the April South Gippsland Citizenship Ceremony.

When: Wednesday 23 April 2025

Time: 6.00pm

Where: 6-8 McCartin St, Leongatha (Memorial Hall)

On the day, eight conferees will be recognised, coming from:

- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- England
- Zimbabwe
- North Macedonia

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

RFT/409 Korumburra Rail Precinct: Design & Construct Skate Park

Tenders close 2.00pm AEST on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

Documentation is available from Council's e-Tendering Portal

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

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Mirboo North powers up

THE first stage of an energy resilience project was held in Mirboo North recently, where residents learnt about selecting the right generator for their home, and safe connection options.

Many residents purchased or borrowed generators during the February storm in 2024 but were unclear on what size generator to use and how to connect it safely.

The event was organised by the Mirboo Country Development Inc (MCDI) with energy resilience grant funding from Ausnet of \$146,000, along with a \$2000 co-contribution from the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation.

"When the power outage happened, we were quite isolated, and the community, the businesses that we rely on, on a day-to-day basis, we really struggled to operate. So, this project is around ensuring that they can continue to operate in the event of a power outage. It's installing change-over switches that will enable them to safely and easily connect to backup power," explained president of MCDI, Kelly McCarthy.

During the session, Matt Holland from Prolec Solutions spoke about the different kinds of generators and changeover switches, and how residents can prepare for power outages and use a generator safely – with or without a changeover switch.

He held a live demonstration of the impact of key household appliances on small inverters and large traditional generators.

The second part of the town's en-



Kelly McCarthy from Mirboo Country Development Inc (MCDI), Jess and Matt Holland from Prolec Solutions, Kim Sullivan from Ausnet, and Ruth Rogan from Mirboo North and District Community Foundation/MCDI.

ergy resilience project will focus on ten local businesses that are critical during an emergency; those that supply food, banking, equipment and medicine to the community.

The electrical infrastructure will be assessed in these businesses and upgrades to necessary circuits will be made, to enable changeover switches to be installed, to allow seamless connection of an external generator to power the premises in the event of an outage.

Having this infrastructure will benefit both business owners through reduced stock losses by maintaining refrigeration and enabling trading continuity during prolonged power outages, and the wider community by enabling access to goods and services and maintaining a sense of 'normality' during an emergency.

These measures will help to build greater energy resilience across the community by ensuring that key local businesses can safely operate in a power outage and that local residents can prepare for managing power outages in their homes.

Kim Sullivan from AusNet, James Bremner from South Gippsland Shire Council and Ruth Rogan from the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation also attended the evening, and flyers are available on crisis preparedness and grant opportunities for businesses.

Generator usage handouts can be collected from Mirboo North and District Community Foundation.

The team at Mirboo North Hardware can also assist residents who are purchasing a generator and Prolec Solutions can provide information on installing changeover switches.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



WE have received lots of news this week starting with CFA announcing the lift of the Fire Danger Period which happened yesterday (Monday 7 April). While this is great news, I would urge anyone planning a burn off to do so with care. With little rainfall over the past months, conditions are still dry.

Last week we were also informed of the Federal election voting date (Saturday 3 May). Since then, there has been announcements for funding from candidates running in the election. We welcome these; however, it is important that Council continues to advocate and make it clear what the community's key priorities are to the people running for the seat of Monash. I hope to see more projects and commitments announced and followed through for the people of South Gippsland.

the Three-Part Masterclass or a Mentor Session please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business_workshops

Leongatha Memorial Hall Engagement

Time is running out to have your say on the feasibility of updating Leongatha Memorial Hall and the surrounding precinct. There are opportunities to either be part of face-to-face workshop's (Thursday 10 April), complete an online survey or submit an Expression of Interest to be part of the Project Reference Group.

If you have any involvement or interest in the Hall, I strongly suggest you visit the link below to be part of this great engagement opportunity. www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leongathamemorialhall-project

Volunteering in South Gippsland

Over the weekend, I was fortunate enough to be invited to the 70th Creative Exhibition of the Gippsland Hills Group Country Women's Association. The CWA, like all other not-for-profit organisations, depend on people who volunteer. Celebrating 70 years of the Gippsland Hills Group really highlighted to me the importance of getting involved to ensure we carry on the legacy of such wonderful organisations.

Carrying on from this, my wife Di and I, recently attended the Leongatha and District Netball Association Debutante Ball. Everyone looked amazing and it was a fantastic night. I wanted to share a special thanks Coral Johnson and Vicki Neal. These two women have coordinated this event for the past 30 plus years ensuring a memorable Deb for our local young girls and boys. Their contribution to our community is truly commendable.

And lastly, I would like to make note of the CFA, who celebrated 80 years since their official establishment. A milestone which encompasses many years of protecting and serving Victorians through the commitment and dedication of volunteers.

To end this week's message, I would like to share my deepest thanks anyone who volunteers any of their time to the South Gippsland community. Time is one of the greatest gifts you can give. If you love the work of a local group and would like to get involved, have a chat with a member.

New energy hub for Poowong granted

THE Poowong community will now have access to power during prolonged power outages with new equipment being purchased to create a resilience hub, with a grant from AusNet.

The Poowong Public Hall Inc., together with the Poowong Football and Netball Club (PFNC) made a joint application for the AusNet Energy Resilience Grant and were successful in receiving \$49,950.

Matching funding was not required for the grant.

"To get just on \$50,000 without having to do any matching funding, for a little town of 700, that is pretty good, and it's really for the town because most of the people on farms have got backup generators," said Jim Forbes, Poowong Hall committee member and organiser of the grant.

With the funding, a new 15 kW solar system and 24 kW back up battery has been installed at the hall, and a 45-kW diesel generator has been installed at the PFNC Clubrooms, to

operate the buildings and grounds.

"Some of the locals on the committee, they poured the concrete slabs for the battery and the generator; and the security cages for both were made locally, here in town too," added Jim.

"So, there was a bit of volunteer labour."

These two locations will act as public hubs for the local community during severe weather events or prolonged power outages.

Community members will be able to charge their phones, have a cuppa, prepare a meal and watch TV, there is also heating and cooling at both venues and showers at the Clubrooms.

The hub will only be available in extended emergency power outages, rather than half-day interruptions of power or where AusNet has given notice of proposed maintenance works.

The executives of both committees have met and agreed that while the hub won't operate around the clock or offer accommodation, it will be open to serve the community during the day.

Jim commented that the Sports Centre was not included as a venue, as it did not meet the grant selection criteria for appropriate accessibility, equipment, facilities and service.

In addition, the Poowong Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) are applying for a Resilience Grant of \$3000, through the South Gippsland Shire Council to set up Starlink, to address the lack of phone service that was experienced with the last extended power outage.

"Our biggest problem is when we have a power outage, the Telstra tower only lasts for four hours. As soon as the powers off for more than four hours, we've got no communications, and probably comms' is the most limiting factor when the powers out," said Jim.

"We're just totally dependent on that tower in Poowong for mobiles and you can have a generator at home, but if you can't connect to anything, you've got no idea what's going on."

Delburn Wind Farm ground works progressing

WORK is progressing at the Delburn Wind Farm with OSMI Australia recently releasing an update of works in progress at the site.

OSMI Australia states that field surveys and geotechnical investigations have been completed which will assist with the design work.

At each turbine location, boreholes have been drilled to a depth of 20 metres and test pits dug along the road and cable routes.

Thermal resistivity testing has also been completed along the cable routes.

The information gathered has been used to design the civil engineering works and the underground electrical infrastructure, according to OSMI Australia.

"There's been a lot of work going on behind the scenes to build the Delburn Wind Farm. We look forward

to construction commencing in the second half of this year," said Peter Marriott, Executive Director Development, OSMI Australia.

"It's great to be able to offer local jobs and help build the skills for the clean energy workforce. This investment will not only assist local economies but deliver real benefits for surrounding communities."

All geotechnical investigation works were completed under the supervision of GunaiKurnai Cultural Officers, as required by the approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Detailed planning and engineering design works have been completed and management plans are being finalised by OSMI Australia, prior to going to the Minister for Planning and/or Minister for the Environment to be endorsed, and contract documentation is also being prepared.

Total construction is estimated to take between 18 months and two years and is currently scheduled to commence in the second half of this year.

The first 12 months of the construction will be civil works involving building internal roads, upgrading public roads and placing underground cables before the towers, turbine components and blades are delivered to site.

However, according to OSMI Australia, a detailed construction schedule cannot be finalised until after the contract has been awarded.

Once the lead contract has been awarded, OSMI Australia stated they will advise the community and notify individuals and suppliers who have registered to work with them on how they can be involved in the wind farm's construction.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025 | 11

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METRIC & IMPERIAL

12 Metric Spanners: 8 - 19mm

12 Imperial Spanners: 5/16 - 3/4"

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12 Imperial Spanners: 5/16 - 3/4"

K3023

METRIC & IMPERIAL

12 Metric Spanners: 8 -

Plans to make a difference during the coldest months

PLANS are underway for a 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter to support those in the community experiencing homelessness.

Organised by the Interchurch Council of Phillip Island, the winter shelter will use church buildings to provide an evening meal, dormitory style accommodation and a safe place of care and connection.

It's anticipated that the 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter will offer up to three nights of accommodation, each week, in Cowes throughout June, July and August.

The winter shelter will rely on a group of trained volunteers who will staff the winter shelter each night it is offered and will be fundamental to making this initiative possible.

Each evening there will be three shifts, the setup/evening, overnight and breakfast shifts.

"To make a practical difference during the coldest months, we will need a dedicated team of volunteers who will work in a wide range of roles including drivers, cooking help, overnight roles, admin support and more. If you'd like to volunteer email wintersheltervol@gmail.com and we'll send you an application form," said Wendy Elson, Winter Shelter Project Co-ordinator.

Guests from all over Bass Coast will be eligible to access the winter shelter. All guests will be assessed for suitability.

It's anticipated that this process will be managed by the



Some of the 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter committee, Wendy Elson, Uniting Church and Project Co-ordinator, Annie Taylor, Anglican Church, Liz Jacobs, Bass Coast Housing Matters, Alice Van Brussel, Baptist Church and David Rooks, Community.

Salvation Army Homelessness Services – Gippsland who are specialists in this area.

The winter shelter project aims to develop a means of transport to assist guests to access the churches providing the accommodation on the island.

Experts Stable One, a registered charity that has successfully operated the Yarra Valley Winter Shelter since its inception in 2017, is supporting plans for the 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter.

Stable One's winter shelter vision is more than a place to stay and this vision helps explain why communities such as ours run a winter shelter program. The program will provide overnight shelter for

people experiencing homelessness and in need of crisis accommodation. It will also offer so much more. It will be a place of welcome and care and will build relationships with guests, allowing us to journey with those Interchurch Council of Phillip Island who want support and encouragement towards a more stable living situation," explained Wendy.

Experience from other shelters across Victoria and Australia shows that there is no additional influx to the area of people experiencing homelessness.

"By replicating Stable One's winter shelter model, that has been tried and tested, we will make a real-life difference in the lives of people experiencing

homelessness in our area," said David Rooks, Chair of the Winter Shelter Committee.

The 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter is an initiative that evolved from the homelessness think tank forums run by Bass Coast Shire Council in 2023. It is underpinned by the churches that form the Interchurch Council of Phillip Island including the Uniting, Baptist, Anglican, Catholic, Surf Church and Equip Church. Assisting the churches to deliver the Winter Shelter are the Bass Coast Shire Council, Salvation Army Homelessness Services – Gippsland, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) and Housing Matters Bass Coast (HMBC) which is auspiced by Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre (WNC).

"This is a major community collaboration. It shows just how many organisations support the vision and values of the winter shelter and the hope it offers those experiencing homelessness," said Liz Jacobs, Bass Coast Housing Matters.

As plans come together for the Bass Coast Winter Shelter more information on the initiative will become available.

For more information on volunteering email wintersheltervol@gmail.com and all other inquiries including how to donate or to assist the proposed 2025 Winter Shelter, contact Wendy Elson, project co-ordinator, on 0492 859 637.

Fire restrictions to end in South Gippsland

THE Fire Danger Period (FDP) officially ended at 1am on Monday, April 7 in the South Gippsland Shire Council. The easing of restrictions comes as conditions have significantly improved over the past fortnight in the region, with two substantial rainfall events occurring and more expected.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer, South East Region, Trevor Owen said the shift in weather has brought welcome relief.

"We're now seeing better moisture levels overnight, which is helping to reduce fire risk," Trevor said.

Despite the change, residents are advised to remain cautious if burning off around properties.

"Autumn is a great time for fuel management, and very shortly we'll see both CFA planned burns and private burn-offs happening across the region," Trevor said.

"However, it's important people burn off responsibly. We've still got dry fuels in some areas, and combined with gusty winds, fire can spread quickly if not managed properly.

"Any burning off activity must always have someone in attendance, with enough water and resources to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively."

As restrictions lift, CFA is also reminding landowners to register any burn-offs they undertake via the Fire Permits Victoria website.

"By registering your burn, we can prevent false alarms and focus our efforts where they're needed," Trevor said.

Where possible, landowners should also notify neighbours and those nearby who may be sensitive to smoke.

Anyone travelling outside the region is reminded to stay up to date with local fire restrictions, as some parts of Victoria remain in the FDP.

Restrictions however remain in place for Bass Coast with the current end date May 1.

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Leonard: More needed than PM's Medicare boost

"WHILE I welcome any investments in Medicare and GP services that can help address mental health needs, the Prime Minister's budget simply does not go far enough in providing the dedicated, specialised mental health support that communities like ours in Monash are crying out for."

"Expanding Headspace centres is a positive step, but it does nothing for the many towns across Monash that still have zero Headspace facilities, forcing young people to travel long distances or go without care. And while early digital interventions may help fill some gaps, they are no substitute for in-person acute care for those in crisis."

"The reality is that the Monash electorate has zero acute mental health beds, zero step-up-step-down facilities, and unacceptable wait times for basic psychiatric services. Residents are suffering, families are under strain, and lives are being lost because successive governments have overlooked our mental health needs for too long."

"Monash residents have signed my petition calling for urgent action to address this crisis. We need a clear commitment to establish acute mental health beds in our hospitals, step-up-step-down facilities in our communities, and Headspace centres in major towns, at a minimum. 'Anything less is selling our community short.'

As an independent MP, I will work tirelessly to secure the mental health funding and services Monash deserves, no matter who is in government. Our community cannot afford more piecemeal measures and political spin – we need real investment and real local services on the ground. The major parties have proven that only by electing a strong independent voice can we finally get Monash the mental health support we need."

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair Street, Leongatha 3953.

Russell Broadbent lashes US tariff on Aussie beef

MEMBER for Monash Russell Broadbent has hit out at President Donald Trump's decision to impose a 10 per cent tariff on all Australian exports to America, labelling it a slap in the face for our nation's beef export industry.

"Here in Gippsland, we have many first-class export abattoirs that supply high-quality beef to the US market and these businesses will no doubt find life tougher under these new tariffs and have every right to feel resentful," Mr Broadbent said.

"The decision from the Trump Administration will only lead to increased costs in the US market while penalising Australian beef producers in the process."

Mr Broadbent stressed that Gippsland beef is renowned not only for its rich flavour and tenderness but also for our strict quality and biosecurity standards.

"Our farmers will never waiver from those high standards, and neither should we when showing them our support," he declared.

Noting that Australia contributes significantly to the US economy, importing \$2.5 billion worth of food and agricultural products annually, Mr Broadbent ponders whether America will reconsider its tariff decision down the track.

"Additionally, Australia contributes considerably to US crop science, genetics and agricultural innovation; these are industry-to-industry links that have been built over generations," Mr Broadbent said.

Gen Z and the millennials about to outnumber baby boomers at the ballot box

By Bruce Wardley

FRIGHTENED by the prospect of a nuclear power plant in Gippsland and a Trump-style government in Canberra, millennial voters and Gen Z are likely to vote very differently to baby boomers at the forthcoming Federal Election.

For the first time Gen Z and the millennials are expected to outnumber baby boomers at the polls, loosening the influence of baby boomers on populist party politics.

Bass Coast student Oliver is more than a little alarmed at the prospect of a government that threatens to fire public servants and build a nuclear power plant at his back door.

"I'm worried about what's going to happen," said Oliver.

"Whether the planet will be liveable."

Oliver also fears education is going downhill.

"Fully funded schools won't happen until 2030," said Oliver.

"Students would benefit if it happened now."

The cost of medical care is a problem according to Oliver and no free dental health.

"It would be useful for dental care to be part of Medicare."

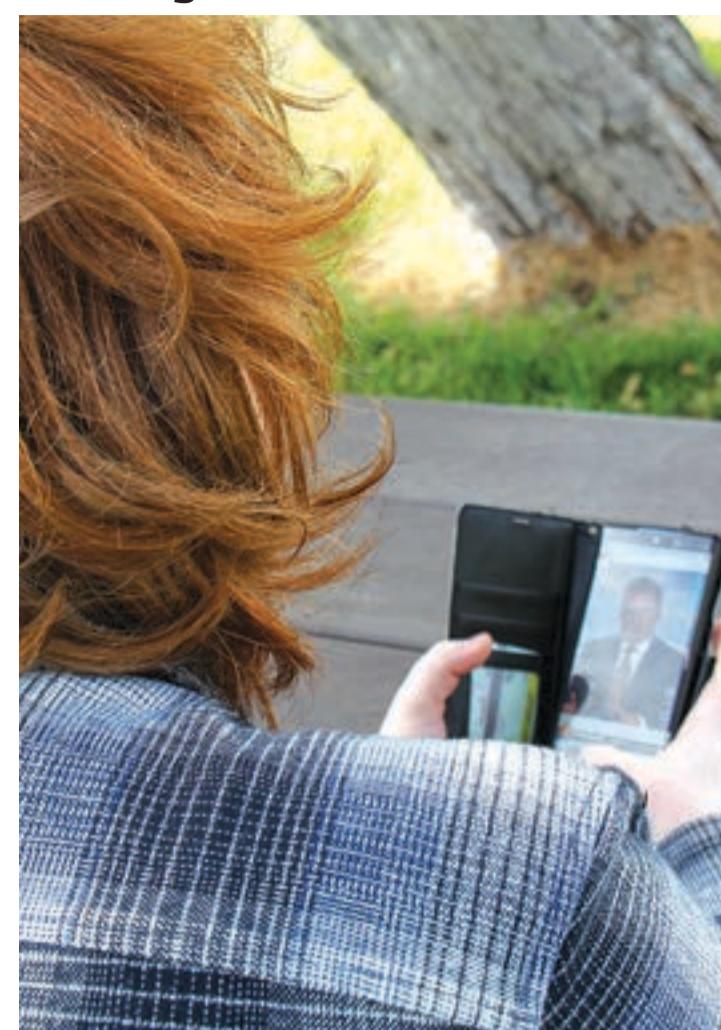
Gen Z also argues that social justice is being overlooked.

Baby boomers might agree, after all, it was the baby boomers who were at the forefront of significant social and political change in the 60s and 70s.

LGBTQIA+, queer and trans issues are missing from the election agenda and people who are Jewish, Sikh, Hindu and Muslim are just not being heard according to Oliver.

The rising cost of living for Gen Z is reflected in the cost of public transport.

"It costs me \$10 for a



Climate change and the cost of education top Gen Z's election priorities. B100_1425

return trip to Melbourne and I can't even get a return ticket in Bass unless I go to Anderson and back," said Oliver.

The prospect of a looming HECS debt also has Oliver and Gen Z worried.

The Albanese Labor Government has promised to cut student loans by 20 per cent if re-elected, wiping around \$16 billion in student debt but that's not enough according to Gen Z.

"HECS debt affects young

Z is TAFE courses not being offered in Wonthaggi. Many young people and apprentices slip past TAFE according to Oliver and are forced to study online.

"The range of subjects offered at secondary level is also limiting," he said.

"We need a bigger secondary school in Bass Coast."

International politics weigh heavily on the minds of Gen Z, particularly the Middle East. The biggest shock according to Oliver was when Labor said there'd be no recognition of a State of Palestine. Labor instead affirmed it would recognise a Palestinian state but with no timeline attached.

Questioned on the prospect of a coalition victory at the polls, Oliver said he was scared.

"Peter Dutton is painting himself as an Australian Donald Trump," said Oliver.

"He's threatening to fire government workers, tear down the education system and build a nuclear power plant at our backdoor."

Oliver said he was firmly opposed to nuclear power and desalination plants.

"The last election was the climate election. This election is about education for young people."

It is doubtful young Oliver will have the last word on any of these issues, but baby boomers beware, Gen Z and the millennials are chasing you to the ballot box.

Generation Z or Gen Z as they are known are generally considered to have been born between 1997 and 2012, meaning the oldest Gen Z is around 28 and the youngest 13.

Millennials are defined as those born between 1981 and 1996, aged between 28 and 43.

Aldred backs reversal of policy on working from home

By Bruce Wardley

THE Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) may be sceptical but a backtrack by the Federal Coalition on a working from home ban for public servants has been warmly welcomed by Liberal Candidate for Monash Mary Aldred.

Admitting the Coalition's policy on working from home arrangements for public servants was a mistake, Liberal Leader Peter Dutton has undertaken not to change current working from home policies for those in the public sector and not introduce a minimum number of days in the office.

According to ACTU President Michele O'Neil, Mr Dutton is not to be believed.

"It is clear that what he (Mr Dutton) wants is 36,000 APS jobs to be cut and a wholesale wind back of flexible work arrangements," said Ms O'Neil.

According to Mary Aldred, the Coalition will guarantee the delivery of the high-quality essential services that Australians rely on while ensuring that the cost and size of

the public service reflects the most efficient and effective delivery approach possible.

"We will end Labor's wasteful spending in the public service and restore a sense of respect for taxpayers' money."

According to Ms Aldred, the Coalition will sensibly reduce the size of the public service excluding military and reserves by 41,000 over five years, bringing it back to a sustainable level while protecting frontline service delivery and national security.

"This will be done methodically through a hiring freeze and natural attrition," said Ms Aldred.

"We will support flexible working arrangements for the public service including working from home by respecting existing flexible working arrangements and enshrining them in future agreements."

"A Coalition Government will not change current flexible working arrangements including work-from-home policies," said Ms Aldred.

Ms Aldred reaffirmed there will be no mandated minimum number of days for public servants to work in the office.



Liberal candidate for Monash Mary Aldred campaigning in Wonthaggi. B117_1425

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Tully Fletcher says 'no' to high-voltage lines

By Michael Giles

VICGRID, the State Government authority coordinating the planning and development of Victoria's transition to renewable energy may have failed to rule out a second transmission crossing on the Gippsland coast at Waratah Bay but that hasn't stopped Labor's candidate for Monash, Tully Fletcher, doing just that.

At a community drop-in session at Sandy Point on Saturday, February 15, approved feasibility licence holder, Gippsland Skies, revealed plans to scope out two cross-shore corridors to connect its 2.5 GW project with the grid at the Latrobe Valley.

So, the Sentinel-Times put the scenario to VicGrid, especially given the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, had previously ruled out areas west of Wilsons Promontory as being too sensitive for renewable infrastructure.

But VicGrid CEO Alistair Parker was less than comprehensive with his rebuttal.

"VicGrid has made it clear to Gippsland Skies and to all offshore wind proponents that those wishing to connect to the first stage of the offshore wind transmission need to do so at the shared connection point near Giffard. No decisions have been made on further transmission requirements. VicGrid is solely responsible for planning offshore wind transmission infrastructure. The Victorian Government has also made it clear that offshore wind farms will be required to connect underground to the VicGrid connection points."

But Mr Tully has made it clear, that if he is elected as the local Member for Monash, there will be no second connection point at Waratah Bay, nor will there be transmission towers marching across the South Gippsland rural landscape. Through Fish Creek, Meeniyan and Mirboo North to the Latrobe Valley.

"Since my preselection as the Federal Labor candidate for Monash I've spoken with voters, councils and community groups about Gippsland offshore wind," said Mr Fletcher this week.

"There's very strong support across Gippsland for renewable energy, offshore wind, and the jobs and investment renewables are bringing to our communities."

"However, I've also heard clear and unanimous feedback about Gippsland Skies' exploration of a western connection cable route through Waratah Bay, west of Wilsons Promontory."

"If I'm elected as the Federal Member for Monash, the proposed western cable route through Waratah Bay will not proceed."

"I will make sure it never happens," he told the Sentinel-Times this week.

"I spoke with Gippsland Skies this week to confirm my position."

"To reassure affected communities, farmers, and businesses, I requested Gippsland Skies make a public statement to confirm they will only proceed with an eastern cable route, consistent with the Victorian Transmission Plan."

"Monash needs a new federal MP who does the work, stands up for Gippsland, and gets things done. I'm already delivering," said Mr Fletcher.

As well as the Gippsland Skies 2.5 GW project being proposed for Declared Area OEI-01-2022 part 3, south of Waratah Bay and Wilsons Promontory, it is proposed that Southerly Ten's 2.2 GW Kut-Wut Brataualung wind farm project will be located side-by-side in the same tenement.

The closest landing point for these two offshore wind farms is Waratah Bay, about 50 kilometres to the north whereas an undersea cable of more than 150 kilometres will be needed to bring the power onshore at Giffard West, north-east of Yarram.

People power stops Waratah Bay route

By Michael Giles

WARATAH Bay and the South Gippsland countryside between Sandy Point and the Latrobe Valley is safe for now.

Last week, Gippsland Skies, one of 12 feasibility licence holders for offshore wind projects off the Gippsland coast, ruled out bringing the power cable from its proposed 2.5 GW project onshore at Waratah Bay.

Instead, it's only option now will be to run the undersea power cable 150 kilometres north-east, from Declared Area (OEI-01-2022 part 3), south of Wilsons Promontory, to the coast at Giffard West near Sale.

The decision also means that there will be no high-voltage transmission lines stretching north from Waratah Bay.

The company announced that it had taken its "northern marine survey off the table following community feedback" on Wednesday morning, April 2.

The decision has been warmly welcomed by community-based lobby group Responsible Renewables as a model of responding to community consultation that others would do well to follow, effectively protecting Waratah Bay from energy infrastructure development.

"This important decision aligns with the Federal Government's commitment to protect the western side of Wilsons Promontory, creating a consistent approach to preserving our region's pristine coastal environments," said Laura Jennings, spokesperson for Responsible Renewables.

The community advocacy group acknowledged the strong support received from local candidates including Mary Aldred, Russell Broadbent, Tully Fletcher, and Deb Leonard, who stood with residents and community groups in expressing concerns about



At consultations in February and March, Gippsland Skies proposed surveying two routes for its undersea power cable, the closest connector landing at Waratah Bay and likely requiring high-voltage transmission lines running overhead through South Gippsland to the Latrobe Valley. Thanks to community backlash and support from state and federal MPs and election candidates, that option is off the table.

the original proposal.

"Gippsland Skies has demonstrated genuine responsiveness to community feedback through extensive consultation," Ms Jennings said.

"We hope this collaborative approach becomes a model for both government and other developers. True community consultation means not just listening, but taking meaningful action based on what you hear."

"Gippsland Skies has set a positive example that we encourage others to follow," she said.

"The company has confirmed it will not survey the proposed northern grid connection cable route, focusing instead on the feasibility licence area and the eastern cable corridor route only."

However, while Gippsland Skies has categorically ruled out surveying a power cable route to Waratah Bay, it has left open the prospect of considering other Gippsland shore crossings in the future.

"Any further marine surveys

of potential alternative offshore grid connection corridors by Gippsland Skies will be informed by further information being provided on additional future connection points for offshore wind including through the Victorian Transmission Plan being developed by VicGrid," said Gippsland Skies.

"The company's upcoming marine survey program will include surveys in the feasibility licence area and proposed eastern cable corridor route only."

Around the same time as Gippsland Skies was announcing that it had taken the Waratah Bay survey off the table, Labor candidate for Monash, Tully Fletcher went further, declaring "If I'm elected as the Federal Member for Monash, the proposed western cable route through Waratah Bay will not proceed".

"Since my preselection as the Federal Labor candidate for Monash I've spoken with

voters, councils and community groups about Gippsland offshore wind," said Mr Fletcher.

"There's very strong support across Gippsland for renewable energy, offshore wind, and the jobs and investment renewables are bringing to our communities. However, I've also heard clear and unanimous feedback about Gippsland Skies' exploration of a western connection cable route through Waratah Bay, west of Wilsons Promontory."

Only days before making his announcement, Mr Fletcher had met with Gippsland Skies representatives, at which the prospect of dropping the northern route was likely discussed.

Asked if he had prior knowledge of Gippsland Skies' intentions before making his statement, Mr Fletcher said simply that he was pleased Gippsland Skies had arrived at the same conclusion as our community.

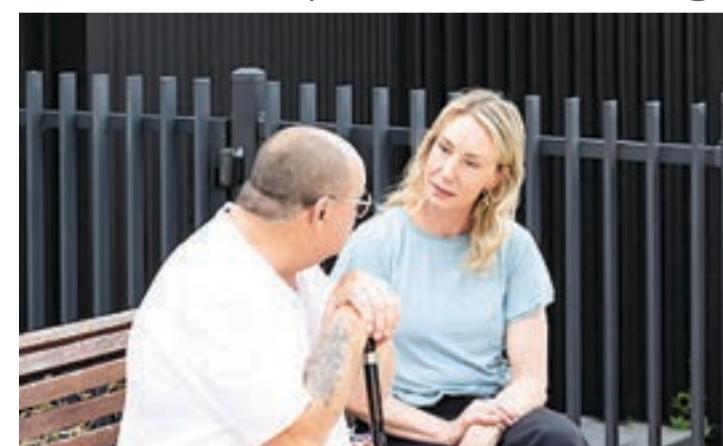
Deb Leonard will advocate to improve health and aged care for Monash

INDEPENDENT candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard, has announced her detailed plan to address the critical health and aged care needs of the Monash community. As an independent voice in Parliament, Deb is committed to fighting for Monash's fair share of funding to improve these essential facilities and services.

"Our community has been left behind when it comes to health and aged care," said Deb.

"As your representative, I will work tirelessly to improve access to healthcare services, tackle our mental health crisis head-on and support our aging population in Monash."

To improve access to healthcare services, Deb will advocate for lowering health costs by expanding the Medicare safety net, reducing wait times for appointments, ensuring accessible specialist services across Monash, funding affordable transport to city



Independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard commits to improving health and aged care.

appointments, focusing on preventative health measures, and building the new West Gippsland Hospital.

Recognising the urgent need to address Monash's mental health crisis, Deb will fight to secure acute mental health beds, expand outpatient services and step-up step-down facilities, increase Medicare-covered mental health

sessions, fund suicide prevention and support programs, and support community groups that foster social connection.

"There are currently no acute mental health beds in all of Monash," said Deb.

"We also need accessible youth mental health facilities in our town centres like Warraugul, Moe and Leongatha.

Too many in our community have been rocked by suicide - we deserve better."

Deb is also dedicated to supporting Monash's ageing population by expanding local aged-care facilities, increasing and improving home care packages, and simplifying the My Aged Care system.

Crucially, Deb has committed to securing the \$40 million in funding needed for Woorayl Lodge Aged Care in Leongatha to increase its capacity and deliver essential aged care services to the community.

"As an independent, my sole focus is on delivering the best outcomes for the people of Monash," said Deb.

"Together, we can ensure that our community receives the health and aged care services it deserves."

To learn more about Deb Leonard's plan for Monash, visit debleonard.com.au.

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair Street, Leongatha 3953

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SN: W102007



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Kia Carnival S
29,990 DRIVE
AWAY

159,312kms, 8 speed sports auto
people mover SN: W102020



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Holden Astra LT BL
17,990 DRIVE
AWAY

63,974kms, 6 speed sports auto
sedan SN: W102056



7 SEATER

2014 Jeep Grand
Cherokee Laredo
14,990 DRIVE
AWAY

175,767kms, 8 speed sports auto 4x4
SUV SN: W102029



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2017 Mitsubishi Triton GLX+ MQ
28,990 DRIVE
AWAY

68,187kms, 6 speed manual 4x4
double cab SN: W102040

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2008 Volkswagen
Touareg V6 TDI 7L
15,990 DRIVE
AWAY

115,928kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: L101331



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2015 Volvo V60 T6 R-Design
27,990 DRIVE
AWAY

59,333kms, 6 speed CVT auto AWD
wagon SN: L101316



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2021 Toyota Hilux SR
38,990 DRIVE
AWAY

201,403kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab SN: L101312



HYBRID

2019 Toyota Camry Ascent
28,990 DRIVE
AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Jeep Grand
Cherokee Limited
29,990 DRIVE
AWAY

100,176kms, 8 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: L101329



HYBRID

2018 Toyota Corolla
Ascent Sport Hybrid
18,990 DRIVE
AWAY

229,014kms, CVT auto hatch
SN: L101307



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2023 Mitsubishi Triton GLS MR
44,990 DRIVE
AWAY

5,216kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab SN: L101321



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2019 Mazda BT-50 XTR UR
35,990 DRIVE
AWAY

75,000kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
dual cab SN: L101320

Wonthaggi Toyota

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

Leongatha Toyota

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



OH WHAT A FEELING



Ms Leonard has thrown her support behind a \$2.5m federal funding bid by Change for Sam.

\$2.5 million bid for safety

INDEPENDENT candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard, has thrown her support behind a push to secure federal funding for personal safety devices aimed at protecting people at risk of family violence.

Leonard recently met with Change For Sam, a Victorian charity dedicated to preventing violence through the provision of 24/7 security-monitored safety devices.

The organisation was founded by Lija Matthews in honour of her close friend, Samantha Fraser, who was murdered by her ex-husband, Adrian Basham, in 2018.

"Had Sam had access to such a device, it could have potentially saved her life. These devices are already making a difference in protecting others facing similar threats of family violence," Lija said.

The safety devices, worn on the person, allow users to instantly alert a security company, which checks on their wellbeing and records audio.

With more than 66 women killed by a current or former partner in Australia in 2024, Leonard described the situation as a national crisis requiring urgent action.

"As someone who has worked in family violence and criminal law for nearly 20 years, I've witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of violence on our community – on victims and their families," Leonard said.

She believes these devices could also ease the burden on the legal system by enabling swifter convictions, reduce trauma for victims, and save both time and costs in the courts.

Change For Sam is seeking \$2.5 million in federal funding to make the safety devices more widely available and Leonard has pledged her full support.

"If elected, I will fight to secure funding for these devices, which will not only save lives but also help reduce crime and keep our community safe," she said.

"It is still a traumatic process for victims to report gender-based violence to police and apply for intervention orders. I'll work with state and federal governments to address these issues, drawing on my 20 years of experience in crime and family violence. Having also worked with perpetrators, I see the gaps in the system regarding mental health services, drug and alcohol counselling, and anger management programs that often leads to violent behaviour. We need to address these factors if we're going to break the cycle of violence."

One in four women will experience gender-based violence in their lifetime with rates in Gippsland well above state average.

For more information on Change For Sam, visit changeforsam.com.au.



Bass Coast police are committed to supporting victim-survivors of family violence, ensuring they have access to the help and protection they need.

Support, safety and change, we're here to help

If you are in immediate danger call 000.

THERE are many parts to family violence and whilst there is still room to learn as new research is released, it's definitely an area that has taken remarkable steps of improvement compared to decades past.

"There is a much greater understanding of family violence," Bass Coast Family Violence Division Sergeant Fawcett explained.

"Compared to 20-30 years ago there are a lot more services and procedures in place to support affected family members and victim-survivors of family violence. There is also a much greater understanding of how to approach matters of family violence.

"It's not an exact science, it's not black and white – there is not always an offender and a victim.

"In some situations, it is about intervening and speaking with both parties and finding out how we can assist them," Sgt Fawcett said noting the answer is "not always IVOs and arrests".

There are certainly situations that call on significant intervention, whether that be intervention orders (IVO) or arresting one party if offences have been committed, but as Sgt Fawcett explained when the Sentinel-Times sat down in conversation, there are many factors.

"We are all aware of what can happen, locally, nationally and worldwide, unfortunately," Sgt Fawcett stated.

The number one principal offence subgroup in both Bass Coast and South Gippsland for the 2024 year was breaches of family violence orders, jumping up 21 per cent to 314 (up from

258 last year) in Bass Coast, and rising 18 per cent from 166 to 196 in South Gippsland.

"For many years family violence has been underreported," Acting Inspector – Bass Coast LAC Jason Hullick said.

"It's a crime that has traditionally been behind 'closed doors' and family victims have either been afraid, or embarrassed, or feel nothing could be done, to come forward.

"The (recent) figures are disappointing, but we also look at those figures and see we have come a long way, that people are more comfortable and courageous in reporting family violence to us.

"We have made a lot of inroads, especially since the Royal Commission, and have put a lot of work into family violence reporting.

"Family victims should feel confident they will be supported when family violence is reported; that we will hold perpetrators to account."

Undertaking a risk assessment and appropriately supporting both parties is crucial for Sgt Fawcett and his team.

"We go in with a clean slate – what has happened for police to be called?

"We really try to work with the affected family member/victim-survivor and help them achieve the right resolution for them."

Working closely not just with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing but also with Orange Door and Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA), the Family Violence Division ensures affected parties are linked with the correct support networks.

"Linking parties with these networks is often the best way to assist. We have had great success in the past where

we have responded to an incident, engaged both parties, linked the parties in through our reports, and we have never heard from either party again."

Determined to change the rising statistics and not shying away from the extremity of situations they are faced with it is clear Sgt Fawcett and his team want what is best for those who find themselves in a family violence situation.

"We want people to know that we are always here if something happens – we will help."

"Wonthaggi Police Station is manned 24/7, people can attend in person or call. The earlier we are engaged, the earlier we can assist.

"We also rely on the victim-survivor trusting us and disclosing information. We understand it can be difficult, but it is crucial for us to understand the whole picture. We cannot force people to tell us what they don't want to."

Guided by what is disclosed and what is seen, the Family Violence Division acknowledges that in certain circumstances they do have to make the tough calls.

"If that means that we take out an IVO on behalf of the victim-survivor, despite the victim-survivor's wishes; we have a duty of care to ensure the protection of all parties, particularly when there are warning flags. Sometimes the parties have no choice, our hand is forced by the law."

Stepping inside a police station or making the call can be difficult, there is no undermining the strength it takes.

"We understand it can be difficult to make the first step for victim-survivors, and we want those in our community who are faced with situations of

domestic and family violence to know they can approach us. It's a giant step to take, and we understand much can change once you say something. There are many factors that can contribute to situations."

Sgt Fawcett noted that whilst some people come forward early, for other victim-survivors it can take years.

"We want to help people facing family violence. We want victim-survivors to know that they can come to us, things have changed."

"Victims can also directly refer to Orange Door."

Whilst Sgt Fawcett admits the system is not flawless, and there is still a way to go in protecting victims, particularly in instances where bail is given after multiple breaches of intervention orders, he is keen to get the message out "Bass Coast police are here to help."

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger contact 000.

Family Violence Support: Safe Steps 24/7: 1800 015 188, webchat available 9am - midnight Monday to Friday.

1800 Respect, National domestic, family and sexual violence counselling service: 1800 737 732

The Orange Door: orangedoor.vic.gov.au

Gippsland CASA, Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1800 806 292

The Salvation Army: salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/family-and-domestic-violence/find-help-for-domestic-violence/

Anglicare: anglicarevic.org.au/our-services/family-violence

Seniors Rights Victoria: 1300 368 821, 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Men's Referral Service, 24/7: 1300 766 491, 24/7

Yarning SafeNStrong, 24/7: 1800 959 563

Don't pass up immediate medical attention

ON OCTOBER 2, 2024, new laws were introduced in Victoria, making non-fatal strangulation in a family violence setting a standalone offence.

The Crimes Amendment (Non-Fatal Strangulation) Bill 2023 introduces harsher penalties for offenders and provides clearer legal recognition of the dangers posed by strangulation in family violence cases.

Bass Coast Family Violence Division Sergeant Mick Fawcett welcomed the changes, explaining that the new laws bring much-needed clarity to the legal system.

"The new laws provide more clarity as an offence and create a more streamlined, specific charge for this conduct, which endangers serious injury or life. It identifies an exact offence and can help with prosecution, but more importantly, assists with the risk assessment of the victim," Sgt. Fawcett said.

Previously, strangulation was often charged under broader assault laws, which sometimes failed to capture the severity of the act.

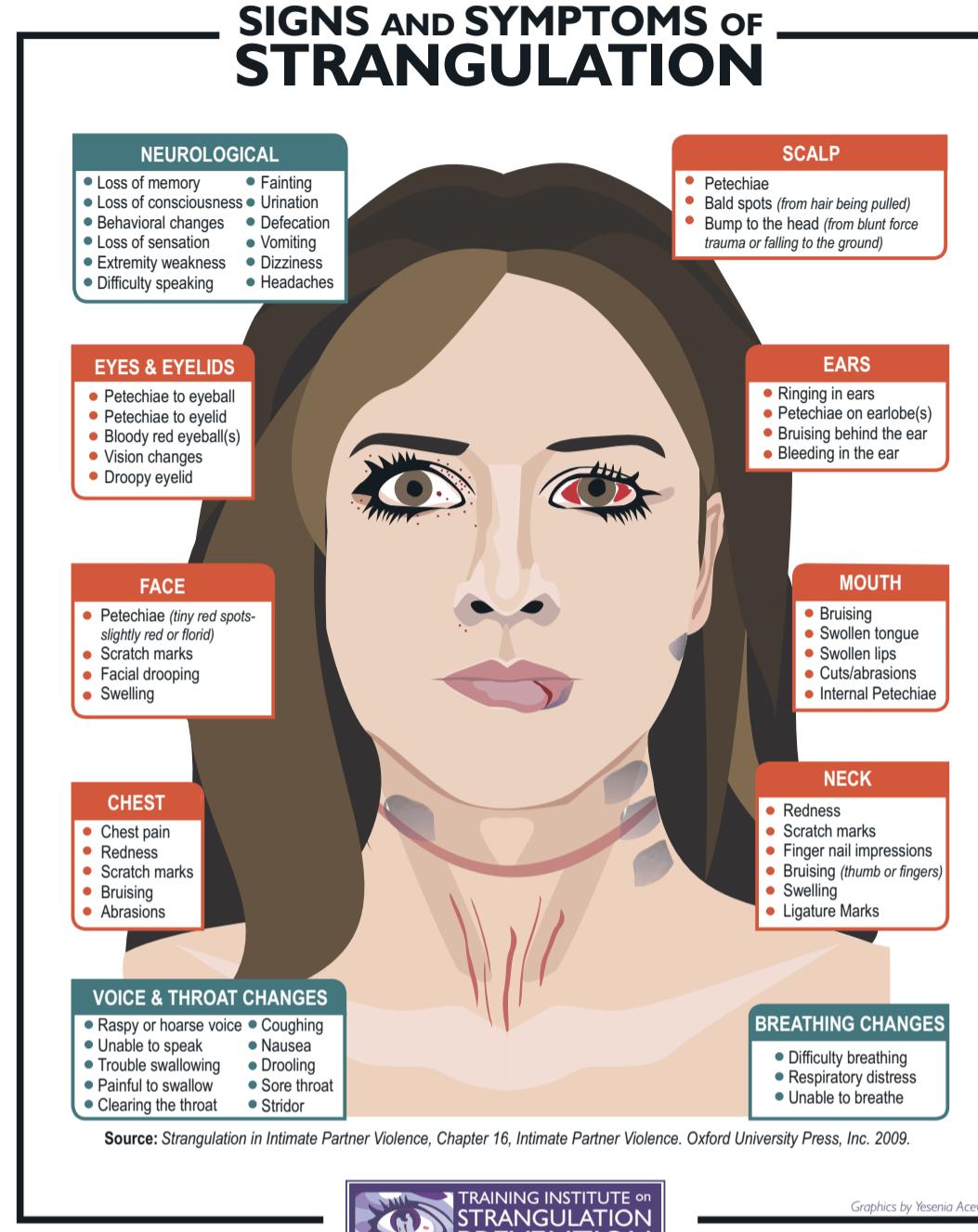
Research has shown that women who survive non-fatal strangulation are over seven times more likely to be killed by their partner in the future.

The introduction of the legislation, often referred to as "Joy's Law," follows the tragic death of Joy Rowley in 2011. Ms Rowley was smothered to death by a former partner who had previously strangled her to the point of unconsciousness. Her case highlighted gaps in the legal system that campaigners argued left victims vulnerable.

Under the new laws, Section 34AD of the Criminal Code makes it an offence to intentionally choke, strangle, or suffocate a family member with the intent to cause injury, carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment. Section 34AE makes it an offence to intentionally choke, strangle, or suffocate a family member without lawful excuse, carrying a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

Sgt. Fawcett stressed that these laws are not just about punishment but also about increasing awareness and improving victim safety.

"It's incredible how closely this offence is linked with more serious crimes. Our



TRAINING INSTITUTE ON
STRANGULATION
PREVENTION

www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com

Graphics by Yesenia Aceves

Bass Coast Police are urging family members and the public to familiarise themselves with the signs and symptoms of strangulation as they work to ensure victims receive immediate medical attention.

primary goal is always to protect victims of family violence, whether that's through remanding perpetrators, intervention orders (IVOs) or engaging with support or medical services," he said.

He strongly urged victims to seek immediate medical attention by way of ambulance or hospital attendance, even if they have no visible injuries.

"With or without visible injury, you are still at risk of unseen physical damage in the throat area," he explained.

For those experiencing

strangulation, Sgt. Fawcett emphasised the importance of reporting the incident.

"Firstly, try and make sure it's reported to police. Also, if possible, surround yourself with family or friends who can help you seek medical attention," he said.

Authorities hope the changes will provide greater protection for victims and ensure stronger legal consequences for perpetrators.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 000 or go to the nearest hospital. Local

hospitals include Wonthaggi Hospital, Leongatha Hospital, Cowes Urgent Care Centre, Gippsland Southern Health Service Urgent Care in Korumburra, and West Gippsland Healthcare Group in Warragul.

Support services are also available:

The Orange Door: orange-door.vic.gov.au

MensLine Australia: 1300

789 978 or mensline.org.au

Lifeline: 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800 or kidshelpline.com.au

Family violence continues to rise in Gippsland South

RECENTLY released data has revealed that family violence remains a significant problem across the Gippsland South electorate.

According to data released by the Crime Statistics Agency for the 2024 calendar year, family violence related crime has significantly increased in the three local government areas that form Gippsland South over the past 12 months.

South Gippsland saw increases of 11.9 per cent respectively while Wellington

and Latrobe saw an increase 14.2 per cent and of 14.7 per cent respectively.

Family violence related crimes accounted for 37.27 per cent of all criminal incidents reported in South Gippsland, 32.46 per cent in Latrobe, and a whopping 40.41 in Wellington.

The Nationals Member for Gippsland, Danny O'Brien said it was extremely disappointing to see such figures across the electorate.

"These numbers are incredibly shameful. There is no

number of family violence incidents that would be acceptable, and we all have a role to play in ensuring this trend does not continue.

"We need to be having the tough conversations and speaking up to ensure we send a clear message that family violence is never acceptable.

"There is no excuse for family violence. It is as simple as that."

Mr O'Brien said the figures painted a horrific picture of what is going on behind

closed doors in Gippsland South and it is clear immediate action is needed.

"Victoria is in the midst of a crime wave with weakened bail laws leaving criminals thinking they can suffer no consequences for their actions.

"Breaching of violence orders was the leading reported criminal incident in all three local governments.

"Survivors of family violence deserve to feel safe and it is clear from these numbers that that is not being achieved."



Homicide Squad investigates suspicious death in Cowes

DETECTIVES from the Homicide Squad are investigating following the discovery of a man's body at a property in Cowes on Monday morning, April 7.

Officers were called to the home, at the intersection of Church Street and Justice Road, when the man, believed to be aged in his 80s, was located about 10.20am.

The death is being treated as suspicious.

A man, believed to be aged in his 50s, who was found with suspected self-inflicted injuries in Ventnor earlier on Monday, was taken to hospital under police guard.

It appears at this stage, the people involved are known to one another.

The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are yet to be determined.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at crimestoppers.com.au

Spate of aggravated burglaries

POLICE are investigating multiple incidences across Bass Coast and South Gippsland over the last week. Anyone with information is urged to contact Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or by making an anonymous report at crimestoppersvc.com.au/report-a-crime.

April 3, Cape Paterson: Police are investigating the theft of a 2017 Mercedes Benz A200 hatchback and two handbags during an aggravated burglary in Cape Paterson.

April 3-4, Korumburra: Police are investigating an aggravated burglary in Korumburra overnight on April 3-4. It's understood personal items belonging to the victim were stolen. The offender is believed to be approximately six foot tall, female with long black hair, potentially in late teens, Caucasian and wearing a hoodie.

April 4, Cape Woolamai: Two fly screens were damaged during an attempted burglary in Cape Woolamai during the afternoon of April 4.

April 5, Silverleaves: Police are investigating an aggravated burglary in the early hours of April 5. It's understood the offender gained entry and upended the contents of a handbag on a couch before being disturbed by the victim. The offender fled the scene and is not believed to have stolen any physical items.

April 5, Coronet Bay: Coronet Bay General Store was ransacked during a burglary in the early morning of April 5. It's understood two to three offenders stole cigarettes and money from a till.

April 6, Welshpool area: Police are investigating the theft of a motor vehicle from the Welshpool area in the early hours of April 6. Two offenders were caught on CCTV stealing a 2015 silver Toyota Landcruiser.

April 6, Korumburra: Police were called to a suspicious car fire in the early hours of April 6. CFA attended with the blaze soon extinguished. It's believed the 2015 Isuzu silver wagon was stolen during an aggravated burglary earlier in the evening.

April 7, Cowes: Police are investigating an aggravated burglary in Cowes whereby the offender gained entry and stole keys and subsequently a blue 2016 Volvo in the early hours of April 7.

April 7, Silverleaves: Police are seeking information on four to five offenders who are believed to have attempted to gain entry into a premise in Silverleaves. Holding flashlights and wearing dark clothes and balaclavas, the offenders were startled by a resident and fled before gaining entry.

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

Council plans need to deliver practical improvements

EVERY four years, after a new council is elected, the community gets bombarded with a plethora of planning and project consultations as the new council sets its course for the future.

It would be easy to roll your eyes and turn the page or click through to something more interesting.

But it's important to take an interest and have your say before these plans are set in stone, because they really do matter when it comes to having an influence on how \$105.2 million is spent annually in the case of Bass Coast and \$94 million at South Gippsland.

Both shires have a range of consultations going on at the moment. South Gippsland has its 'Shaping South Gippsland' process going on ahead of preparing a new council plan. The community has listed roads, weeds, supporting community volunteers and government advocacy on such things as public transport and reliable electricity as key issues.

They've also gone out to the community on the Memorial Hall development plan and the proposed skate park at Foster.

Bass Coast has some weighty plans out for public consultation at the moment including its four main planning documents: the Community Vision, Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Plan for which a 45-member community panel has been appointed to represent the community.

Wasn't that what we voted for at the council elections in October last year?

Prior to the appointment of the 45-member panel, the general community came up with its five priorities: 1. Roads and footpaths. 2. Playgrounds and open spaces. 3. Supporting local business. 4. Waste and recycling. 5. Environment and climate change.

Bass Coast also has a Coastal Management Plan, Healthy Communities Plan and the San Remo Structure Plan out for community consultation.

In fact, there's some pop-up events coming up over the next few weeks on the Healthy Communities Plan including at Bass Valley Community Group Neighbourhood House on Wednesday, April 9, Berninnett on Friday, April 11 and at the Corinella Community Market this Saturday, April 12.

The San Remo Structure Plan is open for consultation until April 28 and you can arrange a one-on-one meeting with a shire planning official to discuss your thoughts.

But our planners would do well to take note of the practical suggestions that come forward from community members.

As you can see from the community priorities for both councils, improving local roads and footpaths is high on the list.

They're not talking about the 14 kilometre shared pathway between Inverloch and Wonthaggi or the extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail, as much as we welcome these facilities. They're talking about better roads outside their own homes and around their towns, and footpaths that get their kids off the street.

The majority of people are concerned about the impact of climate change, support recognition of our indigenous heritage and healthy lifestyle initiatives including "delivering a whole of community approach to family violence" but it's also important to draw the line between state and federal responsibilities and local responsibilities.

What people really want is practical measures that improve their lifestyle

I'm voting for responsible balanced government

DEB Leonard's campaign is being sold as a grassroots movement, but the reality is far more organised and well-funded than her supporters admit.

While she claims independence from party politics, voters should ask: who is really shaping her policies? Activist networks, climate lobbies, and union-aligned organisations often fund "independent" candidates – what influence do they expect in return?

The suggestion that Ms Leonard is the only candidate engaging with the community is misleading. Major party candidates regularly consult with constituents and have the experience and infrastructure to turn policy ideas into action. It's easy to make promises with no track record to judge against – governing is another matter entirely.

The broad attack on the "political duopoly" ignores that responsible leadership requires balancing climate action with economic stability. Will Ms Leonard's policies support jobs and lower the cost of living, or just echo activist demands that hurt working Australians?

Monash deserves strong, experienced representation – someone who can deliver real results, not just rhetoric. Simply calling oneself "independent" doesn't make one the best choice.

Rob Parsons, The Gurdies

Misleading election material

I RECEIVED a letter in my mailbox on Monday which was in a plain envelope and seemed to be coming from the Electoral Office, it was marked important election material.

Inside, the mail was in fact from the Liberal party and included a postal vote for attention which was to be returned to the Liberal party for implementation.

This mail was totally misleading and in my opinion a disgraceful tactic.

I returned it to the sender informing them of my opinion of their tactic.

Bob Cornelis, Wonthaggi North

Monash, the one to watch

WHEN the State and National media is analysing what the government will look like they speculate on the possible gains and losses of the two parties and then look at the role the current independents will play in a likely minority Government.

But one of the most marginal seats in Victoria is our seat of Monash. Until the last election, Monash was a safe Liberal seat held by Russell Broadbent forever! Last election a community representative Independent, Deb Leonard, "a teal", got 11 per cent of the primary vote, making Monash one of the most marginal seats in Victoria with a 2.5 per cent margin. But I have not seen it, or her, featured in any mainstream media analysis.

This election Russell, just deselected, is running as an "independent" against the liberal candidate he lost to, and as such has also opened the door for the Nats to throw in a candidate. That split the right vote three ways. Labor, even with Green preferences, were not able to break into that major Liberal vote.

Deb looks likely to more than double her vote meaning on preferences between a fragmented right and low-performing Labor and Green vote she is looking a real potential for this seat.

But this is not covered because it's the country, not a high profile candidate, just an honest, young, successful local lawyer, embedded in her community, who cares about our environment and a passion to do politics better.

But you see it's not just that she may win, it's that if she does the Liberals will lose another seat in Victoria and the seats that are being chased and discussed in the city are irrelevant, because on current polling that means we will have a Labor minority government that will have to work with Independents from the City and the County – like Indi and potentially here in Monash.

And why is that good? Back to our new Liberal candidate, Mary Aldred, a good local

person, but she is supporting nuclear as the climate change solution, she is supporting Dutton dog whistling on Aboriginal flags and acknowledgement of country and the stopping immigration (not sure how we will pick our fruit or staff our cafes and restaurants), supporting the role back of a tax reduction for all, over a smaller fuel tax deduction. I don't believe she thinks any of these are right or valuable but she will tow the party line.

The reason we will most likely have a minority government is because I think we want the people who represent us to do what is best for their community and to speak truthfully about that in Government. Monash may get that voice in Parliament for the first time, and there may be a minority government that will have to listen.

So our city media should be watching Monash and we in Monash should be thinking very carefully about our vote and who we prefer because this time it could make a really big difference!

Nicolas Frances Gilley MBE, Phillip Island

An April fool's joke?

Sentinel Times April 1 Page 23 (Leonard pledges support strategy to support farmers and agriculture)

I THOUGHT I was reading an April fool's joke when I came across an article (SGST pg 23 April 1) where the teal party candidate for Monash pledged her support for farmers and agriculture, in particular, supporting farmers rights, reducing red tape and having a voice at all levels of government.

Given the well-known Green/left disdain for farmers and rural communities, I found Ms Leonard's comments in the article to be at best disingenuous.

Ms Leonard and her teal party are, amongst other things, a political mouthpiece for the renewable energy industry and enjoy massive financial support from a number of Australia's most prominent renewable energy subsidy grifters. The bullying and coercive tactics employed by the renewables industry against farmers and small rural communities all over Australia has resulted in many long-standing relationships being irreparably damaged, ongoing neighbourhood disputes and communities being divided.

In the event that Ms Leonard is the successful candidate in the upcoming election, I have no doubt that in the event of a dispute between farmers/rural communities and the renewables industry, Ms Leonard would side with her ideological bedfellows and financial backers. Farmers would once again be left to fight their own battles.

The last thing we need is a lame duck serving a dish of motherhood statements just to win a few votes.

Laurence Hardingham, Glen Forbes

A dead end, he says

IN A bygone age people formed and joined political parties as a means to an end. Parties proposed policies that their members believed would fix problems. Attracting new party members and growing your public support was the foundation for success. Getting enough of your people elected was the way to enact your policies. The party organisation existed to give voice to the membership and the party representatives spoke for their membership.

Often there might be sharp disagreement between parties since one party policy might conflict with the interests of another party's supporters, for example, workplace safety policies. But the basic approach to politics was, firstly to identify objectives, next to define policies you believed would help meet those objectives, then to argue your case in the public space. You might agree or disagree, but you had a pretty good idea of what the party stood for. Now fast forward to today.

Can anyone tell me, with a straight face, what either the Labor or Liberal parties actually stand for? We know from experience that what's printed on the packaging has little, if any, resemblance to what's in the box. Seriously, if Labor or Liberal were cereal brands

you'd get malnutrition or food poisoning if you tried to eat them. What began as a means to an end has become an end in itself, and it's a dead end.

In this coming election, in the seat of Monash, we have an alternative to the pointless party pantomime, community independent Deb Leonard. Deb's policies come from the people of our community. Deb's support base is the thousands of signed-up supporters and hundreds of volunteers who have been wearing out their shoe leather and bending our ears. To those who murmur ominously about the financial support her campaign has received from community organisations, I say, "So what?". Money is worthless without grassroots support, and it is that support which makes her a credible candidate.

You can vote for a party if you really want more of the same, or you can vote for a person. I'm voting for a person. I'm voting for Deb Leonard.

Bill Legge, Warragul

Voting for my children

I HAVE five children and five grandchildren and I love them all. That's why I'll be voting Labor on May 3. To vote otherwise would be condemning my future family to a climate hell-on-earth. If you believe real scientists (like the CSIRO scientists) don't buy into the ridiculous climate deniers' views or the fanciful nuclear views of the nuclear industry.

The Coalition's policies would actively unleash 6.3 billion tonnes of climate pollution. This would turbocharge climate-fuelled extreme weather, putting more Australians in harm's way.

This is real. It's not a time to vacillate. Be a responsible citizen and put your family's future first by voting Labor, the proven climate realists.

Nicholas John Peck, Trida

Tully claims credit where none is due

THE ALP candidate for Monash, Tully Fletcher, owes our community an apology.

His announcement (SGST 31/03/2025) claiming responsibility – "doing my part" – for \$2.4M to make local roads safer is misleading and an affront to the community and hardworking South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC) civil servants.

The funding scheme for local roads improvement – the Federal Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) – requires an application by state governments or Local Government Authorities (SLRIP website). The application was due in January this year – well before the Federal ALP candidate appeared on the Monash horizon!

If, as he claims, this is a result of him "delivering" for Monash, it would be an improper use of a merit-assessed funding program. Pork barrelling, Mr Fletcher!

It was the community working with the Council that identified Simons Lane as a priority project over 12 months ago. And it was hard-working Council officers who prepared the successful application. The ALP candidate had nothing to do with it.

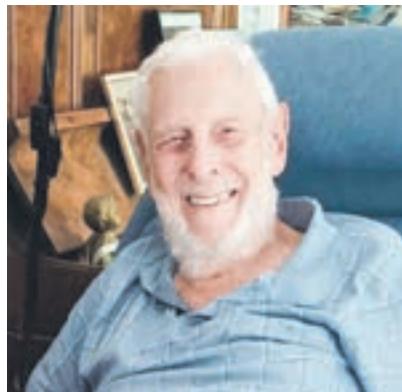
To ensure there was no impropriety, I've asked the SGSC Acting CEO and the relevant ward councillors to clarify whether Fletcher was involved in the application.

Perhaps Fletcher thinks that we should be grateful to him and his party for having a scheme such as SLRIP. Well, this is exactly the kind of 'cargo cult' mentality that our big party machines encourage: "Just wait, we'll deliver".

We need more for Monash than a cog in the political machinery.

In the March Federal budget – which had nought for Monash – Community Independent Sophie Scamps (Mackellar, NSW), secured \$250m for roads. Scamps was praised for her "constructive advocacy" by Labor's Transport and Infrastructure Minister, Catherine King (Sun Herald, 23/03/2025 p.14). Monash, like Mackellar, needs a representative who will advocate for more than just themselves.

John Tebbutt, Meeniyian



Vale Peter Lee

By Friends of Agnes Falls

VALE Peter Lee, our esteemed FoAF founding member, committee member and life member, who died on March 24, 2025, aged 95.75 years.

He had been residing at Agnes, near Toora, in South Gippsland since October 1995, firstly with his wife Barbara (deceased), and was involved with many local community groups over the years, such as the Welshpool Horticultural Society, the Toora and District Progress Association, and the Friends of Agnes Falls, along with partner of 22 years, Kathy Whelan FoAF Secretary.

Peter was awarded an OAM in 2016 for his twenty years of voluntary service at that time and was also awarded South Gippsland Shire Corner Inlet Citizen of the Year in 2018.

Peter died peacefully in his sleep at the Latrobe Regional Hospital at Traralgon, a month after having had a fall at home.

He will be very sadly missed by all who knew him.

Rest in Peace, dear Peter.

RACV Inverloch Resort presents Narelle Autio exhibition

RACV Inverloch Resort has officially opened the exhibition Narelle Autio: Selected Watercolours, showcasing the work of one of Australia's most celebrated photographers, on display now until June 8.

RACV Head of Visual Arts Mardi Nowak said that Narelle Autio's Watercolours series captures the essence of Australians' relationship with the water, presenting images that are both complex and beautiful.

"The collection of photographs provides visitors with an immersive experience into Autio's exploration of Australian coastal life and we are thrilled to host Narelle Autio's Selected Watercolours at RACV Inverloch Resort," Ms Nowak said.

"Her ability to portray the beauty and drama of Australian coastal life aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing enriching cultural experiences for our members and guests."

The work of Narelle Autio has been recognised with numerous awards, including the prestigious Leica Oskar Barnack Award, making her the first Australian recipient. Autio has also won two World Press awards and two Walkley awards.

Autio's photographs are held in esteemed collections such as the National Gallery of Australia and the National Gallery of Victoria.

In addition to Narelle Autio: Selected Watercolours, guests visiting or staying at the RACV Inverloch Resort will also be able to enjoy Digital Dreams, Analog Echoes – an Artificial Intelligence-inspired art exhibition.

The Digital Dreams exhibition has proven to be a popular one with guests and Inverloch locals and, in conjunction with a new large-scale artwork by indigenous artist Adam Magennis, completes an exciting cultural offering.



Lyric Theatre Lighting Technician William McCarthy with Martin Carlson Foundation Trustees Darren Polglaise and Gary Brittle. B36_1425

Shining a light on Leongatha's Lyric Theatre

THE LIGHTS are going up on Leongatha's Lyric Theatre courtesy of a generous training grant from the Korumburra-based Martin Carlson Foundation.

Lighting technician and designer, William McCarthy has been chosen to receive specialist training in a new lighting console ahead of the Lyric Theatre's forthcoming production of Footloose.

"We're aiming for a retro feel, back to the basics," said Mr McCarthy.

A diesel mechanic by trade William McCarthy recently received a GAT Award from Gippsland Associated Theatre for lighting in the Lyric Theatre production of Into the Woods and was also nominated for a Bruce Award by the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria.

Lyric Theatre approached the Martin Carlson Foundation for assistance with face-to-face training for William on a new lighting desk that will become a vital

element of the transformation of Memorial Hall into a theatre for the three-week production of Footloose.

"The new lighting desk will be a vital part of the South Gippsland theatre group," said Martin Carlson Foundation Trustee, Gary Brittle of the \$23,000 lighting console.

"It gives the Lyric Theatre the opportunity to expand its production base."

The Martin Carlson Foundation has contributed \$50,000 to support training for people in the Gippsland region and young students with learning challenges in the northwestern suburbs of Melbourne.

A significant part of the lighting grid will be hired for the show.

William McCarthy first volunteered as a lighting technician as a young teenager.

"It was in 2015 and I loved it."

Mr Brittle said the Martin Carlson Foundation was proud and delighted for Will to be a recipient of training support.

"It will have a legacy effect."

"After Will has been trained and upskilled

others will benefit from Will's talent," said Mr Brittle.

"It gives the Lyric Theatre the opportunity to expand its production base."

The Director and CEO of the theatre had seen my show and personally invited me to do an encore season of Eat, Pray, Walk at the prestigious venue. That's not an opportunity to pass up," said Marcus.



Wonthaggi's own, Marcus Ryan is bringing his show Eat, Pray, Walk, to this month's Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Homegrown success hits the Melbourne stage

HEADING to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival this month? Check out one of Wonthaggi's own.

Following recent success at last year's Melbourne Fringe Festival – picking up the Regional Arts Victoria Award – Wonthaggi's Marcus Ryan is gearing up to perform his debut theatre season at Gasworks Arts Park in Albert Park.

"The Director and CEO of the theatre had seen my show and personally invited me to do an encore season of Eat, Pray, Walk at the prestigious venue. That's not an opportunity to pass up," said Marcus.

What is the Camino De Santiago?

"It started as a religious pilgrimage and has become quite popular with expanding routes all over Europe leading to Santiago in Spain. In 2017, I decided to go for a walk of biblical proportions you could say. Forty days and 40 nights. Or thereabouts. I've written and toured a show about my journey on foot and it's been well received all around the world," explained Marcus.

You just never know who might be watching.

"It caught the eye of developers for a British TV network for a potential series when I performed it in Edinburgh and sold out on the West End in London. It has won awards in the US and Australia, but the thing I'm most proud of about this show is that all ages can enjoy it and it leaves people feeling pretty good."

What's next for Marcus?

"I'll be touring this show regionally in 2026 so if you miss out seeing it in Melbourne, fingers crossed I get to bring it to Bass Coast. And of course, more travel adventures to write a new show."

Tickets to Eat, Pray, Walk at Melbourne Comedy Festival are currently sold out, but to stay up to date on Marcus' future events visit itsmarcusryan.com.



High jump Olympian and World Champion Eleanor Patterson with students from Mary MacKillop College at the annual Inter-School Sports Day.

Patterson returns to where it all began

FRESH from the World Athletics Indoor Championships in China and the World Athletics Maurie Plant Meet in Melbourne Olympic high jumper and past student of Mary MacKillop College Eleanor Patterson took time out to visit her former school.

Attending the local Inter-School Sports Day at Mary MacKillop College Eleanor was able to meet some of the competitors and staff to share the story of her path from Leongatha to Olympic and World Champion status.

Eleanor most recently took gold in the Women's High Jump at the first World Athletics Continental

Tour Gold meeting of 2025 in Melbourne a little over a week ago.

Clearing 1.94m to win the high jump Eleanor bowed out at 1.97m the height she achieved to take silver at the World Indoor Championships in Nanjing.

Patterson has already set her goal at two metres.

"I'm in really good form to do that this year," Patterson said.

Mary MacKillop College has completed a very successful first term of sport with a swimming carnival, athletics carnival, cricket, tennis and volleyball.

Progressing to the State Inter-School Swimming

Championships were Ned Sheahan, Will Taylor, George Edwards, Sam Kreutzberger, Harper McRae, Tayah Matheson, Anna Miletto, Lacey McRae, Isabel Croatto, Claudia Croatto, Emily Croatto, Gemma Cook and Nyah Chapman.

Several students have progressed to the Regional Athletic Meet later in the year and the Year 7 boys and senior girls tennis teams also progressed to regional level.

For more on Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College go to mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au or look for marymackillopcrc.com on Instagram.



ERNIE Hopkins was welcomed into the world at Leongatha Hospital on March 19 at 2.03am. He is a son for Josh Hopkins and Remi Ryan of Leongatha.

Send your photos to news@sgst.com.au



LOVE your pet

Celebrating our incredible Vet Nurses

AT INVERLOCH Animal Doc, we are proud to have a team of dedicated and compassionate vet nurses who go above and beyond to support the health and well-being of our community's pets. While veterinary consultations are essential, there are times when pets need a little extra care, reassurance, or ongoing support, and that's where our incredible nursing team steps in.

To better serve our clients, we have introduced dedicated nurse consultation times, providing expert assistance for nail trims, allergy prevention, nutritional advice, skin irritation, follow-up check-ins, and owner education. These sessions ensure that pets receive the attention they need without requiring a full vet consultation.

Recently, we cared for Bella, a beautiful dog struggling with a chronic skin condition. Her owner was doing their best to manage it, but Bella needed extra support.

After a consultation with Dr Lana and a mini day



Nurse Caitlyn was caring for Bella, who struggled with a chronic skin condition.

spa with Caitlyn, one of our vet nurses, Bella's condition started to improve. Through regular check-ins and additional spa treatments as needed, Bella is now looking and feeling her best!

"We are so lucky to have such a team of talented and caring nurses at Inverloch Animal Doc," said clinic lead, Dr Lana.

"Their dedication, expertise, and love for animals shine through in every interaction, making a real

difference in the lives of pets and their owners."

Our clinic operates with two-three vets on most days, supported by our skilled vet nurses who assist with surgeries, consultations, and pet education.

Whether your pet needs a quick check-in, a little extra TLC, or ongoing support, our team is here to help.

Visit Inverloch Animal Doc and experience the exceptional care our vet nurses provide.

Expert Vet Care



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VETERINARY CLINIC

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Inverloch Animal Doc

HM12480

Combatting cold weather

Athritis

As the weather cools down, arthritis can flare up in our furry friends. Stiffness, reluctance to move, and discomfort are all signs your pet might need extra support this autumn and winter.

- Keep them warm with a cozy bed and jacket.
- Gentle exercise helps maintain mobility.
- Joint supplements and a healthy diet.
- Veterinary check-ups ensure they get the best care.

Visit us in clinic to discuss new treatment options for your best friend



Caring for your pets in Leongatha | Wonthaggi | Inverloch | Foster | Newhaven
 Mirboo North and our brand new clinic in Grantville
www.gippsvet.com.au



Owner Colin Kelly and Manager Simone Gracey from Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn. B18_1425

When only the best is good enough for pet and livestock supplies

IT IS no surprise that Remy gets excited whenever it's time to stock up on pet and livestock supplies at Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn on the Bass Highway in Grantville.

After all, Remy is a growing Australian Kelpie and Kelpie puppies can get hungry.

When only the best is good enough Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn has everything you need for your farm animals and pets including a large range of premium and working dog foods.

Owner Colin Kelly and Manager Simone Gracey aim to please.

Come and see for yourself the great service and range of pet and livestock supplies on offer.

This country-style, family-owned business is dedicated to supplying the very best stock feed and pet supplies at very competitive prices.

"Drive right up to the door and we'll help load your vehicle," said Colin.

Now in its seventh year Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn is a firm favourite with holidaymakers and locals alike.

"Nothing is too much trouble for our loyal customers," said Simone.

Dogs, cats, chickens, goats and budgerigars are all welcome.

Dog and cat food is a specialty and Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn only stocks the very best brands such as Green Valley Grains, Barastoc and CopRice.

Additionally, they stock feed supplements and hay for lifestyle farmers, grain mixes and pellets for goats, ducks, chickens and sheep.

Birds are well catered for with balanced seed blends for a wide variety of wild birds.

Hay has been a big seller this summer according to Colin.

With winter fast approaching now is the ideal time to stock up on supplementary feed supplies for cattle and sheep before the rain and cold makes handling and storage of stockfeed difficult.

Why not beat the rising cost of supermarket eggs this winter with your own point-of-lay pullets and layer pellets from Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn?

"I love my job," said Simone.

"I love talking to people and helping them with their pet and livestock needs."

Ensure your pets and livestock stay healthy by choosing quality pet and farm supplies from Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn.

Simone's advice for dog owners is don't over-feed your dogs.

"Once a day is enough."

I wonder if Remy knows that.

Look for Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn on Instagram, phone 5678 8933 or email basscoaststockfeeds@outlook.com.

Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn is just off the Bass Highway in Grantville.

Stockfeed and pet supplies for all animals in Bass Coast

Whether it be your chook, horse, cattle, dog, rabbit or cat
we can help!



Bass Coast Stock Feeds



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Phone 5678 8933

HM12476



LOVE your pet

Pet Adoption Awareness Day at Paws and Ponies in Leongatha

LEONGATHA Paws and Ponies, formerly Tiny Gardener, is hosting a Pet Adoption Awareness Day – Kong Day with the Forever Friends animal rehabilitation sanctuary this Saturday, April 12 at 56 Bair Street, Leongatha and everyone is welcome.

You can meet the team from Forever Friends and some of the animals in foster care from 10.30am.

Kong Day is an annual event where donated Kong toys are made available to customers to be stuffed with tasty treats for distribution to rescue pets.

Forever Friends is an animal rehabilitation sanctuary based in the Yarra Valley which assists in finding homes for homeless dogs, cats, small animals and horses all around Victoria.

Kong products are healthy toys and treats for pets that provide enrichment and play. Popular Kong toys include chewable toys, tug ropes, squeezable dumbbells and furry cozies.

What more could a dog or cat wish for?

"Dogs and cats need to play," said co-owner of Paws and Ponies Suzanne Jones.

Initially an indoor plant store in Leongatha, the Tiny Gardener now Paws and Ponies saw the need for premium



Suzanne Jones from Paws and Ponies in Leongatha with Saluki hound Farlam. B113_1425

pet and equine products in Leongatha and South Gippsland.

Focussing on the pet and equine market Paws and Ponies boasts a large storage area at the rear of the Bair Street premises referred to as the 'feed store'.

Paws and Ponies stock premium Australian made food and treats for dogs from trusted suppliers such as LifeWise, Black Hawk and Farmers Mate.

"Our treat bar comes from Traralgon," said Suzanne.

The equine industry is well catered for with a range of horse feeds and supplements, horse rugs for winter and first aid requirements.

Paws and Ponies will happily provide home delivery within 50 kilometres of the store using an environmentally friendly electric vehicle that reduces the store's carbon footprint.

"Give us a ring or come into the store on Kong Day and have a look around.

"Stuff a toy and meet the Forever Friends people," said Ms Jones.

Children are welcome accompanied by their parents.

Look for Paws & Ponies on Facebook, pawsandponies.au on Instagram, phone 0413 869 437, shop online at pawsandponies.com.au, or call into the store at 56 Bair Street, Leongatha.

Helping pets thrive in their golden years



Regular vet visits and tailored care plans can help senior pets stay comfortable, active, and happy well into their golden years.

for timely intervention. If your pet has a diagnosed condition, more frequent monitoring may be recommended to guide treatment and track progress.

Routine check-ups include a thorough clinical examination and may involve a blood test to assess your pet's overall health. Changes in blood

results can indicate early signs of disease and help guide appropriate management. Bloodwork also helps us select safe, tailored medications for each individual pet.

For pets struggling with mobility, further diagnostics – like x-rays or joint assessments – may be needed to accurately diagnose the cause of pain and build a personalised treatment plan. There are a variety of arthritis management options, from lifestyle changes to medications, depending on the diagnosis.

It's important not to overlook subtle signs of ageing. We often hear "they're just slowing down," but these changes can be linked to discomfort or illness. With the right care, many senior pets can enjoy a longer, happier life.

Older pets deserve special care, and we're here to help them thrive in their golden years.



Pearly Mates Pet Cremations helps pay tribute to beloved pets with beautifully personalised handcrafted urns.

Heartfelt goodbyes for beloved pets

PEARLY Mates Pet Cremations, a family-owned and run company servicing South Gippsland provides families with the perfect tribute for their beloved pet after their passing.

In remembrance of a loved one, the family team at Pearly Mates offer the choice of having a pet returned home in a beautifully handcrafted urn or prepared for the scattering of ashes in a preferred resting place.

Kylie and Jonathon of Pearly Mates Pet Cremations believe all pets and their loved ones should be treated with the utmost

respect during this difficult time, and in turn, receive a certificate in the form of a statutory declaration.

The handcrafted timber urns can be personally engraved, with a brass or silver finish, with the option of a photo embedded under glass, providing the perfect tribute to your beloved companion.

"We also have a select range of mini memorial urns in gold or silver that come in the form of a necklace or key ring," said Kylie.

"Our urns are available for general purchase even if you are not engaging our

full services."

Providing pet cremations since 2005, Pearly Mates value the love pets have akin to that of a family member.

"This is why we understand that the pain and loss can often feel overwhelming.

"We promise that the remains you receive are solely those of your pet. Our promise is genuine and legally binding."

To honour the memories of your pet, visit pearlymates.com.au or call Kylie or Jonathon on 0488 373 429 to help you through a heartfelt goodbye.

**For when
your loved
one is no
longer by
your side**

Pearly Mates
PET CREMATIONS

Our pet cremation service offers timber urns and jewellery in the form of a necklace or key ring.

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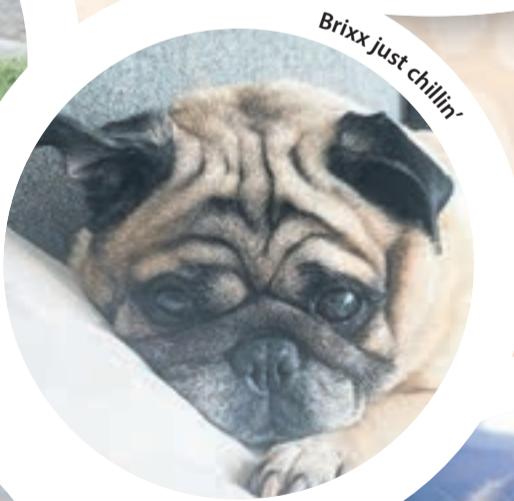
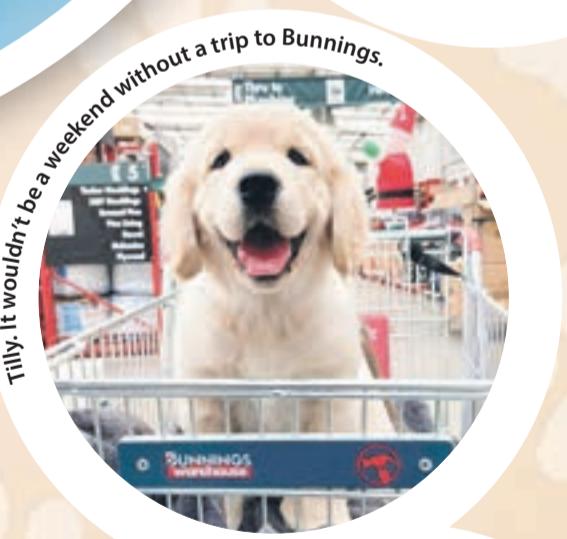
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Meet the **PETS** *of the COAST and COUNTRY*

In celebration of National Pet Day on Friday, April 11, the Sentinel-Times' Facebook followers shared photos of their adorable companions. This is just a tiny snippet of the overwhelmingly fantastic images shared. Head to our Facebook page South Gippsland Sentinel-Times to check out the other 300 photos!



Rose Lodge expands to add dementia unit

AGED care facility, Rose Lodge in Wonthaggi is in a phase of expansion after receiving \$2 million from the Federal Government to construct an additional dementia unit, Rose Cottage.

This expansion and imminent plans to expand the facility into surrounding land prompted the Board of Rose Lodge to invite the Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor and Councillors to attend an informal 'meet and greet' last week.

"I think it's important that we share (our plans) with the Council, who have a big responsibility as part of their planning in looking after people as they get older," said Chair of the Board of Rose Lodge, John Duscher, who is hoping to strengthen the relationship with Council.

"The Bass Coast has one of the highest-aged populations in the state. So, there's a great responsibility to work with us and other aged care places to make sure that we're providing the best facilities and the best home for all our people here."



BCSC Mayor Rochelle Halstead with Councillors Meg Edwards and John Temby at Rose Lodge for a meet and greet and to see the new project, Rose Cottage, with residents Joan and John Wilkinson and Joan Clark. ob01_1425

Mayor Rochelle Halstead, alongside councillors John Temby and Meg Edwards attended Rose Lodge, enjoying afternoon tea with the residents, the staff and board members, before touring Rose Cottage.

Rose Cottage is anticipated to be completed this November,

and will be a 17 bed facility, specifically built to cater to residents with dementia and higher care needs.

Mayor Halstead addressed the residents on the day and said she and her colleagues were excited to be at Rose Lodge, to have a chat and to

find out about the facility and the Rose Cottage project.

"We can take that back to Council, and we're about to go into Council planning. That's what's going to drive the organisation for the next four years, while this term of councillors are in, and the long-term financial plan. So, this is perfect timing to be here visiting with you and learning from your experience and being able to take it back and thread some of it through some of those really important documents," said Cr Halstead.

While funding from the government has ensured construction of Rose Cottage is underway, the board are welcoming and would be grateful for donations from individuals or community groups to help contribute to the cost of fitting out the new facility.

Mr Duscher added that donations would go towards making Rose Cottage a comfortable, calm, and safe space that the residents could feel at home in and enjoy.



Co-CEOs of Corporate Services for Carinya, Joel Stevenson and Kate Billing said aged care reforms will see changes to both fees and services in the aged care sector.

Aged care reforms will see significant changes

FROM July 1, significant aged care reforms aimed at improving the quality of care and ensuring better outcomes for older Australians will be implemented.

The reforms replace the outdated Aged Care Act from 1997 and will see the establishment of a new regulatory model, strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards and a Statement of Rights for older people.

The changes were set in motion following recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Safety and Quality which was carried out last year.

Changes to fee structures for aged care organisations and older people entering into aged care after July 1 are a significant part of the reform.

"The funding that we receive from the government will be a little bit different, and the funding or the fees that are charged to residents will also be changing overall," explained Co-CEO of Corporate Services for Carinya, Joel Stevenson.

"What it will mean at a high level is that a lot of users will end up contributing more towards the overall cost of their care when they come into residential aged care."

These changes are intended to create a more sustainable financial model for organisations, that often run at a loss, and to assist organisations to deliver the kind of care that is expected.

While fee changes won't impact residents who are currently in aged care facilities, they will come into effect for those entering aged care from July 1, 2025.

"So, it's really important that people in the community that are considering coming into residential aged care are aware that those changes are coming, and that they're seeking some independent advice as to what that will mean to them," said Mr Stevenson.

Significant changes around food and nutrition will also be instated, as the Royal Commission found a large percentage of aged care residents were malnourished or facing malnourishment, and this hasn't previously formed part of aged care standards.

Carinya has already been taking proactive measures in this space, by introducing multiple menu and meal options, together with a range of venue options for residents to dine at; leading to greater choice and control for the residents over what they eat and where they eat.

"It's about enhancing the dining experience, making sure that we're offering nutritious meals with choice," added Mr Stevenson.

Kate Billing, Co-CEO of Clinical Services for Carinya, believes the aged care reforms and standards that facilities need to adhere to will help to improve and enhance the service provided to those in aged care.

"The staffing levels and the mandatory care minutes have increased overall, which then provides better care towards our residents, and we will continue to work towards meeting these targets," said Ms Billing.

Sapphire Ewes' back-to-back titles in Back to Back Challenge



Kooroaman Sapphire Ewes team members and shearer Tina.



Intense focus is apparent as Kooroaman Sapphire Ewes successfully work to better last year's Back to Back Wool Challenge winning time, with Colleen Harvey, Sue Speer, Belinda Smart, Edyta Hoxley, Linda Howie, Kim Cadman and Robyn Holman.

Daphne's knitted beanies sell like hotcakes

RESIDENT of Rose Lodge, Daphne Nelson was in grade five when she knitted her first scarf, and she's been doing it ever since.

During the annual fete at Rose Lodge recently, Daphne, who shared the day with her grandson, had 48 of her brightly coloured hand-knitted beanies for sale.

"We had a great time; we sold a lot of things at the fete. That was great, it went off well," said Daphne.

It takes Daphne about a day and a half to knit a

beanie, and she does four or five a week, taking her time, as she commented, there is no hurry.

As a new and thriving resident of Rose Lodge, amidst socialising, Daphne said knitting keeps her busy.

"It occupies my time. You can't just sit around and do nothing, and knitting has always been a bit of a thing for me.

"It's just something that I do to keep the hands moving. I used to knit a lot of ordinary jumpers, kids jumpers,

but since coming in here, I'm down to beanies and they just sell like hotcakes."

Staff and residents at the lodge are becoming familiar with Daphne's crafted items and if they spot something they like, they're happy to take it off Daphne's hands.

She has also begun to receive requests for specific items.

"I'm now knitting football colour jumpers and beanies. Some of the girls want me to do that, that work here," said Daphne.

"It's a dying art."





Rehab notification leads to life-saving surgery

THEY say that timing is everything, and Evan Romer thinks someone must have been watching over him when he suffered a cardiac episode during a cardiac rehab session.

Evan was on the road to recovery after a stent insertion in November 2024 and enjoying his cardiac rehab sessions at Gippsland Southern Health Service.

However, during one session, he mentioned to GSHS cardiac rehab nurse Kathryn Croatto that he "felt a bit off."

Kathryn quickly recognised the symptoms, and Evan was soon in urgent care and then on the road to the hospital in Melbourne. Within days, he had a second operation which uncovered a more than 99 per cent blockage of the major artery leading to his heart.

Evan, 63, was one of the lucky ones, and he wants to share his story to warn others of the importance of listening to their body and acting early, as well as the life-changing benefits of cardiac rehab.

"I could never repay Kathryn, and I am humbled by all the healthcare professionals coming together to help me," he said.

"Going through this opened my eyes to how it all works together."

Evan and his wife, Ellen, moved from Melbourne to Ruby between Leongatha and Korumburra in April 2020, and he retired from work as a chief finance officer in 2022.

Although he was in good health, Evan was aware of hereditary risk factors as his father had suffered heart trauma and angina attacks.

When his sister was put on preventive heart medication after receiving a high calcium score, Evan decided it was time to be proactive and get tested.

"I was talking to my GP in the middle of last year and



Right place, right time — Evan's cardiac rehab session turned into a life-saving moment he'll never forget. Pictured from left, Kathryn Croatto — Cardiac Rehab Coordinator, Margie Fraser — Physiotherapist, client Evan Romer, and Jade Dixon — Allied Health Assistant.

said we should do some preventative health checks because of a history of heart disease in the family," he said.

"I did a calcium score test at Leongatha Hospital and got a phone call a day later, and the doctor said the report was not good. He said, 'they call it the widow maker'.

After an appointment with a cardiologist the next day, Evan was sent to Cabrini Malvern for an angiogram, where a 95 per cent blockage was found. He was operated on in November, and everything was fine.

However, his relief was short-lived.

"Two weeks before the most recent turn, I was walking the dogs up a hill and got a little chest pain. I didn't think anything of it, like a typical male, then it happened a few more times.

"A week later, I went to join my wife to walk the dogs and stopped at the front gate and said I'm not feeling 100 per cent, so I sat on the front porch."

Luckily, he had cardiac rehab that day.

"I went to the session and

told Kathryn that I had a weird pain, but it was probably nothing. She got me slowly pedalling on the exercise bike as I had a chat to her. After a few minutes, the pain came back, and I went grey and started sweating.

"She knew exactly what was happening. She got me off the bike, sat me down, took my vitals, and gave me a spray for angina, which calmed it down. She then rang the GP who said to get me to Leongatha Hospital urgent care as soon as possible."

Blood tests revealed Evan had experienced heart trauma, and again he was off to Cabrini.

"In the ambulance, I was chatting away and asked them why they had the lights on. They said you've had heart trauma; this is a critical case."

He was booked in for an angiogram, but two days later had severe chest pain. "I had a major angina attack; it was quite scary," Evan admitted.

The surgery was fast-tracked, and this time they found a 99+ per cent blockage of the main artery

leading to the heart.

"I was in the right place at the right time...somebody was looking after me that day and everything just fell into place," Evan said.

"I couldn't have asked for better care."

When researching where to move for a tree change, Evan wanted somewhere with healthcare and is pleased he chose Ruby.

"The care that I got at cardiac rehab and the confidence I get from pushing myself in that environment have been awesome. Kathryn and the team are like my guardian angels."

Evan has gone from being healthy and taking just one blood pressure tablet to taking five heart-related tablets, but he is back outdoors and enjoying manual labour on his five-acre block.

He also hopes to volunteer with future cardiac rehab sessions.

"They say you get emotional after a heart attack. It didn't happen for me the first time, but this time everything was very emotional, and I want to give something back."

"I spend hours at my clinic counselling and treating those who are

Expert and holistic chiropractic care

DR NORMAN Vradenburg is an experienced chiropractor who maintains high standards in gentle and thorough holistic treatments, with each patient being treated as an individual in a caring and understanding environment.

Dr Vradenburg uses Directional Non-Force Technique chiropractic treatments, massage therapy, nutritional and supplemental application, muscle testing protocols, basic homeopathic first aid and Bach Flower Remedy administration.



Dr Norman Vradenburg delivers gentle, holistic care with expertise.

physically and emotionally sick from overstimulation," said Dr Vradenburg.

"It has been established through biological scientific research that our cells are operated by signals coming from our environment.

"Our bodies have natural systems for stress handling; however, those systems must have periods of rest to function at their best."

Dr Vradenburg added that their treatment protocols at South Gippsland Chiropractic Services and Adjunctive Therapies, are very effective in alleviating stress responses and restoring balance to bodily systems, but it's not the only answer.

"Persistent serious stress symptoms may be an indication that a lifestyle change needs to be considered."

"So, take time to step away, on a regular basis. Schedule it in, turn off the computer, get outside, walk, bicycle, garden, visit a friend, plan family excursions, go to the gym, play a sport, read a novel, close your eyes in the sun and relax," explained Dr Vradenburg.

"Most individual's schedules and responsibilities involve persistent constant requirements, demanding time and energy. Technology, computers, iPhones, and iPads, are continually bombarding us with signals, prompting us to react, respond and operate. We seem to be cramming more and more into our lives."

"

"Create your new life-giving environment; it can save your health."

Dr Vradenburg is registered with the Chiropractic Board of Australia and is a member of the Australian Chiropractors' Association.

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STYLING tips and trends are continually circulating online. So, whether it's a bouncy, natural, effortless blow wave or a sleek, precision-cut bob, having a trustworthy hairdresser to create the desired look is necessary, and the owner of Admire Hair and Beauty, Kathy Miller, has over 20 years of experience in the industry.

Kathy opened the Leongatha salon nine months ago, establishing herself in a new business venture after working as a hairdressing teacher at the local TAFE institution.

Specialising in hair and beauty, Kathy has created a beauty room within the salon, providing her clients with a welcoming private space for waxing, tinting and tanning.

"I like to provide every client with a personal experience, and in doing so, I offer a consultation to better understand what it is you're after; I'm happy to provide advice on styles, colours and



Kathy Miller with daughter and first-year apprentice, Emma, in the Admire Hair and Beauty salon in Leongatha. ob04_1425

treatments," said Kathy.

"In-store, we are stocking 'Natural Look', a vegan-friendly skin-care range, inclusive of anti-ageing creams for everyday skincare routines, as well as DeLorenzo hair treatments

to help protect your hair in between appointments," said Kathy.

Committed to excellence, Kathy uses Australian-made, certified products during each appointment and can

provide personalised treatment advice. Kathy has built a reputation in the industry.

"It is lovely to welcome long-time clients to the new salon," said Kathy.

"And it is a compliment that these clients trust my work, in order to travel for their appointments because taking the time to understand each person's needs is crucial in delivering the best results."

Admire Hair and Beauty is a family-friendly business, with Kathy's daughter Emma starting her first-year apprenticeship in the salon this year. Kathy had a vision for her own business, and she's proud to teach and share her journey with Emma, all while servicing the community in South Gippsland.

Visit Admire Hair and Beauty to book your next hair and beauty appointment or call 5662 0141.

Admire Hair and Beauty is located at 17 McCartin Street, Leongatha.

BCH supports individuals living with or affected by dementia

DEMENTIA Australia is leading a call for a national conversation on dementia and brain health to raise community awareness of dementia, combined with more targets and effective support for people impacted by dementia.

In 2025 an estimated 110,600 people are living with dementia in Victoria and without a significant intervention, this is expected to increase to an estimated 216,400 by 2054.

Professor Tanya Buchanan, CEO of Dementia Australia said taking this dual approach will ensure we are working towards reducing the impact of all forms of dementia.

Bass Coast Health (BCH) Chief Medical Officer Dr Renee Kelsall said dementia is a broad term that covers diseases that affect memory, thinking, and the ability to perform daily activities. These conditions include Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, and less common forms of dementia.

"While the effects of dementia vary from person to person, generally dementia affects a person's memory, thinking, and ability to perform daily activities," she said.

"People might find it harder to remember recent events and the names of things and people. It might also get harder to retain new memories and learn new things.

"People living with dementia may become more confused, have trouble concentrating, planning and problem-solving, and struggle to complete everyday tasks.

"Impacts on mood may include feeling less motivated and social, more prone to depression, anxiety and agitation and generally not themselves.

"Behaviourally, a person may start saying or doing things that are out of character for them, become restless and wander, or have more disturbed sleep."

While dementia can happen to anybody, it's more likely to affect people after the age of 65.

Dr Kelsall said people concerned they have early signs of dementia should consult their General Practitioner (GP) in the first instance.

BCH has a team of Geriatricians who consult inpatients in the Kodowlinun Acute Ward and Sub-Acute Ward at Wonthaggi Hospital and support residents in BCH's residential aged care centres, Kirrak House at Wonthaggi and Griffiths Point Lodge at San Remo. BCH also has both general geriatric and Geri-oncology outpatient clinics where people can be referred to by their local doctor for further investigations and assessments of their memory.

For more information: dementia.org.au.

Healthy lashes and sculpted brows at Exotique Lashes

HEATHER Footitt established Exotique Lashes and Beauty in Leongatha six years ago after relocating from Melbourne, creating a luxurious beauty experience for every client – a place where natural beauty is elevated through the art of lash and brow artistry.

Complementing this, Exotique provides the option to enhance your natural beauty further with a MineTan spray tan and natural Eco Minerals makeup.

Heather laid the foundation of her career in Melbourne some 16 years ago and still, today shares her knowledge with her growing team, qualified lash and brow artist Sharni and senior qualified lash and brow artist Tahlia.

Together, the team is not only creating the vision of natural volume to lashes but is trained in cosmetic tattooing – an art that reshapes and defines eyebrows and lips, sculpting, shaping and tailoring each service to the individual client.

What sets these artists apart is their commitment to healthy lashes and a refusal to



Qualified lash and brow artist Sharni, owner Heather and senior qualified lash and brow artist Tahlia. A03_1425



Qualified lash and brow artist Sharni attends to a client. A04_1425

compromise when it comes to the care of your natural beauty. "At Exotique, we understand the importance of using the right techniques and products to keep your lashes not only beautiful but strong. We understand the long-term health of your natural lashes and we'll take the time to design extensions that work with your lashes, not against them," said Heather.

"We're passionate about preventing damage like traction alopecia, which can occur

when lashes are over-extended or too heavy."

And when it comes to brows and lips, the world has fallen in love with cosmetic tattooing, so, if you've ever dreamed of perfectly shaped brows that require little maintenance or lips that help define your smile, then Exotique Lashes and Beauty brings precision and artistry to every treatment.

"If you're not too sure if cosmetic tattooing is for you? Our brow sculpting, tinting, and

dyeing services offer the perfect way to test the look before you commit to the more permanent treatment," said Heather.

Heather's journey from lash artist to trainer means that every member of the Exotique team has been rigorously trained under her guidance. So, if you're after a newly enhanced look, visit exotiquelashes.com.au and book an appointment at 36E Bair Street, Russell Arcade, Leongatha.

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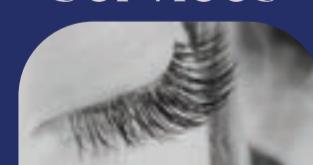


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Emmet Hobbs mid-solve of Pyraminx during last year's event in Inverloch.

Speed Cubing Tournament returns

INVERLOCH is set to host its second official World Cubing Association (WCA) tournament on May 3-4 with Speed Cubing Australia encouraging local puzzle solvers to get involved.

The action-packed two-day event at the Inverloch Hub will welcome cubing enthusiasts from across the country and beyond.

Spectators are invited to attend for free, while competitors must register for a fee of \$38. All ages, genders and speed solves are welcome.

This year's tournament features the 3x3 cube as the main event, the addition of the CLOCK puzzle, and three blindfolded solving events.

Other categories include skewb, pyraminx, and megaminx, providing a variety of challenges for competitors of all skill levels.

Participants can register for as many or as few events as they wish, provided they can solve the puzzle they enter.

The event will showcase some of Australia's top speed cubers, including current Big Blind solving Oceanic record holder and Gippsland local Michael Tripodi.

Competitors from six countries are already registered, with Alex Butera aiming to reclaim his Australian CLOCK number one ranking, and former national record holder Emmet Hobbs vying for the top pyraminx position.

Every competitor has the chance to set new records and improve their national and world rankings.

Register Now. Registrations close on Friday, April 25 at 11.59pm. Don't miss out – secure your spot now via the WCA website: worldcubeassociation.org/competitions/DontInverlochUp2025.

Speed Cubing has been gaining popularity in Inverloch since 2022 when local teenager Harvey Welsford and his friends established an after-school Speed Cubing Club with the support of the Inverloch Library. Now, Harvey and other club members, who travel Australia to compete in WCA tournaments, are excited to once again compete in their hometown.

According to Harvey, "It's exciting because our times are recorded, giving us official World, Oceanic and Australian rankings. I love solving, but speedcubing is also a great way to meet new friends and challenge myself in a fun and supportive environment."

Harvey, who broke his personal 3x3 record at the 2024 Inverloch Tournament, is aiming to go sub-10 seconds this year while also improving his 4x4 time.

Parents and educators widely support speed cubing for its benefits in developing problem-solving skills, motor skills, and concentration, all while providing an engaging alternative to screen time.

First invented in 1974 by Hungarian Ern Rubik, the Rubik's Cube took the world by storm in the 1980s and has remained one of the most popular puzzles ever, with over 450 million cubes sold. Speed Cubing competitions provide participants with the opportunity to earn titles, awards, and recognition for their skills and speed.

This is an incredible opportunity for newcomers and seasoned cubers alike to take part in an officially recognised competition in a fun and supportive environment.

For more information about the Inverloch Speed Cubing event, contact: Speed Cubing Australia speedcubing.org.au.

Gippsland Hills CWA celebrates 70 years of handicrafts, art and home-style cooking

THE aroma of freshly baked scones wafting from the small kitchen behind the main stage left no doubt the CWA was in town ready to share the very best in art, handicrafts, and home-style cooking.

The 70th annual Gippsland Hills CWA Group Handicrafts, Art, and Home Industries Exhibition left no doubt these CWA ladies and girls are still as competitive as ever.

Gippsland Hills Group President Marilyn Mackie and Meeniyan CWA member Marilyn Mackie could not be prouder of the local CWA team and just to be sure, not only did Ms Mackie take home the Elinor Scott Individual Aggregate Cup, but young Meeniyan CWA member Savanna Facey also won the Junior Aggregate award.

Not surprisingly Meeniyan also won the Branch Aggregate award with Poowong and District a close second followed by Bena with 104-year-old Bena CWA life member Betty Wilson in attendance.

The amazing variety and quality of home produce, baked goods, flower arrangements and baked goods on display was truly impressive.

Special commendations went to Kardella, Poowong and District and Woorayl branches who had every member participating in the exhibition.

Second in the Individual Aggregate Cup was Vanessa Fisher from the Meeniyan Branch and third place went to Maryke Dann of Bena who did well considering the fierce competition from Meeniyan.

Sharon Melbourne from Inverloch won Best Crochet, Lace and Handkerchiefs for her crochet rug and Best Toys and Dolls for a crocheted dressed doll. Robyn Hoekstra (Mirboo North Night Owls) Best Sewing, Patchwork, Applique and Quilts for an embroidered nightgown, June

McIndoe (Meeniyan) Embroidery and Canvas Work for stump work fuchsias, Maryke Dann (Bena) Best Craft for jewellery, Deborah O'Connor (Mirboo North Night Owls) Best Art for oil painting Botanical Shadows, Anne Fries (Poowong and District) Best Photography for her sequence of three baby photos, Marion Dewar (Meeniyan) Best Jams, Jellies and Preserves for crab apple jelly, Thelma Hutchinson (Poowong and District) Best Cookery plum pudding cooked in cloth, Marilyn Mackie (Meeniyan) Best Floral Art for a dried arrangement and June Scott (Korumburra) Best Cut Flowers and Container of Plants for a teapot of cut flowers.

More than one hundred attended the two days of festivities and presentation of awards.

The exhibition is always well supported by the Gippsland Branches of the CWA which include Bena, Inverloch, Kardella, Korumburra, Leongatha, Twilight, Meeniyan, Mirboo, Mirboo North, Mirboo North Night Owls, Poowong and District, and Woorayl.

Fish Creek and Yarram also attended from the South Gippsland Group.

Once boasting seven hundred members during the heydays of the CWA in the 50s the Gippsland group may be down to 100 members these days, but times are different according to Gippsland Hills Group President Marilyn Mackie.

"Most important is the family. The friends you make as a member of the CWA are so important."

Past State President Marion Dewar said she was a child during the first exhibition in 1954.

RIGHT: Sharon Melbourne, Margaret Hyde and Sally Ann Matthews at the Gippsland Hills CWA 70th Exhibition. B41_1425



Gippsland Hills Group President Marilyn Mackie (Meeniyan Branch) accepting the Elinor Scott Individual Aggregate Cup from Past CWA State Treasurer Heather Scott. B43_1425



Delilah and Oscar with Auntie Vanessa at the Gippsland Hills Group CWA 70th Exhibition. B40_1425



Multicultural Women's Group have fun at the Y



Zumba class for the Multicultural Women's Group held at Bass Coast Y.

fitness!" said Janice Connor.

Denise Escreet, Community Activations Coordinator at the Y and Ms Connor kicked off the initiative, which was coordinated by Branca McFarlane, Health and Wellness Coordinator at the Bass

Coast Y. It is planned to have a Thursday session at the end of each month where participants have the opportunity to try a range of group fitness activities.

"Group fitness classes are a fantastic way to bring people together, as they foster a sense

of community, encourage support and create lasting connections, all while working towards shared fitness goals," said Branca.

"I truly enjoy my role as Community Activation Coordinator at the Y, especially being a part of the Multicultural Women's Group initiative. It's incredibly rewarding to help create a space where women from diverse backgrounds can come together, connect, and support one another," said Denise.

Following the Zumba class, the Multicultural Women's Group hosted a morning tea at the Y, a tradition during their meetings. The group, which was initiated in 2018, has now been running successfully for eight years, continuing to foster a strong sense of community and connection among women from diverse backgrounds.

For more information, contact Janice Connor at Mitchell House 5672 3731.

Phillip Island rallies for a Good Friday Appeal fundraiser

IN JUST 14 days, what started as a simple idea turned into an extraordinary evening of generosity, community spirit, and unwavering support.

On Monday, March 31, the Phillip Island (PI) Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre hosted a fundraiser dedicated to the Good Friday Appeal – and the response from the community was nothing short of incredible.

A staggering \$6722.20 was raised, proving once again that when this community comes together, amazing things happen.

At the heart of this event was the incredible team at PI Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre, who stepped up and worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the fundraiser a success.

From coordinating donations, setting up the venue, running the event, to ensuring everything went off without a hitch; their passion, dedication, and genuine care for the community shone through in every detail.

Events like this don't happen without an incredible support network, and Phillip Island's sense of community was on full display.

In particular Anne-Marie Branch's passion and hard work helped bring the event to life and reminded everyone what true community spirit looks like.

The Phillip Island Fire Brigade, along with Rotary Phillip Island and San Remo, played a crucial role in supporting the event, with Gary and Tony from Rotary volunteering their time to help run the BBQ.



The team at PI Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre stepped up and worked tirelessly for the fundraiser dedicated to the Good Friday Appeal.

Connie and Phil from IGA Cowes, generously donated all the sausages for the BBQ, as well as a paddleboard and esky for the auction.

Another standout contribution came from Wildlife Coast Cruises, who not only donated two amazing cruise experiences for the auction but also brought along Sammy the Seal to entertain the crowd, creating plenty of smiles throughout the event.

The generosity of local businesses and individuals was outstanding with an incredible lineup of auction items and raffle prizes that helped boost the fundraising total.

Some of the major donations came from Woodlands Golf Club, Phillip Island Golf Club, and Red Rocks Golf Club, each donating rounds of golf for lucky bidders.

Adam from Reliable Gardens contributed two hours

of professional garden maintenance with four workers, valued at over \$700.

Phillip Island Nature Park donated experiences for the penguins, Churchill Island and koalas.

Lindsey Becker Tattoos and Hectic offered fantastic tattoo and body art vouchers.

NRMA Caravan Park Cowes generously provided a night's accommodation in a safari glamping tent – a dream getaway for the lucky bidders.

Phillip Island Winery offered an amazing wine experience, while Phillip Island Gym donated a three-month membership package, and that's just to name a few.

Courtney from Gifted Things, spent hours packaging up all the donated prizes, ensuring everything looked incredible for the auction and raffle.

Greg Price from Alex Scott

and Staff, generously donated his time to run the prize auction.

Made By Bronte supported the event by designing and printing custom pyjamas for the PI Tenpin team in less than a week, ensuring everyone was ready and looking great for the event.

"We feel so lucky and privileged to be in a position where we can give back to this amazing community. Seeing the generosity and kindness from so many businesses, volunteers, and individuals is truly inspiring," said Jeremy, Managing Director at PI Tenpin.

"As we reflect on this incredible achievement, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, or contributed in any way. Your kindness and generosity will go a long way in helping the Good Friday Appeal continue its essential work."

Easter came early at San Remo Primary School

SAN Remo Primary School was alive with excitement on Friday, April 4, as the school hosted its much-loved Easter Hat Parade and Raffle, a tradition that brings together students, families, and teachers for a day of fun, creativity, and community.

As a tradition, it was made even more special by a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny, who hopped in to spread joy and Easter cheer, handing out chocolates to family and friends.

The morning kicked off with the highly anticipated Easter Hat Parade, where students of all ages proudly showcased their unique and colourful creations. From bright, flowery designs to hats featuring playful bunnies, Easter eggs, and chicks, the parade was a delightful display of the children's artistic talents.

Lauren Hamer, Inclusion and Wellbeing Leader said, "It is great to see our Grade 6 students showing our younger students how much fun we can have with these events and getting into it the way they did. It has shown great connections and a sense of belonging at our school for them."

Following the parade, the school's Easter Raffle brought some more excitement. With three different hampers of donated Easter goodies, the raffle had something for everyone.

"The \$1300 raised will go towards our Senior School Playground."

The highlight of the day was a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny (grade six student Reagan). The lovable, fluffy character made a grand entrance, bringing smiles and laughter to everyone in attendance.

"That was so much fun!" said the Easter Bunny.

The sight of the Easter Bunny hopping around added an extra touch of magic to the celebration, creating lasting memories for everyone present.

"It did top off the end of our first term nicely," said Lauren.

"We can't wait to see what next year's Easter celebration will bring."

RIGHT: Mrs Lauren Hamer, Inclusion and Wellbeing Leader with Grade 6 leaders, Reagan (Easter Bunny), Summer, Chaze, Kash, Sasha, and Lucille helping with the raffle.



Grade 3 and 4 students Tyler, Dom, Spencer, Cohen, Taylah and Vanessa showing off their colourful, creative hats.



The locations in 'Wayward Strand' were inspired by South Gippsland. Image: Ghost Pattern.

Wayward Strand, a video game set in Bass Coast

By Stefan Bradley

ISOLATION in aged care and the curiosity of a young journalist meet in an interactive story, Wayward Strand, a video game set in Bass Coast – the skies of Bass Coast to be precise.

Released in 2022 for PC, PlayStation, Xbox and Nintendo platforms, Wayward Strand was designed by Melbourne game studio Ghost Pattern.

The game takes place in the summer of 1978, and teenage reporter Casey Beau-maris (voiced by Nancy Curtis) is trying to make the most of her holidays when her mum asks her to spend a long weekend helping out at the airborne hospital where she works.

Casey agrees, and in the midst of many interlocking and overlapping stories, Casey spends time with patients, learning about their lives, and, as the stories unfold, discovering what she can do to help.

As Casey, you uncover the airship's mysteries and explore the lives of its inhabitants. Each playthrough of Wayward Strand is personal to the player.

The story is split into three chapters, each taking place over one day at the hospital.

It's not a long game which makes it ideal for multiple playthroughs, allowing you to learn more about these characters and how they live on the airship.

A couple of Ghost Pattern team members grew up around Gippsland, and during development, the game designers stayed in Inverloch for a few days.

They spent time researching, discussing, visiting historical societies and taking nature recordings, some of which ended up in Wayward Strand.

They also visited Wonthaggi, Wreck Beach, Kongwak, Venus Bay, Anderson Inlet, The Caves, Cape Paterson and Eagles Nest.

On a later trip to the area, they found a book at Kongwak Market called Bass Coast Reflections, which is a collection of short stories from people in the area – this influenced the vibe of the game.

Wayward Strand development from inception to completion, took about seven years and evolved many times.

Marigold (Goldie) Bartlett, co-director of Wayward Strand, said that the game had received favourable reviews and reception.

"Making a videogame set in a flying nursing home in 1970s Gippsland is quite niche – who would have guessed – but players from all around the world are connecting to parts of the game which we were hoping they would," Ms Bartlett said.

"I don't think we could have hoped for anything more than that: connection, storytelling, getting some of our shared Aussie characters and themes out there."

As someone who used to frequently visit a family member in an aged care home, this writer also connected with Wayward Strand on an emotional level.

An aged care home does feel like you're walking into a different world, and being in an airship far away from society is a great metaphor for the isolation some residents might be feeling on a daily basis.

Just like with TV shows and movies, most video game voice acting is done by Americans, so it's almost jarring to hear Australian accents when playing this game at first, but it's most welcomed.

The voice acting is very good quality, so it helps Australian and Gippsland audiences in particular feel more connected to the characters.

Gippsland games need to be made and our voices need to be heard. There's so much potential waiting to be explored.



Saddle up for country music roadshow

HOWDY Partners – it's time to saddle up for the best country music night out after sundown – Saddle Up! Country Music Roadshow.

Featuring the fantastic live band Gareth Leach and The Narratives of Hope playing your favourite country classics live and DJs spinning your favourite country bangers to keep the hoedown happening – Saddle Up! Country Music Roadshow is your new go-to night out!

So rustle up your best bunch of outlaws and compadres and head to the best saloon in town The Westernport at San Remo on Saturday, April 26 for the best night of country music fun you won't forget.

Starring the music of: Luke Combs, Johnny Cash, Zack Bryan, Dolly Parton, Morgan Wallen, Willie Nelson, Chris Stapleton, Shania Twain, Zac Brown Band, Hank Williams, Tyler Childs, Brad Cox, Merle Haggard, Post Malone, Loretta Lynn, Jelly Roll, Miley Cyrus, George Jones, Lainey Wilson, Carrie Underwood, Patsy Cline, Luke Bryan, John Denver, Alan Jackson, Faith Hill, Tammy Wynette, Taylor Swift, Waylon Jennings, Beyoncé (Cowboy Carter), Charley Pride, Conway Twitty, Buck Owens, Glen Campbell, George Strait, Vince Gill, Garth Brooks, Rascal Flatts, Randy Travis, Reba McEntire, Kenny Rogers and many more.

For more information on Saddle Up! Go to: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574888578661 and instagram.com/saddle_up_events.



10.30am SUNDAY 13th APRIL
CATS OF GOKOGU SHRINE

The Shinto shrine Gokogu in the Japanese coastal town of Ushimado is home to a colony of stray cats. This film observes how the animals have made a life there, waiting to be fed fish, and seeking shelter during rain showers. A joyous and thought-provoking observation of coexistence that premiered to acclaim at the 2024 Berlin International Film Festival.

General public welcome. Members Free Entry!

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96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

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

Young cast in rehearsal for production of Leongatha Lyric Theatre's Footloose

EACH weekend for the past month the familiar foot-tapping music of the hit Broadway musical Footloose has been heard echoing in the rehearsal studios of Leongatha's Lyric Theatre.

With a large cast of talented young first-timers and a host of regular performers from past Lyric Theatre productions, local theatregoers can expect a thrilling stage show when Footloose finally hits the boards at Leongatha's Memorial Hall in July.

"Footloose has a cast of 40 and another 40 in the flash mob," said director Brad Beach.

Based on the 1984 film of the same name, the Lyric Theatre's production of the Broadway version of Footloose promises to be a feast for the eyes and ears.

It's an 80's fantasy according to Brad showcasing the unparalleled talent of young performers from nearly all of the region's secondary colleges.

All-time musical favourites such as Footloose, Let's Hear It for the Boy and Holding Out for a Hero are sure to have the audience singing along with the cast.

"It's the style and feel of the 80s we're aiming for," said Brad.

In addition to the large cast another 100 volunteers are working hard behind the scenes to have everything ready for the thirteen show season over three weeks in July.

The musical director is Sam Shineberg, and the choreography is by Emily Laughlin.

"Behind the scenes, we have

set builders, lighting and technical designers, costume design and creation, props and ticketing," said Brad.

He is also excited to have many young actors making their stage debut.

"The cast principals are really talented young performers," he said.

With nostalgia a clear appeal of the show, Footloose also touches on topical relevant issues such as the way young people want to be heard.

"Often older people tell young people what to do, imposing older thoughts and values," said Brad.

With multiple members of the same family performing in the show the Lyric Theatre production of Footloose has been able to cast actors in age appropriate roles.

"Teenagers will play teenagers and adults will play adults," Brad said.

Lyric Theatre needs no introduction to Gippsland audiences with a proud history of award winning shows including last year's production of Into the Woods which earned actor Cecily De Gooyer a Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Bruce Award for Open Supporting Performer in a Female Presenting Role for her part as Cinderella.

Volunteers are always welcome at Lyric Theatre said props manager and committee member Beck Stoops.

The Lyric Theatre at Leongatha can be found at leongathalyric.com.au or search for Leongatha Lyric Theatre Inc. on Facebook or leongathalyrictheatre on Instagram.



Ella Osbourne rehearsing for the Lyric Theatre production of Footloose. B01_1425



Taine Lowe is part of the young cast for the forthcoming Lyric Theatre production of Footloose. B04_1425



Whiskers and wisdom on this month at Bass Coast Fine Film

THE Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proud to present a contemplative Japanese documentary, "The Cats of Gokogu Shrine", from filmmaker Kazuhiro Soda.

This isn't your typical nature documentary. While it certainly showcases the captivating beauty of the feline residents of Gokogu Shrine, it transcends a simple animal observation, weaving a rich tapestry of culture, history, and community.

The film delicately balances the inherent charm of the cats with a thoughtful exploration of their symbiotic relationship within the shrine and the people who care for them. The cinematography is breathtaking, capturing the cats in moments of playful abandon and

serene contemplation against the backdrop of the ancient shrine. The cinematography utilises a warm, inviting palette that perfectly complements the peaceful atmosphere of the shrine.

What truly sets "The Cats of Gokogu Shrine" apart is its nuanced portrayal of the human-animal bond. We are introduced to several individuals deeply dedicated to the well-being of the cats, from the shrine's keepers to the local volunteers.

The film beautifully illustrates the mutual respect and affection shared between humans and animals, highlighting the essential role the cats play in the shrine's spiritual life.

Instead of anthropomorphising the cats, the filmmakers

allow their personalities to shine through their natural behaviors, creating a genuine connection with the viewer. The film's gentle pacing and contemplative tone allow viewers to fully immerse themselves in the serene atmosphere. The carefully selected soundtrack complements the visual beauty, enhancing the emotional impact of the film.

While the film may lack the dramatic narrative arc of a feature film, this is precisely its strength. Its quiet power lies in its observation of everyday life within the shrine, revealing the subtle beauty and unexpected connections that exist between humans, animals, and the sacred space they inhabit. "The Cats of Gokogu Shrine" is not merely a documentary

about cats; it is a meditation on community, devotion, and the enduring power of nature. A heartwarming and insightful documentary that will resonate with animal lovers and anyone seeking a peaceful and contemplative cinematic experience.

Screening at the new time of 10.30am, on Sunday, April 13 at The Union Theatre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. BCFFG members entry free, with general public welcome at usual box office prices.

To find out more, visit the website: basscoastfinefilmgroupp.weebly.com/current-season, and follow the links to the film.

The Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proudly sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire.

Xanadu - Newhaven College Production is set to delight

REHEARSALS are well underway for Newhaven College's annual Senior School production, always a favourite event for the College and the wider community. Students from Years 7-12 will bring the iconic film Xanadu to life on the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre stage.

All are welcome to come along to what is going to be a popular event on May 2, 3, and 4. The production creates a space for students to showcase their passion and talent for the performing arts, an integral part of Newhaven College education. For many of our younger students, it is their first time on the stage as they join experienced senior students to bring the story to life in fine style.

Once the show hits the stage in May, it will be hard to decide who is having more fun – the audience or the 50-plus cast members bringing flashy and fabulous to life! The stage musical is a retelling of the cult classic 80s film, starring Australia's own Olivia Newton-John. Its sole purpose is to spread a little love and joy! Xanadu is vibrant, bubbly and bright, bringing 'theatrical sunshine' in every moment with a killer, familiar score.

The cast includes many

students who have charmed local audiences in both College and other local productions for many years now, plus fresh faces. The main cast includes Cecily de Gooyer, Archie Robson, Felix Fothergill, Indigo Aurora, Nissa Campbell Walker, Jude Fisher, Aoife O'Connell, Meyanna Christensen, Tilly Russell, Finn Campbell Walker, Elleah Rodgers, Shae Foster, Angie Mumby, Aisha Glass, Tilly Stecher, Finn Farley, Bede Prideaux, Finn McLean, Harper Stephens and Sequoia Patterson.

The specialty dance troupe adds an extra layer of wonderment and emotion across many scenes and comprises: Mia Bowtell, Olivia Helps, Phoebe Helps, Ruby King and Abbie Wines.

Drawing on the tradition of high standards, the cast is set to wow the audience with their singing, dancing and characterisation. The strong ensemble cast provides soaring vocals, attention to detail and plenty of flair. The backstage crew also includes students of all ages, working and learning alongside technical staff to provide the essential team approach to creating a successful show.

Xanadu is the story of the Greek muse, Clio, who descends from Mount Olympus

to inspire a struggling artist in 1980 Venice Beach. To hide her demi-god status, Clio dons the perfect disguise: a name change (Kira), legwarmers, roller skates and an Australian accent! The script sets its tongue firmly on its cheek, is peppered with comedic one-liners and is guaranteed to put a pep in your step or, perhaps, the disco in your roller skates!

Director Karen Milkins-Hendry says, "Xanadu is sheer joy from start to finish. What's not to love about colour, glitter, 80s music that fills your soul with great vibes and plenty of laugh-out-loud moments around every corner? Once again, our students have risen to all challenges thrown at them and we cannot wait for you to burst out of the theatre smiling, energised and heading straight to Spotify to re-live the soundtrack!"

The show will be a memorable experience for everyone involved, and the hope is that the community will come out in full force to support the students' hard work and creativity.

There are four performances on May 2, 3 and 4. Bookings can be made via the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre website or trybooking.com/CYNRA.



Cecily de Gooyer, playing Xanadu muse Kira, practices the many lyrics she needs to learn, with Finn Campbell Walker, Tilly Russell and Meyanna Christensen.



Newhaven College students Finn Campbell Walker, Mayanna Christensen, Elleah Rodgers, Aoife O'Connell, Indigo Aurora, Jude Fisher, Tilly Russell and Nissa Campbell Walker collaborate while perfecting their scene together in Xanadu.

NEWHAVEN COLLEGE
PRESENTS

XANADU

2, 3 & 4 MAY

BASS COAST CULTURAL VENUES | THE UNION THEATRE, WONTAGGI

Based on the Universal Pictures Film. Screenplay by Richard Danus and Marc Rubel
Book by DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE Music & Lyrics by JEFF LYNNE & JOHN FARRAR
Originally produced on Broadway by Robert Ahrens, Dan Vickery, Tara Smith/B. Swibel, Sara Murchison/Dale Smith & Cari Smulyan

Scan QR code to book tickets

South Coast FM
88.1 89.1 89.5

WONTAGGI BINGO

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

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

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★

SADDLE UP! COUNTRY MUSIC ROADSHOW

LIVE BAND - DJ'S- DANCING

FEATURING:
GARETH LEACH & THE NARRATIVES OF HOPE
★ PLAYING YOUR FAVOURITE COUNTRY CLASSICS LIVE
★ PLUS SADDLE UP! DJ'S & MORE

SAT APR 26TH - THE WESTERNPORT SAN REMO

TIX VIA OZTIX.COM.AU

Loch's Royal Children's Hospital market

WHEN you visit this Sunday's Loch Village Summer Market, 100 per cent of your entry gate donations will go directly to an important cause – the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal.

"Any parent's worst nightmare is when their child needs urgent specialist care," Strzelecki Lions President, James O'Connor explained.

"Several local children have benefited from Royal Children's Hospital services over those 20 years. Hopefully, the visitor donations can generate over \$2000 towards the Appeal."

The local Lions and supporters are carrying on a proud fundraising tradition established 25 years ago by the Apex Club, which folded in 2015, and continued through an active group called "Community Comrades", who are still involved and have raised over \$100,000 over the years.

Earlier activities ranged from spinning wheel to selling firewood, auctions, raffles and family fun days. Now, the group will run a stall at the market, and will also invite people to donate via a QR Code at their market stall.

The Appeal provides funding for research, up-to-date equipment and extra family care throughout Victoria, supplementing important functions that Government alone can't provide, but which are essential for children young families.

So, cash up (no ATM at the gate), invite your friends, pack up your family and give generously, while you enjoy your Sunday morning, April 13, at this weekend's Loch Village Summer Market.

Make sure you save some money for the marvellous range of clever craft, adorable arts, superb outdoor sculptures, great burgers and wholesome produce. Enjoy the colour and the occasion – take a stroll around the markets and along the rail trail. Markets open from 8-ish to 1-ish.

• FAITH FACTOR

Palm Sunday: A journey of joy, reflection, and hope

By Amanda Heart, Corps Officer,
South Coast Gippsland Salvos

THIS Sunday is Palm Sunday which marks the beginning of Holy Week and offers a moment for reflection on the paradoxes of faith. As Christians gather in churches, waving palm branches, the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem fills the air. The image of a humble man, riding on a donkey, surrounded by a crowd shouting, "Hosanna," contrasts sharply with what's to come – the suffering and sacrifice of Good Friday.

It's a reminder that joy and sorrow often walk hand in hand. Palm Sunday invites us to consider the full range of human experience. The joy of welcoming a king is quickly overshadowed by the reality of what's next – betrayal, pain, and the struggle for redemption. Yet, this duality of celebration and impending hardship holds great significance in our faith journey.

For many, Palm Sunday is not just about commemorating a historical event, but also about reflecting on the ways we welcome and sometimes reject what's good in our lives. It's an opportunity to reflect on how we embrace Jesus' message, whether with genuine enthusiasm or more out of habit. As we journey through Holy Week, Palm Sunday calls us to look at the moments when we celebrate and when we struggle, and to find hope in knowing that both can lead us toward something deeper and more meaningful.

~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

OUR Autumn Clothes Swap held on Saturday, March 29, was a successful morning. It is a great way to connect with the community and people head off with smiles and new additions to their wardrobe. Not just for the ladies, there was plenty of men's, children's and teens' clothing too. Thanks so much to Carmel, Aria, Elena and Alison, who made light work of the day and had a nice time together, saving clothing waste from landfill. Thanks also to the local op shops who provided the hanging racks and took in the leftover items. There are sure to be more of these days in the future, keep an eye out for the dates.

Mending Woollen's: Elena is planning a mending day to be held in the Foyer on Saturday, May 3, 10am to 12 noon. Bring in your

socks, jumpers and other woollen items that need a little repair, and Elena will show you how. Visible or invisible darning techniques will be shown free of charge.

Mental Health First Aid Training: Wellways are offering free training over two days, May 5 and 6. The course will teach you how to provide initial support to other adults who may be experiencing a mental health problem or mental health crisis until appropriate professional help is received or the crisis resolves, using a practical, evidence-based action plan. This is sure to be a popular course, so get in quick to book your spot.

Milpara Language Classes:

Do you know someone who

would benefit from improving their English, or would

you like to improve your

French? Two very different

language classes are on offer at Milpara. Let's Learn English on Wednesday evenings and Intermediate French on Thursday evenings. Term 2 classes will start at the end of April. Bookings are essential.

If you would like to know more, please contact Milpara or look it up online.

Our regular classes and activities will be having a break over the school holidays and returning after Easter. Look out for our new class timetable, which will be delivered in the next week, or sign up to our mailing list to ensure you receive a copy of the timetable and term program in your inbox.

You can check out our Term Program online at milparacommunityhouse.org.au or pick one up at the Milpara Community House Office, located at the Lower Level of the Korumburra

Community Hub, 15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra. You can also give us a call at 5655 2524.

Our Emergency Food Bank and Services Australia Agents will be available over the break, except for public holidays when the Korumburra Community Hub is also closed.

The Emergency Food Bank is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 1 pm or by appointment. Please bring your own bags.

Our Services Australia agent is at the house on Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 1 pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9.30am to 2 pm.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au [f](https://www.facebook.com/milparacommunityhouse)

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

LEONGATHA Community House is thrilled to announce a fantastic lineup of programs and workshops over the coming months, offering something for everyone in our community.

Join us to help 'Build Our Story,' a project with the goal of preserving the history of Leongatha Community House by compiling stories, photos and memories from the community that future generations can cherish in the form of a book.

If you're looking to stay active, we are introducing a new walking group, the Friday Walkers which is for all abilities and has shorter walks than to encourage people of all demographics to get fit and healthy. Why not also try Chair Yoga Tuesday's 5.15pm to 6.15pm? Gentle seated stretches and standing poses with a chair for balance. Ideal for beginners, older

adults, or anyone wanting to improve strength and balance with less fall risk. Bring a blanket for relaxation and a yoga mat if possible!

Looking to dive into the world of resin art? Join us for an exciting hands-on workshop Wednesday, April 9 and 16 where you'll learn everything from the basics to creating stunning resin pieces. Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, this is your chance to

craft beautiful, personalised items like jewellery, bowls and more! All materials provided, and you'll leave with your very own creations.

Spaces are limited, so reserve your spot today and start creating with resin for \$25.

Join our Floral Artistry

workshop and create your

own beautiful posy for \$15!

Perfect for beginners or

professionals, you'll learn

flower arranging, explore the

16 Bruce Street, Leongatha PH: (03) 5662 3962 www.leongathacommunityhouse.org.au [f](https://www.facebook.com/leongathacommunityhouse)

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

State Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney, Bass MP Jordan Crugnale, and Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Haldane.

There are a record number of students in the hairdressing course, the migrant English course continues to be a wonderful community, and the horticulture students are doing great things in the garden.

The new Care Economy series of courses on Fridays is full of success stories. Coordinator Olivia delivered presentations to other Learn Locals across the western district.

Learners from Bass Coast College's FLOW program began studying English and Maths at BCAL as an alternative option.

In between, there have been visits by dignitaries including

Term two is shaping up to be just as busy. All new courses are on the BCAL website right now, and the website will be getting a fresh new look very soon!

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

■ WONTAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

Visitors often ask the question 'who is in charge of the community garden?'

But the answer is not any one person or a committee of gardeners, it's the garden itself.

The garden dictates the gardeners' decisions about what, when and how.

It also produces the compost (with a little help from its friends), that feeds the soil, that feeds the plants that feed the growers.

It is a cycle of renewal and nurture, with the garden volunteers in a supporting role.

If you would like to help, join or visit the garden, drop in on Thursdays between 10am and noon, contact tgordon@westnet.com.au or phone BCAL on 5672 3115 for more information.

■ WONTAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

There's a lot of preparation which needs to be done between wood being part of a tree, and the commence-

ment of it becoming a piece of woodwork.

Recently, Woodies member Syd Gordon has been milling logs as a part of this process.

First the logs are hand split, then planed flat before being ripped to lengths on the bandsaw.

Timbers that have been milled include blackwood, acacia, pear, and cedar. Once prepared, the pieces then go into stock for all group members to craft into something unique.

For more information, visit wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or pop into the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 www.bcal.vic.edu.au [f](https://www.facebook.com/bcal.vic.edu.au)

Sentinel-Times

AUTUMN 2025

DISCOVER

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

**TAKE A HIKE
THIS AUTUMN**

Inverloch's rich
natural history | p. 36

**CHILDHOOD DREAMS
TO CHARTER QUEEN**

Hook, line and
community | p. 43

SHARE THE SPIRIT

Giving back this
Good Friday | p. 49





FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA
CLASSIC GOOD SERVICE
Since 1886

For more than 130 years, Alex Scott and Staff has been proud to be part of the growth and success of our communities. As autumn approaches, we look forward to a refreshing change, a bounty of changing colours and exciting new opportunities. Interest in our beautiful region continues to grow, especially from those seeking a lifestyle change. Whether you're escaping the city, downsizing, upsizing or investing, our experienced team are here to help you realise your aspirations this autumn.

If you want to make a move in Gippsland, talk to a friendly and experienced local at Alex Scott and Staff.

Melbourne (03) 8680 2545	Inverloch (03) 5674 1111	Lang Lang (03) 5997 5599	Phillip Island (03) 5952 2633	Venus Bay (03) 5663 7111
Berwick (03) 9707 2000	Koo Wee Rup (03) 5997 2133	Leongatha (03) 5662 0922	Sale (03) 5655 2480	Warragul (03) 5623 4744
Grantville (03) 5678 8433	Korumburra (03) 5655 1133	Pakenham (03) 5941 1111	San Remo (03) 5678 5408	Wonthaggi (03) 5672 1911

CLASSIC GOOD SERVICE
— SINCE —
1886

ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

Est. 1886



Embrace the beauty of our home...

I EASILY drive past Kilcunda Trestle Bridge weekly. It's always beautiful, whether the storms are brewing out at sea, or the waves are perfectly smooth and the sky crystal clear.

Recently I was fortunate to cover a photo shoot on the bridge, and I realised it has been years since I walked on it, so much so that I can't put an exact year on it, high school perhaps...

Living locally, we are immersed in spectacular scenery day in, day out, whether working the hills with views across to the Prom or driving the bridge to Phillip Island, but I ask, how often do you take a moment to properly enjoy them?

We might not have time to always stop, but if you are reading this then I ask only one thing, that place you've wanted to go and always forget or don't have time to visit, go and see it, embrace it, be surrounded by the beauty of it. Perhaps it's a special trail, perhaps a beach, perhaps it's checking out a business, go and enjoy a place that makes you happy, even if for five minutes.

Years ago, not long after I returned home from living overseas, my best friend and I jumped in the car and headed to Wilsons Prom on a whim. We stopped via the bakery for food, carried water and our backpacks had all the necessities for first aid. We hiked a couple of routes, chatted, laughed at the signs reminding people

what side of the road to drive on, took photos of the scenery and had a brilliant day out. Both our lives have changed significantly, but every year the memories pop up and we exclaim that we must do it again, soon, even if we have four extra little legs in tow.

Hiking Wilsons Prom may not be everyone's cup of tea, but the beauty of South Gippsland is that there is something on the doorstep in every direction, and you can get there and back in a day – it's closer than you might think.

If you are visiting for the school holidays, welcome, settle in and enjoy as we share our home with you, but please remember to take only memories and leave only footprints.

As the weather cools and the days become shorter, this Autumn get outside and do something for you.

Side note: Do not attempt to drive in Wilsons Prom near or after dusk to dawn. Though a spectacular sight for wildlife, be warned they are everywhere.



LOTS TO SEE AND PLENTY TO DO

THERE is plenty happening these Easter school holidays and if automobiles take your fancy why not pop down on Easter Saturday, April 19, to Apex Park in Wonthaggi and check out Bass Coast Historical Automobile Clubs annual display.

A fantastic array of vehicles are always featured with vehicles arriving no later than 8.30am. Food will be available from the Lions and a coffee cart will also be on site, what better way to kick start Easter Saturday than with breaky and a show.

And the fun doesn't stop there, wineries and bakeries, kelpies and old mines, cheese and massages, rail trails, adventure and more are all waiting to be discovered in Bass Coast and South Gippsland.



WANDERER
Adventures

Wilsons Promontory Cruises

Wilderness cruises from Tidal River

wandereradventures.com.au  



**Whale
Watching
Cruises**
Starting Winter 2025

Walk through Inverloch's rich natural history

SOUTH Gippsland is home to some stunning walking trails, and a family favourite each year is the Screw Creek Nature Walk.

Located in Inverloch and suitable for children, the Screw Creek Nature Walk stretches for 2.21 kilometres and is abundant with wildlife to spot.

The track is considered easy enough for most fitness levels and includes a boardwalk, which takes you across the creek.

It is often regarded as the trail of choice for nature lovers and bird watchers.

To reach the start of the walk, make your way through the Inverloch Foreshore Camping Reserve.

From there, you can take in the beautiful sights of the local plant life, as well as terrific views of the ocean.

If the tide is out, you can walk along the beach and observe the mud crabs.

The Screw Creek Nature Walk is a unique experience that takes you through the salt marsh and mangroves, through to the lookout at Townsend Bluff, which overlooks Anderson Inlet.

An extension to the Screw Creek Nature Walk is the Screw Creek Trail.

The South Gippsland Conservation Society has contributed to the walk by adding bollards along the way, which feature scannable QR codes that reveal the reserve's rich history, and information about the environment and wildlife.

Normally a 30 minute walk, it is suggested that you add on another 30 minutes to enjoy the videos along the way.



The bushland is considered a wildlife refuge and therefore is a no-dog zone.

Both a family-friendly adventure and an enriching historical experience, there are plenty of reasons to explore the Screw Creek Nature Walk.

Walks in Bass Coast:

- Anderson to San Remo Pathway.
- Ayr Creek Walk.
- Bass Coast Rail Trail.
- Cape Paterson Foreshore Walk.
- Corinella Foreshore Walk.
- Cowes East/West Heritage Walk.
- George Bass Memorial Walk.
- Grantville Foreshore Walk.
- Great Southern Rail Trail.
- Inverloch Shared Pathway.
- Kitty Miller Bay Walk.

• Newhaven Historical Walk.

- Rhyll Historical Walk.
- San Remo Coastal Circuit.
- Scenic Estate Conservation Reserve.
- The Nobbies Walk.
- Thompson Estate Nature Reserve.
- Ventnor Beach Walk.
- Whale Trail.
- Wonthaggi East Area Rail Trail.
- Wonthaggi Wetlands.

Walks in South Gippsland:

- Bald Hills Wetlands Walk.
- Foster Flora Reserve.
- Grand Ridge Rail Trail.
- Great Southern Rail Trail.
- Henry Littledyke Reserve.
- Hoddle Mountain Trail.
- Hourigans Camp Walk.
- Koonwarra Nature Reserve.
- Leongatha Wetlands Walk.
- Lightstation Walk.
- Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk.
- Loader (Mount Nicoll) Walk.
- Loch Village Walk.
- Lyrebird Forest Walk.
- Meeniyian Bird Hide Walk.
- Mount Oberon Summit Walk.
- Olsen's Walk.
- Outtrim Reserve.
- Port Franklin Boardwalk.
- Tarwin Lower to Venus Bay Shared Pathway.
- Toora Bird Hide.
- Vereker Outlook Walk.
- Yanakie/Duck Point Loop.

INVERLOCH ART SHOW

18 - 20 APRIL
INVERLOCH HUB



Get inspired, buy & explore professionally curated art including painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics, from local and Melbourne artists.

Inverloch Community Hub
Friday 18 - Sunday 20 April 2025
10am - 4pm daily

InverlochArtShow.org.au



@InverlochArtShow



Scan me



Four days of action

INCLUDING A NEW EVENT
Cultivating Communities
WITH A TRACTOR PARADE - GOOD FRIDAY 5PM

**EASTER SATURDAY
PARADE FROM 11AM**

GOOD FRIDAY FOOTY & NETBALL
GOLF, ART SHOWS, MARKETS
AND LOTS MORE!





Plenty to discover at Phillip Island



A rare sight to see a seal at San Remo.



Rhyll Inlet is a fantastic walk.



Strawberry picking was a highlight.

PHILLIP Island definitely deserves its reputation as one of the top tourist destinations in the country.

While trending on the pricier side these days, you can still have a relatively cheap holiday and the time of your life without draining your wallet.

On our recent trip, we kept it simple and down to earth, no frills or fuss, just appreciating all that the Island has to offer; free or not!

The beauty of Phillip Island is it's not only great for adults and teenagers, but all ages, especially first-time parents like us with a toddler.

We stayed in the picturesque Cape Woolamai just mere minutes from the beach while still being close to Cowes and San Remo, and what an adventure it was.

Despite working in Bass Coast for almost four years and growing up

By Nick Sinis

visiting Phillip Island, there is still so much waiting to be discovered or even re-discovered.

So here's what we managed to squeeze in over four short days.

The first day we spent settling in and enjoying a quick trip to the beach at Cape Woolamai; our young one exploring the surf and sand for the first time.

Day two entailed checking out a local wildlife park where you're able to get up close and personal with many native animals, and hand feed them.

Day three and it was time to head over the bridge to San Remo. A trip to the playground and of course, watching the pelican feeding.

To top it off, the family of stingrays were coming right up to shore where you could almost touch them.

It's also enjoyable and relaxing to watch the fishing boats as they dock at the pier where you can catch a glimpse of their catches for the day – something hard to see anywhere else in Victoria.

Day four, while a short drive from Phillip Island, it was a must to visit Macca's Farm which provided hours of entertainment for the little one, especially the strawberry picking.

That's the other draw card of Phillip Island; its proximity to so many other great locations throughout Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

You could even make the trip to Wilsons Prom or bring the bikes and explore the rail trails.

While Phillip Island continues to grow in popularity as a tourism destination and a place to live, it still retains its unique charm and wonder and it's a fabulous place to visit off peak!



A celebration of local talent

START a family Easter tradition with a visit to the Inverloch Art Show at the Inverloch Community Hub.

Showcasing a diverse collection of professionally curated artwork, including paintings, photography, sculptures, ceramics, and much more, this event celebrates the incredible talents of local artists.

All proceeds from the exhibition support The Food Box Program, which Bass Coast Health distributes to local families experiencing short-term difficulties. Running since 1987, this vital program provides more than 80 food boxes annually to those in need.

It's all made possible by the generosity of local businesses and individuals who contribute fantastic prizes and the incredible team of volunteers.

There are \$5500 in prizes to be won. Prizes will be awarded across nine categories, including the prestigious Blair Art Prize for Best in Show, valued at \$2500, proudly sponsored by the Bendigo Bank.

Last year's Blair Art Prize winner was Jill Rogers, who took home the top honour for her striking 950mm x 950mm acrylic on canvas piece, *No Man Is An Island*.

This year, Ray White Inverloch has come on board as a sponsor for the Youth Category, allowing three prizes to be awarded: first, second, and an honourable mention – a fantastic opportunity to celebrate emerging talent.

Be the first to discover that perfect piece of art for your home or workspace at the Opening Night Celebration on Thursday, April 17, 7pm–9pm.

Walk the red carpet, enjoy a drink and nibbles and witness the exciting moment when all category winners are revealed and prizes are awarded.

Entry is just \$5 (card or cash) and includes a raffle ticket to the main draw.

Inverloch Art Show social media accounts feature event highlights, featured artists, and behind-the-scenes content so keep an eye out on socials or visit the website inverlochartshow.org.au.



*For everything you
need this Easter*

Owned and operated by locals, San Remo IGA
offers local and gourmet lines

Come and shop our great range of groceries, fresh produce,
fully-stocked deli, on-site butchers and liquor

shop online sanremoiga.com.au

OPEN 8AM – 8PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK

135 Marine Parade, San Remo • Phone 5678 5337

San Remo IGA

HM2455

Create and explore at your local library

NOT sure how to combat the school holiday boredom?

Myli Libraries is fully equipped with a diverse school holiday program across a range of locations in South Gippsland to offer local children memorable experiences.

Grab some snacks and a comfy pillow to take in a free movie at the Leongatha library. Films will be screened from 1.30pm on April 11 and April 17. It will be a great opportunity to settle in for a cosy afternoon with friends and family, especially as the weather begins to cool down. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bookings are not required, but parents can contact the library in the lead up to the dates for more information about the selected movies.

The Wonthaggi Library will be leaning into its creative side, making night lights on Tuesday, April 8. Create your own sky with planets, stars and suns from a range of materials to brighten up your room. Running from 11am to 12pm, the event is free, but spaces are limited.

The Waterline Library is heading back to prehistoric times.

Children have the opportunity to put together exciting dinosaur dioramas at the Grantville-based centre from 2pm to 3pm on April 8.

They are encouraged to delve deep into their imaginations and recreate what they believe life was like when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. This event is targeted for children aged five and over and tickets are required.

Dinosaur dioramas will also be made at the Wonthaggi Library on Wednesday, April 9, from 11am.

The creativity continues at Phillip Island Library on April 9. Children aged six and over are encouraged to come along and experiment with Claymation. Set to be held from 10.30am to 11.30am, be sure to book your ticket.

Inverloch Library will be delivering a thrilling insight into the natural world at 2pm on April 9. Led by local diver Steve Dunn, participants will be uncovering the Secrets of Anderson Inlet's Lagoon. Steve recently entered the Bass Coast Short Film Festival about the local marine life, which will be screened on the day. This event is not to be missed, and bookings are essential.

Foster will be the place to be on Thursday, April 10, with the super spinners activity taking place.

Children will be making their own spinning tops, experimenting with mesmerising patterns and colours. Tickets are required for this event, which will run from 10.30am to 11.30am.

For more exciting activities with Myli Libraries, check out the website.



this Easter at Churchill Island

ENJOY a weekend of family fun at Churchill Island Heritage Farm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 18, 19 and 20 with wagon rides, scavenger hunts, live music, face painting, games, farm activities and more!

Explore the grounds, bring a picnic rug and enjoy delicious food and refreshments available at the Farmhouse Kitchen. Laze away on the lawn while you soak up the autumn ambience, panoramic views and live music with Corey Blackley (12pm to 1pm), Maddy

May (1.30pm to 2.30pm), and Daisy Spratt (3pm to 4pm).

Daily activities from 10am to 4pm include Wagon Rides (\$10 per person), Horse Feeding, Horseshoe Printing (\$9 each), Scavenger Hunt and Old Time Games, Planters and Potters Workshop, and so much more!

There will also be Face Painting from 10am to 3.30pm each day, along with Regular Farm Activities at 10.30am and 2pm.

The event is open to all ages. By

purchasing a general admission ticket to Churchill Island, you will gain access to this event, as well as the farm, historical buildings and garden.

For more information and to book tickets, visit penguins.org.au/whats-on.

Please note, some activities will incur an additional charge. We are a cashless venue. Local Passes cannot be renewed on the day of your visit. For Local Pass renewals, kindly visit our friendly team on-site prior to your visit.



EASTER ON CHURCHILL

Friday 18 to 20 April 10 am to 4 pm

Experience the island's nocturnal nature party at a nightly 'Bandicoot Discovery Tour', join a scavenger hunt and delight your tastebuds this Easter long weekend.

For schedule and TCs please visit www.penguins.org.au/whats-on

PLUS

- Aussie BBQ platter
- Cool tunes by various artists
- Free face painting
- Heritage draught horse display
- Kids nature workshops
- Farm activity sessions
- Prizes and loads more!

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

7 to 21 April

- Blacksmithing
- Wagon rides^
- Cow milking
- Sheep shearing
- Working dogs demo
- Whip cracking

[^] Purchased additionally at \$10.00 per person.

^{^^} Daily activities, complimentary for Churchill Island ticket holders.

Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**

Time Unwinds
CHURCHILL
ISLAND



Chart a new course this Easter

SET sail these school holidays with Wildlife Coast Cruises!

From scenic voyages to wonderous wildlife, there's something for everyone.

Embark on a one-hour Cape Cruise viewing the awe-inspiring granite cliffs and turquoise waters of Cape Woolamai. As you cruise along, find local birdlife such as Pied Cormorant, Wedge Tailed Eagles and Shearwaters circling the cliffs. Keep a lookout for marine life with fur seals often popping up. Afterwards, indulge in fresh fish and chips from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op, where local flake comes straight from the fishing boats.

If you're looking for an ultimate wildlife experience when visiting the Phillip Island then the Seal Watching Cruise is the cruise for you, departing the Cowes jetty and taking you to visit Australia's largest Fur Seal breeding colony. Home to thousands of seals, these curious mammals even come right up to the boat to get a better look at you!

As the sun begins to dip below the horizon, there's also the Sunset Cruises letting you settle into relaxation mode as we cruise the bay and take in a

magnificent sunset. Onboard you can grab a refreshing beverage from our licensed bar and indulge in delicious complimentary appetisers.

So, jump on a cruise and discover a whole new perspective of Phillip Island's wonders.

More to explore in San Remo

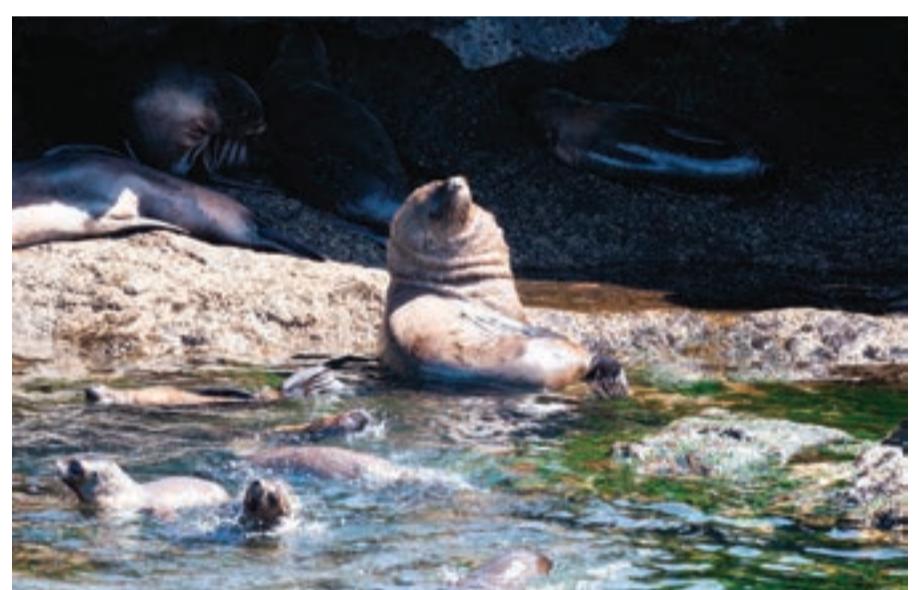
Before jumping onboard to explore the sights of Cape Woolamai or cross over the bridge, stop and check out the sights of San Remo. Kick off your adventure with the pelican feeding and educational session, hosted by San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op, at 12 noon daily. Afterwards, grab a bite of fresh fish and chips.

Take a stroll around the beaches and along The Esplanade as you check out the shops and don't forget to pop into San Remo IGA for a spectacular array of local produce including award winning cheese and wine.

Throw in a line off the jetty, though be careful of swimmers, the family of stingrays and commercial boats.

Or take in one of the parks if the little ones prefer to run, jump and climb.

There's plenty to see and do in San Remo.



Thousands of playful, curious fur seals!

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Wildlife coast cruises



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New Beginnings Christian Books and Giftware volunteer Erika Cauneac and owner Fenna Schroder are ready to welcome shoppers and those wanting a chat or a place to sit and reflect.

More than just material offerings

WHILE New Beginnings Christian Books and Giftware offers an extensive range, it is more than a shop.

"It's not a business, it's a mission," owner Fenna Schroder said, explaining New Beginnings offers people encouragement and lets them know Jesus is there to walk with them.

The aim is to be a visible Christian presence in the community, providing resources and opportunities for people to know of, and grow in God's love.

Fenna enjoys the support of enthusiastic volunteers, whom she says she is blessed to have.

Erika Cauneac volunteers a couple of days a week, having done so on a whim and unsure what to expect.

"I'm still here, so clearly I like it a lot," she said, having already been coming in for about six weeks, adding she wants to bless people in some way like Fenna.

Such is Erika's enthusiasm, she is there before 8.30am for her shifts despite having to travel by bus from Loch.

Fenna spoke of the meaning of Easter and the opportunities it provides for members of the community.

"Jesus came and died for each person so that they can have a closer relationship with God, so he opened the door for people to get to know God, and to recognise that every person is unique and special and loved by God," she said.

Fenna views Easter as an open invitation for people to receive the gift of grace and to establish a relationship with God.

She highlighted the fact there is plenty going on locally for Easter.

There will be a Good Friday Easter event at Meeniyan's Tanderra Park, beginning at 10am.

It's Leongatha's turn on Easter Saturday with a picnic gathering at McIndoe Park, running from 11am until 1pm.

Eagles Nest on the Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road is the spectacular setting for a 6.30am Easter Sunday service.

Another Sunday dawn service takes place on the hill in Korumburra as you come into town from Melbourne, the significance of dawn on Easter Sunday being that was when Jesus' followers visited the tomb, discovering he had risen.

Fenna said New Beginnings is a place to talk or sit for a while.

The premises include a children's space and a library and bible study area that doubles as a room for morning or afternoon tea.

Fenna is keen to share with people that there's a God out there who cares.

"You don't have to do life alone," she said.



Easter school holiday magic



AS THE Easter school holidays roll in, families across the Bass Coast are gearing up for unforgettable adventures, and there's no better place to find them than at A Maze'N Things, Phillip Island's most exciting family attraction.

This Easter, A Maze'N Things is going bigger than ever with an egg-cellent lineup of activities designed to thrill kids and delight parents. Running throughout the school holidays, guests can look forward to daily photo competitions with a chance to win a one-night family stay in the Yarra Valley. Budding young artists can also get creative in the colouring competition, with an A Maze'ing Jellycat Easter basket up for grabs!

But the highlight of the season? The Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, happening all day on Easter Sunday! Kids can hunt for colourful eggs across the venue's whimsical grounds. There will be a limited supply of baskets handed out, so maybe BYO a basket just in case.

And the fun doesn't stop there. From 11am to 3pm weekdays, kids can enjoy free face painting, transforming your child into butterflies, bunnies, or superheroes, adding a little extra magic to their day out.

With its iconic maze, mind-bending illusions, mini-golf, and high ropes course, A Maze'N Things is already a must-visit destination, but this Easter, it becomes the place to be.

Conveniently located at 1805 Phillip Island Road, Cowes, and paired with nearby Park Lane Holiday Parks, it's the perfect way to turn a day of fun into a full holiday getaway.

For endless Easter excitement, unforgettable memories, and the best in interactive family fun, A Maze'N Things truly has it all.

Visit amazenthings.com.au or call 5952 2283 for more details.



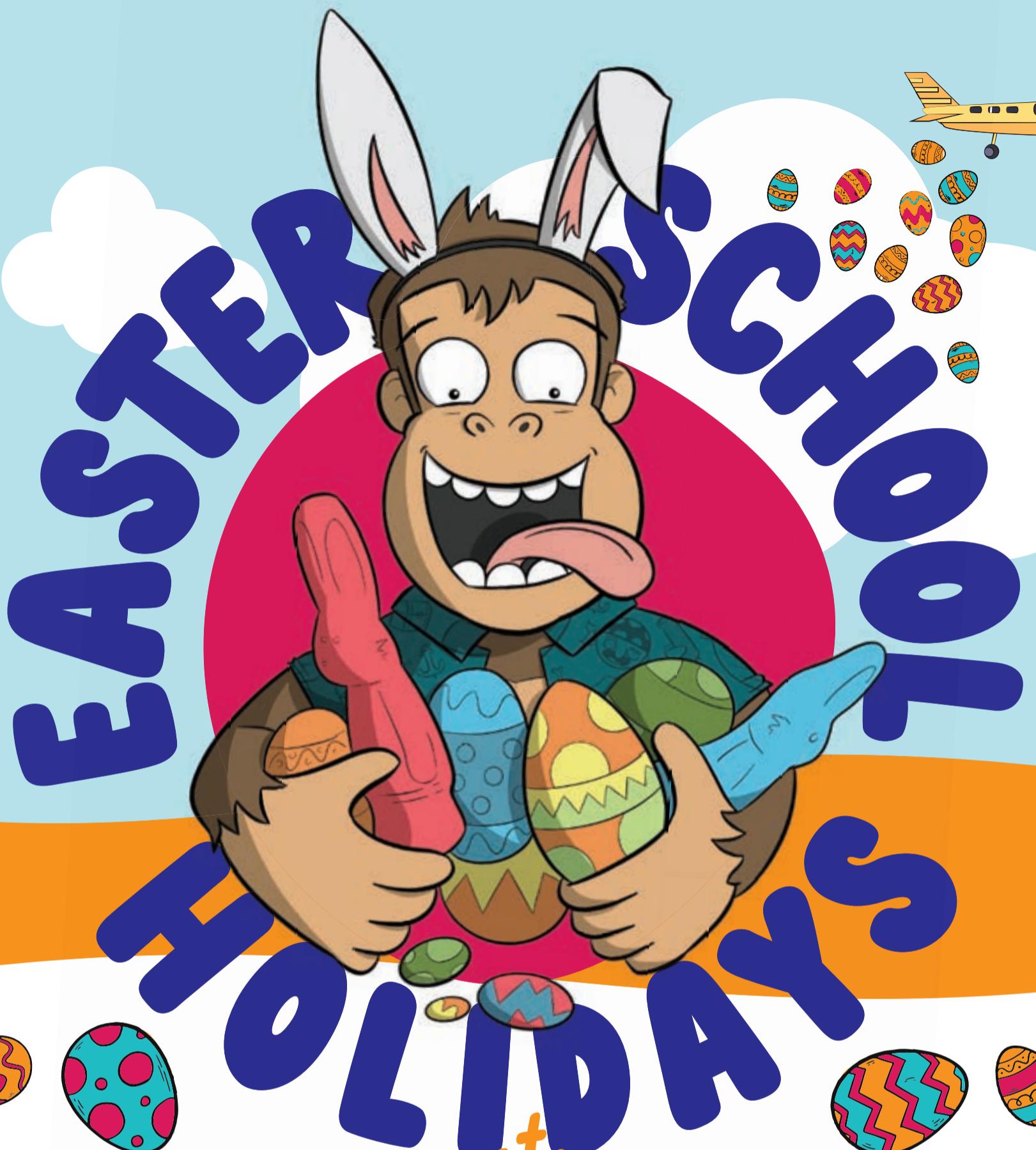


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Computer says 'yes' to these South Gippsland destinations

WE ASKED ChatGPT (AI) to list the 'top 10' best things to do in South Gippsland on an autumn holiday.

It came up with the following, including riding the Walhalla Goldfields Railway and visiting the Buchan Caves, not exactly in South Gippsland but worth consideration.

But we'd substitute points nine and 10 with booking a Wilsons Promontory Wilderness Cruise from Tidal River or getting out the golf clubs and hitting one of the 11 great country courses from Lang Lang to Korumburra and Leongatha or from Phillip Island and Wonthaggi to Yarram.

Autumn in South Gippsland, Victoria, offers a delightful array of activities that showcase the region's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and culinary delights. Here are the top 10 (AI-generated) experiences to consider:

1. Explore Wilsons Promontory National Park:

Known as 'The Prom', this park features granite mountains, rainforests, and stunning beaches. Autumn's mild temperatures make it ideal for hiking trails like the Mt Oberon Summit, which offers panoramic views.

2. Cycle the Great Southern Rail Trail:

This 72-kilometre trail (now 131 kilometres from Nyora to Yarram) winds through charming towns, farmland, and forests. The cooler autumn climate provides comfortable cycling conditions, and the changing foliage adds to the scenic beauty.

3. Visit Tarra-Bulga National Park:

Experience lush fern gullies, towering mountain ash trees, the iconic Corrigan's Suspension Bridge and maybe you'll even see a lyrebird. The park's walking trails are especially enchanting amidst autumn hues.

4. Stroll Along Squeaky Beach:

Famous for its quartz sand that 'squeaks' underfoot, this beach offers unique coastal walks and picturesque rock formations.

5. Tour Local Wineries and Cideries:

Autumn is harvest season, making it an excellent time to visit local wineries and cideries. Sample regional specialties and learn about the production processes.



6. Discover the Toora Wind Farm:

Editor: AI says you can take a tour of the Toora Wind Farm. We're not so sure. You can also get up close to some of the 52 wind turbines between Tarwin Lower and Walkerville.

7. Experience Agnes Falls:

Visit Victoria's highest single-span waterfall, where water cascades 59 metres into a gorge. The surrounding parkland is perfect for picnics amidst autumn scenery.

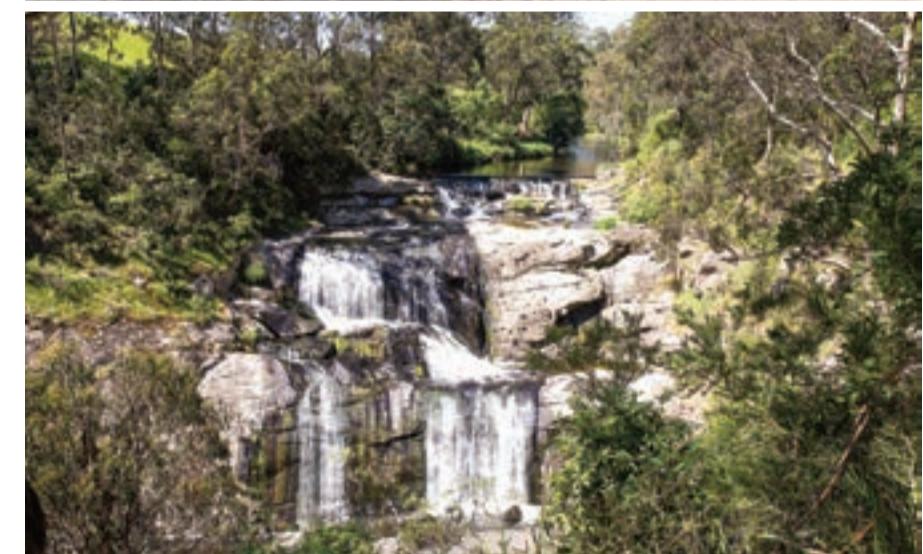


8. Attend Local Farmers' Markets:

Autumn brings a bounty of fresh produce. Explore markets in towns like Koonwarra and Foster to taste local cheeses, fruits, and artisanal goods.

9. Ride the Walhalla Goldfields Railway:

This scenic train journey travels through Stringers Creek Gorge, offering stunning views of the autumn landscape and a glimpse into the area's gold mining history.



10. Explore Buchan Caves Reserve:

Discover limestone caves adorned with stalactites and stalagmites. Guided tours provide insights into the geological formations and Aboriginal heritage.

These activities offer a diverse and enriching experience of South Gippsland during the autumn season.

Holy Week & Easter

MASS TIMES

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH | Wonthaggi

Wednesday, April 16	Reconciliation. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	7.00pm
Holy Thursday, April 17	St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	6.30pm
Good Friday, April 18	Stations of the Cross. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	10.00am
Good Friday, April 18	The Passion of the Lord. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	3.00pm
Holy Saturday, April 19	Easter Vigil St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	6.30pm
Easter Sunday, April 20	St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	10.30am

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH | Inverloch

Holy Thursday, April 17	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch	6.30pm
Good Friday, April 18	Stations of the Cross. Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch	10.00am
Good Friday, April 18	The Passion of the Lord. Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch	3.00pm
Easter Sunday, April 20	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch	9.00am

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"Fishing isn't just about the fish; it's about the experience, the community, and the knowledge we share."



Hook, line, and community

When speaking with Amanda Keilar, or as she's known in the local fishing community, Fishing Nanna, you'll instantly be struck by her unrivalled passion for the water, the fish, and the people she helps along the way. As one of Bass Coast's most dedicated advocates for fishing, Amanda has shaped much of the region's angling culture with her energy, experience, and deep-rooted connection to the sea.

Amanda's journey into fishing began early. Her grandfather, Les Wildes, was a commercial fisherman who worked the waters of Corinella from 1939 to 1973. She recalls sitting in wooden bait and fish boxes as a child, dreaming of the fishing adventures she would one day have.

"I would sit in the boxes with my cousins, pretending I was fishing," Amanda remembers fondly.

She also spent time with her other grandfather, Jack Keilar, on the Merri River, the Hopkins River, and the breakwaters of Warrnambool – experiences that sparked a love of fishing she carries with her to this day.

"I never would have imagined I'd be hosting fishing charters myself or working on a commercial boat," she admits.

"But here I am, still learning and sharing what I know with others."

Amanda now runs Ladies Fishing Charters San Remo, a venture that blends her love for fishing with her desire to help others discover the joys

of the sport. What started as a way for Amanda to socialise with other women interested in fishing has grown into a successful and supportive community.

Through her charters, she has introduced countless women to the joys of fishing, offering a welcoming space where no question is too silly, and everyone is encouraged to try their hand at filleting their catch at the end of the session.

"A lot of women haven't had the chance to fish before, and they feel unsure about where to start," Amanda explains.

"I want to change that. Fishing isn't just about the fish; it's about the experience, the community, and the knowledge we share."

In addition to her charter work, Amanda has also become a leader in the Women in Recreational Fishing & Boating Network (WIRFAB), where she plays an instrumental role in encouraging women to get involved in fishing.

Whether it's hosting land-based fishing events, running tackle shop nights, or offering advice on how to tackle the waves, Amanda's mission is clear: make fishing accessible and enjoyable for everyone, regardless of experience or background.

The Bass Coast region, where Amanda has spent much of her life, offers a variety of fishing terrains – from the sand holes and weed beds of Western Port Bay to the deep channels of Bass

Strait. It's a haven for fishing enthusiasts and home to more than 100 species of fish. For Amanda, it's the perfect place to pursue her passion and share it with others.

"My most memorable catches? An 81-centimetre flathead, Kingfish in the bay, and a huge Snapper," she smiled.

"But what really gets me excited is seeing others catch their first fish or beat their personal best. The joy and the pride they feel – that's why I do this."

Amanda is a strong advocate for improving accessibility to fishing spots, which is why she's campaigning for the restoration and reopening of the Newhaven Jetty.

"Not everyone can afford a boat, and not everyone is able to fish off a beach," she said.

"We need to provide accessible infrastructure, so everyone has the opportunity to enjoy fishing."

She is quick to point out that fishing is not just a hobby, but a vital industry, both commercially and recreationally. The Victorian fishing industry, which is carefully regulated, has been a source of pride for many in the region. Amanda works on a commercial fishing boat from time to time, using sustainable fishing practices, such as rod and reel fishing, to ensure that only specific species are targeted.

"There's a misconception about the commercial fishing industry," Amanda stated.

"People think we just take everything. But in reality, it's all managed under strict guidelines. We're doing everything we can to protect the environment and ensure there are fish for future generations."

Amanda's deep care for the environment is also evident in her commitment to reducing plastic and rubbish in the water. With more and more visitors flocking to the San Remo jetty on weekends, Amanda has noticed an increase in trash left behind, which threatens marine life.

"Our resident stingrays have even had hooks in them," she said.

"It's important that we educate people, especially the younger generation, about the impact of their actions on the marine environment."

Her passion for fishing is not just about the thrill of the catch but also the benefits it brings – both physical and mental. For Amanda, being on the water is a way to unwind, to escape the stresses of life, and to connect with nature.

"I love the ocean," she said.

"You never know what life you'll come across – dolphins, whales, seals, penguins, gannets, albatross. It's the ultimate unwinding experience."

For more information about Ladies Fishing Charters San Remo, visit their Facebook page, where Amanda and her team share fishing tips, recipes, and moments from their charter sessions.

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Bounce in this Easter

EGG-streme fun is covered these Easter school holidays with Summersalt Gymnastics School Holiday Program back across both weeks.

With no experience required, regulars and visitors to the coast are welcome to come along and join in the flip'n good fun; a perfect indoor activity to keep the kids active and entertained, no egg-cuses.

Burn off lil-groms energy as they build confidence, develop fine motor-skills and confidence, whilst having the time of their lives and letting their imagination run wild. For those school aged let their imagination thrive as they create, innovate and learn through play. Practising their ninja and trampoline skills, amongst an array of others.

Two, one-hour sessions will run every Wednesday from 9.30am until 10.30am and 10.30am until 11.30am for children aged one-year to pre-school; and on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, movement educators will run two, two-hour sessions for four years olds to teens, from 9.30am until 11.30am and 11.30am until 1.30pm, plus a Wednesday session from 11.30am until 1.30pm.

“During our one-year to pre-school hour, parent supervision is required to help those little ones settle in and to give them a helping hand – having their parent or guardian there helps them build their confidence and enjoy their lesson,” said creator Chelsea Caple. “However; the kinder to teens class will be held as a drop off session, giving parents the opportunity to drop and go; head out for a coffee or visit those local attractions that the kids just aren’t up for.”

Celebrating a special occasion? Don’t miss out with birthday party slots available, speak to the team to hatch a plan.

So why wait! Bounce on in for a flip’n good time. The holiday program will be \$17.50 for an hour session and \$32 for a two-hour session. Bookings can be made online at summersaltgym.com.au. All participants are recommended to bring a drink bottle and socks for the bouncy trampolines.



Escape to Magilla's Play Centre and Mini Golf

THE whole family can enjoy wholesome fun, all year round, right in the heart of South Gippsland at Magilla's Play Centre and Korumburra Indoor Mini Golf, which also boasts a golf simulator for those more serious players.

The little ones can explore the fun, colourful, safe play space that has a large obstacle course complete with flying fox, winding slides, tunnels, ladders, a rock-climbing wall and soft-landing mats.

An enclosed baby play area with toys and dolls allows parents to relax and energetic toddlers can cruise around on toy tractors, cars, bikes and trikes.

A party room can be booked for up to 20 kids and the onsite café provides the ultimate variety of hot and cold party food. Parents only need to bring along the cake and for themed celebrations, the decorations.

Tables and chairs in the café allow parents to relax or socialise over a

barista-brewed cup of coffee.

Right next door is the indoor mini golf centre, with two themed nine-hole mini golf courses and a golf simulator that provides a warm, dry place for older kids and adults to have a social hit or to tee off from around the world.

Entering through a rocky mine shaft, a glow-in-the-dark, deep underwater-themed nine-hole course emerges.

Sea creatures glow from the deep sea walls while others float above the course, the skeleton of a sailor watches from a boat, and glow-in-the-dark carpet and mooring ropes mesmerise and add a surreal, spooky and fantastical experience to the game of golf.

The next nine holes are adorned with an Australiana theme, featuring gumtrees, crocodiles, kangaroos, a large python; and antique objects with a story to tell from old Australia.

This course is one to challenge mini-golf champions and players both

young and old will need to bring their A game to complete the course under par.

While the golf simulator offers the opportunity for golfers to have a swing, work on their game or even experience playing on a world-renowned course.

These indoor courses offer a fun, quirky and social activity with something for everyone and provide a good day or night out for families, couples or singles, and for group or corporate events.

It's also a great low-impact activity for the older crew, with an 80 and 85-year-old married couple recently reigniting their competitive spirits while playing a round together.

Set in a great centralised location in South Gippsland, Magilla's Play Centre and Mini Golf is less than an hour's drive from most local townships and a great time out for families and friends, with all abilities access and plenty of parking available.

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Three unforgettable ocean tours now operating through winter, offering a front-row seat to nature's most breathtaking show.

Discover Victoria's hidden coastal gem

LOCALS and visitors alike have an extraordinary opportunity waiting at their doorstep: a once-in-a-lifetime adventure aboard one of Wanderer Adventures' signature ocean cruises at Wilsons Promontory.

Departing from Norman Bay, these immersive tours give passengers the rare chance to witness the wild, rugged beauty of the Promontory coastline from the water – including the iconic Skull Rock, seal colonies, migrating whales, and more.

With three distinct cruise options operating through the cooler months, the experience offers something for everyone: families, couples, adventurers, and international travellers.

The Wilderness Cruise delivers a scenic deep-dive into the remote western coast of the Prom, including up-close views of granite cliffs, secluded bays, and Skull Rock rising dramatically from the sea.

The Whale Watching Cruise is a seasonal highlight, offering guests the chance to see southern right and humpback whales as they migrate through Bass Strait.

The Ultimate Day Cruise combines the best of both worlds with a full-day

itinerary covering wildlife sightings, coastal landmarks, and a gourmet lunch stop.

“These tours are really unique,” said Dave Johnson, Operations Manager at Wanderer Adventures.

“Everything from driving the vessels along the beach directly into the water, to the experience of seeing Skull Rock and its sheer scale emerging from the ocean – it’s a breathtaking experience.”

As cooler weather approaches now is one of the best times to visit.

“This time of year, leading into winter is when this environment really comes into its own,” Johnson added.

“The waters become a highway for migrating whales. The tour gives you an opportunity to witness these awe-inspiring creatures in their natural habitat. It allows you to gain a huge amount of respect and love for the magical wildlife that commands these waters.”

Whether you’re a local resident or just passing through South Gippsland on your way to the Prom, Wanderer Adventures offers an experience that turns a beautiful destination into an unforgettable journey.



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A trail of food, fun and adventure

SPANNING three local government areas, 14 towns and 130 kilometres, the Great Southern Rail Trail, stretching from Nyora in the west to Yarram in the east, is one of the state's best bike riding and walking trails.

The trail, which boasts stunning views of Wilsons Promontory and Corner Inlet from the Hoddle Ranges between Foster and Fish Creek, several major bridges over the Tarwin River and a chance to visit the Long Jetty at Port Welshpool was extended by a further 21 kilometres last year.

The trail is best tackled in bite-sized sections, for example, the 15.8-kilometre trail from the picturesque village of Loch to Korumburra with "the mesmerising Hilda Falls" along the way. The easy 8.2-kilometre run between Koonwarra and Meeniyan or the must-do 12.4-kilometre section between Fish Creek and Foster, for those amazing views.

All along the way, you can stop off for breakfast, coffee, lunch, or dinner at one of the 14 towns, which, aside from the scenery, are the real secrets to the trail's success. The trail runs the length of the old South Gippsland

Railway Line.

And don't miss the Bass Coast Rail Trail, soon to be connected to the Great Southern Rail Trail at Nyora, as the train lines were back in the day.

The trail covers 21 kilometres from the old Wonthaggi Railway Station in Murray Street Wonthaggi and runs to the Woolamai Racecourse. A Bass Coast Rail Trail brochure with further details and a map can be found at basscoast.vic.gov.au/assets/general-downloads/Recreation-and-Culture/Rail-Trail-Brochure.pdf

The Grand Ridge Rail Trail which winds its way over 13 picturesque kilometres between Mirboo North and Boolarra in the Strzelecki Ranges is another great option but if you're only going one way, take the downhill trip from Mirboo North to Boolarra.

One of the best ways to experience the incredible array of rail trails in the region is on an e-bike, available through Great Southern Ride at Meeniyan. A close centrepiece for the Great Southern Rail Trail it's the perfect location to jump aboard and take a stroll in either direction.



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ME0377

Take a wander in black gold country



Demo, a second-generation blacksmith will be showcasing his skills at the State Coal Mine on Easter Sunday – don't miss it!

STEP back in time and uncover the mysteries of Wonthaggi's State Coal Mine these school holidays.

Meander down the pathway between heritage buildings at the old mine, there's chickens and canaries, ponies and skips, old cottages, picks and drills to discover as you unravel the secret tales and lives of the miners and their families; some who never returned home.

Open every day over the school holidays and throughout the year (closed

Christmas Day) pop in on Easter Sunday for some eggs-tra special delights.

Say hi to ponies Sampson and Scruffy as you discover Demo and his blacksmith delight on April 20.

Presenting throughout the day, volunteer Demo is a second-generation blacksmith with family ties that dive beneath the surface and into the mines themselves.

At 2pm don your best for the Easter bonnet competition, no matter the age, all are welcome to pop on a broad and

delight the cheering crowd.

But the action doesn't stop above ground with eggs-tra mine tours these school holidays.

The walk-in, walk-out tours are a great way to explore the heart of Wonthaggi where miners spent their lives working. The perfect temperature all year round, a visit down the mine is suitable rain, hail and shine.

After exploring the adventures underground and above, head back to the café for a nibble and find something

special in the gift shop.

And if you don't wish for the mystery to stop then why not join in and become a volunteer at the State Coal Mine?

From 18 to 98 – or even beyond, above ground or below, you'll find exactly where you belong.

It'll be a lot of laughs and a lot of fun, and like nothing you've ever done before. Speak to the Parks Victoria team for more information.

This Easter a trip to Wonthaggi's State Coal Mine is just the right fix.



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Inside and out,
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Wonthaggi - Korumburra Road, Kongwak

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Parking available at Kongwak Hall,
Tennis courts and near Kongwak Primary School.



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Experience Wonthaggi's Historic Coal Mine

Underground tours

Take the family on a journey back in time – daily 11.30am and 2pm. There'll be extra tours running over the school holidays. Book in Advance.

FREE entry to above ground facilities and attractions

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HM11346

HM12486



A perfect holiday activity



IF YOU'RE looking for a fun, family-friendly activity this holiday season, look no further than Leongatha Golf Club.

After recently completing full green renovations, the club is excited to announce that their greens are now in superb condition, and the entire course is in top shape.

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just looking to enjoy a relaxing day outdoors, the course is the perfect place to spend some quality time.

For families with children, the school holidays are the perfect time to get the kids out of the house and onto the green.

"We warmly welcome families and encourage juniors to take part in the game," General Manager Kate explained.

"In fact, we are offering heavily discounted Junior Green Fees, with 18-hole rounds available for just \$20, and nine-hole rounds for only \$10 for any-

one aged 17 or under. It's a fantastic way to introduce your children to the sport or allow them to enjoy a day outdoors while getting some exercise and fresh air."

If you don't have time for a full round of golf, don't worry!

Leongatha Golf Club also offers a fantastic full-length driving range, where you can practice your swing or just have some fun hitting a few balls. For just \$20, you can get 100 balls, providing over an hour's worth of entertainment.

So, whether you're holidaying on the coast, or simply looking for something enjoyable to do with the family during the school holidays, Leongatha Golf Club is the perfect destination.

With outstanding course conditions and family-friendly offerings, there's no better place to spend your time this season.

Come and play – we'll see you on the green!

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Celebrate Good Friday at The Clubhouse

THIS Good Friday, April 18, The Clubhouse in Wonthaggi is the place to be for a day packed with entertainment, sports, and a whole heap of fun.

Whether you're a golfer, a poker enthusiast, or just looking to enjoy some fantastic food and live music, there's something for everyone, even the young ones.

Tee off for a great cause

Start your day with the four-person Ambrose golf event, open to both members and visitors. A 9.30am shotgun start it's the perfect way to get into the Good Friday spirit. Entry is \$25 per person, with \$20 going directly to the Good Friday Appeal and \$5 covering a BBQ lunch afterwards.

Gather your team and book through the pro shop on 5672 3697.

Poker with a twist

Poker fans won't want to miss The Clubhouse teams' event on Good Friday! Grab a better or equal half (teams of two) and head on down. Registration opens at 1pm, with the game kicking off at 2pm. Get your poker face ready and bring a teammate for some friendly Easter competition.



Lawn games and fundraising fun

Throughout the afternoon, enjoy a variety of lawn games and fundraising activities in support of the Good Friday Appeal at The Clubhouse.

There's cornhole and giant jenga, hula hoops and more with plenty of space for the little ones to stretch their legs.

Inside and out the chefs will be cooking up a treat with a BBQ lunch available

from 1pm, perfect for refuelling after a round of golf and before poker.

The Bistro opens for dinner at 5.30pm (last orders before 8pm) and Jess Geyer will be entertaining the crowds with live music from 4pm to 7pm.

With doors open from 12pm to 9pm, there's plenty of time to join in the fun. Bring your family, bring your friends, and make this Good Friday a memorable one all while making a

difference for a fantastic cause.

More this Autumn

There's more to The Clubhouse than just Good Friday festivities. Open daily – except on Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday – the Bistro offers a range of enticing daily specials.

Tuesdays feature the popular TightAs Menu, followed by Wednesday's Celebrity Parma. Thursdays are packed with Members Night and Poker, while Fridays offer more poker action alongside \$13.99 burgers.

On Saturdays, families can enjoy a great deal with kids eating free between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

The entertainment line-up is just as exciting, with The Dusty Springfield Show taking the stage on Friday, April 11 (doors at 10.30am for an 11am start).

On Saturday, April 26 Rehash Cover Band will rock the house with hits from the '80s, '90s, and 2000s (doors at 8pm for a 9pm start) while on May 17, Tusk will present Fleetwood Mac's Greatest Hits from 8.45pm.

See you at The Clubhouse, 11 Dr Sleeman Drive, Wonthaggi. For more information, call 5672 1437.



Live the history

EVER wanted to ride in a 52-tonne Centurion Tank or perhaps a Jagdpanzer Kanone? Perhaps you'd prefer to check out the Bren gun Carrier. Now is your chance with South Gippsland Tank Adventures.

Kick off the Easter school holidays with a bang on the two-hour family adventure.

This adrenaline-packed experience is designed to thrill visitors of all ages and offers a rare opportunity to get up close and personal with genuine armoured military history. Whether you're a history buff, a military enthusiast, or just looking for something completely different to do, this is an adventure like no other.

Following an escorted tour of South Gippsland Tank Adventures collection, inside and out of the armoured vehicles, former Australian Defence Force Leopard Tank Crewman Cameron Stone will take the family out on an adventure along the wild bush tracks of Wonyip in either an FV432, Stricker or MRV. Expect bumps, mud, and plenty of fun as you experience what it's like to be inside one of these powerful machines in a real off-road environment.

If the complete tank adventure is more your style then allow a whopping six hours as you head out in the 52 tonne Centurion and two other vehicles of your choosing; a BBQ lunch is also supplied. Perfect for birthday parties, small groups, or unforgettable family outings, the full-day experience is one you'll be talking about for years to come.

As Anzac Day nears Cameron and his team will also be dotted around South Gippsland displaying one of the vehicles during the dawn service at Toora, followed by a spectacular parade in Foster as part of Foster RSL's Anzac Day Parade.

Open throughout the school holidays by appointment there is plenty of time to book in your own adventure whether travelling solo or with the family.

Bookings are essential – visit tankadventures.com.au or call Cameron on 0407 611 203 for more information and to book.

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South Gippsland Fire Brigade hits \$500K milestone

FOR more than four decades, the South Gippsland Fire Brigade has been at the heart of the Good Friday Appeal, raising vital funds for the Royal Children's Hospital.

In 2024, the brigade, which consists of seven local fire brigades, reached an incredible milestone – over \$500,000 raised in 40 years.

What started as a relatively small initiative in Fish Creek and Wilson's Promontory has grown into a large-scale community effort spanning from Hedley to Venus Bay. The driving force behind the initiative, Neil and Jan Hamilton, have dedicated themselves to the cause, rallying local brigades and volunteers to support the appeal.

"The brigade started collecting just in Fish Creek and Wilson's Promontory," Neil Hamilton explained.

"I got permission to collect money at the front gate of the Prom, and we did that for a couple of years. Then my wife Jan and I became registered agents, and we got other brigades on board like Yanakie."

The motivation behind their efforts is deeply personal, but relatable to many.

"My wife and I had kids, and it's very reassuring to know that the Royal Children's Hospital is there," Neil said.

"Even if you don't have kids, everyone has nieces or neph-



ews or someone close to them, and it's nice to know that it's there at the standard they operate at."

Over the years, fundraising efforts have evolved, with each brigade contributing in their own way. From tin shaking at local beaches to running pub raffles and supermarket ticket sales, the South Gippsland

community has consistently stepped up to support the cause.

Neil recalls one particularly memorable moment.

"A few years ago, I was at the front gate of the Prom on the Thursday night before Good Friday. A bloke turned up with his kids – third generation. His parents had come years before,

then he had come with his parents, and now he was coming with his kids. That certainly didn't make me feel any younger," he said with a chuckle.

Despite the scale of the achievement, Neil insists the credit belongs to the community.

"It's a fantastic achievement, but if there's any credit, it goes

to the local community and the people travelling who have given so generously over the years."

The connection between the CFA and the community runs deep, with fire brigade members seeing themselves as more than just emergency responders, but rather as an embodiment of the community.

"The fire brigade is just part of the community – it is the community," Neil said.

"The kids' hospital needs community support to do all those good things. We're just the vehicles. We get great support from our brigade members, other brigades, and the local community."

This year marks the 43rd year of fundraising, and Neil hopes the tradition will continue for many years to come.

"We've all got kids or grandkids or nieces and nephews that may need the hospital at some point. This is our 43rd year, and hopefully we'll be doing it for another 43 years."

On Good Friday, volunteers from the South Gippsland Fire Brigade will be out in full force, collecting donations at beaches and in towns across the region.

"We're only asking people to give what they can. Times are tight, but if everyone gives a little bit, it all helps," Neil said.

Give generously to the Good Friday Appeal

Corinella

Between 10am - 2pm Corinella Fire Brigade members and helpers will be out and about collecting for this amazing cause.

Members will be located at the service station/McDonalds in Bass, and at the Corinella Fire Station (check Facebook for station times). The team also have QR codes available for any online transfers.

Cowes

Phillip Island Fire Brigade will be helping raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital and will be out and about in Cowes including the caravan parks and resorts.

Fish Creek/Walkerville/Waratah Bay

The Fish Creek & District tanker will be heading to Bear Gully at 9am then onto the Walkerville Caravan Park and Promontory Views Estate followed by Waratah Bay just after lunch.

The crew will reach Sandy Point between 2-4pm and then be onto Fish Creek and Buffalo.

The siren will be sounding to alert residents when the truck is in their street with collections also in neighbouring South Gippsland Fire Brigade Group towns including Foster, Meenyan, Hedley, Toora and Welshpool.

QR codes will be available to pay via the phone.

Inverloch

Inverloch Fire Brigade members will be out and about this year rattling the tins. Find the crew in the usual haunts including Inverloch Boat Ramp, the main shopping area – including Foodworks, Paul the Pieman and newsagents, and camping end of The Esplanade from 9am.

Kilcunda

A fixture on the highway each year, Kilcunda Fire Brigade will be rattling the tins at an open day at the Fire Station on the corner of Bass Highway and Peppermint Road.

Members will be collecting donations from 10am - 2pm. So please drop by, make your donation, have a free sausage and say 'Hi' to your local hardworking volunteers.

Korumburra

The Middle Korumburra Hotel is once again hosting their annual Good Friday Appeal with an auction kicking off at 2pm, special guests, fun and games and Easter raffle draws throughout the day. Live music by Fatty from 12pm - 4pm. All day food available.

Meenyan/Stony Creek

Meenyan-Stony Creek Fire Brigade will be selling raffle tickets and collecting donations down the main street.

Leongatha

Leongatha Fire Brigade will be stationed at the traffic lights between 9am and 1pm. Donations can be made in advance by contacting Leongatha CFA.

San Remo

San Remo CFA will be collecting donations via their annual street collection with four emergency vehicles walking the streets of San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay from 9am. Please note members will be putting the sirens on occasionally to notify the street they are on their way.

Tarwin Lower/Venus Bay

Tarwin Lower & District will be out and about this year with trucks making their way through the Venus Bay Caravan Park and Estates 1 and 2 between 9am and 12 noon.

The Brigades are also running a raffle with tickets (and donation tins) available and stationed out the front of Tarwin Lower IGA, Venus Bay General Store and Walkerville Caravan Park.



Other Good Friday Events:

Easter Fishing Competition

Jim's Bait and Tackle Australia are having their ninth Annual Easter Fishing Comp (all proceeds go to The Royal Children's Hospital) running from Good Friday until Easter Monday. Over \$5000 worth of prizes to be won. More info can be found on their Facebook page.

Raffle

San Remo Discounts is holding a raffle with all funds going to the Good Friday Appeal. There is also a bin to collect refundable cans, bottles etc. with funds going to The Good Friday Appeal.

San Remo Hotel-Motel

San Remo Hotel-Motel is hosting the George Bass Walk for the Kids commencing at 9am with a three kilometre family-friendly route around San Remo also taking place this year. For more information visit trybooking.com/events/landing/1341700.

San Remo Hotel will also be hosting their annual Easter Raffle with tickets sold from 11am and the winners drawn at 6pm; and a silent auction that evening with plenty of live entertainment, kid's activities and goodies on offer.



Plenty to do on Good Friday

ALTHOUGH the school holidays will be starting to wind down, there will still be plenty to enjoy across Bass Coast and South Gippsland on Good Friday.

Families are encouraged to get involved with Walk for the Kids in San Remo with all proceeds donated to the Royal Children's Hospital appeal.

There are two walks to enjoy – either walk the scenic seven-kilometre George Bass Memorial Walk from Kilcunda to San Remo or take in the San Remo town walk.

The George Bass Memorial Walk is a cliff-top trail and delivers spectacular

views of the coastline, following the route taken by explorer George Bass.

Starting at 8am on Good Friday, Walk for the Kids is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a family activity before the return of the hustle and bustle of school for a truly worthy cause.

Participants are invited back to the San Remo Hotel after the walks for games and raffles.

Registration details can be found on the Walk For The Kids Facebook page and via Trybooking.

Inverloch will also be launching its annual art show on Good Friday.

The 37th art show promises to be an awe-inspiring display of traditional and contemporary works, with an opening night dinner taking place.

The art show runs for the entirety of the Easter weekend, with pieces displayed at the Inverloch Community Hub.

Proceeds from this event are used to buy food boxes for Bass Coast Health to distribute to local families experiencing short-term difficulties.

Phillip Island is the place to be for the kids, as the Newhaven Information Centre will be wrapping up its school

holiday program on Good Friday.

The Good Friday session will give children the opportunity to make their own colourful suncatchers.

No bookings are required to enjoy this free, creative and family-friendly event.

In Korumburra, the Middle Hotel will be hosting its own event in an effort to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday appeal.

With good music, AFL on the TV, auction items, games and crayfish to be won, it promises to be a great way to spend a Friday afternoon.



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Sailing faster than the wind



ATTRACTING land yachtsmen from around the world Waratah Bay in South Gippsland is possibly one of the best land sailing beaches in Australia.

Call them blokarts, land yachts or wind chariots these crazy karts can sail faster than the wind reaching speeds of up to 100km/h in the right conditions.

Waratah Bay was recently chosen by the North-East Windsport Club to host the 2025 Australian Blokart Championships because of the bay's

reliable and consistent winds and wide, flat beach free of rocks at low tide.

An all-inclusive sport, the Australian Blokart Association claims 200 members competing against each other in two classes and four weight categories.

Both performance and production class Blokarts at Waratah Bay can reach speeds of up to 50km/h assisted by strong south-westerly winds.

"Waratah Bay is a beautiful place

to visit with the Waratah Bay Caravan Park very popular," according to Commodore of the North-East Windsport Club Ken Horne.

Blokart competitors have always been generous in their praise for Waratah Bay.

"What a glorious sail, a wide hard flat beach with constant 12 knot southerly winds."

"Waratah Bay would have to have been one of the most satisfying and relaxing sails this year, great place,

great company and great sailing."

"Sandy Point on Waratah Bay is one of the best Victorian beach locations in Gippsland for social sailing and short course racing."

Blokart is a popular class of compact land yachts invented in New Zealand.

With a background in hang gliding and land sailing, inventor Paul Beckett was inspired to build a serious wind-powered toy that was fun, fast and compact.

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From small beginnings the Blokart community now extends all over the world.

The production class Blokart uses a basic design straight from the factory, while performance class karts allow for additional approved upgrades such as stiffer carbon masts, an aerodynamic pod and bigger front wheels and forks.

Blokarts have a unique hand steering system so racers with lower body disabilities compete equally along-

side able-bodied sailors.

Four different-sized sails make Blokarts ideal for juniors who can start as young as 12 or 14 years of age.

For the recreational rider, Blokarting has become a versatile pastime that allows land yachtsmen to sail wherever the wind takes them.

For competitive racers, Blokart provides a chance to meet other sailors and compete on a level playing field under Blokart's One Design rules.

Blokarts are also ideal for families looking for weekend thrills with a wide range of accessories to suit all abilities so everyone can get into the fun.

There are no gender-specific classes in Blokarts with racers sailing together.

The only divisions are by body weight to ensure heavier sailors are not disadvantaged.

For more information about Blokart land sailing go to blokart.com/ride/racing.

"Sandy Point on Waratah Bay is one of the best Victorian beach locations in Gippsland for social sailing and short course racing."

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Discover the markets this Autumn

Bass Market

May 3 | 8am-1pm

With a strong community focus, the Bass Market provides a diverse range of local stalls. From produce to handmade merchandise, there is something for everyone to discover. The Bass Market has made a name for itself with its friendly atmosphere and overall memorable shopping experience.

Churchill Island Farmers' Market

May 3 | 8am-1pm

Enjoy the classic market vibe with the stunning backdrop of Churchill Island. The market showcases top quality produce from Phillip Island and the wider Gippsland region. With more than 40 stalls, everyone comes away with a smile.

Coal Creek Farmers' Market

April 12 and May 10 | 8am-12.30pm

Set in another unique location, the Coal Creek Farmers' Market offers fresh food straight from the paddock. The stalls are generally occupied by dedicated locals ready to provide high quality service. Please note, this is a plastic bag free event.

Corinella Community Market

April 12 and May 10 | 8am-1pm

Held at the Harold Hughes Reserve, this market entices many visitors to the area. It is a dog friendly market and perfect for a family day out. Most often, the stalls offer fresh produce, arts and crafts, garden supplies and coffee.

Cowes Island Craft Market

April 12 and May 10 | 9am-2pm

With 60 stalls to peruse, the theme of this market is "make, bake and grow". Take the time to browse the stalls and chat with friendly producers and crafts people. Profits from this market are returned to the community.

Cowes Market on Church

April 26 and May 24 | 9am to 2pm

This market showcases 30 stalls both inside and outside the St Philip's Parish Hall. As well as produce and crafts, marketgoers are invited to explore the trash and treasure shed. Hot food and drinks can also be purchased at this market.

Cowes Sunday Market

April 13 | May 11, 18 and 25
9am-2pm

Gather at the Jetty Triangle to browse the vibrant and unique finds at this market. Attracting both locals and tourists, this is a relaxed shopping experience that showcases a diverse range of what Phillip Island has to offer. Phillip Island is often the holiday spot of choice, so be sure to add the Sunday market to your list.

Cowes Foreshore Market

April 16 and 26 | 2pm-9pm

This market is a pleasant way to spend a Saturday afternoon. As well as general market stalls, enjoy the spoils of food trucks and live entertainment. This market is held on the Cowes foreshore, looking out across Western Port Bay.

Grantville Market

May 4 | 8am-1pm

With more than 100 stalls, this is truly a market for everyone. Ranging from produce, preserves and plants to toys, clothes and collectables, there is no better way to spend a Sunday morning. Head over to the Grantville Recreation Reserve and see what you can find.

Inverloch Farmers' Market

April 19 and May 17 | 8am-1pm

With more than 50 stalls, this market is a family favourite. The selection is wonderful, and children can enjoy the proximity to the beach and the park. Pop down to The Glade and make the most of this fine market.

Inverloch Community Farmers' Market

April 27 and May 25 | 8am-1pm

Also held at The Glade, this market is Inverloch's first accredited farmers' market. It showcases fantastic fresh food and produce grown in Gippsland. It is a dog friendly event and perfect for the family.

Jumbunna Bush Market

May 4 | 9am-1pm

There are 15 stalls to visit with a focus on "homemade" and "homegrown". Crafts and woodwork are included. Held at the Jumbunna Community Hall, refreshments are available.

Kongwak Market:

Every Sunday | 10am-2pm
(except prior to Christmas Day)

A staple of the South Gippsland experience, the Kongwak Market is a must see. As well as the weekly market, the venue offers a vibrant art scene. With produce, collectibles, live music and hot food, there is a lot to love about this market.

Koonwarra Farmers' Market

May 3 | 8am-1pm

This market features a wonderful array of the region's growers, producers and speciality food makers. It provides an authentic market experience in the rural village of Koonwarra. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Loch Lions Village Market

April 13 | 8am-1pm

This market was established by the Lions Club of Strzelecki. It is regularly visited by 750 to 1000 people and includes more than 100 permanent stallholders. It raises money for the local community, all within a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

Mirboo North Market

April 26 and May 31 | 8.30am-1pm

Mirboo North offers a variety market for growers, bakers, merchants and makers. Hosted in Baromi Park, it is an event the community is proud of and attracts locals and tourists alike. Proceeds from the event are returned to the community.

Prom Country Farmers' Market

April 19 and May 17 | 8am-12pm

Bring along a shopping bag, because there are plenty of goodies to be found. The producers and stallholders make their own products, and there will be plenty available in the upcoming markets to get people ready for winter. The proceeds from this market go towards the Fish Creek Boomerang Bag Group.

Prom Produce and Craft Market

April 20 | 8am-1pm

This is one of the biggest and best craft markets in Gippsland. It is an opportunity to make unique discoveries at the range of stalls and support local businesses. Dogs are not permitted at this event.

Rail Trail Community Market

April 20 and May 18 | 8.30am-1pm

Located at the Leongatha Railway Precinct, this market is all about makers, producers and growers. With lots to choose from at the stalls, marketgoers can also enjoy live music and raffles. It is known for being a leisurely market experience, perfect for a Sunday morning.

Tarwin Lower Market

April 21 | 8am-1pm

Set on the Monday public holiday, the market features a range of goodies such as food, plants, clothing, crafts, books, tools and more. Live music is usually played on the day. The April market will also feature a dog show, running from 10am to 11am.

Toora Lions Den Market

May 3 | 8am-1pm

This is an opportunity to support the community programs through the Toora Lions Club. The market offers an amazing selection at the Vi-Plus Factory. It features furniture and bric-a-brac.

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Sentinel-Times

Terms and Conditions: **1. General** 1.1 The Wonthaggi Club and South Gippsland Sentinel Times (the "Organisers") are hosting a Colouring Competition (the "Competition"). 1.2 By entering the Competition, participants (or their parents/guardians if under 18) agree to abide by these Terms and Conditions. 1.3 Entry into the Competition constitutes full acceptance of these Terms and Conditions, including media consent (see Section 6). **2. Eligibility & Categories** 2.1 The Competition is open to people of all ages and abilities. 2.2 Entries will be judged in the following categories:
• Ages 5 and under • Ages 6 to 8 • Ages 9 to 11 • Ages 12 and over **3. How to Enter** 3.1 There is no entry fee. 3.2 Entries must be submitted in person at one of the following locations: • The Wonthaggi Club – 16 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi • The Clubhouse – 11 Doctor Sleeman Drive, Wonthaggi. 3.3 Only one entry per participant is allowed. 3.4 Entries must be submitted by the published closing date. Late entries will not be accepted. **4. Judging & Prizes** 4.1 A panel of judges appointed by the Organisers will assess the entries based on creativity, effort, and presentation. 4.2 The judges will select up to five winners per category. 4.3 The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the results. 4.4 Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the Organisers and are not transferable or exchangeable for cash. **5. Media Consent & Use of Entries** 5.1 By entering the Competition, participants and their parents/guardians grant permission for: • The Wonthaggi Club and South Gippsland Sentinel Times to publish photos of the participant and their entry in print and online. • The participant's first name and age category to be mentioned in any promotional material. 5.2 This consent is a condition of entry. If consent is not granted, the entry will not be eligible for the Competition. **6. Privacy & Data Collection** 6.1 Personal information collected will only be used for the purpose of administering the Competition. 6.2 Entries will not be returned. **7. General Conditions** 7.1 The Organisers reserve the right to modify, suspend, or cancel the Competition in the event of unforeseen circumstances. 7.2 The Organisers accept no responsibility for lost, late, or damaged entries. By submitting an entry, participants (or their parents/guardians) confirm they have read and understood these Terms and Conditions. For more information, contact: Wonthaggi Club – 16 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi, The Clubhouse – 11 Doctor Sleeman Drive, Wonthaggi.

The Wonthaggi Club



One Great Club,
Two Great Venues

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Tuesday - Celebrity Parma

Try a different parma every week
for only \$22 served with a pot*

Wednesday - Steak Night*

2 premium steaks & a bottle of wine \$60

Thursday - Seniors Deal*

\$14 Two Course lunch & dinner

Friday - Funtimes

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BISTRO OPEN



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plus Sundays afternoon.



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Phone 5672 1437 www.wonthaggicountryclub.com.au



March 28 debutantes and partners: Back: Angus Livingstone, Logan Brown, Luke Hall, Aidan Treacy, Willis Patterson, Jordan Robbins and Coral Johnstone (trainer). Row 3: Mr Ian and Mrs Dawn Rasmussen (officials), Lucas Jones, Hamish Gill, Jai Brocklebank, Archie Casey, Ms Melina Bath (official) and Karen Dyke (trainer). Row 2: Georgie Dunn, Laila Holt, Ebony Dean, Maia Enbom, Liliyana Steere, Sienna Musilli and Peyton Callahan. Front: Harper Harland (flower girl), Olivia Allen, Casey Tumino, Matilda Hanily and Eden Campbell (flower girl).

Presenting the 2025 Leongatha and District Netball debutantes

THIS year Leongatha and District Netball Association had the pleasure of holding three debutante balls over two consecutive weekends, March 22, 28 and 29. A total of twenty-eight couples took part with training sessions being held over nine weeks.

These events were held in Leongatha Memorial Hall, which was beautifully decorated by Shelly Williams of "Inspire Hire".

Dance trainer, Coral Johnston, was assisted by Karen Dyke and Vanessa Mills and the couples all learnt a total of five dances for the presentation.

On March 22 the debutantes and partners were presented to the South Gippsland Shire Council Citizen of the Year, Mr Ian Rasmussen, who was accompanied by Mrs Dawn Rasmussen and also Ms Melina Bath MP, Member for Eastern Victoria Region.

On March 28 the officials were Cr John Schelling, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council accompanied by Mrs Dianne Schelling together with Mr Wal and Mrs Melanie Worsfold, representing the Leongatha and District Netball Association.

On March 29 the officials were Mrs Pat Kuhne and Mr Keith Kuhne, representing the Leongatha and District Netball Association and Mr David Panther accompanied by Mrs Susan Panther, representing the Rotary Club of Leongatha.

This is the major fundraising event for the Association, and they have been providing debutante balls for the young people of this district for over 50 years.

RIGHT: March 29 debutantes and partners: Back: Vanessa Mills (trainer), Indie Cameron, Jesse Gollop, Josh Popple, Sam Hill, Oliver Pearson, Max Vella and Coral Johnston (trainer). Row 3: Mr Keith and Mrs Pat Kuhne (officials), Hugh Munro, Luke Hall, Ky Gow, Thomas McKenzie, Susan and David Panther (officials) and Karen Dyke (trainer). Row 2: Tiana Cummaudo, Erin Dell, Lara Landry, Seisha Joske, Hattie Jefferis, Georgia Bell and Angie Tomy. Front: Evie Caruana (flower girl), Bella Houston, Lara Cockshed, Priya Nelson and Georgia Bunn (flower girl).



March 28 debutantes and partners: Back: Kyle Steer, Sam Beachley, Archie Gannon, Mason Thomson, Fletcher Petty, and Callum Donohue. Row 3: Karen Dyke (trainer), Mr Wal and Mrs Melanie Worsfold (officials), Luke Hall, Eligh Turner, Mayor John and Mrs Dianne Schelling (officials) and Coral Johnston (trainer). Row 2: Tierney Cahill, Shari Harris, Lucy Heber, Jenna Coolidge, Jorja Kenny, Madi Johnston and Kadence Rawson. Front: Kye Whiteside (page boy), Niamh Murphy and Aubrey Rawson (flower girl).





Ian Starkey and Jim Ahon are looking forward to welcoming anyone interested to the Community Open Day at Ritchie Reserve in Korumburra - a significant remnant damp forest. ob02_1425

Explore Korumburra's hidden natural gem

JOIN the Friends of Ritchie Reserve at a Community Open Day and learn about the flora and fauna from experts, while walking through the ecologically significant and hidden natural gem in Korumburra.

On Sunday, April 13 from 12pm to 3pm, local experts will be talking about the ecological significance and inhabitants of the 10-hectare reserve, which is made up of endangered and remnant damp forest.

Coal Creek also runs through the reserve and it is the largest example of remnant damp forest on both private and public land in Korumburra and the surrounding area.

The reserve also has two critically endangered plant species, the Strzelecki gum and filmy maidenhair.

Significant invasive weeds such as the tree tobacco, tutson, cape ivy and blackberry are a threat to the precious native flora and fauna.

Restoring the endangered damp forest habitat and protecting critically endangered plants are the main aims of the voluntary group, Friends of Ritchie Reserve (FORR), with the help of associated Landcare groups.

"Our aim is basically to try and keep the weeds out and try and let it regenerate to what it was originally, which is quite rare now," said Ian Starkey, Convenor of FORR.

"We've been trying to eliminate a few of the weeds here, over a period of time, and want to allow the original understorey to come back to a certain extent."

FORR meet once a month, for a couple of hours, to tackle weeds and carry out planting, without any external funding, apart from some maintenance carried out by Parks Victoria, who manage the reserve.

By targeting the most weed infested areas within the reserve, restoration of habitat will be enabled and better protection for threatened plant species will be provided.

"You get a lot of natural regeneration, but we're adding a bit of diversity with other species that probably either disappeared or there are not that many of. So, we're trying to enhance the understorey," explained Ian.

The Community Open Day gives everyone in the community the opportunity to learn more about this important parcel of public land and become involved in caring for the reserve.

Guest Speakers on the day will be Matt Bowler, Project Delivery Manager at West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority; Alison Oates, Ecologist, Director Oates Environmental Consulting and Secretary of Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group; and Ian Starkey, Convenor, Friends of Ritchie Reserve, and retired nurseryman with over 40 years of experience working with the flora of Gippsland.

FORR would ultimately like to connect the reserve via a walking trail to Coal Creek Park and Museum and find out more about the Indigenous heritage of the area to inform visitors.

"In the meantime, we're trying to restore Ritchie Reserve to what it was," said Jim Ahon, member of FORR.

There will be a native plants giveaway and light refreshments at the Community Open Day, being held on Sunday, April 13 from 12pm to 3pm. This is a free event, for more details and to register, email: friendsofritchiereserve@gmail.com by Thursday, April 10.



Wonthaggi Men's Shed Garden Group (back row) Jessica Harrison, Richard Kentwell, Barbara and Carol Sheerman (front row) Muesay, Stella Hitchins, Craig MacDonald and Paul Bentley. B10_1425

Free garden workshop at the Wonthaggi Men's Shed

GROWING your own garden or joining a local community garden is loads of fun and could help you beat the rising cost of living.

The Men's Shed Garden Group in Wonthaggi is offering a free gardening session on Sunday, April 13 to help everyone enjoy the benefits of a backyard veggie patch or share the joy of community gardening.

The free gardening session presented by Harriet Pellizzer will be an ideal opportunity to get some helpful advice on making the most out of your home garden.

A trainer with Bass Coast Adult Learning, Ms Pellizzer

is involved with several community-based projects.

Outside of BCAL Harriet loves gardening, cooking, life on her farm, craft, and sharing stories.

Ms Pellizzer believes that these simple creative activities can foster personal well-being, bring joy and strengthen local communities.

Harriet has lots of tips and tricks on how to get creative in the garden according to Men's Shed Garden Group Coordinator, Jessica Harrison.

"It has been a great year in the garden," said Jessica.

"We've had lots of pumpkins and tomatoes and plenty of potatoes."

Wonthaggi Men's Shed workshops are part of Bass Coast Shire Council's Living Lightly project proudly presented in partnership with Bass Coast Adult Learning and community gardens around the Shire.

The next workshop for the Wonthaggi Men's Shed Garden Group is 'Introduction to Permaculture' with Rick Coleman on Saturday, April 26.

Permaculture is permanent agriculture according to Ms Harrison.

"Learn how to grow vegetables and choose plants that work well together such as planting wormwood near veggies to help control garden pests."

"Share the knowledge."

The Men's Shed Garden Group can be found in the Wonthaggi Railway Precinct by walking or biking across Apex Park to the Rail Trail, or by driving from the Big W car park on the corner of Korumburra Road and Biggs Drive.

For more information on the Men's Shed Garden Group or to enquire about the free gardening session from 10am to 11.30am on Sunday, April 13 phone Jessica on 0438 174 029 or look for Veggie Patch to Plate on Facebook. Bookings are essential. To make a booking for the gardening session go to trybooking.com/events/landing/1357001.

Hundreds attend Harvest Day at Phillip Island Community Orchard



Carol Taylor and Cathy Thoms with Maverick at the Phillip Island Community Orchard (PICO) Harvest Day. B102_1425

with parents or grandparents with PICO hosting a working bee once a month to assist with weeding and mulching.

Preserving and pickling is also explained along with community educational activities.

Annette Mackenzie's tips for successful gardening?

Use recycled water for the most efficient use of water, mulch regularly to reduce water loss through evaporation, use homemade compost, and compost animal manure first before applying it to the garden.

PICO has a worm garden and makes worm tea from worm castings.

Dilute the worm tea, one to ten and apply liberally according to Ms Mackenzie.

Companion planting is also practised at PICO with marigolds and calendulas.

"I hope everyone had a good time," said Annette.

For more information on PICO search for islandcommunityorchard on Instagram, PICO Phillip Island Community Orchard on Facebook, or go to communitygarden.org.au/listing/pico-phillip-island-community-orchard.

Annette Mackenzie explained the scarecrows will be placed out in the garden and orchard to deter thieving birds and hungry furry animals.

"The fruit trees are netted to protect the fruit from hares, possums, rabbits and wallabies, purple hens and plovers," said Ms Mackenzie.

"We also have the occasional Cape Barren goose, but they don't cause any damage."

The orchard has nashi pears, macadamia nuts, hazelnuts, citrus and avocados.

"We grow fabulous

avocados," said Annette.

A line of native trees protects the orchard and garden from extremes of climate.

The asparagus and pumpkin patch is a favourite along with the strawberry patch.

Everything is homegrown and organic.

Describing the community garden as a mental health exercise Ms Mackenzie said apart from Harvest Day the orchard is normally a peaceful place.

New members of all ages are welcome including children



Elevated farmlet with sweeping water views

A MAGNIFICENT farmlet consisting of 6.3 acres with excellent fencing is only 7.5 kilometres from Inverloch. The atrium-style home consists of two large bedrooms, plus a study, one bathroom, one laundry, a separate toilet, and an open living plan that best captures 180° water views.

High ceilings with windows centrally located in the second tier of the roof structure let in abundant daylight, lending the house to be naturally bright inside.

The kitchen is made with Tasmanian Blackwood, crafted by Don Bruce Kitchens, and has a walk-in pantry. There is a gas stove and oven as well as a "Coonara" type gas heater. The hot water service is an instantaneous gas system mounted on the outside of the house. There is also an "Ultimate" wood heater in the living room.

The home has an open living plan to best capture the sweeping water views of Anderson Inlet.

In front of the main living room, you can step out onto a large deck, from which you can enjoy the views from outside.

At the rear of the house, there is a large carport providing direct access to the home. Outside, there is an easy-to-maintain garden as well as an orchard with a number of mature, established fruit trees covered in a dome with netting to keep pests and animals out.

There is a large farm shed, consisting of a double lock-up section with two roller doors, and a carport attached as part of the shed. The carport is 5.2 metres wide, the shed is 8.25 metres wide, a total of 13 metres and the shed and carport are 12 metres deep. The lock-up shed has a concrete floor and workbench located along the back wall.

There is also a separate building that houses the infrastructure for the "off-grid" systems. The infrastructure comprises twin solar panel arrays maintaining a 69kw 48-volt AGM Battery Bank and 8kw 240-volt power inverter system.

The system is complemented by a 15kva Lister diesel generator set which can provide battery charging redundancy (seldom required) or back up power automatically to the residence. The battery bank was recently replaced and upgraded in August 2024.

There is one large paddock that has some natural messmate and tea tree bushes. This is where the cattle run. The block is currently running eight steers.

Heavy grey soil, with good pasture, clover and native grasses, the paddock is serviced by a dam for water.

The property is a very unique farmlet that lends itself to a number of rural-based pursuits, including cattle,



horses, sheep, and poultry.

The property is quite unique in the fact that it is elevated and there are no immediate neighbours. It is a very quiet and peaceful location, and the views are second to none. It is the only residential property that has access from Shingler Road.

It is only 7.5 kilometres from Inverloch and 19 kilometres from the major regional centre of Wonthaggi. It is also only 25 kilometres from Leongatha, another large regional town and 149 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD.

The land has been in the same family since 1968. The vendor is downsizing and planning a move to a house in Inverloch. This is a truly unique farmlet with a wonderful position. Inspection is strictly by appointment with the selling agent.

2 | 1 | 8 6.3 Acres

87 Shingler Road, Inverloch

For Sale \$1.4 m (Offers Invited)
Agent Phelan & Henderson
Simon Henderson 0428 740 750

87 Shingler Road, Inverloch

For Sale:

\$1.4 million, offers invited

- 6.3 acres • Atrium style residence
- Elevated location, magnificent water views
- Sheding and carport, well fenced
- "Off grid" solar and batteries with backup generator
- Natural bush and easy to maintain garden

Inspection strictly appointment only

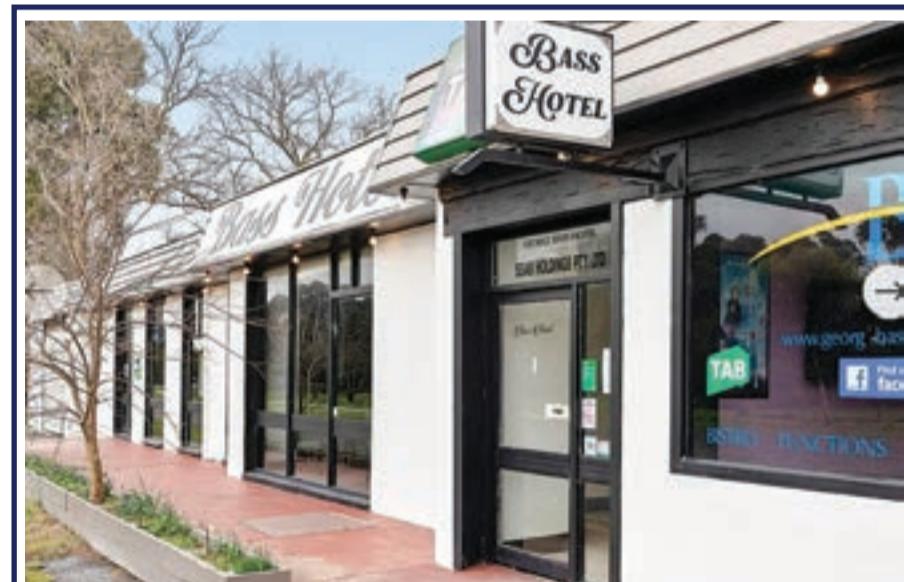


Phelan & Henderson & Co

For further information contact Simon Henderson 0428 740 750

FOR SALE - FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

THE GEORGE BASS HOTEL - 24-32 HADE AVENUE, BASS



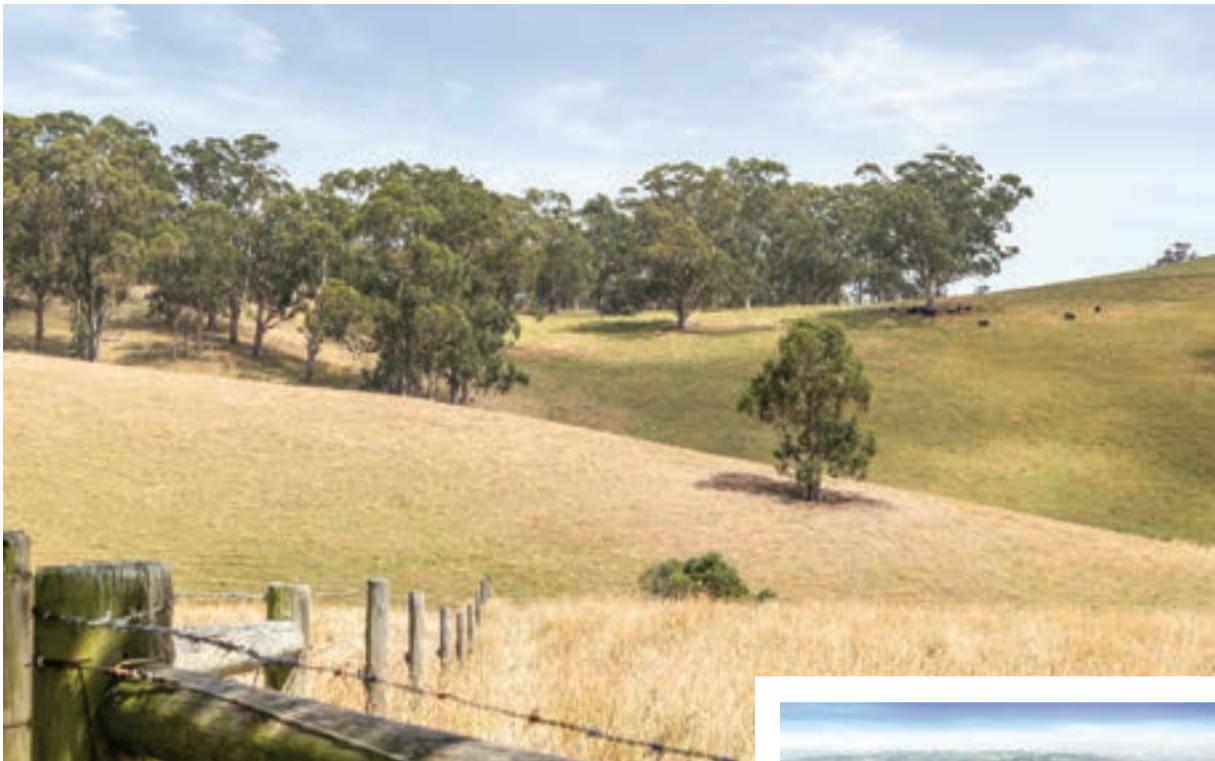
ICONIC VENUE - READY TO LAUNCH

- 3936m² (approx) of Township Zoned land
- Sports bar, bistro lounge, various sitting areas, drive through bottle shop
- Including current fit out (furniture, fittings, chattels, plant and equipment)
- 3 bedroom owner's apartment

** Also available 6181m² Vacant Land - 4 Lot Subdivision with conditional Town Planning Approval

Contact: Kevin Connolly 0412 772 290
Dan Ryan 0427 572 718
1300 767 802 www.crebrokers.com

CRE BROKERS



2 1 3 52.65*ha

130 Coulters Road, **Mardan**
For Sale \$1,640,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
 Irene Walker 0429 045 632

Prime breeding and fattening property with unmatched potential

A HIGHLY productive rural property, set in the renowned blue-gum grazing country of South Gippsland. A property providing water security with natural springs combining to form the 'Toomeys Creek', that meanders through the valley.

The undulating heavy carrying hill country of approximately 130 acres with its neat cottage home, shedding and stock yards surrounded by established blue-gums, oaks, golden elms, and peppercorn trees, makes for a soulful and highly productive grazing property in a tightly held and secure high rainfall region.

Features of the property include:

- Total land area: 52.65 hectares* (130 acres*) on one title
- Updated fully appointed two-bedroom weatherboard cottage
- Natural springs through two sections of the property, providing permanent year-round water
- In addition to the springs and dams, there are stock troughs and reliable 1025mm (40 inches) annual rainfall
- Excellent support infrastructure including machinery shedding, hay, workshop, sundry shedding and heavy-duty cattle yards

Ideally located just 15 minutes to Leongatha, for all your shopping needs, 20 minutes to the premiere selling centre/Victorian Livestock exchange at Koonwarra or 12 minutes to Mirboo North and 40 minutes into the Latrobe Valley/Traralgon and two hours to Melbourne CBD*.

For further information and to arrange a personal inspection, please contact Irene Walker at SEJ Real Estate PH:0429 045 632

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist

*Denotes approximately



Your local
 Real Estate &
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ANDREA ADAMS
 0429 822 801
aadams@sej.com.au
 FOSTER
 Ph 5682 2800



IRENE WALKER
 0429 045 632
iwalker@sej.com.au



LEONGATHA SOUTH



- Coast & Country living
- 27 HA/ 68 AC grazing
- 3 bed, 2 bath, 3 car home
- Solar, study, sunroom
- Exc. Shed, room to grow

SOLD

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

NEW PRICE



- Elevated position at the top of a 654m2 approx. block
- Outlook over the town towards Inlet and hinterland
- Open plan living room with RC/AC, doors to deck
- 3 bedrooms, central bathroom, separate w.c.
- Well maintained, furnished and ready to enjoy
- Large garage / workshop / boat shed

\$750,000

SANDY POINT



Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

RANCEBY



- 23ha/60 acres (approx.)
- Ideal turnout block, close to town
- 5 paddocks, inc hay paddock
- Good quality steel yards
- Undulating hill country

\$660,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

MARDAN



- 'Bell's End' – charming & unique
- 2.18 acres + additional river lease
- 3 bed, 1 bath, W/B farmhouse
- Est. garden, orchard, chook run
- Sundry shedding galore!

UNDER OFFER

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

TOORA NORTH



- Approx. 19 acres, 10 used as mixed grazing in two paddocks
- Undulating with established trees, pockets of rainforest along a creek
- Country homestead with decks on every side
- Peaceful & private 8 mins to town
- 3 bedrooms, central bathroom, separate w.c.
- LU shed, wood shed, graded parking area.

\$730,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

LEONGATHA



- Family home on spacious block
- 4 bed, 2 bath, 2 car & open plan
- Separate formal lounge room
- Rear deck with views
- Side access, great opportunity

\$649,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



Attractive unit with private setting feel

ARE you looking for a seaside change in a peaceful township? This spacious three-bedroom unit could be your next home. Located in a quiet location and set on a generous 518m² block.

This lovely three-bedroom unit has been tastefully renovated, each spacious bedroom has built-in wardrobes and ceiling fans. The open-plan living area leads out onto your own private outdoor deck which is perfect for entertaining or just to enjoy a coffee while reading a good book.

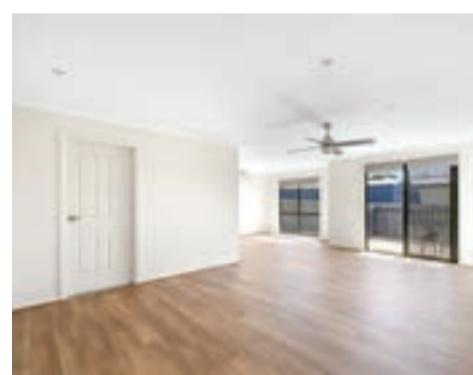
The kitchen includes electric appliances, dishwasher and ample storage. The newly renovated bathroom includes statement wall tiles, a walk-in shower, bath, vanity and separate toilet.

The carport leads to a spacious backyard that has a garden shed, and a water tank for grey water usage. The garden area is untouched so ready for a green thumb to put their stamp on it.

This property would make the perfect first home or a great investment property. Don't miss this amazing opportunity; to be able to live close to some of the beautiful beaches that South Gippsland and Bass Coast have to offer. Situated seven kilometres to Wonthaggi, 20 kilometres to Inverloch, 17 kilometres to San Remo, and 130 kilometres to Melbourne's CBD.

For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Sharon Turton on 0447 604 796.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist



3 | 1 | 3 518m²

2/1-3 Graham Street, **Dalyston**

For Sale \$450,000

Agent Elders

Sharon Turton 0447 604 796



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Over 40 years' experience

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Hallston 33 Acres

Experience the Joy of Country Living

- 4 bay & 3 bay shed + hay shed
- Yards & loading race
- 3 bed, 1 bath home

Web ID: 300P17274

new price



Nyora 80 Acres

Ride into Paradise

- 4-bed, 2-bath renovated home
- Horse facilities - stables, tack room
- Sensational panoramic views

Web ID: 300P107208

new price



Korumburra 559m²

Ideally Positioned in Quiet Court

- 3-bed, 1-bath home
- Kitchen with gas cooktop & wall oven
- Large 5x3m shed for storage

Web ID: 300P177975

new listing



Leongatha 150m²

Appealing 2 Bedroom Unit

- 2-bed unit with BIR
- Kitchen/dining room with split system
- Garage with roller door & garden shed

Web ID: 300P178302

new listing



BEN TOWNSEND
Licensed Estate Agent
0400 594 487



SHARON TURTON
Sales Consultant
0447 604 796



HELEN ARRESTIA
Sales Support
03 5662 3523



NATALIE RES
Property Manager
0439 383 091

Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523



Modern and low-maintenance three-bedroom

SET in the heart of Grantville, this modern, standalone home perfectly balances style, comfort, and practicality. With its solid construction and low-maintenance design, it's an ideal choice for families, downsizers, or investors seeking a hassle-free lifestyle.

Don't be misled by the street address – this is a true standalone home, sitting on its own title with no shared land, providing the space and privacy of a full-sized house.

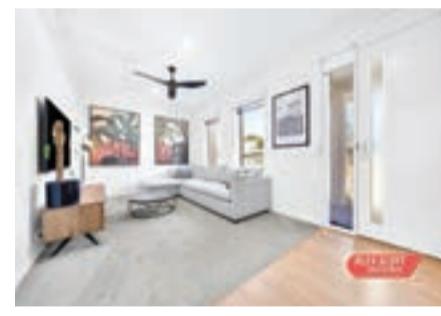
Step inside to discover a bright and spacious interior, where three well-sized bedrooms ensure comfort and tranquillity. The master suite offers a peaceful retreat with its ensuite and built-in robes, while the remaining two bedrooms share a stylish central bathroom.

Designed for both relaxation and functionality, the home features two generous living areas – a welcoming front lounge for quiet moments and a rear open-plan living and dining area that seamlessly connects to the modern kitchen. With sleek cabinetry, quality appliances, and ample bench space, the kitchen makes meal preparation effortless.

A separate laundry adds convenience, while the secure, low-maintenance garden allows you to enjoy your home without the burden of constant upkeep.

Located just minutes from Grantville's shops, cafés, and essential services, this home is set to benefit from the new Coles supermarket, with construction due to start this year. Enjoy the perfect mix of peaceful coastal living and modern convenience, with Phillip Island, local wineries, and scenic shoreline walks all within easy reach.

If you're searching for a solid, move-in-ready home in a booming location, this is the one for you!



3 | 2 | 2 | 286m²

34A Portview Avenue, **Grantville**
For Sale \$587,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Angus Hall 0466 326 487

Stunning coastal living awaits in Kilcunda

DISCOVER your dream home at 2 Seaview Crescent, where coastal charm meets modern comfort. This expansive 882m² allotment boasts three spacious bedrooms, all featuring built-in robes, with the master bedroom offering a luxurious ensuite. The light-filled open-plan living area invites you to relax and unwind, complemented by a separate lounge that showcases breathtaking ocean views. Enjoy year-round comfort with a wood heater and split system, along with double-glazed windows for added insulation.

The heart of this home is its modern kitchen, equipped with a gas cooktop, electric oven, and dishwasher, plus ample bench space for culinary adventures. Step outside to a massive deck area, perfect for entertaining, complete with a pizza oven and bar, all while soaking in more stunning coastal vistas. An additional deck area on the opposite side of the house provides even more outdoor space to enjoy those beautiful sunny days.

Surrounded by wonderful established gardens, this property offers plenty of privacy, making it a serene retreat. With ample parking for up to five cars and a van, convenience is at your fingertips. Plus, the 6kw solar power system adds an eco-friendly touch. Located just a short stroll from local cafes and pristine beaches, this home truly embodies the best of coastal living. Don't miss your chance to make this slice of paradise your own!



3 | 2 | - | 882m²

2 Seaview Crescent, **Kilcunda**
EOI Closing 4pm, Friday, May 2
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Wonthaggi office 5672 1911

LEONGATHA



36 McCartin Street

- Heritage building first time offered
- Prominent location, huge vacant space
- Secure tenant at the rear

\$990,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



Unit 5, 49 Guys Road

- 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom brick
- Ducted heating and cooling
- Great Investment

\$390,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

VENTNOR



22 Pall Mall

- Waterfront luxury, breathtaking views
- Double glazed windows, hybrid flooring
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 car

\$2,300,000 - \$2,450,000

Contact: Cowes Office

SOUTH DUDLEY



10 Carl Street

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom
- 737m² block
- Open plan living

SOLD \$467,500

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



10 Bent Street

- Family home in prime residential street
- 4 bedrooms plus office, multiple living areas
- 14.5kw solar system with battery storage

\$1,150,000 - \$1,195,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

OUTTRIM



1075 Outtrim-Leongatha Road

- Secluded country retreat
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- 3,693m² block

\$950,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

SMITHS BEACH



173 Smiths Beach Road

- 6-star luxury double storey home
- Short stroll to the famous Smiths Beach
- 6 bedroom, 4 bathroom, ample car parking

\$1,590,000

Contact: Cowes Office

NORTH WONTHAGGI



23 Parkes Street

- 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom
- Renovated home
- 777m² block

SOLD \$407,500

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



ARAWATA



20 One Chain Road

- 3-4 bedroom brick residence
- Approx. 43 acres
- Various shedding, great views

\$995,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

COWES



1/40 Chapel Street

- Exceptional brick townhouse
- 300m stroll to beach and shops
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car

\$849,000

Contact: Cowes Office

NORTH WONTHAGGI



53 Gordon Street

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom
- Corner allotment
- North facing undercover area

SOLD \$425,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



POOWONG



13 Nyora Road

- 3 bedroom, central location
- Breathtaking views
- 988m² block

\$650,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

COWES



18 Roderick Close

- Beautifully landscaped gardens
- Wood fire, multiple sheds, fully fenced
- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car

\$680,000 - \$720,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



63 Broome Crescent

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- 1010m² allotment
- Great investment

SOLD \$510,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA

5662 0922

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299

Tony Giles 0407 528 192

Dan Huther 0418 334 801

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

COWES

5952 2633

113a Thompson Avenue

Greg Price 0419 337 441

Brian Silver 0407 347 509

Chase Waters 0423 272 819

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Phil Hanley 0417 140 508



Dairy technology on show in Leongatha South

By Andrew Paloczi

RETIRED dairy farmers and those considering embracing new technology in the industry were equally intrigued by the setup at the Vagg farm in Leongatha South, around 180 people coming on Friday to see how the newly installed GEA Dairy Robot system will work.

Ben Vagg is excited everything is almost ready to go, explaining that while there is still some piping work to be done, along with setting up diagnostics for the robots, the system is expected to be operational in a couple of weeks.

Cows will learn to come in for milking voluntarily, receiving grain while being milked, with a separate feeding section providing any remaining grain allocation for each animal.

The system gathers detailed information on each cow, enabling the monitoring of health and feeding requirements, the latter relating to both the type and quantity of grain.

GEA's Automated Milking Solutions sales manager, Jurgen Steen, explained there are three different types of grain product stored in silos that will be fed to the Vagg's cattle, one with energy and low protein, one with very high protein and another with a high mineral mix.

Lactation stage and production level are factors in determining the appropriate feed mix for each cow, the system ensuring the required allocation is provided.

The cattle will also graze on pasture, visiting different paddocks throughout the day.



GEA's Automated Milking Solutions sales manager Jurgen Steen outlines the features of the robotic milking system on the Vagg farm in Leongatha South. A11_1425

"It's feed conversion and this is a system where you get really good control over it," Jurgen said of dairy farming and the benefits of the robotic dairy approach.

Herd management specialist for GEA, Will Bredin, helps farmers make the shift from conventional dairy setups to robotic milking technology, the biggest challenge being getting farmers to let go of some of their control, and trust the system.

"The cows learn before people," he said.

While Ben's not one to be frightened by technological advances, he acknowledged

it will be a significant adjustment learning to trust the system and the data it gathers, rather than seeing each cow a couple of times a day and observing its situation.

Gaining an understanding of how best to use the robotic diagnostics and the data gathered will also take time.

GEA staff demonstrated the operation of one of the Dairy-Robot R9500 units on the Vagg farm, doing so with a model cow.

A 3D camera is used to attach cups to teats, with washing, drying and pre-stimulation occurring before the milking process starts, and

water from the pre-milking phase kept out of the milk.

A monitor shows staff what stage of the process has been reached.

Milking is done by the quarter, enabling the output of each teat to be monitored.

"If you detect blood in the milk during the milking process, it would say that quarter's no good and it would separate that, so the three quarters that are still good will go into the milk vat," GEA's technical manager Jonathan Nurse explained.

The robotic system can also separate colostrum for calf feeding and dispense with milk from animals undergoing treatment.

Discussions between the Vaggs and GEA began in 2022 to enable a clear understanding of the family's needs so the system could be set up to meet their requirements.

An efficient effluent system is part of the setup, an energy-efficient motor driving scrapers that move effluent into a cross channel, with the cleaning process taking place quickly and not having to run all the time, its operation programmed.

Should a cow fall, it will be detected, stopping the scraper and providing an alert.

Effluent solids are separated from the liquid, enabling water to be recycled for future effluent cleaning flushes.

The Sentinel-Times looks forward to visiting the Vagg farm when its eight dairy robots are in operation, with that likely taking place during a visit by young people involved in the industry.



Grayson Upston is thrilled to see some alpacas.

'Sow' much fun at Farm World

PREP to Year 3 students from St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's Drouin Campus had 'sow' much fun at Farm World.

The students started their visit at their school's stand in the Country Living Hub and then ventured into the community to explore all Farm World had to offer.

The students had an 'udderly' amazing time learning about farm animals such as cows, horses, alpacas and puppies, as well as some scaly reptiles such as lizards and snakes.

Educators also took them to learn about the Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and tractors, which they will discuss further back in class.



Mack Flint and Fynn Upston had a blast at Farm World.

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Paul Vassil

(Formerly Vassil Electronics)
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0408 515 184

AGISTMENT WANTED

Dry cow agistment wanted.
20 - 40 cows. 4 - 6 weeks
commencing 1 May.

0419 093 783

WANTED LEASE OR SHARE FARM

Young couple looking for
dairy industry opportunity.

Contact Allan 0429 101 770

10m³ TIPPER HIRE

MR AGRI
ALL AREAS
Phone Greg
0419 393 375



Simon Henderson 0428 740 750
Jake Anthony 0467 297 794
David Phelan 0429 050 349

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PROPERTY MANAGERS, AUCTIONEERS

www.alexscott.com.au

36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480

Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Angus Hall	0466 326 487
SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE					



HERD DISPERSAL SALE

Monday, April 14

Koonwarra Saleyards 11am start

A/c L & L Hornby

Entire Autumn calving portion of herd
Property Sold

180 - March/April calved medium to large framed A.I Bred Holstein Dairy Herd. Sires include Lagacy, Kingpin, Russian, Samite, Fondo. These herd cows are showing great capacity with exceptional udders. Milked in a large herd they will suit any potential dairy farmer looking to increase herd numbers with top quality cows. Cows currently receiving 5.5kg/day & northern hay.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

ETTA NETWORK Accredited Member

Further Information Contact
Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816



Tim Gibson in action for Alex Scott & Staff during Thursday's Store Sale in Leongatha. A08_1425

CLEARING SALE

Tractor, Farm Machinery & Sundries

Friday, April 11

at 10.30am

A/c - R & J Auchterlonie

243 Dollar Road, Dumbalk

Machinery Items: Massey Ferguson S5710 4WD Tractor & Loader 2,500Hrs, Can Am Defender XU 660Hrs (2YO), Krone KW 4.62/4 Tedder Rake, Krone KW 7.82/6x7 Tedder Rake, Kuhn GMD 3511 8 Disc Hay Mower (4YO), 1,000L Gold Acres Sprayer with 10m Boom Remote Control Hose Reel (3YO) barely used, Kuhn 1.8T Super Spreader (5YO), Suzuki Jimny Sierra no rego no RWC 149,000km 2015 model, AMC Explorer Ride On Mower, Flexigrip Soft Hands, Rear 3PL Silage Grab, John Deere Tractor Bucket, 3PL Grader Blade, Stihl Handheld Auger & Demo Saw, 3PL Smudgebar, Old Silage/Feed Out Wagon, Honda Water Pump with Suction Hose, Air Compressor, Honda G400 Generator, Old Tractor Bucket, 3PL Auger, Old Davey Water Pump, Trailing Hay Feeder, BOC Arc Welder, Liquid Arc Welder, Lavor Pressure Washer Electric, Effluent Sprayer, DeLaval Cow Shed Fan.

Sundry Items: 500L 50 teat Calf Milk Trailer, Calf Trailer (ATV), 5 Teat Calf Feeder x 5, Pelvic Lifter, New Treated Pine Posts, Bale Up Hay Feeder, Multiple Hay Rings, Wire Spinner & Wire, Overhead Fuel Bowser, Old Caravan, Old Milk Vat, Yamaha Water Pump (motor works-pump doesn't work), Steel Work table, Ringlock, Old Fence Posts, New Roll Poly Pipe 31/2inch, Pile of Gum Firewood Logs, Quad Bar Four Wheel Motorbike, Poly Water Troughs x 4, Ute Tray (Alloy), Stock Crate 10x6Ft, 600L Gold Acres Water Tank, Nylex 9,000L Water Tank, Tanks 500L With Stand x 2, Numerous Chemical Drums Half Full, Test Buckets Poly & Stainless x 8, Calf Grain Troughs x 15, Calf Water Troughs x 12, Cow Harness, AI tank, Rayburn 3 Combustion Stove & Numerous Sundry Items.

A/c Outside Vendor: 3 PL hay feeder, 6x4 calf crate, Wooden dog kennel, 13" x 7'9" round bale trailer (holds 8 round bales), 6x4x2' dog crate, 2 x 6x4 calf crates, 6x4 steel trailer, Molasses lick barrel, 4 x calf feeders, 2 x Trewella jacks. Various builders electric tools - some new and various other sundry items.

Outside Vendors Welcome

Refreshments available, Buyers I.D. required, number system will operate, NO buyer premium.

Terms: Card, cash or cheque day of sale unless prior arrangements are made.

GST Applicable

Listing and photos on Facebook:
Alex Scott and Staff - Livestock
or www.alexscott.com.au

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Dane Perczyk 0408 176 063
Jack Curtis 0427 762 670

Strong prices at Leongatha VLE

WHILE there was a general improvement in prices at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, heifers particularly rose sharply in value.

"The biggest lift in cents a kilo was in your heavier heifers," Tim Gibson of Alex Scott & Staff said, noting some in that category improved by 30 to 40 cents per kilo.

He sold a pen of 15 heifers to Campbell Ross, weighing an average of 459 kilos, from Gramaur Park in the Gurdies for \$1720 a head, an impressive \$3.74 per kilo.

"Those heifers would have been lucky to make \$3.40 a kilo a fortnight ago," Tim said.

"There was a great run of cattle from all parts of Gippsland and they sold to dearer rates," he said of the Store Sale, that followed a jump in prices across all categories at Tuesday's Prime Sale.

Feedlot and commission buyers were again highly active on Thursday, purchasing the majority of the cattle available.

However, while there was much focus on heavier cattle, some Spring drop calves also performed strongly, going

well beyond \$4 per kilo.

It wasn't only the better-bred cattle faring well on Thursday.

"The secondary cattle, and even the crossbreds, that took a pretty good lift of \$200 a head in places as well," Tim observed.

He described the situation as a "win-win", with farmers who are starting to run low on feed able to move on their cattle at good rates while helping meet the demand of feedlot buyers.

Jason Fry of Elders was also busy selling on Thursday and, like Tim, declared the market "a lot stronger", saying that was particularly applicable to heavier cattle.

"I would say they were a good 20 cents dearer per kilo," he said.

He also observed a substantial jump in heifer prices.

"Two weeks ago I worked all the heifers out to be about 340 cents; today I've done from \$3.60 to \$3.70," Jason said.

The presence of a couple of Northern Feedlot buyers, such as commission buyer Duncan Brown, helped push up prices.

LARDNER PARK ELDERS AND ALEX SCOTT & STAFF DAIRY SALE

NEXT DAIRY SALE:

**Friday, April 11
at 11am**

**A/c - M & M Briggs, Drouin South
- Herd sold**

31 - April/May calving 100% A.I. bred Holstein heifers by Fon Doo, Harvest, Nighthawk, Hotchance & Tailor. Due to Holstein sexed Larson, Cartel, Leith, Fondo. Dams 100% A.I. bred. Many generations A.I. breeding, beautifully grown, top quality heifers with absolute ideal udder development. Will fit in to the very best of herds. Herd av. 8,500 L, low cell count.

A/c - G & P Wildes, Yannathan

7 - Freshly Calved & Close Springing Holstein Jersey X Heifers 2 1/2 years, by stud Kings Ville Jersey Bull. Generations of A.I. Breeding. Herd dispersed 2 years ago.

A/c - Various Vendors

20 - Freshly calved and close springing cows and heifers

Further Entries Invited

ATTENTION FARMERS

Please ensure all entries are booked in with your agent prior to sale

5623 4744

Terry Ahearn
0438 562 816

Neil Darby
0418 595 265

5941 0299

Darryl Adams
0408 385 872

Andrew Mumford
0407 803 360

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

Elders

Appetite for Dairy Success

"DAIRY farmers and those in the associated industries supporting dairy are invited to attend Appetite for Success, a series of events focused on increasing dairy productivity, sustainability, and profitability," said Greg Morris, Dairy Specialist for Pioneer Seeds.

The events, taking place locally in Sale on May 19 and Inverloch on May 20, will see farmers, dairy consultants, agronomists, nutritionists, resellers and contractors come together to hear from keynote speaker Pioneer Global Nutritional Sciences Manager, Dr Bill Mahanna Ph.D., Dipl. ACAN.

Supported by the Pioneer Seeds Australia Dairy Specialist team and other well-respected, Australia-based experts, he shares his wealth of knowledge in dairy nutrition and management, gained from working hands-on with dairy farmers around the world.

"Bill is renowned and especially regarded for his ability to provide insights into actionable opportunities and his personal and thorough approach to the whole dairy farming system," said Leighton Hart, Dairy Specialist for Pioneer Seeds.

Bill will be joined by local dairy experts, including Dr Ian Lean, Founder and Managing Director of Scibus and Adjunct Professor from the University of Sydney, in Sale and Inverloch. Ian is an authority in the medicine, nutrition and management of dairy cattle in Australia.

To register to attend this informative event, which includes lunch followed by an informal discussion, and to view the full event schedule and other information, including RSVP details, visit pioneerseeds.com.au/events/appetite-for-success.

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre 

Feedlot and northern orders lift store prices

By SGSA

AGENTS yarded 4000 head at this week's VLE Leongatha store sale in another excellent quality yarding.

There was an outstanding large offering of angus steers in the 400kg to 550kg range which sold to strong demand with results improving another 10 cents with the best blacks making \$3.80 to \$4.40 and colours \$3.60 to \$3.90 with feedlots taking the major share once again.

Steers and heifers under 400kg lifted in prices with several extra NSW orders and an additional buyer securing many loads heading over the border to the NSW districts of Dubbo, Coonamble and Inverell.

Secondary and Xbred cattle improved in prices across the board in line of all grades of store and fat cattle this week.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Apr. 3, 2025

Steers

PJ & RW Felstead	15 Angus	599kg	\$4.20	\$2520
G Murray	15 Angus	582kg	\$3.91	\$2280
Radvenjoy	14 Angus	565kg	\$3.96	\$2240
Rosebank Farm	12 Angus	544kg	\$4.03	\$2200
V & D Albanese	17 Angus	533kg	\$4.15	\$2220
S & B Tumino	14 Angus	525kg	\$3.99	\$2100
Radvenjoy	19ang	521kg	\$4.13	\$2160
White Pastures	16 Angus	517kg	\$4.05	\$2100
Wallaby Downs	15 Angus	510kg	\$4.23	\$2160
M & B Plozza	19 Angus	508kg	\$4.22	\$2150
Wallaby Downs	17 Angus	505kg	\$4.13	\$2090
TJ & LJ Smirl	10 Angus	501kg	\$3.99	\$2000
V & D Albanese	15 Angus	496kg	\$4.03	\$2000
Gazzola Farms	18 Angus	495kg	\$4.04	\$2000
PM Nation	10 BB	491kg	\$3.78	\$1860
Jarlaith Park	26 Angus	486kg	\$4.27	\$2080
J Greenland	19 Angus	482kg	\$4.12	\$1990
D & S Hourigan	15 Angus	482kg	\$4.06	\$1960
Yinnar Pastoral	13 Angus	480kg	\$4.06	\$1950
PM Nation	32 Angus	479kg	\$4.23	\$2030
M & I Hendriksen	14 Angus	467kg	\$3.85	\$1800
Wilcox Earthmoving	15 Cha	461kg	\$3.57	\$1650
D & S Hourigan	15 Angus	456kg	\$4.06	\$1860
Malanda Pastoral	21 Angus	453kg	\$4.25	\$1930
M Nicolson	20 Angus	451kg	\$4.14	\$1870
D Johnston	20 Angus	449kg	\$4.14	\$1860
Wallaby Downs	21 Angus	444kg	\$4.36	\$1940
RJ Mackenzie	24 Hereford	439kg	\$3.84	\$1690
J Greenland	20 Angus	438kg	\$4.28	\$1880
S & M Dakin	12 Angus	433kg	\$4.10	\$1780
LP & SL Bowen	20 Angus	428kg	\$4.14	\$1770
TJ & LJ Smirl	20 Angus	427kg	\$4.30	\$1840
GB Pastoral	15 Angus & BB	427kg	\$3.97	\$1700
RJ Mackenzie	17 Hereford	421kg	\$3.70	\$1560
D & K Bowman	13 Angus	418kg	\$4.20	\$1760
KC Trotman	Est 20 Angus	417kg	\$3.99	\$1670
Malanda Pastoral	21 Angus	416kg	\$4.08	\$1700
Yinnar Pastoral	16 Angus	414kg	\$3.98	\$1650
M Brady	23 Angus	411kg	\$4.13	\$1700
M & B Plozza	18 Angus	411kg	\$4.01	\$1650
R J Sandy	15 Angus	409kg	\$4.13	\$1690
D & S Hourigan	22 Angus	409kg	\$4.17	\$1710
Rail & Sour P/L	14 Angus	403kg	\$4.06	\$1640
S Fahey	21 Angus	402kg	\$4.26	\$1720
Malanda Pastoral	23 Angus	399kg	\$4.30	\$1720
Trandarra P/L	22 Angus	389kg	\$4.23	\$1650
Bastwrouse Family	23 Ang & BB	384kg	\$4.13	\$1590
RJ Sandy	14 Angus			



Impressed by innovative Vagg farm

STONY Creek dairy farmer Fay Sinclair was one of those keen to see the DairyRobot setup on the Vagg farm in Leongatha South during Friday's GEA open day.

She said her existing herringbone milking arrangement could easily be converted into a robotic operation should the decision be made to do so, albeit at considerable cost.

While Fay has seen dairy robots previously, the others did not have a pit and she likes the idea of that feature so one can go and look at a cow that is drying off or starting.

Former dairy farmer Glenn Wright OAM these days lives in the Leongatha township but still has a passion for the dairy industry.

Being a friend of the Vaggs, he was delighted to check out the robotic setup, saying it blows his mind how far technology has evolved in the dairy industry and wonders what the next innovation will be.

Vagg neighbours Stuart, Ryan and Michael Landry have also adopted modern technology, in their case to feed calves, with a mobile phone app allowing that equipment to be monitored and controlled.

They were chatting enthusiastically about the innovations on the Vagg farm when the Sentinel-Times stopped for a talk.

Katrina Hubeek (senior territory sales manager) and Emma Garrow (site manager) of CopRice in Leongatha, which supplies grain to the Vagg farm, were interested to see how the DairyRobot project has progressed since their previous visit.

"We haven't seen one of this scale so far and it's great to see planning for the future," Katrina said, noting the innovative nature of the milking infrastructure that will soon be operating on the Vagg property.

"Anything in the dairy industry looking towards the future is excellent," she said, remarking that there is space in the structure to add further dairy robots if required.

The fact the cows will be responsible for bringing themselves in for milking and the innovative feeding set up that delivers grain to cattle during and after milking are a couple of noteworthy features Katrina highlighted.



Dairy farmer Fay Sinclair enjoys a visit to the Vagg farm to see its high-tech milking setup. A15_1425

The feeding stations the Vagg cows will visit after milking are manufactured by Hanskamp and will complement the GEA robotic setup.

Hanskamp stresses that their feed station design enables cattle to walk in and out going forwards, with the cow eating undisturbed due to the protection of gates at either end, the rear gate closing once the animal enters.

The front gate opens to allow the cow to leave as soon as she is ready.

Sander Nijskens of Hanskamp explained the importance of having a separate feeding station rather than a cow getting its entire grain allocation while being milked.

"To optimise the robot box time, you want to make sure she only gets as much grain as she can eat in the six or seven minutes that she's in there and then you want to kick her out as soon as possible, as soon as she's finished milking, and then you want the next cow to be milked," he said.

"So if they've got grain left to eat as part of an allocation then they come through here," he said of the Hanskamp feeding station.

Everyone the Sentinel-Times spoke to during its visit to the Vagg farm was impressed by the scale and advanced technology of the new milking area.



Rochelle Storr and her nephew Baxter Simpson with Rochelle's DAF truck during Thursday's Store Sale at Leongatha VLE. A06_1425

Storr family tradition to long continue

ROCHELLE Storr is delighted to be part of the family business, Storr Transport, which has been running for 30 years, combining her love of cattle and trucks as a driver.

"I enjoy working with cattle and take pride in the customer side of things," she said, the social interaction with clients one of the highlights of the job.

Rochelle was showing her young nephew Baxter Simpson around the Leongatha saleyards on Thursday during the Store Sale, the pair happy to pose for a photo with Rochelle's truck.

While the 2019 DAF prime mover was bought second hand, it is in great condition and was tailored to the needs of Storr Transport with an extended chassis and a tray.

Baxter is already looking forward to driving trucks, both a Kenworth and a DAF, and while that is quite a few years away, Rochelle will no doubt be pleased to teach him how it's done.

While this scribe finds it a challenge to parallel park a car, Rochelle said it wasn't difficult learning how to reverse a cattle truck as desired.

While Storr Transport travels interstate, she is one of the business' local drivers.

Her love of cattle extends to the 20 Hereford steers she keeps in Toora, Storr Transport's hometown.

"Herefords are a tough breed of cattle and are going to make it through the winter well," she said of the choice.

Planning for water alternatives

DUE TO unseasonably dry conditions in some parts of Gippsland, there are dairy farmers at risk of running out of stock water.

AgVic and GippsDairy are offering two events for dairy farmers to discuss alternative water source options and other ideas that may help.

A webinar is planned for Tuesday, April 8, 12 midday to 1.30pm and an in-person workshop in Leongatha on Friday, April 11, 11am to 2.00pm.

Register here for the webinar: bit.ly/4cmGkK.

Register here for the workshop: bit.ly/43FJ3CE.

For further information contact Karen McLennan on 0409 179 706.

VLE - LEONGATHA

STORE SALE 2000 CATTLE 2000

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Hurstdale (NUTRIEN)
70 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, GF & ABF
A/c MV & EM Vaughan, Yarragon (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus steers, 20 mths
A/c Jackson Pastoral, Cowarr (Nutrien)
50 Angus steers, 18 mths, Coles Accred, GF & NE Accred, By Merdeduke & Pathfinder Bulls
A/c Jilliby, Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus steers, 16-18 mths
A/c S & D Hooper, Leongatha North (SEJ)
30 Hereford & Hereford Angus X steers, 18-20 mths
A/c Nichol Primary Production P/L, Ravenhall (NUTRIEN)
32 AA & Hereford steers, 20 mths
A/c Kuch Grazing, Darriman (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 17-18 mths, EU & NE Accred, Landfall blood, MHR/IBR Vacc.
A/c Bona Vista Pastoral (NUTRIEN)
24 Angus steers, 18 mths
A/c P & M Clarke, Woolamai (PHC)
22 Angus steers, rising 2 yo
A/c B & I Gale, Waratah Bay (NUTRIEN)
20 Red Angus steers, 18 mths, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred, By Hicks Bulls
A/c BJ O'Loughlin, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)
22 Angus steers, 14-15 mths
A/c D Jelbart, Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 16-17 mths
A/c O'Loughlin Farms P/L, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 14-15 mths
A/c R Jones, Foster (SEJ)
19 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, VB, GF & ABF, Yancowinna Jasper bloodlines
A/c Little Ruby Pastoral (PHC)
15 Angus steers, 20-22 months, Telling Bred, Innesdale Blood
A/c Arejaydee, Inverloch (SEJ)
7 Angus steers
7 Angus x steers, 14-15 mths
A/c R & D Chisholm, Outram (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, Kunuma blood
A/c SP Dunlop, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus steers, 16 mths, By Black Spur Angus

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c AJ & MM Roberts, Pound Creek (SEJ)
30 Angus & Angus Hereford X heifers, 16-18 mths, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred, By West Creek Angus Bulls
50 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths, Kyneton District Bred, GF
A/c B & P Fleming, Rosedale (NUTRIEN)
16 Poll Hereford heifers, 16-18 mths
A/c Bona Vista Pastoral (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus heifers, 18 mths
A/c Warrambine, Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus heifers, 14-15 mths, VB, GF & ABF

WEANERS

A/c Elm Valley, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)
"Annual Draft"
250 Angus & BB steers, 7-8 mths, By Kunuma Angus, weaned 7 weeks, Vacc. Bovilis MH Single Shot RTU, 5in1 & Booster & Incarcerate Fly & Lice P/O, well grown, NE Accred
A/c Bona Vista Pastoral (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers
50 Angus heifers
14 mths
A/c A & L Dunkley, Yarram (NUTRIEN)
80 AA steers, 11-13 mths, weaned Jan on to Silage & Pasture, Drenched 2x5in1, NE Accred, VB, GF & ABF, By Kirribilli & Harris Bulls
A/c Katelea Pastoral, Glen Alvie (SEJ)
60 Angus steers, 7-8 mths, Banquet and Rennylea Sires
A/c B Hinson, Hazelwood (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus weaners, 12 mths
A/c CW Littlejohn, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers
20 Angus heifers
12 mths
A/c E Rumble, Bunyip (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus mixed sex, 12 mths
A/c AW & CM O'Mara, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths
A/c Yeerung Past (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus heifers, 10-11 mths, Kunuma blood
A/c KRG Ross, Delburn (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus mixed sex, 14 mths
14 Angus X steers, 14 mths
A/c JT & P Fleming, "Mertonvale" Willung (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 12 mths, Te Mania Blood, NE Accred
A/c RA Jones, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 10-12 mths
A/c Ponderosa Herefords, Meeniyana (NUTRIEN)
20 Hereford steers, 12 mths
A/c L Xuereb, Hazelwood Nth (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus heifers, 12 mths
3 Angus steers, 12 mths
A/c A Thirkel, Darnum (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus mixed sex, 12 mths

XBREDS & DAIRY

A/c G Edney, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
20 XB steers, 18 mths
A/c McQuestion Farms, Kernot (SEJ)
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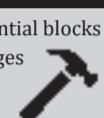
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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY:
Ron Zaghet.
Congratulations to you!
Love from Naomi,
Linda, Anthony, Jenny
and families.

DEATHS

DRYSDALE, Ian:
It is with great sadness
that we announce the
death of Ian on
April 4, 2025.

Loved husband of
Julie, dad to Justin,
Mark, Nick and Emily,
grandpa to Riley,
Gemma, Callum, Ollie,
Eamon and Liam

*Always loved and
remembered.*

KEE, Thelma Dorothy:
23.08.1928 - 31.03.2025.

Loving wife of Vic
(dec.).

Mother of Bill and
Minnie, Rodney (dec.)
and Greg and Lyn.

The loved grandmother
of Bill, Nicole, Rebecca
and Travis.

Adored great
grandmother of
Matilda, Pippa, Zack,
Emily, Elliot and Romy.

Thelma was kind and
generous and loved by
all and is now at rest.

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
12 NOON MONDAYS**

DEATHS

**McCOLL,
John Campbell:**
Passed away on April
5, 2025, at the
Leongatha Hospital
after a short illness,
aged 84.

Dearly loved husband
of Barbara (dec.).
Cherished father and
father-in-law of
Damian, Andrea and
Bruce, Grant and
Tracie, Brad and
Timna.

Treasured grandad of
Noah, Abbey and
Kaleb, Sam, Anais and
Clove.

Special thanks to the
wonderful staff at
Woorayl Lodge and the
Leongatha Hospital for
the kindness and care
shown to Dad.

Reunited with Barb.
Rest in peace, Dad.

**MILLER (nee Hall),
Mary Florence:**

16.04.1925 - 02.04.2025.
Died peacefully at
Rose Lodge.

Wife of Harry (dec.).
Loving mother of
Florence (Rose) and
Bernie, Faye and
Howard and Lynette.

Nan of Joanne and
Gavin, Trevor and
Belinda, Jenni, Garry,
Karen (dec.), Tony and
Michelle, Natalie and
Ben.

Great nan of Shona
(dec.), Codee, Phoebe,
Saxon, Jeremy, Sam,
Chloe, Jaimie, Abbie
and Douglas.

Great-great nan to 3.
Loved sister of Bill (dec.).

*In life we loved
you dearly,
in death we love you still.
In our hearts you
hold a place,
no one else will ever fill.
Sleeping until the
resurrection.*

DEATHS

**MITCHARD
(nee Herring),
Roma Isabel:**

17.03.1925 - 29.03.2025.

Passed away
peacefully at
Kooroaman House
Leongatha, aged 100.

Beloved wife of
Charles (dec.).

Loved and loving
mother of Yvonne and
Roderick (dec.),
Heather and Jim,
Shirley (dec.) and Ken,
Graham and
Rosemary.

Grandmother of 14
grandchildren, 34 great
grandchildren and 9
great-great
grandchildren.

Forever in our hearts.

The Funeral took
place on Friday,
April 4, 2025.

DEATHS

**RINTOULE,
Kerri Anne:**

29.12.1964 - 27.03.2025.

Loved and loving mum
to Emma and Brenton,
Brittany and Richard,
James and Jess.

Adored nanny to Oliver
and Oscar.

Loved daughter of Les
(dec.) and Gladys.

Loved sister of Wendy
(dec.), Daryl, Brian
(dec.), Neal and Sue.

Loved aunty to Jordan
and Kyle, Curtis and
Rachael, Kristyn and
Luke.

Loved great aunty to
Sienna.

Dear friend to Bish.

Kerri, you fought an
incredible battle.

Your bravery, courage
and determination
throughout has been
inspiring to watch.

You refused to give in
and stood strong
and proud.

We are in awe of you
and honoured to call
you ours.

A lifetime of memories
to hold close in our
hearts.

It's time to rest now....



DEATHS

**RINTOULE,
Kerri Anne:**

Dearly loved daughter
of Les (dec.) and Gladys.

Sister of Wendy (dec.),
Daryl, Brian (dec.)
and Neal.

Deeply missed, in our
hearts forever.

Our memories will
never fade.

**RINTOULE,
Kerri Anne:**

Loved sister of Daryl.

Kez, the best little
sister a person could
ever have had.

Your heart was as big
as Phar Lap's.

You had time for
everyone and loved
being surrounded by
your great friends
and family.

You loved dogs and
horses as if they were
your family.

The fight you put up
was epic, but now it's
time to join Dad,
Wendy and Brian in
God's Garden.

Till we meet again.

Love you forever Kez.

Goodbye and R.I.P.

**RINTOULE,
Kerri Anne:**

Loved sister of Neal,
sister-in-law of Sue,
aunty of Jordan and
Kyle, Curtis and
Rachael, and Kristyn
and Luke, great aunty
of Sienna.

So many moments and
memories to treasure.

So brave, strong and
determined right to the
very end.

So proud to call
you ours.

It's time to rest as we
learn to walk a road
without you beside us,
but with you alongside
us in our hearts.

It's time to rest now....

DEATHS

RODD, John:

Passed away
peacefully on April 3,
2025.

Loved husband of
Maria.

Loving dad and
father-in-law to Heine
and Deb, Sylvia and
Paul, and Monica
(dec.).

Adored Opa to all his
grandchildren, great
grandchildren and
great-great grandchild.

*Forever in
our hearts.*

As per John's wishes,
a private cremation will
be held.

DEATHS

**SCOTT,
Brendan Joseph:**

05.07.1936 - 01.04.2025.

Devoted husband of 60
years to wife Mary.
Loving dad to Eileen
and Steven. Proud
poppy to Lily, Ebony
and Crystal. RIP.

Brendan, you will be
sadly missed. Loved
brother-in-law to John
and Heather. Uncle to
Daryl and Tricia.
RIP.

DEATHS

**TEHAN, Leonie
Catherine:**

20.07.1961 - 31.03.2025.

Loved daughter of
Kevin and Fay
(both dec.).

Loving mum of
Lachlan.

Much loved and loving
sister and sister-in-law
of Patrick and
Kathleen, Tony,
Suzanne and Mark,
Maria and Val, Kevin
and Deirdre, and
Matthew.

Cherished auntie to
Andrew, Nicholas;
James, Peter,
Sarah-Jane; and
families.

*At peace now.
Forever in our hearts.*

DEATHS

**TELFER,
Joanne Debra:**

Passed away
peacefully on
31.03.2025.

What you suffered
no-one knew, you did
not deserve what you
went through.

Tired and weak you
made no fuss but tried
so hard to stay with us.

In our hearts you will
always stay loved and
remembered
every day.

DEATHS

SCOTT:

Requiem Mass at St
Joseph's Church,
Foster, 11.04.2024
at 1pm.

Rosary 10.04.2025,
7.30pm.

DEATHS

DRYSDALE:

A Gathering to
celebrate Ian's life will
take place at the
Knockwood Estate,
75 Mossvale Park Rd,
Berrys Creek on
Thursday, April 10,
2025, commencing
at 1pm.

At Ian's request, a
Private Cremation will
have taken place.

FUNERALS

DRYSDALE:

A Gathering to
celebrate Ian's life will
take place at the
Knockwood Estate,
75 Mossvale Park Rd,
Berrys Creek on
Thursday, April 10,
2025, commencing
at 1pm.

At Ian's request, a
Private Cremation will
have taken place.

FUNERALS

TEHAN:

Funeral Prayers for
Leonie Catherine
Tehan will be offered at
St. Joseph's Catholic
Church, 6 Guys Road,
Korumburra on
Wednesday, April 9,
2025, commencing at
11am.

A private cremation will
follow.

Leonie's service will be
live streamed.

Please go to
www.handleyand
andersonfunerals.
com.au for details.

FUNERALS

MILLER:

The Funeral Service
for Mrs. Mary Florence
Miller will be held at the
Graveside, Inverloch
Cemetery, Bass
Highway, on Monday,
April 14, 2025,
commencing at 2pm.

FUNERALS

NICHOLSON:

Requiem Mass for the
Repose of the Soul of
Mrs. Edna Mary
Nicholson (Hales) will
be offered at St.
Joseph's Catholic
Church, Korumburra
Road, Wonthaggi,
Today, Tuesday April
8, 2025, commencing
at 11:30am.

FUNERALS

OLSEN:

Jean Esther, OLSEN
(Stevens).

09.03.1932 - 29.03.2025.
Wednesday, April 16,
2025, commencing
1pm.

Southern Hills Church,
85 Commercial St,
Korumburra.

FUNERALS

PETERS, Bruce:

Joan and family would
like to thank everyone
for their cards, flowers
and kind messages.

Special thanks to Judy
Rogers, Dr Shanaz,
Bass Coast Palliative
Care nurses for their
outstanding care for
Bruce.

Handley and Anderson
and the Koringal
ladies.

Your kindness will
always be
remembered.

A life well lived.

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Sentinel-Times Classifieds



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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ISLAND CRAFT MARKET

Thompson Ave. Cowes

Saturday, April 12 9am - 2pm

Stall holders wanted - craft only

Inquiries: Monica 0412 710 276

PUBLIC NOTICES

CORINELLA COMMUNITY MARKET

Community Market, Smythe Street, Harold Hughes Reserve

Saturday, April 12, 9am-1pm

All enquiries to 0490 852 753



Bass Coast Landcare Public Fund

Empowering local initiatives to conserve Bass Coast's unique native plants and animals.

Discover more at www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/publicfund.html

Donations are tax-deductible; inquire about bequests today.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Retail Assistant

Part time position

I require a person with good customer service and organisational skills for a Retail Shop in Wonthaggi.

Able to work 10-15 hours a week.

Please apply in writing with details of previous employment, together with details of referees to:-

The Manager, P.O. Box 559 Inverloch, 3996

VV0265



Cleaners

Cleaners required for school cleaning in Mirboo North. Part time afternoon shifts Monday to Friday. Experience preferred but not essential, will train the right person. Must have or will obtain current police check and WWC. Federal award wages apply.

Send resume to customerservice@sebastiangroup.com.au

VV0266



Early Childhood Teacher

Meeniyani Preschool has an Early Childhood Teacher vacancy. This is a Long Service Leave Position from June 23 - September 16, 2025. The Position is a 5 day fortnight (Monday, Tuesday and alternating Wednesdays. Opportunity to negotiate)

Prerequisites:

- Bachelor of Early Childhood Education
- Current VIT registration
- Current First Aid, CPR, Asthma and Anaphylaxis Certificates
- Current Working with Children check
- Enthusiastic and cheerful disposition
- Understanding of the VEYLDF, NQS and NQF
- Passion for high quality education and care

For a position description or for further enquiries please contact Melissa McRae via email president.meeniyani@kindergarten.vic.gov.au.

Applications including cover letter to be returned via email by close of business **Monday, April 28, 2025**

VV0261

SITUATIONS VACANT

WE ARE HIRING!

Retail Manager or Supervisor

An Inverloch Retail Store has an opportunity for a person with Retail Management or Supervision experience and Certificate in Retail.

- A full-time position weekdays - hours 9am to 5pm.
- Train and supervise 5 friendly staff.
- Prepare staff roster.
- Manage stock control.
- Merchandise and organise promotions.
- Rate: \$29 to \$32ph. and staff benefits.
- A minimum of 4 years' Retail experience is preferred.

Please Email your resume to n.pauline@bigpond.com

VV0263

DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column

Fridays 3.30pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE



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36 McCartin St, Leongatha



Mail:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

Office Hours:
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

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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



SITUATIONS WANTED

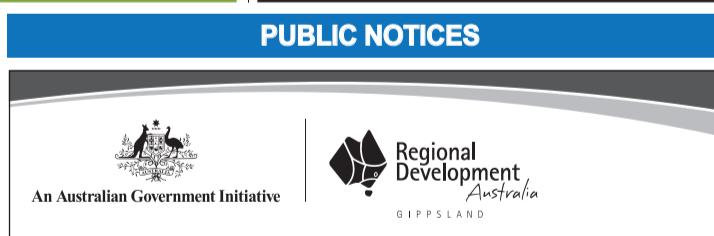
CLEANER:

My name is Jodie and have recently moved to Wonthaggi.

I am in my late 50's and very friendly and accommodating.

I am currently cleaning in Pakenham Aged Care where I have worked for 4 1/2 years. I am an NDIS member, have police check and A.B.N.

If you need a cleaner contact: 0422 433 707. After 1.30pm.



PUBLIC NOTICES

Make a difference in regional Victoria

Applications are invited for Deputy Chair and Member positions

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Gippsland is seeking highly motivated leaders with vision, drive, and strong ties to their region to volunteer their expertise on the committee.

RDA committees are vital advocates for their region. They facilitate investment in people, places, services, industries and local economies and work with stakeholders to support delivery of their region's strategic priorities.

Applications are sought from business and community leaders who have a proven track record of achieving meaningful outcomes in a complex environment.

Women, First Nations people, people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and people with a disability are encouraged to apply.

For information about the positions available, and to access an applicant information pack, including the application form, please visit rdv.vic.gov.au/rda-apply

If you would like further information, please phone Sara Rhodes Ward, Regional Director, Gippsland on 0447 721 803 or email sara.rhodes-ward@rdv.vic.gov.au

Applications close 30 April 2025 at 5pm.



Customer Service Officer

(Part time, 3 days p/w - Band 2)
Fixed term to February 2026.

Join our Customer Relations Team who are passionate about providing exceptional customer service to our customers and communities.

Applications close:
30 April 2025

For further details, please visit:
www.westernportwater.com.au
or call 1300 720 711



Employment

Complete jobs listing online | www.sgst.com.au



South Gippsland Hospital

Positions Vacant

Social Worker

Grade 2 – 0.63 EFT ongoing
Permanent Part Time

Occupational Therapist

Grade 2
0.42 EFT – up to 11 months & three weeks,
fixed term, parental Leave position

**Case Manager -
Home Care Packages**

Welfare Worker, Class 2A
Casual

**Health Care Worker -
Home Care Packages**

Grade 2-3 (depending on
qualifications and experience)
Casual

**Administration Officer
(Front of House)**

Grade 1A-1 (depending on experience)
0.63 EFT permanent part time position

Kitchen Assistant/Cook

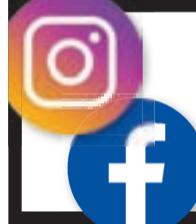
Food and Domestic Assistant,
Grade 2/Cook
Casual

**Refresher Program
- Expression of Interest**

Registered Nurse or RN Midwife
to gain confidence & competence
to re-enter the workplace

For more information
<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

VV0262



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with us**
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ME0389

Watermain Renewal Technician (Pipeline Construction Team Member)



With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:

- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
- Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
- Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
- Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
- Attractive Salary Packaging options available (eligibility conditions apply)
- Flexibility to work from home, with base location at any of our offices in Wonthaggi, Foster or Leongatha

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

- Permanent Full Time
- Starting Location: Leongatha, Victoria
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Level 2 Band 4 \$67,246.55 - \$70,078.15 Plus statutory Superannuation + Leave Loading

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/>
for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

Applications Close Friday, April 25, 2025 at 5pm

HM12482

1300 851 636 | www.sgwater.com.au

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FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at

www.sgst.com.au

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DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

Sentinel-Times

SPORTS



Leongatha Knights Senior Women's team recently competed at the Lang Lang Women's Cup.

Leongatha girls holiday clinic

LEONGATHA Knights FC are excited to be entering U12 and U15 girls teams this soccer season.

To encourage their new players, the club is holding a free girls' soccer clinic on Friday, April 11.

The clinic will run from 10am until 12pm and a free lunch will be provided afterwards.

All female players aged 10-15 are welcome to attend.

Please contact 0409 698 989 to register your spot.

Following the success of their Senior Women's team over the last five years, the Knights are keen to develop their junior girls programs and are excited by the level of interest that female soccer has garnered off the back of the success of the Women's national team the Matildas.



Knights player Tallarah Murdoch stood out on the wing, scoring several goals across the competition.

a magnificent day, winning all its pool games and progressing straight to the Grand Final.

Despite a dominant performance, the Lady Knights could not score and the match went to penalties, which they lost.

The Knights' team in pool two drew three games and won one, with fantastic performances all around.

A big thank you to Lang Lang United for hosting another wonderful event.



Sue Cartwright, Gerry Kool and Neil Warburton in action at Wonthaggi Croquet Club's Twilight Competition.

Wonthaggi Croquet members out and about

WONTHAGGI members will travel to many venues to compete and enjoy their croquet.

Traralgon held the Gippsland Open Golf Croquet Championship on March 22 and 23, which was the destination for Tom Lacey, Sue Baker and Virginia Wheeler.

Tom won two games in Section 1 with Sue winning three games in Section 2 and Virginia, also in Section 2, winning five games which was third in a field of nine – great stuff folks.

Howlong was next on the calendar where Virginia, competing in Section 2 of their Open Singles on March 29 and 30 finished with three games under her belt.

Marj Prendergast thought that Warrnambool might be a nice venue so decided to compete in their tournament over three days from April 1 to 3.

Marj finished runner-up with three games in the Singles component of the tournament.

Teaming up with Paul Olson from Terang she won three games in the Doubles.

Not to be outdone, Neil Warburton went interstate to compete in the Victor Harbour five-day event from April 2 to 6. Teaming up with Heather Lees from Warraugul, six games were won in their Block making them runners-up in that section. The Hi/Lo doubles had him playing with Jaqui Story from Kadina and they managed to win two games.

Unfortunately, Neil did not manage to win a game in his singles campaign.

The internal Twilight competition is well underway and the standings to date are as follows:

1. Butternut Pumpkins 4 points 12 games
2. Terminators 2 points 10 games
3. Cool Cats 2 points 9 games
4. Wild Cards 2 points 7 games
5. Dumpsters 1 point
6. Tom & Co 0 points

A fun competition is held Tuesday weekly with five weeks to go.

SGB pair relish Perth competition

TWO SGB swimmers, Lara Smyth and Nathan Moore were members of the School Sport Victoria Triathlon and Aquathon teams competing at the School Sport Australia Championships in Rockingham, Perth.

They spent a week training and racing, dealing well with the warm weather.

Both competed in individual events, returning later in the week to take part in the relay team competition.

Smyth was also selected for an Invitational Aquathon, based on her fast run and swim times in the individual event.

She and Moore spent several days with specialised coaches, training on the finer points of racing their respective events.

Both gained a lot from the experience and have learned things they will benefit from in future competitions.

Moore's mum Anna said that being bottom age he can come back again next year, having learned how to improve at transitions and where to sit in a pack of swimmers or runners.

"He had a ball and is already talking about next year," she said.

Moore was excited with the outcome of his efforts, coming 24th in his individual event, a great performance in the 37 degree heat.

His relay team came 13th.

"I have been loving the experience and making loads of friends and I am looking forward to trying out and hopefully going again," he said.

"I started out well in my individual run and the open water swim was a bit challenging and I got blown a little off course.

"It was funny swimming in a big pack, and someone accidentally pulled my leg.

"I felt super relaxed in my relay; It was the second leg and made up a few places."

Smyth came 28th in the individual triathlon, fifth in the Invitational Aquathon, and her relay team was ninth, with Lara swimming and running the fastest out of the Senior Girls.



Nathan Moore stands alongside Victorian teammates in Perth.

"I was really proud of my performance in the individual triathlon to place 28th in Australia, and it was an amazing experience to compete against some of the top triathletes in the country," she said.

While Smyth was happy with her swim in her individual event, being out with the lead pack, her mum Janelle highlighted the challenges her daughter faced in the other two triathlon disciplines.

"The bike was brutal with extra turns to show the technical side, which didn't suit everyone, and it was hard in the heat for the run, but with Lara's determination she still ran strong," the proud mum said.

Smyth was excited to be selected for the aquathon, which combined her favourite sports, swimming and running.

"Whilst all the events were challenging, I learnt a lot over the course of the week and am very grateful for the opportunity," she said.

While Smyth and Moore learned plenty from the experience, they also enjoyed time exploring Perth with their families in between events.



Nathan Moore strides out during the run.



Lara Smyth heads up the beach after the swim.

South Gippsland Bass swimmers see out the term

IT WAS all smiles as the development, fitness and South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club junior squads joined together with the local swim schools to hold their End of Term race nights at Wonthaggi on March 26 and Leongatha on March 28.

For the young swimmers, it is a chance to experience racing and to see how their times over the 25-metre distance compare to last term and to see how much they have improved their personal bests.

There was also great excitement as the ribbons were given

out to place getters and smiles from the stands as families watched on.

They were assisted by the older members of the senior squads who all started off racing this way once.

The events, held in the last week of each term, are sponsored by NAB Leongatha and Wonthaggi Branches, and was a great way for the swimmers to get a taste of competitive swimming without the big crowds of the larger meets.

For many of the younger swimmers, it is a chance to get

used to racing at their local pool before the Short Course Season starts, where the youngsters will have a chance to compete against other clubs.

It is part of the stepping stone progression for the young swimmers, many who in years to come end up in the older squads having worked their way through.

RIGHT: Hannah Hunt enjoyed the recent racing experience with South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club.



Outtrim Car Rally Scavenger Hunt to raise money for tennis courts

THE Outtrim Car Rally Scavenger Hunt is a fun, family-friendly event that welcomes everyone to join in some healthy competition, interesting challenges, generous prizes and a snag at the end.

The rally is being organised by the Outtrim Community Hall Committee to raise funds for the resurfacing of Outtrim's ageing, but well used tennis courts.

"The tennis courts are falling into disrepair so they've become a bit of a trip hazard when you play tennis. We've had a bit of a go at trying to fix them ourselves, but it's hard, so it really needs a professional job," explained Ian Curry from the Outtrim Hall Committee.

"When we do it, we're going to do the lines for the tennis court and for pickleball. So that we can make sure that we get as much usage as we can. Because our whole mission is to get people involved and outside using the facilities."

The Outtrim Car Rally Scavenger Hunt (OCRSH) involves teams of two or more, who are given a list of tasks and challenges that must be completed in a set time.

Each set of clues will be given in a different order and start times will be staggered; with teams having the chance to sit down and plan before setting off in their cars to solve riddles, complete tasks and find the right answers.

Accuracy, completeness and creativity are the ways to win – it's not a race so clever teamwork is better than speed.

"They're a great deal of fun for a family, and we were really looking for something that can be family-oriented or just fun with a group of people or a group of friends," said Ian.

"We also can get people who are not necessarily quite as familiar with the local area, to have a look around and discover things that they wouldn't otherwise know about."

"So, it's a bit of an education and a discovery process."

Ian mentioned that there will be some puzzles to solve that are a bit cryptic, so they have set up a helpline for teams to call if they get really stuck.

All teams must return by a set time, at which point the judging begins and competitors can relax, socialise and have a bite to eat before prizes are awarded.

The Outtrim Car Rally Scavenger Hunt will be held on Sunday, May 18 from 1pm – 4pm with entries closing on Thursday, May 1, limited to 100 cars.

To find out more go to the Outtrim Community Hall and Recreation Reserve Facebook 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

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14
12.25am 0.77m 6.53am 1.33m 12.54pm 0.50m 8.26pm 1.38m	1.26am 0.80m 8.11am 1.25m 1.56pm 0.61m 9.28pm 1.34m	2.52am 0.81m 9.38am 1.23m 3.13pm 0.69m 10.28pm 1.34m	4.20am 0.75m 10.58am 1.28m 4.35pm 0.73m 11.23pm 1.35m	5.26am 0.66m 12.04pm 1.37m 5.45pm 0.73m	12.09am 1.38m 6.13am 0.56m 12.58pm 1.47m 6.38pm 0.72m	12.47am 1.41m 6.50am 0.48m 1.40pm 1.57m 7.18pm 0.71m

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au



The tracks at PBI Ride Farm, known for their flowy jump trails, offered an ideal setting for riders to hone their skills and connect with a like-minded community.

MTB's inaugural 'Send It Session' a roaring success

BASS Coast MTB's inaugural social gathering, the Send It Session at the PBI Ride Farm in Stony Creek, was an absolute hit, drawing a crowd of 100 passionate MTB enthusiasts.

With PBI Ride Farm's famous shuttle tractor and trailer in full operation, more than 70 riders geared up for an unforgettable day of gravity-fuelled excitement, making the event a resounding success.

Blessed with perfect weather, the event's highlight was the opportunity for riders of all skill levels to push their limits in a fun and supportive environment.

The tracks at PBI Ride Farm, known for their flowy jump trails, offered an ideal setting for riders to hone their skills and connect with a like-minded community.

The Send It Session wasn't just about riding; it was a celebration of the local MTB community. Riders cheered each other on, exchanged tips, and created lasting memories together. The energy was contagious, underscoring the strength and growth of the Bass Coast MTB community.

Whether riding, volunteering, or spectating, the event brought people together and fostered a deep love for mountain biking and the great outdoors. With such a fantastic turnout, everyone is already looking forward to Bass Coast MTB's next social event.

Once again, the hot topic among Bass Coast MTB enthusiasts is the urgent need for the implementation of the Bass Coast Council's BMX, Pump Track, and MTB Strategy. Local mountain biking infrastructure is desperately needed in the region to host such events within our own community.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

RSL Wonthaggi, April 1: seven tables competing.

North/South master point winners. First: Faye Rowlands and Bronwyn Sund 57.50 per cent. Second: Phillip and Nev Chapman 51.67. Third: Penny Loughran and Ruth Stevenson 51.25.

East/West winners: First: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 62.14. Second: John French and Deb Anglim 53.93. Third: Anne Somerville and Denise Allitt 50.71.

April 4 at Inverloch Angling Club: nine tables. N/S winners: First: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson in a rich vein of form with 62.96. Second: John Quayle and Matti Shub 60.26. Third: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 59.79. Fourth: Ken McKenzie and Marie Sands 51.06.

E/W winners: First: Valdo Michelangli and John French with 59.23. Second: Faye Rowlands and Bronwyn Sund 58.83. Third: Pam Christenson and Phillip Chapman 55.36.

Fourth: Anne Somerville and Jenny Jacobs 53.87.

Congratulations to newcomers to the club Valdo, Pam and Jenny who earned their first master points.

A week of competition at the Wonthaggi Pony Club

WONTHAGGI Pony Club (WPC) recently hosted a Combined Training and Horse Trials competition on the weekend of March 29 and 30, drawing in over 100 horses and riders to compete in the three Olympic disciplines: dressage, show jumping, and cross-country. This highly anticipated event brought equestrian enthusiasts from near and far to showcase their skills and passion for the sport.

The event was the culmination of many hours of hard work and meticulous planning to ensure that the grounds were ready to host such a significant competition. This year, the dry summer conditions posed an additional challenge, leaving large cracks and fissures in the ground. However, thanks to the generosity of local community member Matt Huitema, who provided dirt to help fill the cracks, the team was able to smooth out the course and ensure a safe and successful competition for both horses and riders.

"We're so lucky at WPC to have the incredible support of people like Matt, who step in to help us when we need it most," said a spokesperson for the club.

"We also couldn't have done this without our hard-working contractor, Pat James, who takes care of the tractor work, moves jumps, and handles the slashing. The facilities and grounds wouldn't be what they are without his consistent and reliable efforts."

Despite the challenges posed by the dry summer, the event was a resounding success, drawing competitors and spectators from across the region. Some participants, particularly those travelling from distances as far as four hours



Tilly of Wonthaggi Pony Club (WPC) showing her skill on little pony Freckles. Photo: @capturemystrides

away, chose to camp on-site, making the event a weekend getaway for many.

Two lovely photographers captured the weekend. Courtney Cleeland and Shena Barnsley from @capturemystrides. Shena was also a successful competitor at the event. It is wonderful for riders and families to have these lasting memories professionally recorded.

The Wonthaggi Pony Club's efforts are self-funded, with no support from the local shire in terms of grants for mowing assistance. As a result, much of the club's activities rely on fundraising efforts to maintain and improve their facilities.

"It takes a village, and

we're so thankful for the community support, whether through fundraising, volunteering, or donations," said the club spokesperson.

"It's always rewarding to see the hard work pay off in an event like this, where everyone can come together to enjoy the sport and celebrate the riders' achievements."

The Horse Trials competition not only provided thrilling performances across the three disciplines but also highlighted the ongoing dedication and passion of the Wonthaggi Pony Club community. With the support of local businesses such as AGWarehouse, volunteers, and competitors, WPC

continues to host and promote equestrian sport in the region, offering an important outlet for both seasoned riders and newcomers to the world of horse trials.

As the final ribbons and trophy rugs were awarded and competitors packed up, the Wonthaggi Pony Club members were packing up and resetting the grounds.

The club noting they are very fortunate to have life members such as Suzanne Heislers who dedicated a week of leave to set up the course for the competition. The Wonthaggi PC has several life and alumni members who come back every year to make this event possible.

Frank rides for a sight-saving cause this May

70-YEAR-OLD Frank Hirst from the Strzelecki Lions Club is taking on the Lions Club District 201 V3 Ride for Sight from May 2 to 5. The charity cycling event will run over four days, with cyclists training to ride a total of 290 kilometres, and Frank said he aims to raise \$3000.

Frank admits that although the ride sounds exciting, he's on a weekly training program and it'll be hard work.

"So far, I've cycled 120 kilometres in training, but I need to ride 290 kilometres over four days," said Frank.

"I've wanted to do this ride for a while now, and turning 70, I thought I needed to commit to it."

"The Strzelecki Lions Club have been incredibly supportive."

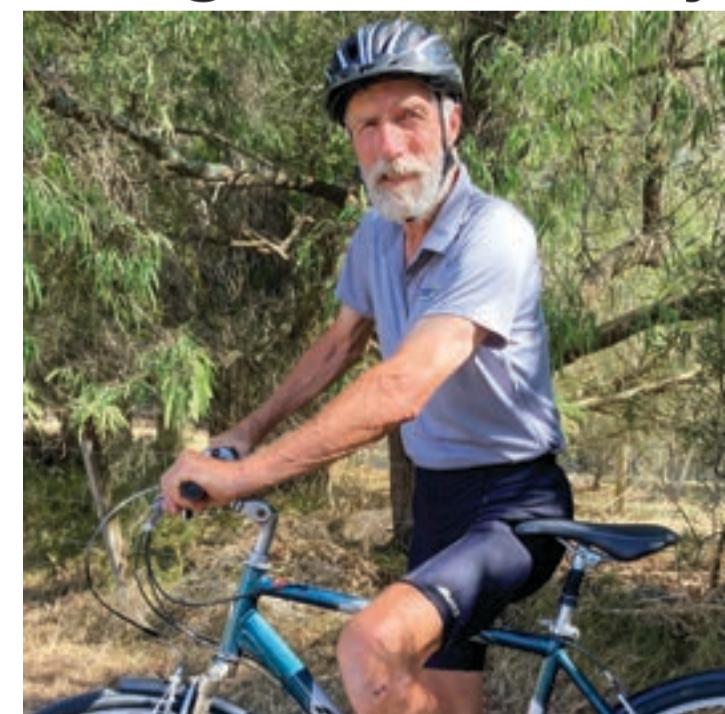
A truly community-driven event, the ride aims to raise funds for the Lions Club, Ride for Sight. This year, the

proceeds will support the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) and a new treatment for macular degeneration.

"The treatment aims to provide an alternative to the painful monthly injections traditionally required for managing the condition," said Frank.

For those interested in supporting the cause, donations can be made directly to the Ride for Sight charity or through Frank's online donation page. Supporting a worthy cause, which Frank said is affecting many people around him, he is personally pushing his physical limits and joining the 31st annual ride for the Lions Eye Health Program for ongoing research into preventing blindness.

Visit Ride for Sight campaign is rolling! 31st Lions Ride for Sight 2025 to donate and support Frank in supporting others.



Frank Hirst of the Strzelecki Lions Club is training for the Ride for Sight fundraiser this May.



Peter 'Dick' Williams Life Member of the Wonthaggi F.C. B08_1425

Reunion to celebrate Blues' first win in Gippsland Latrobe

IT MAY have taken ten games in the Gippsland Latrobe Football League for the Wonthaggi Blues to finally break through with a win but on July 8, 1995, Wonthaggi 14-12-96 downed hapless Maffra by nine points 12-15-87.

'Blues break big dry' shouted out the Sentinel Times.

Wonthaggi's memorable nine-point first victory in the Gippsland Latrobe Football League was made all the more pleasing by being scored without Blues' big guns Chris Day and Anthony Panozzo who were playing an interleague game in Swan Hill.

Boosted by their win against Maffra, the Blues went on to score an astonishing five-point back-to-back win against Moe the following week but still not enough though to lift them from the bottom of the ladder.

Recalling those halcyon days Wonthaggi Football Club life member and former Wonthaggi Blues Captain, best and fairest and premiership player Peter 'Dick' Williams remembered souveniring the football after the Maffra match.

"I asked if we could have it," said Dick.

The football was later mounted on a stand as a trophy and that's where the football remains today complete with the inscription 'Gippsland Latrobe Valley Football League Ball used in historic first win Round 12 at Maffra 8th July 1995'.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Wonthaggi's first victory in the Gippsland big league Mr Williams has organised a reunion of past players from the Wonthaggi Blues and Maffra on Saturday, June 28 at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve.

Coached by former Carlton tagger and best on-ground Mark Athorn, Wonthaggi's best on the day included former Melbourne player Jamie Duursma, Ian Harvey, and 1994 State Cricketer of the Year Warren Ayres (on debut), Rob Williams, Brett Beaumont and Ian Glasscock.

Paul Brosnan, Stuart Gilmour, Darren Brown, Robert Williams, Mark Tiziani, Anthony Williams, Frank Andrichto and Aaron Yann added to the match winning team with Matthew Williams, John Withall and Tim McCaughan playing from the bench.

Wearing the distinctive navy blue guernseys with white monogram the Blues played their last season in the Bass Valley-Wonthaggi and District Football League in 1994 a year after defeating Inverloch-Kongwak in the 1993 Grand Final.

Maffra regained its honour against Wonthaggi in the 2002 Gippsland-Latrobe Premier Division final series defeating the Blues in the second semi-final, and then after Wonthaggi defeated Moe in the Preliminary Final defeating Wonthaggi again in the grand final.

Maffra defeated Wonthaggi in the 2004 West Gippsland-Latrobe FL Premier Division Grand Final before Wonthaggi and Wonthaggi Rovers merged in 2005 to form the Wonthaggi FC. in the Alberton Football League.

Dominating the Alberton League Wonthaggi defeated Fish Creek in the 2005 Grand Final in a low scoring match before moving back to the Gippsland Latrobe Valley Football League in 2006.

Dick Williams is looking forward to welcoming past players from both Maffra and Wonthaggi to the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve for the first win reunion at midday on Saturday, June 28.

To join the reunion contact Dick Williams email joananddickwilliams@gmail.com.



Sophie McCracken-Evans breaks away from a tackle.

Breakers' Friday night success

THE Bass Coast Breakers took to the field with nine new players, which brought a lot of excitement and a little bit of uncertainty, however it didn't take long for the team to get going, the side ultimately prevailing by 22 points over Karingal.

After taking a strong mark, Ella Cargill centred the ball quickly to find Tess Angarane in the goal square, giving the Breakers a rapid first goal.

Shortly after, Jenna Russo found some space and snapped a banana from the pocket to keep the first-quarter momentum going for the home side.

The Breakers continued to do most of the attacking with the visitors having a hard time getting the ball past Katie

Cornish across half back.

Cargill, who proved to be lively in the forward line all match, got her opportunity and kicked truly.

Taking a three goal lead into half time, the Breakers knew they still had a lot of work to do.

Carly Heislars was providing plenty of run from the wing and was a good target to help link the play.

Angarane found some space out of a contest, steadying to add her second.

Karingal scored its first goal for the game and picked up some momentum, however, the Bass Coast defence held up well making good decisions under pressure.

Cloe Booth was impressive, bringing speed and

strength to the backline.

Cargill played on after marking in the forward line, taking a bounce and finishing off with another lovely goal.

With Karingal again pressing in the last quarter, the Breakers' leaders stood up, with Sophie McCracken-Evans and Russo working hard all over the ground.

Final score: Breakers 5.5-35 def Karingal 2.1-13

Best: Jenna Russo, Tess Angarane, Katie Cornish, Sophie McCracken-Evans, Carly Heislars

Goals: Tess Angarane 2, Ella Cargill 2, Jenna Russo 1

The Breakers welcome Red Hill/Balnarring for another Friday night clash this week 7pm at Dalyston.



Ellen Williams of the Bass Coast Breakers has eyes only for the ball.

Vince wows at darts comp

IN WHAT can only be described as a moment of pure tungsten wizardry, vice president, legendary darter and all-round top bloke Vince Palladino etched his name into the annals of darting folklore by nailing the first 180 of the season – and what a beauty it was.

The crowd gasped in unison as Vinnie, eyes locked and arm steady, unleashed a rapid-fire triple-20, triple-20, BOOM, another triple-20.

The place exploded.

It was during the Hornets' electric clash with The Breakers, and Vinnie's darts were so accurate, even the board looked surprised.

"Awesome darts, Vinnie!" was the cry from teammates and opponents alike, as the Hornets surged to a five to two win.

One unnamed Breaker was overheard saying, "We didn't lose to the Hornets – we lost to history."

Elsewhere around the league, Miramar edged out Aulin in a tense 4-3 thriller that had fans chewing their nails down to the knuckle.

The Deadly Darts lived up to their name, barely fending off the ever-persistent Dart Vaders in another nail-biter, also 4-3. Storm rolled through the Mustangs with confident throws and unshakable focus, claiming a solid five to two victory. Meanwhile, the Vikings absolutely pillaged the Riverboys six to one in a performance so commanding it launched them to the top of the ladder like true Norse legends.

Off the oche, the action didn't stop.

Congratulations to Snow, who took home the prized San Remo Butchers Meat Tray, ensuring barbecues will be well-stocked this weekend.

Vinnie wasn't just on fire with the darts – he also scored the beers.

Bruce, ever the quiet assassin, coolly snagged the chocolates.

Word on the street is he's not sharing.

Don't forget –next week is the highly anticipated Doubles Competition.

Registration kicks off at 7pm, first darts in the air by 7.30pm sharp.

Bring your A-game and your best banter.

Memorable match for Wonthaggi Table Tennis

Butterfly def Nittaku 3 to 2

NBA American basketball has employed a best-of-seven finals format since 1958. No team has ever recovered from a three-nil deficit. Which spotlights how remarkable the Braden (Nittaku) and David (Butterfly) match was.

David swatting to a three-set to love lead put extra pep into his jolly step. But Braden was like a googly octopus, all lengthy tentacles, predatory intent and triple-hearted endeavour. He clawed his way back to win 12 to 10 in the deciding seventh set. You know when adjacent tables stop play to admire the end game and applaud as one, that these two players played a very special match.

Donic def Double Fish 3 to 2

Doubles was decisive with Sven's return after an injury layoff, leading Double Fish out quickly to a 2 to 0-set lead. But Justin, with his blend of deftness and demolition, ably supported by his trustworthy sidekick Michael S. delivered the knockout blow 11 to 8 in the seventh.

Radak def Stiga 5 to 0

A grade ladder: Radak 12, Donic 12, Double Fish 8, Butterfly 4, Stiga 4 and Nittaku 0. Leading player Justin 6

Thursday Night B grade: Bat def Edge 5 to 0. Serve def Smash 3 to 2

Ladder: Serve 8, Bat 6, Ball 4, Smash 2 and Edge 0. Leading players: 3, Shane, Vicki, Yet I and 2, Corin, Jay, Trish.



Linda Newman, Ken Webb and Pat Novak won Breakaway Bowls with +9 on Monday.



The Friday Breakaway Bowls winners were John Stewart, Jan Clark and Gordon Peters.



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's best one-game winners were Vern Elliott (s), Luke Monckton (3) and Lou Capsalis (L).



Sylvia Mattock, Fred Demenech, Carol Thorp and Betty Huitema were the Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.



Pat Kennedy (S), Jenny Smith (L), Bev Elliott (3) and Rob Paganoni (2) had a brilliant score of 38 to win this week's South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group competition.



John Hall (men's champion) with Sue Symmons, his partner in club mixed pairs and Dot Shandley winner of ladies' pairs with Rosa James at the Leongatha Bowls Club.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club Turkey Triples winners Mick Coram, Ross Gabb and Ron Burge.



Green 1 winners Ian McLeod and Bev Tyers from Foster, and Green 2 winners Phil Price and Mean Price from Inverloch at the Inverloch Bowling Club.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

MONDAY was another great day at bowls.

The club is continuing to grow, and it won't be long before it may need more space.

A very nice afternoon tea was supplied by the members as per usual. The winners were, Linda Newman, Ken Webb and Pat Novak with +9 – good win, guys.

Friday bowls saw a good turnout of members enjoying the get-together of good friends.

The winners were John Stewart, Jan Clark and Gordon Peters with +17 – great win, guys.

FISH CREEK

THE summer bowls season is fast coming to an end.

In the club 21 up there was a great game between Wendy Watkins and Paul Kerr with Wendy prevailing in a long match. The mixed pairs was also a nailbiting game between Rob and Lynne Poletti against Bill Symmons and Bronwyn Williams. After a great contest the Poletti's won on the last end.

Congratulations to all winners.

The club conducted the annual Fred McLaughlin Memorial Day on Sunday, April 6, with representatives from the family bowling.

The club is very grateful to the McLaughlin family for over seven years of sponsorship.

With all rinks full everyone enjoyed a relaxed day.

Winners from Traralgon by one shot were Lee McKenzie, Neil Whitelaw and David Patten.

Runners-up were Nick Kelly, Robyn Napier and Ray Spokes.

The best last game consisted of John Ryan, David Bond and Joe Paynter.

The encouragement award went to the team of Phil Stimson and Andy and Anne Ploughman.

This Friday, April 11, the club presentation evening is being held, and the club is asking for a big attendance of all players and supporters.

Please bring a casserole or sweet and everyone will reminisce over the successful season.

The club AGM is on Tuesday, April 15 at 4 pm. Everyone is urged to attend and put forward their best ideas for the club in the future.

INVERLOCH

THE Thursday social bowls will have a new starting time, starting on April 10.

Names are to be in by 9.30am with playing starting at 11am.

After the first game will be a lunch break with the second game after lunch.

Homemade soup will be available in June, July and August.

The Inverloch Bowling Club held its first night bowls event for the year on Tuesday night, under lights in pleasant conditions.



Green 1 winners Ian McLeod and Bev Tyers from Foster, and Green 2 winners Phil Price and Mean Price from Inverloch at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



Ray McGannon, voted as the best pennant player for 2025 and as such, the winner of the George Langdon trophy at the Leongatha Bowls Club.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another busy week at the club.

Wednesday saw the last Turkey Triples for the season, played on a perfect day for bowls.

A field of 22 teams graced the greens, with a mix of local clubs plus a good number of Wonthaggi bowlers represented. There were two teams that were four-game winners.

The winners were Mick Coram, Ross Gabb, and Ron Burge, with a score of four wins and 32 shots up.

Runners-up were Tony McKernan, John Migliorisi, and Barry McGowan, with a score of four wins and 21 shots up.

The best game went to the John Newcombe team, with a score of 13 shots up.

The NABA award went to the Michael Dady team from Corinella.

Each team member receives a cap plus a drink bottle from the Wonthaggi Club.

Once again, the club would like to thank the Wonthaggi Club for its support during the year.

All bowlers were pleased with Wendy and her music machine, which is a great way to spend a day at bowls.

Thursday's social bowls again was a success, with good weather and good company.

Friday night went off well, with Dennis, Rae, Stan, and Norm being happy meat tray winners.

Saturday saw cold, windy weather greet 24 bowlers.

Only one team was a two-game winner, and they were Ken Gage, Hans Bischofberger, and Alan Bolding, with a score of two wins and 33 points.

The Adrian Gray team was unlucky, with a score of one win and a draw.

Bowls this week:

Wednesday: Social bowls at 1pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 10am.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Friday night: Members' draw plus meat tray raffles.

Doors open at 4pm.

Saturday: Social bowls at 1pm.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT WAS another competitive week of bowling with no team on Tuesday winning two games.

Tuesday's winners on plus 14 were Jenny Bakker, Fred Demenech and Robert McLaren.

Runners-up on plus five were Glenda Binch, Jean Wylde, Sylvia Mattock and Theo Sholley.

Friday saw another close finish.

The winners on plus 13 were Sylvia Mattock, Fred Demenech, Carol Thorp and Betty Huitema.

Missing out by just one point on plus 12 were Helen Rook, Bill Featherson and Robert McLaren.



Meeniyian Golf Club's Ladies' Championship winners
Faye LePage (B Grade), Andrea Thorson (Club Champion), Pam Erving (C Grade) and Gail Browne (Handicap and Senior ladies' winner) with sponsor from Meeniyian IGA Kaelene Shervell.



Karen Sheerin, Geraldine Prentice and Kaylene Hodgetts were the grade winners at the Wonthaggi Golf Club. Geraldine also won the April Medal and best scratch score.



Winners of the Invy Espy Stableford event Chris Lay and Jo McNaughton at the Leongatha Golf Club.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, April 1. Stableford: 38 players.

A Grade: Ian Gibson (15) 36 C/B. B Grade: Chris Corr (26) 37 C/B. NTPs: first Mick Belvedere, seventh Jake Cochrane, 10th John Wilson and 13th Tim Fowles.

Thursday, April 3:

Stableford: 20 players.

A Grade: Brian Clasby (12) 42 points.

B Grade: Dale Wyhoon (18) 42 points.

NTPs: first Ross Besley, seventh Peter Johnson, 10th Dale Wyhoon and 13th Ross Besley.

Saturday, April 5:

Sponsor: David Gow.

Monthly Medal: 48 players.

Monthly Medal winner: Blayke Spokes (13) 67 C/B.

A Grade: Blayke Spokes (13) 67 C/B.

B Grade: Laurie Webster (18) 70 net.

Scratch winner: Matt Wrigley (0) 74.

NTPs: first Charlie Moller, seventh Clint Newcombe, 10th Brian Clasby and 13th Paul Hopkins.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY'S golfing conditions were perfect for the Women's April Monthly Medal.

Thank you to sponsor 'The Tiny Teapot Cafe' for supporting this event each month.

The club had 23 play with great scores coming in across both grades -well done to all players.

The Monthly Medallist and B Grade winner with a fabulous 68net was Julie Cole (52).

A Grade winner with an awesome score of 69net, and on a winning streak, was Julie Hillberg (19). Runner-up was Kerri Besley (12) with 70 net.

Kerri also had the Best Scratch Score and a PB with an 82.

Runner up in B Grade was Pam Evers (39) who also had a great score of 69net.

BDTL went to Karen Sorrell, Trudy Olden both 73 nett and Julie Brannaghan 74 net c/b.

NTPs first Kath Welsh (Kellys Bakery), 10th Johanna van den Heiligenberg (\$2 Discount Store) and 13th Barb Twite (Burra Garden Supplies).

Thursday Twilight was the final round for the season and the club thanks Dave and Viv Enbom for running this event and Carol and Bob Stiff for collating the results weekly.

Thanks also to the many helpers who filled in when needed.

Well done to Scott Burgess and Mandy Seater winning on a c/b from the Hislops with 23 points.

NTPs on the 13th went to Collette Pearl and Ken Wardle.

The 24/25 twilight season had 55 different players across daylight savings period and raised approximately \$3000.

The season winners for both

men and women is decided by an overall season score.

This year an award was given in fond memory of Bill Thomson and kindly donated by 'The Thomson Family'.

The club thanks Betty, Steve and Leanne.

Congratulations to the recipients Ian and Denise Gibson for winning the 'Bill Thomson' award this season.

On Saturday, the club played its April RB Monthly Medal round.

Congratulations to the RB Medallist and grade winner Heather Grist (19) winning the @Luscious Cafe Voucher with a 76net.

BDTL went to Judy Webb, Julie Hillberg and Colette Pearl, all with 77 net.

Scratch winner was Kerri Besley with 90.

Kerri also had an awesome second shot into the sixth green and eagled out, her very first eagle, well done.

This Wednesday is the start of our Gloria Burgess best two of three rounds good luck to all players.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, April 1: Stableford. Tuesday's event was a Stableford event with 62 members/guests taking to the course.

Well done to the ground staff as the greens are in superb nick after the recent coring exercise.

Overall winner: David Richards (16) with a high score of the day of 39 points.

A Grade winner: Renato Monacella (12) with a score of 37 points. Runner-up: Jeremy de Silva (8) with a score of 35 points.

B Grade winner: David Richards (16) with a score of 39 points. Runner-up: Ben Chapman (17) with a score of 36 points.

C Grade winner: Ian Trease (18) with a score of 38 points. Runner-up: Debbie Wrigley (24) from the Korumburra Golf Club with a score of 35 points.

Great day out for Renato with an A Grade win and two nearest the pins, with the one on the 14th only one cm from the hole. So close to a hole-in-one.

NTP fifth second shot: John Ryan, 14th: Renato Monacella, 16th: Renato Monacella.

Thursday, April 3: Burra Brewing Stableford Event.

Thursday was a Burra Brewing Stableford event for the field of 74 members/guests.

Thanks again to the Burra Brewing team for their continued and excellent sponsorship of such events.

Winners delight in using their winning vouchers for a night out at the Burra Brewing venue in Korumburra.

Overall winner: Lyndon Thompson (28) with a high score of the day of 41 points.

A Grade winner: Jeremy de

Silva (8) with a score of 37 points on a countback. Runner up: Renato Monacella (11) continues his winning ways with a score of 37 points.

B Grade winner: Ashleigh Hutton (14) with a score of 37 points. Runner-up: Ian Barlow (18) with a score of 36 points.

C Grade winner: Lyndon Thompson (28) with a score of 41 points. Runner-up: Hans Hoefer (28) with a score of 38 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Frank Gill at 1.67m. 14th: Ian Barlow at 1.60m. 16th: Ian Barlow at 1.60m.

Saturday, April 5: Wonthaggi Toyota Monthly Medal Stroke Event.

Saturday was the Monthly Medal Stroke round with again wonderful sponsorship by Wonthaggi Toyota with a field of 89 members/guests taking to the course in excellent condition, on a brilliant autumn day for golf.

Hitting off the black tees of course.

Overall and Monthly Medal winner: Ken Smirk (15) with a high net score of the day of 68.

A Grade winner: Glenn Marsham (12) with a net score of 73. Runner-up: Nicholas Byrne (11) with a net score of 75.

B Grade winner: Ken Smirk (15) with a net score of 68. Runner-up: Bernard Skerys (16) with a net score of 70.

C Grade winner: Michelle Richards (18) with a net score of 74. Runner-up: John Moor (18) with a score of 75 on a countback.

D Grade winner: Simon Kaiserman (26) with a net score of 75. Runner-up: Andy Bassett (26) with a net score of 76.

NTP fifth second shot: Glenn Marsham at 3.10m. 14th: Sean Munley at 1.20m. 16th: Ken Smirk at 4.80m.

Ladies

A LARGE field enjoyed the autumn weather in the Invy Espy sponsored Stableford event.

Each winner and runner-up received a voucher to be used at the Esplanade Hotel Inverloch.

Again, this week the scores were remarkably high with some anticipated handicap reductions.

Chris Lay (26) finished with 41 points to win A Grade from Karen Castledine Briggs (27) on 38 points.

Jo McNaughton, currently on a handicap of 30, finished the day with a remarkable 44 points. Runner-up was Alison Strong.

Balls down the line went to 34 points Lyn Shaw, Di Williams, Sue Woods, Joc Howson, Tanya Starkey, Michelle Roberts and Maryanne Gartner.

Nearest the pin was Di Williams on the 16th and Joc Howson was very lucky to take out the closest to the flag with her second shot on the fifth.

MEENIYAN

Ladies

THE 2025 Ladies' Championships were completed with perfect weather over the three weeks.

The Club Champion is Andrea Thorson, winning by one stroke with a gross score of 253.

Faye LePage won the B Grade event with 285 gross and the C Grade winner was Pam Erving 349 gross.

Gail Browne had a fantastic day. Not only did she win the April

Medal – her first – with a lovely 73 net, Gail also won the Handicap and the Senior Lady over the three rounds of the championships.

The club would love to pass on its appreciation to its wonderful sponsor Kaelene Shervell of Meeniyian IGA + Liquor for her continued sponsorship of the Club Championships.

On Friday, April 4, the club held its annual Blue Day sponsored by Veronica Park.

This has become a fantastic day with everyone dressed in blue and a fun day on the course.

Money raised on the day through the raffles and an auction of a blue hat raised \$557 and this will be forwarded to Beyond Blue.

Winners on the day were Gail Browne, Toni Taylor and Bev Eckhardt with 131 points.

Runners-up were Narelle Hopcroft, Linda Forrester and Sherrill Winkler with 129 points.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, April 1: Stableford.

A Grade: S. Woodall (9) 38 points.

B Grade: T. Tomada (34) 40 points.

DTL: G. Renwick, S. Hill-Smith 37 and J. Winters 36.

NTP: fourth P. Cummaudo, sixth T. Bradshaw, 13th J. Winters and 16th T. Tomada.

Birdies: sixth G. Renwick and 13th J. Winters.

Saturday, April 5: Stroke.

A Grade: S. Woodall (8) 70net.

B Grade: Tom Traill (19) 70net c/b.

DTL: J. Taylor 71, G. Shandley 72, B. Bradshaw, P. Draper and G. Dawson 73.

NTP: fourth N. Whichello, sixth N. Bickerton, 13th N. Baker and 16th B. Bradshaw.

Birdies: fourth P. Cummaudo and N. Whichello, sixth D. Woodall, N. Bickerton, N. Whichello, J. Woodall, P. Lee, and 16th B. Bradshaw.

WOORAYL

Results: April 3, SR. 36.

Competition: Stableford nine hole 10 to 18.

Winner: Graham Ryan 20.

BDTL to 17: Norm Burne 17 and John Davis 17.

Results: April 5, S.R 72.

Competition: Monthly Medal Stroke and putting.

Mthly Medal: Hamish Burns 62.

A Grade: Nicholas Cairns 68.

B Grade: Shaun Stirton 71.

C Grade: Glen Rielly 73.

BDTL to 74.

Ball sweep: Ian Baker 71, Ross Lovett 71, Brad Andrew 72, Frank Loughran 73, Mark Nicholson 73, Graham Ryan 74, Ray Hender 74 and Brad Pinal 74.

NTPs: Miles Foster second, not claimed fourth, Secondo Tiziani propin eighth, Ian Baker 13th, Warwick Judkins money hole 17th.

Putting: Alan Cubbin 26 putts.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY saw 29 ladies compete for the April Monthly Medal on a perfect autumn day.

There were a couple of outstanding scores which would normally earn the player the medal but there can only be one winner and this was B Grade, Medal and best scratch score by Geraldine Prentice 90(24)66 net – great round.

C Grade winner was another great round by Karen Sheerin 103(35)68 net.

The handicap will be reduced ladies.

A Grade was won by Kaylene Hodgetts 93(19)74 net by c/b to Annie Tschiderer (19)74.

Putting Betty Bowmar 29 putts on c/b 3 others.

NTP on second was Dawn Judkins, fourth Kaylene Hodgetts, eighth Betty Bowmar and 13th Jenny McRae.

BDL went to Anne Poulton 71, Jenny McRae 71, Donna Brosnan 73, Lisa Brusamarello 73, Anne Tschiderer 74 and Marg Ryan 74.

TEN

TEN players assembled for the April Monthly Medal Stroke Event and putting, sponsored by Jo and Col Graeme.

There were sunny bursts through cloud, a lovely day for golf.

The A Grade winner and Monthly Medallist was Sharyn Rayson 71net.

B Grade's winner was Inge Giliam 75net.

BDL: Ann Poole 72net, Barb James 76net and Sherrill Winkler 76net.

The putting was won by Ann Poole 29 putts.

NTP: eighth Inge Giliam, 11th Heather Sullivan and 17th Jenny Riseley.

MIRBOO NORTH

A GRADE: Best on court: Louie (Lynette) Patten. Coaches award: Marley Wallace.

B Grade: Best on court: Maddi Knowles. Coaches award: Chelsea Loh.

C Grade: Best on court: Brooke Lagerwey. Coaches award: Elly Hysen.

D Grade: Best on court: Lexi Andrews. Coaches award: Alexandra Robertson.

U17: Best on court: Mia O'Brien. Coaches award: Imogen Nash.

U15: Best on court: Amy Conlan. Coaches award: Gemma Filtress.

U13: Best on court: Georgie Schaeche. Coaches award: Maeve Stoerbecker.



Tiger's C Grade Talei Falkingham and her fast feet snapped the ball. Photo: Annie Holland.



Toora's Darcy Lambert applies pressure to her Tarwin opponent, the Magpies coming out on top by 13 goals in the A Grade clash. Photo: Jo de Boer.



A Grade Wonthaggi netball centre Shannon Danckert assisted off the court after an ankle injury in Saturday's game against Warragul B85_1425

Shannon Danckert sidelined by injury

WONTHAGGI Power netballer and AFLW and Gippsland Power midfielder Shannon Danckert was assisted off the netball court over the weekend in the closing moments of Wonthaggi Power's A Grade round one match against Warragul.

Suffering a serious ankle injury during the second half of the game Danckert was unable to walk unassisted from the court and will take time this week to assess the extent of her injury.

A 25 game player with both the Gold Coast Suns and Richmond the Inverloch physiotherapist only recently joined the Gippsland Women's Football competition as well as playing centre for Wonthaggi Power.

After playing 13 AFLW games for Gold Coast across two years Shannon made her AFLW club debut for the Richmond Tigers in October 2023.

Playing for the Casey Demons in the VFLW Shannon was named runner-up for the Club Best & Fairest in the VFLW Team of the Year.

"I enjoy having the opportunity to work with other elite athletes, high performance and medical staff and thrive in a challenging, competitive and social environment."

Enthusiastic about all sports Danckert is heavily involved in netball and football.

Danckert's strong following of local sports fans no doubt hope it will not be too long before we see this local trailblazer back playing netball and football at the highest level.



GK Cassidy Bowman attempts to intercept the rebound against Warragul's Emma Ryde. B63_1425



Lara Stefani shoots for goal for Fish Creek. Photo: Megan Vuillermoz.



Stony Creek and Boolarra compete fiercely for the netball. Photo: G.S. Bruning.



GA Ellie Bates maintains possession for Wonthaggi. B69_1425

GIPPSLAND

RESULTS

A GRADE

Bairnsdale 39 It Moe 87
Morwell 55 d Drouin 47
Wonthaggi 38 It Warragul 71
Traralgon 53 It Leongatha 57
Sale 38 d Maffra 37

B GRADE

Bairnsdale 32 It Moe 65
Morwell 43 It Drouin 50
Wonthaggi 54 d Warragul 40
Traralgon 31 It Leongatha 36
Maffra 37 d Sale 25

C GRADE

Bairnsdale 39 d Moe 29
Morwell 46 d Drouin 22
Wonthaggi 50 d Warragul 10
Traralgon 22 It Leongatha 32
Sale 27 d Maffra 22

LADDERS

A GRADE		17 & UNDER			
	% pts		% pts		
Moe	223.08	4	Traralgon	293.75	4
Warragul	186.84	4	Bairnsdale	265.22	4
Morwell	117.02	4	Sale	141.94	4
Leongatha	107.55	4	Drouin	140.00	4
Sale	102.70	4	Warragul	102.78	4
Maffra	97.37	0	Wonthaggi	97.30	0
Traralgon	92.98	0	Morwell	71.43	0
Drouin	85.45	0	Maffra	70.45	0
Wonthaggi	53.52	0	Moe	37.70	0
Bairnsdale	44.83	0	Leongatha	34.04	0

B GRADE		15 & UNDER			
	% pts		% pts		
Moe	203.13	4	Warragul	709.09	4
Maffra	148.00	4	Traralgon	268.18	4
Wonthaggi	135.00	4	Drouin	173.68	4
Drouin	116.28	4	Sale	151.52	4
Leongatha	116.13	4	Moe	103.13	4
Traralgon	86.11	0	Bairnsdale	96.97	0
Morwell	86.00	0	Maffra	66.00	0
Warragul	74.07	0	Morwell	57.58	0
Sale	67.57	0	Leongatha	37.29	0
Bairnsdale	49.23	0	Wonthaggi	14.10	0

C GRADE		13 & UNDER			
	% pts		% pts		
Wonthaggi	500.00	4	Bairnsdale	300.00	4
Leongatha	145.45	4	Wonthaggi	166.67	4
Morwell	143.75	4	Leongatha	127.27	4
Bairnsdale	134.48	4	Morwell	122.73	4
Sale	122.73	4	Sale	112.50	4
Maffra	81.48	0	Maffra	88.89	0
Moe	74.36	0	Drouin	81.48	0
Drouin	69.57	0	Traralgon	78.57	0
Traralgon	68.75	0	Warragul	60.00	0
Warragul	20.00	0	Moe	33.33	0

MID GIPPSLAND

RESULTS

A GRADE		B GRADE		C GRADE		D GRADE		17 & UNDER		15 & UNDER		13 & UNDER			
	% pts		% pts		% pts		% pts		% pts		% pts		% pts		
N-borough	54	It MDU	68	Boolarra	36	d Stony Crk	30	Morwell-E	52	d Thorpdale	2	N-borough	18	It MDU	72
Boolarra	33	It Stony Crk	74	Boolarra	24	It Stony Crk	70	Toora	26	It Tarwin	31	Toora	57	d Tarwin	7
Hill End	34	It Mirboo Nth	75	Morwell-E	35	d Thorpdale	32	N-borough	44	d MDU	33	Fish Crk	29	It Yinnar	54
Morwell-E	53	d Thorpdale	22	Hill End	33	d Mirboo Nth	21	Boolarra	25	It Stony Crk	32	Hill End	26	It Mirboo Nth	36
Toora	53	d Tarwin	40	Toora	47	d Tarwin	28	Fish Crk	21	It Yinnar	28	Boolarra	62	d Stony Crk	14
Fish Creek	48	d Yinnar	51	Fish Crk	33	d Yinnar	29	Hill End	22	d Mirboo Nth	31	Hill End	46	d Mirboo Nth	11

LADDERS

A GRADE		B GRADE		C GRADE		D GRADE		17 & UNDER		15 & UNDER		13 & UNDER		
	% pts		% pts		% pts		% pts		% pts		% pts		% pts	
Morwell East	2.41	4	Stony Creek	2.92	4	Morwell East	5.11	4	Morwell East	26.00	4	Toora	8.14	4
Stony Creek	2.24	4	Mirboo North	1.74	4	Yinnar	3.13	4	Mirboo North	1.41	4	Boolarra	4.43	4
Mirboo North	2.21	4	Toora	1.68	4	Hill End	1.57	4	Newborough	1.33	4	MDU	4.00	4
Toora	1.33	4	Newborough	1.29	4	Tarwin	1.32	4	Stony Creek	1.28	4	Yinnar	1.86	4
MDU	1.26	4	Fish Creek	1.14	4	Boolarra	1.20	4	Tarwin	1.19	4	Mirboo North	1.38	4
Yinnar	1.06	4	Morwell East	1.09	4	Foster	0.00	4	Foster	0.00	4	Foster	0.00	4
Foster	0.00	4	Foster	0.00	4	Morwell East	0.00	4	Hill End	0.72	0	Morwell East	0.00	4
Fish Creek	0.94	0	Thorpdale	0.91	0	Stony Creek	0.8							

RESULTS

A GRADE

Bulin Buln 29 lt Ellinbank 72
Bunyip 32 lt Trafalgar 54
Lang Lang 20 lt Longwarry 50
Nyora 24 lt Catani 50
Poowong 41 d Yarragon 40
Nil-Darn 41 lt Neerim Sth 61

B GRADE

Bulin Buln 28 lt Ellinbank 46
Bunyip 45 d Trafalgar 23
Lang Lang 44 d Longwarry 37
Nil-Darn 37 d Neerim Sth 32
Poowong 36 d Yarragon 35
Nyora 15 lt Catani 71

C GRADE

Bulin Buln 37 d Ellinbank 35
Lang Lang 22 lt Longwarry 46
Bunyip 21 lt Trafalgar 41
Nil-Darn 34 lt Neerim Sth 45
Poowong 20 lt Yarragon 37
Nyora 6 lt Catani 65

17 & UNDER

Lang Lang 29 lt Longwarry 40
Bulin Buln 20 lt Ellinbank 25
Poowong 39 d Yarragon 35
Bunyip 21 lt Trafalgar 43
Nil-Darn 48 d Neerim Sth 29
Nyora 4 lt Catani 42

15 & UNDER

Lang Lang 26 d Longwarry 11
Nil-Darn 17 lt Neerim Sth 30
Bulin Buln 23 d Ellinbank 14
Poowong 32 d Yarragon 14
Nyora 4 lt Catani 54
Bunyip 35 d Trafalgar 14

13 & UNDER

Poowong 15 d Yarragon 13
Nil-Darn 29 d Neerim Sth 10
Bulin Buln 39 d Ellinbank 5
Lang Lang 37 d Longwarry 3
Nyora 3 lt Catani 37
Bunyip 15 lt Trafalgar 18

LADDERS

	A GRADE	GA%	pts	GA%	pts	17 & UNDER	GA%	pts	13 & UNDER	GA%	pts
Longwarry	2.5	4									
Ellinbank	2.48	4									
Catani	2.08	4									
Trafalgar	1.69	4									
Neerim South	1.49	4									
Poowong	1.03	4									
Yarragon	0.98	0									
Nilma Darnum	0.67	0									
Bunyip	0.59	0									
Nyora	0.48	0									
Bulin Buln	0.4	0									
Lang Lang	0.4	0									

B GRADE

	Catani	4.73	4
Bunyip	1.96	4	
Ellinbank	1.64	4	
Lang Lang	1.19	4	
Nilma Darnum	1.16	4	
Poowong	1.03	4	
Yarragon	0.97	0	
Neerim South	0.86	0	
Longwarry	0.84	0	
Bulin Buln	0.61	0	
Trafalgar	0.51	0	
Nyora	0.21	0	

C GRADE

	Catani	10.83	4
Trafalgar	2.56	4	
Longwarry	2.09	4	
Yarragon	1.85	4	
Neerim South	1.32	4	
Bulin Buln	1.06	4	
Ellinbank	0.95	0	
Nilma Darnum	0.76	0	
Poowong	0.54	0	
Lang Lang	0.48	0	
Bunyip	0.39	0	
Nyora	0.09	0	

17 & UNDER

	Catani	10.50	4
Trafalgar	2.05	4	
Nilma Darnum	1.66	4	
Longwarry	1.38	4	
Ellinbank	1.25	4	
Poowong	1.11	4	
Yarragon	0.90	0	
Bulin Buln	0.80	0	
Lang Lang	0.73	0	
Neerim South	0.60	0	
Bunyip	0.49	0	
Nyora	0.10	0	

15 & UNDER

	Catani	13.50	4
Bunyip	2.50	4	
Lang Lang	2.36	4	
Poowong	2.29	4	
Neerim South	1.76	4	
Bulin Buln	1.64	4	
Ellinbank	0.61	0	
Nilma Darnum	0.57	0	
Yarragon	0.44	0	
Longwarry	0.42	0	
Trafalgar	0.40	0	
Nyora	0.07	0	

13 & UNDER

	Catani	12.33	4
Lang Lang	12.33	4	
Bulin Buln	7.80	4	
Nilma Darnum	2.90	4	
Trafalgar	1.20	4	
Poowong	1.15	4	
Yarragon	0.87	0	
Bunyip	0.83	0	
Neerim South	0.34	0	
Ellinbank	0.13	0	
Longwarry	0.08	0	
Nyora	0.08	0	



Nyora's Sophie Daley GK stands her Catani opponent.



Kira Hamilton takes the pass for Kilcunda Bass on the circle edge under pressure from Madeline Smith during the B Grade match.



Elisha Nicholas holds position in front of her Kilcunda Bass opponent in the first quarter of the A Grade match.



Tiana Heylen concentrates on her goal shooting task for Nyora.



Mia Blackwood shows her athleticism for Poowong in its A Grade contest with Yarragon. Photo: Jeff Tull.



Magpie Georgia Chiavaroli flies for Poowong during its A Grade clash with Yarragon. Photo: Jeff Tull.



Korumburra Bena's Millie Enbom places pressure over the shot of Allison Carter.



Emma Felsovary lines up a shot for Kilcunda Bass.



A tight contest for the ball in Dalyston v Koo Wee Rup. B47_1425



Dalyston centre Sarah Blundell looks for an opening in B-grade. B58_1425

WEST GIPPSLAND

RESULTS

A GRADE

Tooradin-D 42 lt Cora Lynn 47

Kor-Bena 59 d K-Bass 40

Dalyston 44 d KWR 27

P-Island 42 lt NNG 52

Warragul I 32 lt Garfield 46

B GRADE

Tooradin-D 48 d Cora Lynn 37

Dalyston 54 d KWR 30

Kor-Bena 30 lt K-Bass 48

P-Island 41 lt NNG 54

Warragul-I 28 lt Garfield 63

C GRADE

Tooradin-D 24 lt Cora Lynn 27

Dalyston 23 lt KWR 32

Kor-Bena 26 lt K-Bass 30

P-Island 23 lt NNG 38

Tooradin-I 42 d Garfield 35

D GRADE

Tooradin-D 20 lt Cora Lynn 30

Kor-Bena 28 lt K-Bass 30

Dalyston 5 lt KWR 32

P-Island 25 lt NNG 47

Warragul-I 20 lt Garfield 57

LADDERS

A GRADE

Dalyston

1.63

4

Nar Nar Goon

1.65

4

Kor-Bena

FOOTY TIPPING

24

**BEN FISHER**

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



81 Commercial Street,
Korumburra
5655 1024

24

**MATT ROBERTSON**

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Brisbane
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Fremantle
GWS
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



119 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1027

24

**CARL LINDSAY**

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



145 Graham Street,
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5672 1137

23

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



Wonthaggi 5672 5522
Leongatha 5662 2941

16

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



62-64 McBride Avenue,
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0421 162 530

25

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



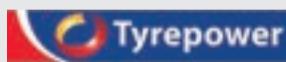
1 Roughead Street,
Leongatha
5662 2327

21

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78-80 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5760

22

**RYAN SHANE**

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



Leongatha Toyota
7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5662 2302

23

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



6/5 Cyclone Street,
Wonthaggi
Darren 0405 603 569
Craig 0415 641 845

24

**ADAM WARE**

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2/88-98 Watt Street,
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1800 358 131

24

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5662 2529

26

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Leigh Donohue	26
Darryl McGannon	25
Liam Sawyer	25
Peter Fort	25
Aaron McGregor	24
Adam Ware	24
Ben Fisher	24
Carl Lindsay	24
David England	24
Hayden Poppe	24
Justin Caporale	24
Matt Robertson	24
Alex Geyer	23
Brad Hodson	23
Craig & Darren	23
Dylan Clark	23
Warren Stewart	23
Ryan Shane	22
Brett Jacobs	21
Kris Baker	21
Keith & Eddie	19
Jae Davey	16

23

WARREN STEWART

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



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5632 3503

28

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



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23

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1 A'Beckett Street
Inverloch
5674 1432

24

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5644 2080

25

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47 Station Street,
Korumburra
0417 332 141

19



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



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5672 1311

25



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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



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5672 1007

24

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 7



24 Inverloch Road,
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5672 5906

23



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Brisbane
Essendon
Fremantle
GWS
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



15/17 Murray Street,
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5672 5878

21



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24



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MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

RND 1

MDU FOOTBALL CLUB

	81		55
--	----	---	----

NEWBOROUGH	4.4	7.4	10.8	12.9 (81)
MDU	2.0	3.4	4.6	8.7 (55)

GOALS, Newborough: Jack Robinson 4,

Josh Pearce 3, Brody Young 2, Peter Ainsworth, Jake Bowden, Jarryd Movchan 1 each

BEST: W Anderson, K Jennings, J Robinson, Z Skinner, B Young, A Styles

GOALS, MDU: Nick Nagel 3, Lachie Wright 2, Trent McRae, Wayne Stewart, Shayne Walsh 1 each

BEST: S Wilson, T Corry, H Fennell, T McRae, J Hickey, B VanderZalm

RESERVES

Newborough	1.2	2.5	2.5	3.7 (25)
MDU	1.0	3.2	7.4	10.6 (66)

GOALS, Newborough: Jack Edebohls 2,

Darryl Disisto 1

BEST: S Burns, J Brincat, J Edebohls, W Collings, D Smith, J Howell

GOALS, MDU: Michael Smith, Brendan Tomada 2, Ben Cantwell, Rylie Checkley, Luke Harris, Tyson Harris, Aaron Trease, Billy Trotman 1 each

BEST: B Tomada, A Trease, E O'Loughlin, M Hooper, J Lacy, K Helms

THIRDS

Newborough	3.1	4.2	6.2	8.5 (53)
MDU	2.3	4.4	6.7	7.8 (50)

GOALS, Newborough: Cooper Hanson, Oscar Hanson 3, Riley Kunziak, Thomas McCafferty 1 each

BEST: M Brosnan, H Gallagher, R Kunziak, D Edebohls, P Georgiou, M Langdon

GOALS, MDU: Will Campbell, Angus McInnes 2, Lucas Duvoisin, Archie Hulshof, Harry Scrimshaw 1 each

BEST: A Casey, T Hibberson, C Amor, C Bruce, L Duvoisin, W Campbell

STONY CREEK FOOTBALL CLUB

	64		61
--	----	---	----

BOOLARRA	3.2	6.2	8.3	10.4 (64)
STONY CREEK	2.3	7.7	7.11	8.13 (61)

GOALS, Boolarra: Tarmah Little 3, Brendan

Mason 2, Jayden Hawkins, Luke Marriott,

Joel Mason, Simon Noy, Tristan Salerno 1 each

BEST: Simon Noy, Tom Reiske, Timothy Potter, Brendan Mason, Marcus Twomey, Tarmah Little

GOALS, Stony Creek: Kael Bergles 3,

Zye Bergles-Brown, Ethan Busse, Anthony Dyke,

Cody Loughridge, Dylan Zuidema 1 each

BEST: K Bergles, Z Bergles-Brown, T Stone, K Newton, T O'Connor Linke, J Stone

RESERVES

Boolarra	1.1	2.2	3.2	4.4 (28)
Stony Creek	4.2	8.4	10.7	13.9 (87)

GOALS, Boolarra: Thomas Holley, Jamie Maggs, Ben McCormack, Michael McKeane 1 each

BEST: T Beamish, J Felmingham, D Cooper, R Byrne, G Smith, C Dalrymple

GOALS, Stony Creek: Thomas Horsburgh 3,

Lucas Byrnes, Brett McKnight, Ryan McKnight,

Tarkey Taylor-Wilton 2, Andrew Logan,

Angus Wright 1 each

BEST: C Batten, A Logan, A Wright, G Batten, N Trotto, B McKnight

TOORA FOOTBALL CLUB

	64		90
--	----	---	----

TOORA	2.0	7.1	10.2	10.4 (64)
TARWIN	3.4	8.9	10.10	13.12 (90)

GOALS, Toora: Ben East 3, Michael Bezzene 2,

Leigh Craig, Lachlan Marr, Aron Rhodes, Lachi

Smart, Ben Wemyss 1 each

BEST: M Bezzene, B East, G Gordon, J French,

T Kirwan, A Peile

GOALS, Tarwin: Troy Harley 5 Matthew

Williams 3, Kane McCarthy 2, Jamie Cann,

Ben Ellen, Jordan Staley 1 each

BEST: T Harley, M Williams, K McCarthy,

B Chalmers, M McCall, N McRae

RESERVES

Toora	0.1	3.4	5.9	6.9 (45)
Tarwin	1.2	3.2	5.4	9.5 (59)

GOALS, Toora: James Maurilli-Pullin 3,

Peter Grant 2, Jarryd Guganovic 1

BEST: A Walker, L Anedda, Z Clavarino, P Grant,

W Cashin, M Hoppner

GOALS, Tarwin: Logan Anderson 4, Zak Bright,

Brodie Senior-Gibson 2, Daniel Roper 1

BEST: L Anderson, A Abernethy, J Chalmers,

D Roper, H Guymer, C Mills



Stony Creek and Boolarra compete in a thriller with a three points win by the Demons. Photo: G.S. Bruning.

Demons edge Lions in thriller to open season on a high

By Rob Popplestone

BOOLARRA had been one of those tipped to be a big improver in 2025, their year prior there had been flashes of what could be, but the long season and a lack of depth had slowly worn them down.

The visiting Lions with a new coach and some savvy recruiting were keen to get a "w" on the board early, and there would be no better way than to do it at the Demons' home ground, however, the home team showed they might well be capable of greater things in season 2025.

Boolarra 10-4-64 to Stony Creek 8-13-61.

The Demon's accuracy coupled with the enthusiasm

of some new blood were major factors in the win.

"We debuted six senior players today and played like a side that was welcoming a bunch of new faces at times. In a game that ebbed and flowed both sides had opportunities to claim the points but thankfully when the siren sounded we were in front," Brendan Mason, Boolarra coach said.

"Newcomers Tarmah Little and Tim Potter won the respect of their new teammates with a relentless attack on the ball. Little hit the scoreboard and Potter hit every contest with

similar enthusiasm."

The Demons were good and are likely to get better, but it must be said that the Lions had more than their share of chances also.

"Tight battle against Boolarra on the weekend, we had seven more scoring shots we just couldn't convert in front of goal, with late chances to win, we were on top for most of the day," Troy Shepardson, Stony Creek coach said.

The anticipated evenness of the competition means that close losses are sure to hurt beyond the weekend a game is played, the secret to be on the right side of them, more times than not.

Sharks surge late to sink Toora in tough contest

By Rob Popplestone

TWO teams that were looking for an improved season, knew the importance of a successful start to a new year and both entered round one believing it was their win for the taking.

The Magpies had no doubt strengthened their outfit but so had the Sharks, who had managed to secure some of Gippsland's finest and that in part may have been the difference.

The Sharks secured a successful start to the season 13-12-90 to Toora 10-4-64.

"It was a gritty round one win against Toora on their home deck," Tarwin coach, Lachie Jones stated.

"They pushed us all day like we knew they would. Happy our guys hung tough and did the basics well which saw us kick a score late in the fourth quarter and secure the win."

Toora were beaten, but showed enough to indicate they will grab their fair share of victories in the



Ben Wemyss, with grandfather Jim Henry, making his return after a year off, Toora were thrilled to have Ben back in action. Photo: Jo de Boer.

weeks and months ahead.

"We hosted Tarwin for our start to the year and put in a pretty decent performance," Jay Accardi, Toora coach said.

"Unfortunately, we were not able to sustain the effort for four full quarters and to Tarwin's credit they ran the match out strongly. We can see pretty clearly where we need to

improve and heading to Yinnar this week will give us the perfect opportunity to see if we have learnt from some mistakes we made in round one."

Yinnar emerged from round one as the victor in the grand final replay with Fish Creek and will no doubt give Toora clarity as to where they stand in the clash of the Magpies.



A newlook MDU side, under coach Rhett Kelly, takes the field at Newborough on Saturday.

Bulldogs bite first with confident win

By Rob Popplestone

WITH new leaders at the helm of both of these two respected clubs, there was some nervous energy both on the field and also in the coaches' boxes, as pre-season pundits had both the Bulldogs and the Demons in their finals calculations.

Newborough, always tough at the kennel proved so on the weekend, their 12-9-81 to 8-7-55 victory providing a confidence boosting start to the season.

"Solid win from the boys today. MDU play a very similar brand of footy to us, so it was good to see how we match up against each other," stated Pat Frendo, Newborough coach.

"Co-captain Wade Anderson led from the front and Jack Robinson looked dangerous down forward, but unfortunately, went down in the third quarter with a knee injury."

All clubs' depth will be tested at various times of the season, but losing quality players so early is both a problem and an opportunity for the next soldier to step forward.

For the Demons, round one just didn't deliver as expected.

"Disappointing start for us yesterday, we were very reactive all game and couldn't get on the front foot with our ball movement," Rhett Kelly, MDU coach said.

"Our skills really hurt us at important stages of the game. Credit to Newborough who dominated around the stoppages and looked dangerous going forward."

The Demons have recruited well, have talented juniors and its likely just time, patience and some continued hard work on the track will help MDU progress very quickly.

Demons show signs in opening round

By Michael Giles

THERE was the sense of a new era in football when Meeniyan Dumbalk United took the field under new coach Rhett Kelly, with a substantially changed line-up at Newborough on Saturday.

But Newborough apparently didn't get the memo.

By half time in the match, they had steadily built a significant lead in a low-scoring game, 7.4 to MDU's 3.1, and while MDU matched the Bulldogs for intensity and scoring in the second half, they went away from the game encouraged but with work to do.

Newborough looked intent on building on their promising season in the Mid Gippsland League last year when they finished fifth and won their first elimination final before bowing out to Foster in the semis.

MDU got a good sense of where the competition is at this year and can also be expected to improve.

Magpies make a statement in grand final rematch victory

EVERY new season starts with plenty of possibilities as clubs prepare to put their recruitment, training and coaching on the line.

The 2025 MGFNL season promises another exciting year as the standard of personnel secured by those clubs looking to climb their way up the ladder from the season prior is very impressive, but round one is where we got a more accurate early gauge of what we might expect in the eighteen rounds ahead.

There was no better way to start a year than to have the Grand Finalists of 2024 face off in the season opener.

Reigning premier, Fish Creek, having kept the core of their premiership side unfurled their flag and went about their business in a workmanlike manner.

Yinnar were desperate to make a statement after last year's Grand Final loss and there would be no better way than to do it in front of the Kangaroos crowd.

The Magpies in an expected tough contest did the job nicely with a ten-point win, 11-9-75 to Fish Creek 9-11-65.

"Great way to start the season with a win away from home in what was a physical game with plenty of changes in momentum," said Sam McCulloch, Yinnar coach.

"Fish Creek were on top early with a number of inside 50s in which we

By Rob Popplestone

were able to defend well. We managed to get our brand of footy going as the game wore on and gave ourselves a handy lead at halftime.

"The most pleasing aspect of our performance was the way we were able to steady late in the game when Fish Creek were coming at us."

It was a dream start for the Magpies as they begin their quest to right some wrongs from the season prior, but Yinnar are under no illusions as to the work required in the weeks ahead as to are their weekend opponents and reigning premiers Fish Creek.

"It was a really hard-fought contest, and expected nothing less," Jarrad Walker, Fish Creek coach stated.

"A few momentum swings throughout the day with the wind slightly favouring the creek end. Really proud of our boys for sticking at it and almost stealing it at the end, positives with a few first gamers as well. Some polish and game style proved too strong in the end so credit to Yinnar."

"Bye next week for us so a few weeks off to regroup and iron out a few deficiencies."

Make no mistake, the Kangaroos will be a force in 2025, but they also understand that they are also the "hunted" and every side they face will be a dangerous proposition.



Soaring high in the contest for Fish Creek Lachlan Gale looks eyes on the ball. Photo: Bek Morgan.

Tigers start season on the right foot against Hill End

By Rover

MIRBOO North met its first challenge of season 2025 with an inspiring 36-point victory over Hill End, at picturesque Willow Grove on Saturday.

With no flags flying from a vast collection of flagpoles, it was hard to decipher in which direction the ever-so-gentle breeze was blowing.

Could this, perhaps, have been a ploy by newly-appointed Hill End coach Adrian Burns?

Mirboo North wore black armbands in memory of John Mercer, its former player and junior coach, following his passing early last month.

The mighty Tigers opened brightly and looked the goods early, with three unanswered goals on the board after 18 minutes of play.

Skipper Hudson Kerr, Jesse Chila and rover, Harry Mahoney repeatedly drove Mirboo North forward, whilst Beau Peters was impassable in defence for the Tigers.

A couple of second-term majors by the home side and another from Kerr, saw Mirboo North taking a 13-point advantage into the long break.

The third quarter began well for the Hillmen, courtesy of a lovely high mark



Mirboo North seniors Hudson Kerr celebrates a first win with son Navy. Photo: Annie Holland.

by Seth Conway in the goal square, that reduced Hill End's deficit to seven points.

A minute later, Riley Oddy's clever dribble kick restored Mirboo North's lead to 13 points, before Nic James slammed through Hill End's fifth major.

With the Hillmen gaining momentum

and their supporters cheering loudly, there were fears Mirboo North might be experiencing a Carlton-like second-half fadeout.

However, any concerns were quickly averted, when the Tigers converted three set shots in three blistering minutes of frenetic football.

First came Josh Taylor's long bomb from just outside 50 and the other two were delivered by 16-year old first senior gamer, Clancy Snell, after strong marks from perfect passes.

Suddenly, Mirboo North was 27 points in front and the Hillmen had gone from looking for a teammate to searching for a lifeline.

Hill End began the last term with a major from Bailey Paul, but after that, there was no more scoring by the Hillmen.

The Tigers' tails were up and most of the action was in their forward half, with two closing goals coming from Oddy, that lifted his tally to three for the afternoon.

Best performers for Hill End included Calway with two goals, Liam Cumiskey, Harry Moore and Jesse Burns.

Mirboo North heads to Boolarra this Saturday to tackle the Demons, who are coming off an exciting three-point home win over Stony Creek.

MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE LADDERS

SENIORS	W	L	%	pts
Mirboo North	1	0	209.09	4
Hill End	1	0	187.88	4
Newborough	1	0	147.27	4
Tarwin	1	0	140.63	4
Yinnar	1	0	115.38	4
Boolarra	1	0	104.92	4
Foster	0	0	0.00	4
Stony Creek	0	1	95.31	0
Fish Creek	0	1	86.67	0
Toora	0	1	71.11	0
MDU	0	1	67.90	0
Morwell East	0	1	53.23	0
Hill End	0	1	47.83	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Troy Harley (Tarwin) 5
Jack Robinson (Newborough) 4
Kane Grinstead-Jones (Yinnar) 4

RESERVES	W	L	%	pts
Morwell East	1	0	3900.00	4
Yinnar	1	0	740.00	4
Stony Creek	1	0	310.71	4
MDU	1	0	264.00	4
Hill End	1	0	170.21	4
Tarwin	1	0	131.11	4
Foster	0	0	0.00	4
Toora	0	1	76.27	0
Mirboo North	0	1	58.75	0
Newborough	0	1	37.88	0
Boolarra	0	1	32.18	0
Fish Creek	0	1	13.51	0
Thorpdale	0	1	2.56	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Jarryd Garlick (Yinnar) 13
Dylan Cooper (Morwell East) 5
Ethan Hubbard (Hill End) 5

THIRDS	W	L	%	pts
Yinnar	1	0	384.21	4
Hill End	1	0	150.00	4
Newborough	1	0	106.00	4
Tarwin	0	0	0.00	4
MDU	0	1	94.34	0
Mirboo North	0	1	66.67	0
Fish Creek	0	1	26.03	0
Stony Creek	0	0	0.00	0
Toora	0	0	0.00	0
Boolarra	0	0	0.00	0
Thorpdale	0	0	0.00	0
Morwell East	0	0	0.00	0
Foster	0	0	0.00	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Billy Durea (Yinnar) 6
Harvey McKay (Yinnar) 5
Harry Bugeja (Yinnar) 5

MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

RND 1

FISH CREEK FOOTBALL CLUB

65  **75**

FISH CREEK **YINNAR**

Fish Creek 2.4 3.5 7.10 9.11 (65)
Yinnar 1.3 6.4 8.4 11.9 (75)

GOALS, Fish Creek: Darcy Berryman 2, Thomas Cameron, Wilkie Edgelow, Jack Hayes, Reghan Lewis, Joseph Rysko, Josh Standfield, Luke Williams 1 each

BEST: Lachlan Gale, Luke Williams, Brodie Shaw, Jacob Kenny, Thomas Vuillermi, Sam McGannon

GOALS, Yinnar: Kane Grinstead-Jones 4, Josh Bugeja, Clancy Mills 2, Sebastian Famularo, William Robertson, Blake Van Der Meer 1 each

BEST: Patrick Kearns, Clancy Mills, Oliver McColl, Sebastian Famularo, Thomas Robertson, Nixon Hall

RESERVES
Fish Creek 1.1 2.1 2.2 3.2 (20)
Yinnar 2.11 9.16 12.22 20.28 (148)

GOALS, Fish Creek: Adam Bright, Oscar Bright, Bodhi Thomson 1 each

BEST: Levi Cocksedge, Liam Edgelow, Lucas Buckland, Owen Schnoor, Billy Boyd, Bradley Perks

GOALS, Yinnar: Jarryd Garlick 13, Noah McCafferty 2, Kyle Elphick, Cameron Le Page, Brandon Mahoney, Shane McColl, Michael Parker 1 each

BEST: Mitch Renwick, Jarryd Garlick, Noah McCafferty, Kyle Elphick, Ryan Mayo, Peter Duncan

THIRDS
Fish Creek 2.0 3.0 5.0 6.2 (38)
Yinnar 8.4 13.7 15.16 21.20 (146)

GOALS, Fish Creek: Jarrah Cicero, Lance Moon 2, Oscar Bright, Tom Taylor 1 each

BEST: Oscar Bright, Billy Boyd, Mason Thomson, Lance Moon, Aiden Bradley, Rye Cicero

GOALS, Yinnar: Billy Durea 6, Harry Bugeja, Harvey McKay 5, Hudson Berechree 2, Hudson McCulloch, Patrick Mills, Grady Ryan 1 each

BEST: Harry Bugeja, Blaze Ransom, Harvey McKay, Hudson Berechree, Hudson McCulloch, Billy Durea

MIRBOO NORTH FOOTBALL CLUB

33  **69**

HILL END **MIRBOO NORTH**

Hill End 0.0 2.1 4.2 5.3 (33)
Mirboo North 3.1 4.2 8.5 10.9 (69)

GOALS, Hill End: Seth Calway 2, Dane Fawcett, Nic James, Bayley Paul 1 each

BEST: Seth Calway, Liam Cumiskey, Harry Moore, Jesse Burns, Christopher Watts, Bayley Paul

GOALS, Mirboo Nth: Riley Oddy 3, Clancy Snell 2, Douglas Black, Joe Brooks, Hudson Kerr, Patrick Lewis, Joshua Taylor 1 each

BEST: Beau Peters, Jesse Chila, Hudson Kerr, Harrison Mahoney, Clancy Snell, Patrick Lewis

RESERVES
Hill End 4.1 8.5 10.7 12.8 (80)
Mirboo North 0.2 2.3 5.4 7.5 (47)

GOALS, Hill End: Ethan Hubbard 5, Tim Mackenlay 2, Ethan Calway, Jared Dworznik, Joshua Hammond, Adrian Law, Luke Ravenhorst 1 each

BEST: Ethan Hubbard, Joshua Hammond, Ethan Calway, Jake Schiavello, Jared Dworznik, Tim Mackenlay

GOALS, Mirboo Nth: Alex Windsor 2, Jordan Cummaudo, Ethan Hall, Tim McAllister, Tom McGrath, Trent Taylor 1 each

BEST: Jasan Hysen, Luke Gervasi, Ethan Hall, Xavier Spaul, Brett Killury, Alex Windsor

THIRDS
Hill End 2.0 5.4 5.7 8.12 (60)
Mirboo North 4.1 6.2 6.2 6.4 (40)

GOALS, Hill End: Darcy Paul, Dylan van der Stoep 2, Matthew Balfour, Angus Cooper, Xavier Pace, Hamish Phoenix 1 each

BEST: Hamish Phoenix, Adam Simpson, Darcy Paul, Matthew Balfour, Dylan van der Stoep, Bryson Stephens

GOALS, Mirboo Nth: Tobias McDuffie 3, Jonathan Conlan 2, Gus Rutjens 1

BEST: Ollie Mahoney, Zac Jones, Jonathan Conlan, Tom McGrath, Tobias McDuffie, Noah Jackson

IN OTHER GAMES...</p

ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE RESULTS

RND 1

POOWONG FOOTBALL CLUB


POOWONG 53 **YARRAGON** 103

Poowong 2.2 3.3 6.5 8.5 (53)
Yarragon 3.1 8.6 11.6 15.13 (103)

GOALS, Poowong: Conor Cunningham 5, Jett Blackwood, David Miller, Anthony Orsini 1 each

BEST: Conor Cunningham, Alex Henshall, Zac Gray, Joel Norton, Joseph Bisognin, Matthew Cozzio

GOALS, Yarragon: Braydon Preuss 4, Dylan Binzer, Brendan Hermann, Henry Tyers 2, Corey Binzer, Dan Clebney, Brett Coghill, Mitchell Jolly, Bradley Wadeson 1 each

BEST: Dean Kelly, Bradley Morgan, Bradley Wadeson, Dylan Binzer, Braydon Preuss, Brett Coghill
RESERVES
Poowong 2.1 2.1 2.3 2.3 (15)
Yarragon 5.2 14.6 18.11 24.19 (163)

GOALS, Poowong: Jack de Kock, Benjamin Farnsworth 1 each

BEST: Connor King, Daniel McDonald, Benjamin Schulz, Jack de Kock, Troy Nieuwerth, Bryce Townsend

GOALS, Yarragon: Rhys Fairlie 6, Kallym Canobie 4, Oliver Marek 3, Clayton Bawden, Chris Brook, Leroy Kidd 2, Luke Armstrong, Kristian Carroll, Mitchel Dubbeld, Jayden Fairlie, Teilor Woolford 1 each

BEST: Rhys Fairlie, Kallym Canobie, Jayden Fairlie, Clayton Bawden, Nate White, Lachlan McWhinney
THIRDS
Poowong 4.6 8.7 12.14 13.15 (93)
Yarragon 0.1 0.3 1.3 6.4 (40)

BEST, Poowong: Hayden Hessel, Josh Hall, Jett Blackwood, Cruze Deal, George Edwards, Nathan Halliday

BEST, Yarragon: Matthew Armstrong, Rhys McDonald-Flegg, Thomas Bastin, Cooper Healy, Corey Smith, Lenny Frost
FOURTHS
Poowong 1.2 6.7 7.10 11.11 (77)
Yarragon 1.3 1.4 2.4 3.6 (24)

BEST, Poowong: Kade Zealley, Lochie Wilson, Luke Nieuwerth, Cruze Deal, Lachie Moriarty, George Edwards

BEST, Yarragon: Corey Smith, Blake Boothman, Thomas Bastin, Rusty Axford, Mitchell Johnston, Ayden Frost

NYORA FOOTBALL CLUB


NYORA 59 **CATANI** 88

Nyora 5.1 6.3 6.3 9.5 (59)
Catani 1.6 5.9 9.12 12.16 (88)

GOALS, Nyora: Dylan Heylen, Callum McNiff 3, Paul Delaroche 2, Lachlan Roberts 1

BEST: Jesse Heylen, Callum McNiff, Dylan Heylen, Bradley Obrien, Tyler Hotchkin, Tyler Kirkbride

GOALS, Catani: Julian Suarez 5, Adam Splatt 3, Jack Hobson, Aaron Knight, Tyson Robinson, Joshua Stewart 1 each

BEST: Julian Suarez, Adam Splatt, Joshua Stewart, Riley McLeod, Tyson Robinson, Riley Miller
RESERVES
Nyora 0.1 0.2 0.4 2.5 (17)
Catani 3.1 6.3 8.6 13.9 (87)

GOALS, Nyora: Tyler Campbell, Tyler Dalgleish 1 each

BEST: Jye Shaw-Remy, Andrew Dike, Luke Forcutt, Luke Ferguson, Tane White, Trent Wheller

GOALS, Catani: Brad Adams 3, Jesse De Pasquale, Josh Miller, Nathaniel Rodda, Brandon Rose 2, Kaleb Anand, Ethan Guest 1 each

BEST: Cayden Kibblewhite, Jesse De Pasquale, Nathaniel Rodda, Brad Adams, William Kouris, Jaidyn Downie

IN OTHER GAMES...

SENIORS
Ellinbank 10.6.66 d **Buln Buln** 8.9.57
Neerim Sth 20.20.140 d **Nil-Darnum** 5.9.39

Trafalgar 27.12.174 d **Bunyip** 4.7.31

Longwarry 10.9.69 d **Lang Lang** 9.5.59
RESERVES
Ellinbank 19.12.126 d **Buln Buln** 1.3.9

Neerim Sth 20.15.135 d **Nil-Darnum** 1.1.7

Trafalgar 4.13.37 d **Bunyip** 5.6.36

Longwarry 5.5.35 d **Lang Lang** 4.7.31
THIRDS
Ellinbank 8.6.54 d **Buln Buln** 7.1.43

Nil-Darnum 6.5.41 d **Neerim Sth** 5.10.40

Trafalgar 12.11.83 d **Bunyip** 5.3.33

Lang Lang 7.10.52 d **Longwarry** 2.13.25
FOURTHS
Ellinbank 5.14.44 d **Buln Buln** 4.3.27

Neerim Sth 20.6.126 d **Nil-Darnum** 3.3.21

Bunyip 7.10.52 d **Trafalgar** 5.5.36

Lang Lang 9.10.64 d **Longwarry** 5.5.35

Poowong focuses on development

POOWONG'S young side was just five points adrift of Yarragon at quarter time, offering encouragement for the home fans at the Magpies' nest but the Panthers increasingly took charge as the day progressed, ultimately recording a 50-point win.

Ruckman Conor Cunningham was a shining light for the beaten team, making his presence felt up forward by booting five of the Magpies' eight goals and deservedly named his side's best.

Anthony Orsini, David Miller and Jett Blackwood were Poowong's other goal-kickers.

Given the departure of a large number of senior players, including ones filling key positions, this season's focus will be building on the experience of the Magpies' young brigade, such as Blackwood, Tom Burgess and Patrick Dorian.

Cunningham was the game's most prolific scorer, Yarragon vice captain Braydon Preuss booting four majors, the best return for his side.

Preuss was supported by a trio of Panthers who booted two goals each, those being Brendan Hermann, Henry Tyers and Dylan Binzer, with five players contributing single majors for winning team.

Dean Kelly was named Yarragon's best ahead of Brad Morgan and Brad Wadeson.

Poowong travels to Catani for Round 2, while the Panthers visit Lang Lang.

RIGHT: Anthony Orsini boots Poowong forward during its Senior contest with Yarragon, finishing with one goal. Photo: Jeff Tull.



Saints' bright beginning falters to Catani's second half efforts

IN A competitive clash, the Nyora Saints faced off against Catani Blues, ultimately falling short with a final score of 59 to 88 in favour of Catani, marking a 29-point victory for the Blues.

The match began with Nyora taking a solid lead, scoring 31 points to Catani's 12 in the first quarter. Dylan Heylen started off Nyora's run with the first goal inside four minutes. Followed three minutes later by Callum McNiff. Heylen, Lucas Lee and Jesse Heylen rounded out the first-quarter goals.

Catani mounted a strong comeback, evening the score at 39 points by halftime with Paul Delaroche adding Nyora's only goal in the quarter.

At the start of the third quarter, Catani's pressure intensified, extending their score to 66 while leaving Nyora stagnant at 39. Despite Nyora managing to add 20 points in the final quarter with goals by McNiff and Jordan Anderson, it wasn't enough to close the gap as Catani continued to score, sealing the win with 88 points.

After a disappointing season last year, Nyora showed inroads that will be interesting to watch as the season progresses.



Jordan Anderson launches the ball into Nyora's forward fifty.

ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE LADDERS

ROUND 1

SENIORS	W	L	%	pts	RESERVES	W	L	%	pts	THIRDS	W	L	%	MR	FOURTHS	W	L	%	MR
Trafalgar	1	0	561.29	4	Neerim South	1	0	1928.57	4	Trafalgar	1	0	251.52	100.0	Neerim South	1	0	600.00	100.0
Neerim	1	0	358.97	4	Ellinbank	1	0	1400.00	4	Poowong	1	0	232.50	100.0	Poowong	1	0	320.83	100.0
Yarragon	1	0	194.34	4	Yarragon	1	0	1086.67	4	Lang Lang	1	0	208.00	100.0	Lang Lang	1	0	182.86	100.0
Catani	1	0	149.15	4	Catani	1	0	511.76	4	Ellinbank	1	0	125.58	100.0	Ellinbank	1	0	162.96	100.0
Longwarry	1	0	116.95	4	Longwarry	1	0	112.90	4	Nilma Darnum	1	0	102.50	100.0	Nilma Darnum	1	0	144.44	100.0
Ellinbank	1	0	115.79	4	Trafalgar	1	0	102.78	4	Neerim South	0	1	97.56	0.00	Trafalgar	0	1	69.23	0.00
Buln Buln	0	1	86.36	0	Bunyip	0	1	97.30	0	Buln Buln	0	1	79.63	0.00	Buln Buln	0	1	61.36	0.00
Lang Lang	0	1	85.51	0	Lang Lang	0	1	88.57	0	Longwarry	0	1	48.08	0.00	Longwarry	0	1	54.69	0.00
Nyora	0	1	67.05	0	Nyora	0	1	19.54	0	Yarragon	0	1	43.01	0.00	Yarragon	0	1	31.17	0.00
Poowong	0	1	51.46	0	Poowong	0	1	9.20	0	Bunyip	0	1	39.76	0.00	Bunyip	0	1	16.67	0.00
Nilma Darnum	0	1	27.86	0	Buln Buln	0	1	7.14	0	Catani	0	0	0.00	0.00	Catani	0	0	0.00	0.00
Bunyip	0	1	17.82	0	Nilma Darnum	0	1	5.19	0	Nyora	0	0	0.00	0.00	Nyora	0	0	0.00	0.00
LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS				
Danny Brewster (Trafalgar)					Rhys Fairlie (Yarragon)					Cruze Deal (Poowong Magpies)					Dylan Strating (Neerim South)				
Isaac Caroleo (Trafalgar)					Jason Wells (Longwarry)					Jake Christian (Neerim South)					Cruze Deal (Poowong)				

Warragul holds off Wonthaggi in thriller

A SHANNON Bray inspired second quarter surge had Wonthaggi right in the hunt after a slow start, Power trailing Warragul by just a point at halftime after being 45 points adrift at the first break, but the Gulls ultimately prevailed by a behind.

Wonthaggi's only score against the wind for the opening term was a set shot behind to Cooper McInnes after the quarter-time siren.

Bray lined up in the ruck at the start of the second stanza, immediately asserting his presence, winning a free and driving Power forward, then laying a tackle to keep the ball in Wonthaggi's forward line, setting up a goal for his skipper Josh Bates.

While Bray wasn't having it all his own way against Sam Whibley in the ruck, he continued to create opportunities for Wonthaggi teammates, lifting his side in the process.

Bates soon slotted another goal in general play, following Noah Anderson's snapped major, Wonthaggi charging back into the contest.

Bray continued his hard work, willing to battle at ground level when required.

Highlights included winning



Straight off the bench, Jye Gilmour hunts the ball for Wonthaggi. B77_1425

a holding the ball decision in the centre to drive Power into attack and a solo effort in which he won the ball out of the ruck, burst clear and goalled on the run.

The pressure applied by Wonthaggi lifted noticeably in the second term, at times forcing Warragul to handball excessively.

Five minutes into the third term, Vinnie Caia snapped a Warragul goal, its first major

since the opening quarter, the Gulls going on to register five goals to one for the stanza, McInnes' shot on the run the highlight for Power.

While Wonthaggi was just a goal adrift well into time on in the third term, Warragul booted a trio of majors in quick succession, charging to the final break with a four-goal advantage.

Despite holding Warragul scoreless for the remainder

of the game, Wonthaggi was unable to find a winning goal as the Gulls' defence held on stoically, Luke Garner's tackle to stop Hunter Tiziani when he threatened up forward for Power just one example of Warragul's tenacity.

A snapped Power goal 28 minutes in cut the margin to just a couple of points, but the home side managed only a behind from there despite some frantic scrambling near goal.

Bray was unsurprisingly named the beaten side's best, Jye Gilmour and skipper Bates a couple of other noteworthy performers.

Isaac Wallace impressed for victorious Warragul, including snapping a sharp first quarter goal, Tom Hobbs named next best for the Gulls ahead of tenacious pair James Harrison and Tom Stern.

Bates topped Power's goal kicking with three, Jai Williams managing a couple, while Caia, Keenan Boi, Stern and Brayden Fowler each booted two majors for Warragul.

Wonthaggi will look to bounce back when it visits Maffra Recreation Reserve in round two, while Warragul is sure to be hungry for more success when it hosts Morwell.

Leongatha too strong for reigning Premiers



The Heppell brothers were in fine form on Saturday.

LEONGATHA gained a small measure of revenge winning a lacklustre Grand Final rematch against Traralgon by 17 points, the Parrots in control for most of the game but having to withstand a challenge from the Maroons late in the third term and early in the last.

A healthy home crowd savoured the unfurling of Traralgon's 2024 flag but their side was a long way off the form it showed in last year's decider. Leongatha was also not consistently at its best but delivered strong patches and made far less mistakes.

Traralgon's three late goals in the third term set the stage for a dramatic finish, but Leongatha responded promptly in the last with a Jenson Garnham major.

However, Traralgon wasn't done yet, with Harvey Neocleous fortunate to get away with playing on near goal but being tackled high, goaling from the resultant free, skipper Tye Hourigan marking strongly shortly after and booting a major.

That closed the margin to just 10 points, both sides then squandering chances to goal before the Heppell brothers, playing their first game together, combined well into time on to ensure a Leongatha win.

Dyson passed to Aaron who was the beneficiary of a 50-metre penalty, making no mistake with his set shot.

Leongatha's ability to be the better side for most of the match and its marking superiority inside the forward 50 arcs were keys to the Parrots coming out on top.

After booting over 100 goals for Buln Buln in 2024, Patrick Ireland started his time at Leongatha brightly proving a strong presence and nailing a couple of

majors, that output matched by Garnham and Jack Hume.

During a bye round for his VFL side Port Melbourne, Dyson Heppell had 27 disposals, 19 kicks, eight handballs, three marks, two clearances and a couple of inside 50s.

It was a handy contribution for a player whose coach, Trent McMicking, emphatically declared during the week would not feature in the game.

"He won't play this week, that's for sure," McMicking told

the Sentinel-Times, also declaring he was uncertain whether Dyson Heppell would represent the Parrots this season.

"Somehow Traralgon have one-upped us; they've got him speaking at their president's lunch," he added.

Dyson's brother Aaron made a handy return after spending last season overseas, notching 24 disposals, while Tom Marrott found more of the ball after a quiet first quarter to finish with 23 disposals.

"I'm pretty sore," Aaron told the TRFM crew after the game.

Asked about Dyson's availability for Leongatha later in the season, Aaron noted Port Melbourne has byes to come but it will depend on Dyson's body.

He also brought into question Dyson's commitment to the Borough.

"Depending how Port Melbourne are travelling later in the year, if they're a finals chance he'll probably stay there but if it looks like they're not going to play finals, he'll probably sneak back for us a bit more," Aaron said.

Leongatha will enter its round two home game against Sale with confidence, while Traralgon looks to bounce back when it visits Moe.

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE LADDERS

SENIORS	W	L	%	pts
Morwell	1	0	267.92	4
Moe	1	0	207.14	4
Leongatha	1	0	135.42	4
Maffra	1	0	112.82	4
Warragul	1	0	101.30	4
Wonthaggi	0	1	98.72	0
Sale	0	1	88.64	0
Traralgon	0	1	73.85	0
Bairnsdale	0	1	48.28	0
Drouin	0	1	37.32	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Leigh Poholke (Moe) 5

RESERVES	W	L	%	pts
Morwell	1	0	13400.0	4
Moe	1	0	305.88	4
Maffra	1	0	200.00	4
Wonthaggi	1	0	190.32	4
Leongatha	1	0	131.43	4
Traralgon	0	1	76.09	0
Sale	0	1	50.00	0
Warragul	0	1	52.54	0
Bairnsdale	0	1	32.69	0
Drouin	0	1	0.75	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Jesse Maximiw (Morwell) 5

Tom Davey (Wonthaggi) 4

Brendan Holt (Moe) 4

THIRDS	W	L	%	pts
Drouin	1	0	3833.33	4
Warragul	1	0	471.43	4
Moe	1	0	282.61	4
Maffra	1	0	235.71	4
Leongatha	1	0	110.00	4
Traralgon	0	1	90.91	0
Sale	0	1	42.42	0
Bairnsdale	0	1	35.38	0
Wonthaggi	0	1	21.21	0
Morwell	0	1	2.61	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Rylee Baker (Drouin) 9

Rory Nettle (Warragul) 4

Wil Ruthberg (Maffra) 3

FOURTHS	W	L	%	pts
Traralgon	1	0	1557.14	4
Maffra	1	0	217.86	4
Warragul	1	0	157.45	4
Morwell	1	0	150.00	4
Bairnsdale	1	0	101.72	4
Moe	0	1	98.31	0
Drouin	0	1	66.67	0
Wonthaggi	0	1	63.51	0
Sale	0	1	45.90	0
Leongatha	0	1	6.42	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Lucas Nicholls (Traralgon) 4

Fraser Aubrey (Warragul) 4

Leongatha 3

ROUND 1

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

RND 1

LEONGATHA FOOTBALL CLUB

48



65

TRARALGON

LEONGATHA

Traralgon

Leongatha

0.2

2.3

5.4

7.6

(48)

9.11

(65)

GOALS, Traralgon: Harvey Neocleous 2, Connor Ambler, Campbell Booth, Sammy Hallyburton, Tye Hourigan, Kade Ruyters 1 each

BEST: Luis D'Angelo, Tye Hourigan, Hugh Dunbar, Connor Ambler, Mitchell Mustoe, Thomas McMahon

GOALS, Leongatha: Jenson Garnham, Jack Hume, Patrick Ireland 2, Luke Bowman, Ty Hall, Dyson Heppell 1 each

BEST: Kim Drew, Thomas Marriott, Patrick Ireland, Timothy Sauvarin, Dyson Heppell, Hayden Lindsay

RESERVES

Traralgon

Leongatha

2.2

3.3

5.5

5.5

(35)

Leongatha

1.0

3.5

4.5

6.10

(46)

GOALS, Traralgon: Goanar Ruach 2, Ben Cheetham, Oliver Haberl, Jarn Macumber 1 each

BEST: Alex Lovison, Ben Cheetham

Hartley Wells
Betta
Leongatha
www.hartleywells.com
Phone: 5662 2930

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

Tooradin-Dalmore 11.12.78 d Cora Lynn 7.12.54

Kilcunda Bass 23.12.150 d Korumburra Bena 8.6.54

Warragul Industrials 13.10.88 d Garfield 12.8.80

Koo Wee Rup 10.10.70 d Dalyston 9.6.60

Nar Nar Goon 17.18.120 d Phillip Island 7.11.53

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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION RESULTS **RND 1**

KORUMBURRA BENA FOOTBALL CLUB

KILCUNDA BASS FOOTBALL CLUB

54 **150**

KORUMBURRA BENA

KILCUNDA BASS

Kor-Bena 1.0 4.3 4.3 8.6 (54)
Kilcunda Bass 6.6 11.6 19.9 23.12 (150)

GOALS, Kor-Bena: Nicholas Besley 3, Kodie Walker 2, Codie Anderson, Jayden Deas, Jake Fowles 1 each

BEST: Kyle Brown, Jayden Deas, Byron Walker, Aidan Simmons, Josh Hopkins, Kye Benson

GOALS, K-Bass: Trent Cartmel, Brody Connolly, Nathan Foote, Dean McRae, Travis Tuck 3, Ned Bradley, Jed Rosenow 2, Darcy Clay, Angus

McGillivray, Jack Rosenow, Joseph West 1 each

BEST: Nathan Foote, Travis Tuck, Darcy Clay, Dean McRae, Steven Scott, Trent Cartmel

RESERVES

Kor-Bena 0.2 0.3 2.4 5.6 (36)
Kilcunda Bass 3.3 4.4 8.5 10.8 (68)

GOALS, Kor-Bena: Jasper Macri 2, Bailey Fowles, Jake Kelly, Hayden Simcock 1 each

BEST: Rhys Dixon, Lachlan Smith, Tarkyn Walker, Bailey Fowles

GOALS, K-Bass: Sam Dickinson, Travis Stuckey 2, Adam Banks, Brodie Gude, Jack Hosking, Kyle McGregor, Jonathon Rocatas, Brodie Simpson 1 each

BEST: Sam Dickinson, Travis Stuckey, Lachlan Burns, Brodie Gude, Jonathon Rocatas, Dylan Susic

FOURTHS

Kor-Bena 1.2 2.3 4.4 4.4 (28)
Kilcunda Bass 3.0 3.2 6.3 7.3 (45)

GOALS, Kor-Bena: Billie Wrigley 2, Tyler Dole, Phoenix Lorkin 1 each

BEST: Evan Belvedere, Jayden Douglas, Phoenix Lorkin, Kaiden DeGrandi, Dallas Walker, Braedyn Swain

GOALS, K-Bass: Harvey Leary 5, Cooper Brown, Blake Eden 1 each

BEST: Harvey Leary, Blake Eden, Charlie Burgess, Perry McKay, Angus Oats

THIS WEEKEND'S DRAW

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

ELLINBANK ROUND 2

Neerim South v Buln Buln
Ellinbank v Bunyip
Trafalgar v Nilma Darnum
Longwarry v Nyora
Yarragon v Lang Lang
Catani v Poowong

GIPPSLAND ROUND 2

Maffra v Wonthaggi
Leongatha v Sale
Warragul v Morwell
Drouin v Bairnsdale
Moe v Traralgon

MID GIPPSLAND ROUND 2

Boolarra v Mirboo North
Foster v Newborough
MDU v Thorpdale
Morwell East v Hill End
Tarwin v Stony Creek
Yinnar v Toora
Fish Creek - BYE

WEST GIPPSLAND ROUND 2

Nar Nar Goon v Dalyston
Garfield v Phillip Island
Inverloch-K v Kor-Bena
Tooradin-Dal v Koo Wee Rup
Kilcunda Bass v Warragul Ind
Cora Lynn - BYE

Panthers storm to 96 point victory



Trent Cartmel handballs in front of Hugh Gordon in the Kilcunda Bass forward line during the first quarter of Saturday's match. Photos: Anna Carson



Travis Tuck runs down Aidan Simmons, and applies the tackle to win the ball for Kilcunda Bass.



Owen Thomas breaks through the pack in an attempt to move the ball forward for Kilcunda Bass.

IT WAS a strong start to the season for Kilcunda Bass Football Netball Club, with all footy sides claiming the four points.

The Panthers travelled to the Korumburra Showgrounds ready to take on whatever the Giants had to throw at them, and the Seniors came away with a 96-point win.

The ground was in top condition, and the weather was perfect for footy.

A slight breeze favoured one end but did not make a significant difference.

Kilcunda Bass kicked with the wind in the first quarter and got the start it wanted.

It took the boys a bit of adjusting to the new faces in the lineup, which showed as Korumburra got the first few centre-bounce clearances.

Some of the new faces included Brody Connolly, Trent Cartmel and returning player Ned Bradley.

With a few midfield rotations as well, Kilcunda Bass looked to be a whole new team at certain times.

However, within 10 minutes, Kilcunda Bass found itself back on track and managed to get four goals to one clear.

This saw the Panthers' game liven up, which made for a larger break before the quarter time siren.

Kilcunda Bass went into the second quarter anticipating whether it would still be able to score without the wind advantage.

Though a little tougher, Kilcunda Bass still managed to hit its targets and took the opportunity to work on its defensive game.

The Panthers looked strong down back, with some great systems in place.

Steven and Lachie Scott made a great partnership, and Lleyton Cartmel showed he is growing in confidence.

Gavin Boyd, another new player to the club, also proved to be a new asset in the backline.

Although the Giants had rallied and put three goals on the scoreboard, the Panthers were comfortable with where they were heading into the halftime break, having kicked five.

The third quarter is what the Panthers have been training for all preseason and proved they had gotten themselves fit enough to take on the challenge.

With the added benefit of the breeze, this third quarter has upped the confidence in the boys for all third quarters to come.

They found the adrenaline they needed and brought the

energy Panthers fans had seen during the recent practice matches.

Darcy Clay played one of his best games for the club, growing with confidence and reliably arriving on the scene on the wing.

Trent Cartmel still has two years of U18s left in him, but the time and effort that has been put into his game paid dividends on the weekend and has started a great campaign for him for the rest of the season.

The Panthers went into the last quarter with eight more goals on the board, leaving the Giants scoreless.

Both teams dug deep and continued to fight, but the Panthers had successfully won the day.

For Korumburra-Bena, the best players were Kyle Brown, Jayden Deas, Byron Walker, Aidan Simmons, Josh Hopkins and Kye Benson.

Kilcunda-Bass will play Warragul at home next weekend.

It is hard to gauge how this match will go.

Warragul also enjoyed a win in round one, but a rivalry is bound to shine through this weekend, as Kilcunda Bass took Warragul's spot in the top six last season.

The Panthers will head back to training this week and are confident they are up for the challenge.

Korumburra-Bena has another challenge ahead, set to face Inverloch-Kongwak in the Sea Eagles' first game of the season.

Magpies' nemesis strikes again

CELEBRATING the 10-year reunion of their undefeated 2015 Senior Premiership team, Dalyston Recreation Reserve was a hive of activity for the season opener. Holding high hopes of improvement after a solid pre-season the Magpies hosted traditional opponents Koo Wee Rup for their round one contest.

Kicking into the wind in the first term Dalyston looked fluent with their ball use. Kyle Kirk and Mitch Hallahan were in everything early while the mercurial Hayden Wallace proved his worth slotting the first two goals to set the Magpies into gear.

The Demons answered later with majors to Muratore and Matt Voss to close the margin to a single point at the first bell.

The contest escalated early in the second term with the ball pinging from end to end.

Magpie back flanker Fraser West had the crowd on their feet after slotting a goal and further goals to Carew and Wallace kept the vibe alive. The home team's pressure acts were causing turnovers with Ben Lewis and Joe Alexander rallying the back line to repel many Koo Wee Rup forays.

Matt Voss snuck one back against the tide but Wallace completed the winning quarter nailing

his fourth.

The Demons having knocked over Dalyston comfortably in the previous couple of years were not prepared to lie down. Once again, they proved to be up to the challenge. Trailing by 20 points at half-time Koo Wee Rup turned the game with a four-goal third term.

Bateman and Glen were providing plenty of drive allowing Muratore, Nathan Voss and Tim Miller to score majors and their efforts levelled the scores at the final break.

With the game in the balance, the visitors struck first on resumption with two goals to Miller handing his team a 13-point buffer.

Magpie recruit Cale Love-Linay iced a Wallace pinpoint pass to give the Pies a sniff which was countered by Muratore splitting the middle from the boundary 50 metres out.

With the clock heading into time-on O'Toole converted a late one but Dalyston's determined efforts to reel in the deficit were all in vain and Koo Wee Rup recorded a creditable ten-point victory.

Both sides will have their mettle tested in round two. Dalyston face Nar Nar Goon as they unfurl their 2024 Premiership flag and the Demons line up against Tooradin Dalmore.



Hayden Wallace lays a tackle for Dalyston during its close match against Koo Wee Rup. Photo: Angus Chisholm.

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION RESULTS

RND 1

PHILLIP ISLAND FOOTBALL CLUB



53



120

PHILLIP ISLAND

NAR NAR GOON

Phillip Island 3.1 3.3 6.8 7.11 (53)

Nar Nar Goon 3.1 11.9 13.10 17.18 (120)

GOALS, P-Island: Billy Taylor 3, Jack Taylor 2, Jay Ladson, Cameron Pedersen, Jaymie Youle 1 each

BEST: Coby Olarenshaw, Cooper Walton, Daniel Pearce, Mikka Paulsen, Jaymie Youle, Jay Ladson

GOALS, NNG: Private player 3, Trent Armour, Jacob Keyser, Kyle O'Sullivan 2, Jake Blackwood, Harrison Brain, Matthew Gentile, Jake Smith, Jed Smith, Dermott Yawney 1 each

BEST: Nate Pipicelli, Aidan Pipicelli, Luke Bettio, Kyle O'Sullivan, Trent Armour

RESERVES

Phillip Island 7.5 (47)

Nar Nar Goon 8.11 (59)

GOALS, P-Island: Brady Ross 4, Nick Anderson 2, Jack Opitz 1

BEST: Brady Ross, Oliver Hibbert, Henry Peppard, Blake Thompson, Thomas Niven, Jack Huther

GOALS, NNG: Cooper Pursell 3, Nicholas Bransgrove, Lachlan Graham, Euan Grierson, Jack Murphy, Harrison Waters 1 each

BEST: Lachlan Graham, Cooper Pursell, Chace Parker, Ethan Douglas, Max McGreal, Thomas Nicholls

THIRDS

Phillip Island 2.4 3.6 4.8 7.9 (51)

Nar Nar Goon 3.0 4.3 8.4 8.4 (52)

GOALS, P-Island: J Cashman, O Duggan 2, B Murphy, C O'Garey, C Wilson 1 each

BEST: Archie Ross, Jeremy Kelly, Charles O'Garey, Benjamin Chihotski, Oliver Duggan, Isaac Savona

GOALS, NNG: Z Ferguson, T Millar 2, M Cross, B Radosavljevic, A Shorey, J Spoad 1 each

BEST: Archer Shorey, Mitchell Varty, Cooper Becker, Oliver Ratten, Ryan Fox, Blaine Attard

FOURTHS

Phillip Island 1.1 2.1 4.3 6.3 (39)

Nar Nar Goon 2.1 6.1 6.3 8.4 (52)

GOALS, P-Island: S O'Garey 3, F Bathgate, E Rhee, O Tuchtan 1 each

BEST: A Williams, S O'Garey, F Bathgate, H Power, E Rhee, J Mascaro

GOALS, NNG: E Loomes 4, T Holland, M Mathews, M Robinson, T Trang 1 each

BEST: F Stephens, A Patterson, T Holland, J Hall, F Shorey, C Hamilton

DALYSTON FOOTBALL CLUB



60



70

DALYSTON

KOO WEE RUP

Dalyston 2.3 6.5 7.6 9.6 (60)

Koo Wee Rup 2.2 3.3 7.6 10.10 (70)

GOALS, Dalyston: Hayden Wallis 4, Blake Carew 2, Cale Love-Linay, Brady O'Toole 1 each

BEST: Ben Lewis, Joe Alexander, Kyle Hutchison, Hayden Wallis, Fraser West, Mitch Hallahan

GOALS, KWR: Timothy Miller, Nathan Muratore 3, Matthew Voss, Nathan Voss 2

BEST: Mitchell Cammarano, Nathan Voss, Timothy Miller, Ethan McDonald, Joshua S Bateman, Thomas Glen

RESERVES

Dalyston 1.1 1.2 2.2 2.3 (15)

Koo Wee Rup 3.0 6.1 10.5 13.7 (85)

GOALS, Dalyston: names

BEST: Troy Alford, Wayne Luke, Robert Davey, Shannon Coldebelli, Owen Luff, Edward Wines

GOALS, KWR: Matthew Cameron 4, John Ramos 3, Mitch Alderson, Matthew Drommel, Brodie Grace, Bayley Tytler, Ryan Wilby, Jonah Wright 1 each

BEST: Brodie Grace, John Ramos, Troy Miller, Cooper Arthur, Matthew Cameron

THIRDS

Dalyston 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.4 (4)

Koo Wee Rup 6.1 6.7 8.9 9.13 (67)

BEST, Dalyston: J Robinson, M Toler, H Howell, C Shepherd, M Cameron, C Connell

GOALS, KWR: K Dore-Wilson, K Galucho 2, L Briganti, B Hobson, S Lawler, L Pirotta, B Robson 1 each

BEST: L Pirotta, S Lawler, M Monckton, M Simpson, L Briganti, K Galucho

FOURTHS

Dalyston 2.5 (17)

Koo Wee Rup 7.10 (52)

GOALS, Dalyston: H Bell, A Benetti 1 each

BEST: Finn McNally, Jack Howell, Zack Hughes, Riley Pickard, Archie Moore, Hamish Bell

GOALS, KWR: H Monckton, J Wood 2, K Bertone, N Cuthbertson, D Jeremiejczyk 1 each

BEST: S Giles, Z Ducasse, H Monckton, J Wood, S Filarski, K Bertone

IN OTHER GAMES...

SENIORS

Tooradin-Dal 11.12.78 d Cora Lynn 7.12.54

Warragul Ind 13.10.88 d Garfield 12.8.80

RESERVES

Cora Lynn 6.2.38 d Tooradin-Dal 4.8.32

Garfield 6.1.0.46 d Warragul Ind 3.2.20

THIRDS

Tooradin-Dal 14.11.95 d Cora Lynn 4.2.26

Warragul Ind 6.8.44 d Garfield 4.6.30

FOURTHS

Warragul Ind 31.18.204 d Garfield 1.0.6

Tough start for Bulldogs in grand final replay



Max Walton eyes off the Sherrin as he competes with his Nar Nar Goon opponent. Photos: Carol Ratcliff.



Mikka Paulsen in the ruck supported by fellow Bulldogs Hayden Bruce and Jaymie Youle.

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION LADDERS

ROUND 1

SENIORS

W L % pts

Kilcunda Bass 1 0 277.78

Nar Nar Goon 1 0 226.42

Tooradin-Dal 1 0 144.44

Koo Wee Rup 1 0 116.67

Warragul Ind 1 0 110.00

Garfield 0 1 90.91

Dalyston 0 1 85.71

Cora Lynn 0 1 69.23

Phillip Island 0 1 44.17

Kor-Bena 0 1 36.00

Inverloch-K 0 0 0.00

RESERVES

W L % pts

Koo Wee Rup 1 0 566.67

Garfield 1 0 230.00

Kilcunda Bass 1 0 188.89

Nar Nar Goon 1 0 125.53

Cora Lynn 1 0 118.75

Tooradin-Dal 0 1 84.21

Phillip Island 0 1 79.66

Kor-Bena 0 1 52.94

Warragul Ind 0 1 43.48

Dalyston 0 1 17.65

Inverloch-K 0 0 0.00

THIRDS

W L % pts av

Koo Wee Rup 1 0 1675.0 4.00

Tooradin-Dal 1 0 365.38 4.00

Warragul Ind 1 0 146.67 4.00

Nar Nar Goon 1 0 101.96 4.00

Phillip Island 0 1 98.08 0.00

Garfield 0 1 68.18 0.00

Cora Lynn 0 1 27.37 0.00

Dalyston 0 1 5.97 0.00

Inverloch-K 0 0 0.00 0.00

Kor-Bena 0 0 0.00 0.00

Kilcunda-Bass 0 0 0.00 0.00

FOURTHS

W L % pts av

Warragul Ind 1 0 3400.0 4.00

Koo Wee Rup 1 0 305.88 4.00

Tough start for Bulldogs in grand final replay

IT WAS a tough start to the season for the Kennel losing every single game in the first round, on the field and on the courts.

Despite a competitive opening, Phillip Island's senior footballers were ultimately overrun by Nar Nar Goon on Saturday, falling by 67 points in front of a home crowd at Cowes Recreation Reserve. The final scoreline of 17.18 (120) to 7.11 (53) didn't quite tell the full story of a game that saw the Bulldogs match their opponents early before Nar Nar Goon totally ran away.

The first quarter was a genuine arm-wrestle, with both teams heading into the break locked at 3.1 (19) apiece. Phillip Island looked sharp, with strong ball movement and solid efforts from experienced heads and promising youngsters alike. Billy Taylor, Jack Taylor, and Jaymie Youle all slotted goals to keep Island in touch, while Cameron Pedersen added a composed finish to round out the term.

However, the second quarter proved costly. Nar Nar Goon shifted gears, piling on eight goals to zero as they seized control of the match. Phillip Island struggled to win clearances and maintain structure behind the ball, allowing the visitors to break through and score with regularity. The

Bulldogs were kept goalless for the term and managed only two behinds, going into halftime trailing by 54 points.

To their credit, the young Island side showed resilience in the third term. Billy Taylor kicked truly twice, and with Jay Ladson and others hitting the scoreboard, the Bulldogs managed three goals to two and cut into the margin.

Unfortunately, the momentum didn't carry into the final term. Nar Nar Goon reasserted their dominance, kicking another four goals to finish the match strongly, while Phillip Island could only manage one more through Taylor - his third for the afternoon.

Best players for the Bulldogs included Coby Olarenshaw, Cooper Walton, Daniel Pearce, Mikka Paulsen, Jaymie Youle and Jay Ladson.

It was a tough day overall for the club, with Phillip Island losing every football and netball match across all grades. The Under 18s suffered a heartbreaking one-point loss in a spirited performance that typified the day - full of effort, but not quite enough to secure the win.

With many young guns gaining experience, the Bulldogs remain optimistic as they build towards a more consistent season.



Mark Griffin is tackled from behind.
Photo: Carol Ratcliff.

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