



The fishing continued all weekend at the treacherous Punchbowl Rocks despite Friday's tragedy with some fishermen wearing lifejackets and others not, including these rock fishermen on Monday afternoon.

DANGER IGNORED

Police call off search, but Punch Bowl fishing goes on

POLICE have called off the search for a 41-year-old Chinese national after he was swept off rocks at the treacherous Punchbowl Coastal Reserve on Good Friday.

After recalling the police airwing at lunchtime on Monday, after four days of aerial surveillance, authorities declared the man "missing at sea".

Police will prepare a report for the Coroner following the death of the missing man's wife, a 37-year-old Chinese national from Pakenham.

The married couple, who share a child,

By Michael Giles

were on working visas from China, and visiting the Phillip Island area with a group of seven people.

Emergency services were called to a beach off Punch Bowl Road about 8.30am on Friday, April 18 after reports two women and a man had been washed off rocks and were in the water.

Reportedly, the trio weren't wearing lifejackets despite being present at a designated high-risk rock fishing location, in

an unfortunate anomaly which mandates the use of compliant lifejackets by those actively fishing only.

One of the women managed to make her way back to shore but the other woman and her husband were unable to do the same.

A search of the water was conducted with the Police Air Wing locating an unresponsive woman in the water. She was brought back to shore but could not be revived.

Continued page 3



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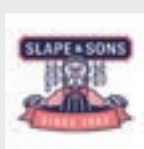
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Police call off search, but Punch Bowl fishing goes on

From page 1

The woman who did make it back to shore was transferred to the Wonthaggi Hospital but has since been discharged.

Police initiated a major search operation during the day on Friday, with three helicopters involved including police, Ambulance Victoria and the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service. Other emergency services were also engaged including the SES, jet skis and volunteers from the Woolamai Beach SLSC, the Victoria Police dive team, part of its Search and Rescue Squad (SAR) and Fisheries officers.

The search continued on Saturday, Sunday and Monday before being officially called off around lunchtime on Monday.

Speaking to the Herald Sun on Sunday, Wonthaggi Acting Inspector Jason Hullick said it was unlikely the missing man would be found alive and the response had moved to a recovery phase.

"You never want to give up hope but the operation is probably now transitioning into a recovery phase," said Acting Inspector Hullick.

"But unfortunately at this stage, there are still no sightings. We have got his last-known description so we are also looking for particular items, clothing and footwear, things like that."

He said authorities had done



The search for the missing man was called off around lunchtime on Monday and the Police Air Wing returned to Melbourne after being deployed to the San Remo area for four days over the Easter weekend.

some modelling on currents and tides but weren't totally relying on it for the search based on past experience.

The death at San Remo contributed to the worst spate of coastal drownings at Easter in history with seven people dead and two missing across New South Wales and Victoria.

Lifesavers say the combination of hot weather, high coastal swells and increased beach activity has contributed to the tragic record.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead expressed sorrow at the devastating news on Saturday.

"Our hearts go out to the family and friends of those in-

involved in this terrible incident. This is an unimaginable loss, and on behalf of Council and the wider Bass Coast community, I offer our heartfelt condolences during this incredibly difficult time."

While the message at the entrance to the George Bass Walk, at the end of Punch Bowl Road, is clear, "life jackets required to keep you safe" in multiple languages, the sign goes on to say "you must wear a lifejacket when rock fishing at this location".

There has also been little or no general publicity given to the continuation of the life-jacket mandate at all rock platforms along the 40-kilo-

metre stretch of coastline between Point Nepean and West Head near Flinders and existing zones at Pyramid Rocks on Phillip Island, Artillery Rocks (west of Lorne), Sheoak Falls (south of Lorne) and Cape Bridgewater (near the blowholes car park).

High-risk zones at Punchbowl Rocks and Potters Hill Road, near San Remo were also extended to include all rock platforms between Bore Beach and Kilcunda.

Despite Friday's tragic incident, rock fishing at Punchbowl Rocks continued throughout the busy Easter weekend with some fishermen wearing lifejackets while other fishermen and onlookers on the rock shelf were clearly not.

Punchbowl Rocks has been the scene of regular drownings over the years.

However, there was also an incident at Kilcunda last Friday when a local swimmer got into difficulty and needed to be rescued by a surfer. At the weekend, police said the unrecorded efforts of surfers and off-duty surf lifesavers to intervene may be obscuring an even more serious problem with water safety in the local area. There have been 32 drownings in Bass Coast waters in the past decade including six last year.

The couple's child at the centre of Friday's drowning has since returned to China to be cared for by extended family.

Patterson murder trial starts next week

THE Supreme Court of Victoria is finalising arrangements for the trial of the Crown versus Erin Patterson, to begin on Tuesday, April 29 at Morwell.

The trial is expected to run five days a week for up to six weeks and there continues to be significant media interest in the case.

Erin Patterson, 50, of Leongatha has been charged with the murder of three family members and the attempted murder of two others, including her estranged husband, Simon, following a lunch at her home on July 29, 2023. She has always maintained her innocence.

Tourism boost for South Gippsland

MINISTER for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos announced last week the successful recipients of the Regional Tourism Investment Fund 2024.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale has congratulated the three successful recipients.

The grants of between \$100,000 and \$5 million will support new and innovative tourism infrastructure projects designed to attract more visitors to Victoria's regions delivered through three grant streams – small-scale projects, large-scale projects and accommodation uplift.

Phillip Island Winery (small-scale) will use its funding to replace and enhance the existing cellar door restaurant, which will increase capacity, improve functionality, and enhance accessibility and connectivity throughout the venue. The project also seeks to build on the winery's already established reputation by elevating the cellar door restaurant offering within an inclusive landscaped environment that complements the natural amenity of Phillip Island, Milawul.

"Our region is such a stunning part of Victoria, and projects like this go towards supporting local establishments to elevate and accentuate their offerings, which benefits the local economy, boosts tourism and creates jobs," said Ms Crugnale.

Other recipients include Silverwater Resort (large-scale) who will use their funding towards conference accommodation, providing 16 innovatively designed three-bedroom apartments that can be converted into 32 separate apartments to suit consumer demand.

"It enables us to cater to the larger residential conferences and bring those to region," Silverwater General Manager Adam Glass said. "It's fantastic for us and the region."

The RACV Inverloch Resort (large-scale) will use its funding to build an additional 36 guest rooms with associated car parking, relocate an existing two-bedroom self-contained villa, and construct a new wastewater retention storage system. Building upon the success of the RACV's 4.5-star Inverloch Resort, the project proposes enhancements to diversify and supplement the current accommodation offering.

Wear your badge with pride this ANZAC Friday



THERE'S still time to support the ANZAC Day Appeal by purchasing a badge or donating online in the lead up to the annual observances this Friday, April 25.

The ANZAC Appeal continues to support veterans and their families in their time of need.

It provides vital funds to the RSL to enable them to continue to deliver life-changing support to our veterans with health and wellbeing support by connecting with veterans through the RSL, helping veterans to submit claims to DVA, through financial support, suicide prevention and mental health support, and family support.

This year, there have been a lot of competing issues around ANZAC Day from the Federal

Election to the Easter break, Royal Children's Hospital Appeal and events overseas.

But there's a clear run now for you to get out and buy a badge or to go online and support our veterans through the ANZAC Appeal at anzacappeal.com.au.

Turn to page 22 for our Anzac Day feature.

LEFT: Sue Dibley of the Phillip Island RSL volunteered at the ANZAC Appeal stand outside the San Remo IGA over the busy Easter weekend, selling ANZAC badges, hats and other fundraising items. Wear your ANZAC badge with pride and support the veterans this Friday, ANZAC Day, April 25.

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CONTENTS

Entertainment	35
Real Estate	37-41
Puzzles	42
Farming	43-45
Trades & Services	46-47
Classifieds	48-49

FEATURES

ANZAC Day	22-27
Footy Tipping	60-61

CONTACT

WONTHAGGI OFFICE:	47 McBride, Avenue, Wonthaggi, VIC, 3995
HOURS:	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
PHONE:	(03) 5672 1888
LEONGATHA OFFICE:	36 McCartin Street, Leongatha, VIC, 3953
EMAIL:	EDITORIAL & LETTERS news@sgst.com.au
	ADVERTISING ads@sgst.com.au
	ACCOUNTS accounts@sgst.com.au
MANAGING DIRECTOR:	Michael Giles michael@sgst.com.au
OPERATIONS MANAGER:	Jim Akers jim@sgst.com.au
ADVERTISING MANAGER:	Holly McMaster holly@sgst.com.au
EDITOR:	Chloe Kent
JOURNALISTS:	Andrew Paloczi Bruce Wardley Courtney O'Brien Nicole May Tayla Kershaw

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6 Day
Weather
Forecast

SOUTH
GIPPSLAND

WED Apr 23	THUR Apr 24	FRI Apr 25	SAT Apr 26	SUN Apr 27	MON Apr 28
Mostly sunny. Wind AM: E 25-35km/h Wind PM: E 25-35km/h	Mostly sunny. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: N 15-25km/h	Showers easing. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: W-NW 15-20km/h	Possible shower. Wind AM: SW 15-20km/h Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h	Shower or two. Wind AM: NW 15-20km/h Wind PM: W-SW 15-25km/h	Shower or two. Wind AM: SW 15-20km/h Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h
12° 23°	12° 26°	14° 22°	13° 19°	10° 20°	9° 18°

IN BRIEF

Detox Your Home is on again in Wonthaggi

REGISTRATIONS are now open for this year's Bass Coast Shire Detox Your Home event. Held on Saturday, June 7 at Wonthaggi Transfer Station from 9am to 1pm, this event is an opportunity to dispose of any household chemicals and pesticides that aren't usually accepted at transfer stations or in kerbside bins – and it's free of charge.

Toxic household chemicals, such as cleaning products, pool chemicals, pesticides and herbicides can be disposed of during the event. For a full list of what is accepted visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/detox-your-home.

Bookings are essential. To register to dispose of your household chemicals at the event visit: eventbrite.com.au/e/detox-your-home-wonthaggi-registration-1081477140239.

Community consultation central focus of inquiry

COMMUNITY consultation practices across Victoria are in focus as part of a new parliamentary inquiry, looking at how state and local government, statutory authorities and essential service providers consult with communities.

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee will also look at the use of non-government providers to conduct consultations on behalf of government agencies.

"Decision-making is always made better through community engagement and consultation, and how that consultation balances different needs and interests is vital," Committee Chair Ryan Batchelor said.

"We're intending to examine current consultation practices, see if there are any particular groups or regions who have less of a chance to participate in consultation activities, and whether there are any options to improve their level of engagement."

Standards of conduct,

including preparedness for community consultation and the use and effectiveness of the Engage Victoria platform are also being reviewed by the Committee.

"If people can identify areas for improvement, this is a chance for them to have their say," Mr Batchelor said.

The Committee is encouraging public submissions to be made by Friday, 6 June 2025, at bit.ly/43VFHvq.

Wildlife road strike inquiry calls for submissions

GIPPSLANDERS can have their say as part of a new parliamentary inquiry into wildlife road strike. The Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee is taking public submissions until Friday, May 30, 2025.

The Committee is focussing on the capacity of legislation and regulation to monitor wildlife roadstrike, promote driver education and raise public awareness.

It is also examining the involvement, training and expenditure of paid and volunteer rescue and rehabilitative organisations and individuals, as well as any new and emerging technologies and infrastructure used to prevent roadstrikes.

"The overworked wildlife sector is burnt out and many volunteers are forced to work multiple jobs to self-fund their transport and rescue equipment in order to perform the work," committee chair Georgie Purcell said.

"This inquiry will seek ways to support retention and mitigate obvious failings on our road networks, as well as explore new technology, to keep both animals and motorists safe."

The inquiry's considering the impact of road strikes on Victorian motorists, including major trauma incidents and motor vehicle damage.

International efforts to decrease incidents of wildlife roadstrikes and current methods of data collection are being

looked at as well.

"There is a lot we can learn from experts both locally and internationally through this inquiry process," Ms Purcell said.

Submissions can be made at bit.ly/4jvA4Zb.

VFF encouraging locals to contact MPs to scrap unfair emergency services tax

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is encouraging local community members to contact their local Members of Parliament to demand they vote to scrap the Victorian Government's proposed new emergency services tax.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the unfair proposed tax hike has sparked unity among farmers, firefighters, regional councils, and Victoria's business community, who are all campaigning against the tax and calling for it to be dumped.

With the legislation yet to pass the Upper House and set to be revisited in the coming weeks, the VFF is calling on concerned Victorians to contact their local members and crossbench representatives to voice their opposition and demand a vote against the bill.

Further funding at Korumburra RSL

KORUMBURRA RSL received support to make further improvements to its building, securing a Veterans Capital Works Program grant through the State Government to be spent on internal painting and floor works.

President of the Sub Branch, David Jackson, said the first phase of the new paint job will be on display for Anzac Day, the walls being done in a light green shade and the ceiling white. The kitchen will be done later in air force blue.

The floor in the front section of the building will be sanded and given multiple coats of the same finish used in the back room.

"We're just going from

strength to strength," David said of the \$15,000 worth of improvements that follow previous revitalisation of the premises.

Previous work, also funded through the Veterans Capital Works Grant Program, included the replacement of rotting window frames and external painting.

Coalition promises to assist with local roads and infrastructure needs

SOUTH Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Councils can compete with other councils around Australia for roads and infrastructure funding should the Coalition succeed in forming Government following the Federal election.

\$1 billion annually would be committed to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

That would be split into \$500 million allotments for each of the two funding streams.

While the Resilience and Community Infrastructure Stream would be open to all councils, the Roads Stream would be targeted to regional councils, the latter earmarked to fix potholes and maintain and improve local roads.

"The Coalition is committed to working with local governments because we know the best outcomes are achieved when decisions are made at the community level," Federal leader of The Nationals David Littleproud said.

Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Senator Bridget McKenzie highlighted the poor state of regional roads and the negative impact on safety and the efficiency of freight movement.

The Coalition stated that the investment in local roads and infrastructure is part of its plans to build a stronger Australia, noting the creation of a \$20 billion Regional Australia Future Fund from which the yearly \$1 billion allocation will be derived.

Reid Street dustbowl not an option, they say

THE prospect of the Bass Coast Shire Council tearing up a relatively good bitumen road, in Reid Street, Rhyll, as early as next month, and leaving it as a dust bowl, likely for years before a solution could be found, was simply too much for the good people of Reid Street.

They got a petition up in the few short weeks after being advised of the shire's intentions in a shock letter on March 7, 2025, and at the 11th hour last Wednesday, with the unanimous support of councillors, they stopped the shire's unpopular roadworks in its tracks.

But the battle to save Reid Street's bitumen seal until a workable solution can be found has not been won.

At last Wednesday's council meeting, councillors voted to hold off on ripping up Reid Street while a report can be prepared by shire officers to be presented no later than the May 21 council meeting.

So, in theory, councillors could give the bulldozers the go-ahead in little more than a month's time.

Speaking after Wednesday's council meeting, resident of Reid Street Pam Doherty said affected property owners were generally pleased with the response from council, to hold off on ripping up the road surface, but remained concerned that if the road was returned to a gravel surface, it might become a health hazard for years before an acceptable solution was found.

"We want to hear what the alternatives are and to be given enough time to decide what we want to do," said Mrs Doherty.

And there was plenty of support coming from Island ward councillors during the meeting including Tracey Bell, Tim O'Brien and Ron Bauer.

Cr Bell moved the motion to hold off on any action until a report was presented to council.

"I feel there needs to be more clarity on timeframes and I look forward to officers working closely with residents so they can understand the options for what they can do and to give them time to consider these options and to get themselves organised."

Cr O'Brien went further



Reid Street Rhyll is the latest flash point in the drive by the Bass Coast Shire Council to reduce costs by ripping up dust suppressant seals on residential streets around the shire.

calling for a moratorium on removing the dust suppressant seals, not just in Reid Street, but right around the shire until the relative costs of the options were presented.

Streets where the shire is planning to rip up bitumen seals include:

- Outlook Drive, Cowes
- Scenic Drive, Cowes
- Bayview Drive, Cowes
- Park Lane, Cowes
- Maxwell Street, Cowes
- Queen Street, Wonthaggi and
- Reid Street, Rhyll

"I think this is of such contention that we need to have a moratorium on this activity. It's very difficult to explain to someone that the bitumen is being taken up outside their property in the name of progress and dust suppression. It makes no sense to a resident. And certainly makes little sense to us."

Island councillor Ron Bauer asked if it was true that the ripping up of the seal was imminent.

Manager Major Projects at Bass Coast Shire Council Damian Pendergast answered saying the action was being

taken in line with two approved council reports.

"Through you, Mayor. At the moment, we're doing an assessment. So, the notice of works that went out was to inform residents that the intention is to rip it up, as per the road management plan and the dust suppressant Council report that was approved. At the moment, we are just doing some further works with the residents in those areas."

But there is some doubt about whether the dust suppressant report was actually approved in open council.

At the March council meeting, details of informal meetings of council were tabled including a meeting on February 26, 2025, when matters discussed included "dust suppressant seal removal" but there's no indication a report was presented to council for approval.

The Sentinel-Times has asked council to clarify the matter.

Another Reid Street resident, Shane Dougherty, the head petitioner put a question to council about why parts of McIlwraith Road and Jansson Road had received kerb and channel



Recent pothole filling has improved the condition of Reid Street, Rhyll, but the shire council heard last Wednesday it can't afford to continue maintaining the bitumen surfaces of dust suppressant seals.

treatment at no expense and not Reid Street and how council could assist residents in providing a new primer seal.

The shire played a straight bat in response: "A special charge scheme would be required to facilitate an upgrade based on the current level of support indicated by property owners. Council will consider reprioritising street upgrades on the priority list of the Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement Policy 2024 if there is strong support from property owners to financially contribute."

The Reid Street petition reads as follows: "We the undersigned being the owners of properties addressed in the Council's letter of March 7, 2025, oppose the planned rehabilitation of Reid Street Rhyll. We seek postponement of these works to enable residents time to work with Council in formulating a maintenance or replacement strategy for the existing (long-standing) primer seal asphalt surface, which meets the required residential estate amenity of both locals and visitors to the region."

Farm differential rate drop in South Gippsland Shire

IN CONTRAST to Bass Coast Shire Council maintaining its differential rate for farmers at 80 per cent of the general rate, South Gippsland Shire Council has dropped the applicable rate for its primary producers from 70 per cent to 65 per cent.

"We recognise the financial strain that the Victorian Government's new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy will place on our community, particularly on the agricultural sector," council acknowledges, saying that prompted it to lower the farm differential rate to help alleviate the burden on farmers.

Leongatha South dairy farmer Ben Vagg expressed appreciation to council for making the change.

"Cost of business has gone up in general from all of our major inputs, so our feeds and our energy prices have gone through the roof and also our skilled contractors, so our machinery mechanics, all the local services in town have all gone up because their costs have gone up too, so any reduction is welcomed," he said.

Residential rates always remain at 100 per cent of the general rate.

Industrial and commercial rates in South Gippsland Shire currently remain at 105 per cent of the general rate.

Vacant residential land has dropped from 200 per cent to 150 per cent of the general rate.

This year's State Government imposed rate cap allows for a three per cent overall increase in rate revenue raised by Victorian councils, with the rate cap for the previous financial year set at 2.75 per cent.

Have you spotted a stolen Mazda?

POLICE are on the lookout for a vehicle stolen from Inverloch early Tuesday morning (April 22). It's understood the grey-blue Mazda CX5 was last seen around the Koonwarra area on Tuesday between 1.30pm-2pm. It's suspected a female offender in a black hoodie and black pants was behind the wheel.

Anyone with information contact Wonthaggi Police Station 5671 4100 or 000.

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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria





Cr Mat Morgan with John Tright chatting over coffee at the first Bass Coast Council meeting at Berninneit in Cowes.

37 more questions for Council

A TOTAL of 37 community questions were put to the Bass Coast Shire Council at its meeting in the Berninneit Cultural Centre in Cowes last Wednesday, April 16 on subjects as diverse as private street seals, replying to letters, the installation of seven Mondo batteries on Phillip Island and the possible application for a zoo.

On the issue of the development of a new zoo on Phillip Island, Reptile Encounters reportedly received \$113,742 from the Victorian Government's Enabling Tourism Fund 2024 to develop a master plan but council said last week that it has so far not received an application.

"Council is aware that the Victorian Government has provided funding through the Enabling Tourism Fund to Reptile Encounters to support the development of plans for a new state-of-the-art zoo based in the region. No planning application has been lodged..."

On the issue of council replying to letters, Louise Lyell, asked council if there was a policy on the time taken to respond to community letters, making the claim that ratepayers and residents regularly did not receive a reply.

Shire CEO Greg Box said within 10 days was the aim.

"Whilst there is no legal requirement, Council's Customer Charter states that customer requests must be responded to within 10 business days. Customers can log a request by contacting Council directly through the methods outlined on our website including by email, phone or a customer service centre. These requests are formally recorded and actioned."

There were plenty of other questions besides like what is council proposing to do with the Gap Road land they bought for \$800,000 a few years ago with the idea of relocating the transfer station out of Cowes and possibly putting a pump track there as well.

Answer: Nothing.

"There are currently no funds specifically allocated to the Gap Road land in the draft capital budget for the next four years. However, Council will consider adoption of the MTB/BMX/Pump delivery plan at its June Meeting. This plan currently includes Gap Road as a potential site. Revegetation of the site will also continue over the next four years."

For the answers to all community questions go to the Bass Coast Shire Council website 'council meetings' page.

Heated debate over lack of funding for Phillip Island Recreation Reserve

IT STARTED with a simple request at last month's Bass Coast Council for councillors to meet with the public for an informal coffee and a chat after each council meeting.

Council agreed and this month during the historic first Bass Coast Council meeting at Berninneit in Cowes councillors paused to have a cuppa with members of the public gallery.

The informal break came after an emotion-charged debate over what was claimed by Island Ward councillors to be inadequate funding for the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve in this month's draft council budget.

Cr Mat Morgan said the budget was not perfect and nor could it be, as federal and state governments were hiding under the table and cost shifting to local governments.

Island Ward councillor Cr O'Brien said he was disappointed and almost outraged that only \$250,000 could be found for the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve.

"I won't be told that we can only manage \$250,000 worth of work on the recreation reserve," said Cr O'Brien.

"It's preposterous, we must find more money for that project."

"We know this community has been waiting for 40 years and the best we can come up with after 40 years is \$250,000 and a driveway."

"We can't spend \$250,000 and then stop with our hands in our pockets."

"Let's get this underway with some real money."

Another Island Ward councillor Cr Ron Bauer said the budget had been crafted along a four year plan set by the last council, but this had been a problem as he believed there would be a different direction for the next four years.

"We should get back to basics, the four R's rates, roads, rubbish and recreation," said Cr Bauer.

Cr Bauer said he believed a new four- and 10-year plan should be adopted first so that council officers can be authorised to craft a budget for projects the current council wanted to achieve.

"The best example of this is the Cowes Recreation Reserve which has shot up the wish list from a 28-year hope to the



Graham Jolly with Cr Meg Edwards and Cr Jan Thompson meeting for a coffee and a chat during the council meeting at Berninneit in Cowes. B02_1625

most important priority for us Islanders.

"We are effectively frozen into a paltry \$250,000 for the next year when the allocation should be at least \$1 million," said Cr Bauer.

"This report will most probably be adopted but I wish to put on notice that I intend to move a motion that we hold a mini-budget as soon as the four- and 10-year plans are adopted so that we can move forward on the new four-year plan in this current year and not lose a whole year."

Bass Coast Shire is promising a three per cent cap on council rates next financial year if it gets ratepayer support for a budget deficit of \$1.56 million.

The draft 2025-26 budget forecasts a total operating income of \$113.4 million and total operating expenditure of \$115 million resulting in a budgeted operating deficit of \$1.56 million and an underlying deficit of \$10 million.

The draft Budget contains a \$3 million reduction in net borrowings with further reductions totalling \$3.3 million over the following three years.

Net debt is predicted to fall from 37.1 per cent to 23.6 per cent of rate revenue over four years.

Council plans to draw down its savings by reducing term investments from \$35 million to \$15 million to pay for intergenerational capital works and repayment of loans.

Council's future financial position however is predicted to remain sound with a cumulative four-year operating surplus of \$5.6 million.

A sharp increase in asset valuations for roads, pathways and open space assets with a corresponding significant increase in depreciation charges is blamed for the forecast underlying deficit of \$10 million.

Council said it has been impacted by a significant slowdown in the property market which had reduced growth in its rates base and income, as well as planning and development related fees and charges.

Rates and charges continue to provide the lion's share of council revenue coming in at \$81.5 million followed by grants and subsidies at \$19.3 million, fees and charges \$9.8 million, interest on investments \$1.7 million and transfers from reserves \$8.5 million.

Proposed major capital works provided for in the draft budget include the Cowes Streetscape Master Plan funded by \$3 million in external grants, waste management infrastructure \$6.3 million, the Bass Coast Climate Change Action Plan \$400,000, Wonthaggi to Inverloch Bike Path \$3.5 million, Cowes to Ventnor trail design \$220,000, renewal of rural roads including the Grantville-Glen Alvie road at \$2 million, urban roads renewal \$2.2 million, stormwater drainage \$1.2 million, Wonthaggi netball pavilion \$1.9 million and Bass Recreation Reserve netball pavilion \$2 million.

Bass Coast Council will continue to advocate for State and Federal government financial support for the delivery of major intergenerational capital projects such as art, cultural and heritage services at the Wonthaggi Union Community

Arts Centre and Berninneit costing \$2.5 million, play space renewal and upgrades across the shire \$340,000, renewal of the Inverloch community hub \$1 million, Old Wonthaggi Post Office \$1.1 million, Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre building \$900,000 and renewal of Powlett River pedestrian bridge.

Additional major initiatives provided for in the draft budget include the adoption and commencement of a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29, a review of council's Road Management Plan, \$250,000 for the preparation of a functional layout for the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve, implementation of a public art strategy, and detailed design work for the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Wonthaggi.

One of the fastest growing areas in regional Victoria population growth is forecast to continue to be an important driver of economic growth and demand for housing in Bass Coast with an estimated additional 10,000 homes needed over the next 15 years to accommodate an expanding population.

Based on the principle of linking housing supply with good access to jobs, services and infrastructure Wonthaggi will continue to be the major focus for growth in Bass Coast Shire while allowing for some infill development at Inverloch, Cowes, San Remo and Grantville.

Additional spending provided for in the draft budget includes \$50,000 for dog parks, \$50,000 for public art and artworks, and \$350,000 for the redevelopment of the old Wonthaggi Secondary College site.

The draft budget was adopted by council with Cr Bauer and Cr O'Brien voting against it.

A 28 day feedback period has been allowed from Thursday, April 17 until Wednesday, May 14, 2025, with three community engagement sessions.

The dates and times for the proposed community engagement sessions are Cowes: Wednesday, April 23, midday to 1pm, Inverloch: Tuesday, April 29, 10 am to midday, and Corinella: Thursday, May 8, 2pm to 4pm.

The relevant budget and fees and charges documents are available on Bass Coast Council's Engage Bass Coast website at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au.

2025-26 Draft Budget



Council has released its draft 2025-26 Budget for community consultation. The draft 2025-26 Budget is available to view at any of our Customer Service Centres or online at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26

How to provide your feedback

You can have your say by providing a submission:

- Visit engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26
- Send to basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au, drop in to one of our Customer Service Centres or post to Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi 3995.

You can also ask a question online at the link above and a response will be provided.

Submission close on **14 May 2025**. You can choose to have your submission heard by Council and if so you will be asked to present on 28 May 2025.

For more information visit engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26 or contact Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

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ME0211-V8

Broadbent exchanges preferences as voting starts

By Michael Giles

VOTING has started in the Federal Election for 2025 with the opening of early voting centres locally at Wonthaggi and Cowes on Tuesday this week.

However, a crucial blow had already been struck before Easter with the publication of the candidates 'How to Vote' cards featuring an effective exchange of preferences between former Liberal-turned-independent Russell Broadbent and the Liberals' Mary Aldred.

The disaffected incumbent, Mr Broadbent, who was passed over for preselection by his own party in November 2023 despite winning his seat for the Liberals 10 times in 13 elections, was widely expected to preference independent Deb Leonard ahead of his former party.

But in a deal believed to involve support from minor party candidates in exchange for Senate preferences, Mr Broadbent and Ms Aldred will both be recommending their own supporters give their local preferences to each other ahead of either Labor's Tully Fletcher and the other live chance in the race for Monash, Ms Leonard.

It's nothing personal. The Liberals are preferencing 'Teal' candidates second last, only ahead of the Greens' candidates, in other seats where Teal independents have a strong chance of winning including Zoe Daniel in Goldstein and Dr Monique Ryan in Kooyong, although in that hotly-contested seat the Liberals' Amelia Hamer is encouraging voters to put Ms Ryan fifth, D Vader (David not Darth) sixth and the Greens'



Voting has already started in the federal seat of Monash with two early voting centres opening in Wonthaggi and Cowes on Tuesday this week. The polling places will be open daily Monday to Saturday with the exception of ANZAC Day this Friday, April 25.

Jackie Carter seventh.

But the decision by Mr Broadbent and Ms Aldred to encourage their voters not to preference Ms Leonard could be crucial in the final analysis. Whichever one of Ms Aldred or Mr Broadbent gets the higher first preference vote and collects enough preferences along the way will get the benefit of conservative votes flowing their way in the count. Their decision to "gang up" on Ms Leonard may make her task of winning even harder.

Her path to victory may have to come through getting more votes than Labor's Tully Fletcher, a hard ask given the "rustied on"

first preference vote for Labor was almost 25 per cent in 2022.

Leaving that prospect open is Tully Fletcher's how to vote card where Deb Leonard will get the second preference of Labor voters if Mr Fletcher is ultimately counted out when the votes are tallied on election night. Russell Broadbent is number three on Tully Fletcher's recommendations, ahead of Legalise Cannabis Party candidate David O'Reilly, the Greens' Terence Steele and Mary Aldred in sixth.

Of course, how-to-vote cards are only a guide for voters. They can decide how to vote according to their own preferences.

Ms Leonard said this week that the how to vote card agreement reached between Mr Broadbent and Ms Aldred was an indication they were feeling threatened by her campaign.

"As a community Independent for Monash, I have made the decision not to do preference deals with other candidates or parties. I trust the voters of Monash to make up their own minds about how to number every box on their ballot according to their own judgment and values. You know our community the best," said Ms Leonard this week.

"My advice to voters is to put candidates you believe will

be the strongest voice for our region at the top of your ballot. Don't feel obliged to follow any 'How to Vote' cards handed out on election day – those often reflect murky deals cut by major parties.

"As your independent representative, my only loyalty is to the people of Monash. I aim to always be upfront and transparent, which is why I am making my position on preferences clear.

"In this election, the power is in your hands. I trust you to vote for candidates who will put our community first and deliver action on things we need like cost of living, healthcare, infrastructure and integrity," Ms Leonard said.

Voters in Monash must however number the boxes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 in order of their own preferences.

Early voting started Tuesday

All will be revealed with voters go to the polls, which started at 8.30am on Tuesday, April 22 when early voting centres opened.

You can vote at these locations from this Tuesday, May 22.

- Wonthaggi Senior Citizens Club, 46-50 Murray Street, Wonthaggi
- Phillip Island Masonic Lodge, 92 Church Street Cowes

Opening hours:

- Tuesday, April 22 – Thursday, April 24, 8.30am–5.30pm
- Saturday, April 26 - 9am–4pm
- Monday, April 28 – Thursday, May 1, 8.30 am–5.30pm
- Friday, May 2 8.30am–6pm

All early voting centres will be closed on Anzac Day, Friday, April 25.



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Email us: compounding@ourlocalpharmacy.com.au
Call us: 03 5662 2183
Visit us: 42 Bair St, Leongatha



Tough decisions ahead for South Gippsland Shire asset management



SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council's Draft Asset Plan 2025 to 2035 highlights the need for more detailed consideration of what approach council will take to managing the large building portfolio for which it has responsibility, including how it will downsize that portfolio.

Council has repeatedly stressed that the more than 400 buildings it has responsibility for is too substantial given the financial constraints under which it operates, noting the need for consolidation and sharing of facilities.

While that makes sense in an economic fashion, it is not easy to achieve as demonstrated by the ongoing and much-reported Korumburra Senior Citizens Club saga and that related to the town's Grow Lightly group, the impact on people adding complication to the equation.

The need for consolidation is driving initiatives such as the building of the Korumburra Community Hub and the current work being done to establish the

viability of creating a Leongatha Community Hub at the town's Memorial Hall that may incorporate a relocated library.

"We are creating a long-term investment plan for our assets to ensure they are fit for purpose, delivering necessary services that meet community expectations and are affordable to ratepayers," council's Interim CEO Allison Jones said.

She stressed that council wants to look at its portfolio and work out whether needs are being balanced across all of its communities and if buildings are being used to their full potential.

Council is focused on developing a Sustainable Building and Asset Management Strategy, expecting that extensive project to take a couple of years, with implementation of that strategy to follow.

A key focus for now is an assessment of assets council manages but doesn't own.

In due course, there'll be service reviews in relation to assets and further asset data collection, with a review of Asset Management Systems to be conducted.

LEFT: The South Gippsland Shire councillor group and Interim CEO Allison Jones celebrate the suite of draft plans available for public comment. A13_1625

Can't make it on Election Day?



If you can't vote on Saturday 3 May, you may be eligible to vote early.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required by law to vote.

So, if you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- vote early at an early voting centre, or
- apply for a postal vote.

If you're travelling, working or will be outside the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you can vote early.

To check early voting options and eligibility, visit aec.gov.au/early

Your vote will help shape Australia.



To learn more
aec.gov.au/early
13 23 26



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra.

Slashing frontline fisheries officers is a big mistake, they say

VICTORIA'S leading conservation, recreational and commercial fishing organisations have united to oppose the State Government's plan to axe fisheries officers. They are asking for an immediate reconsideration, warning that if they go ahead, the cuts pose significant threats to marine health, sustainable fish stocks and public safety on Victorian waters.

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFish), Seafood Industry Victoria and the Abalone Council Victoria anticipate devastating consequences if enforcement officers are reduced by two-thirds and replaced with 'engagement officers'.

"It's unprecedented for our groups to come together, but this alliance demonstrates the seriousness of the situation," said VNPA Nature Conservation Campaigner Shannon Hurley.

"We all agree that slashing frontline fisheries officers is a big mistake. When conservation groups and fishing interests stand together on an issue, the government should take notice.

"There is already a non-compliance rate of more than half in marine protected areas according to a statement released by the Community and Public Sector Union. If we cut the number of officers, people who fish illegally will likely feel even more confident breaking the laws without consequences," Ms Hurley said

Ben Scullin, executive officer from the peak body for Victorian recreational fishers, VRFish agrees, stating: "Further reducing fisheries enforcement just undermines sustainable fishing practices and will ultimately harm the experiences of over one million recreational fishers".

Representatives from the seafood sector have also voiced concerns. Seafood Industry Victoria and Abalone Council Victoria say reduced oversight of marine waters would likely result in increased illegal fishing and sales of seafood by parties without commercial licences.

The cuts to fisheries officers follow significant reductions across other nature protection agencies. Parks Victoria faces \$95 million in budget cuts and an estimated 100 job losses, while 33 staff have been cut from the Office of the Conservation Regulator.

"So many people depend on the health of our marine landscapes. You can't be serious about looking after it if you're cutting the frontline officers who work hard every day to protect it", Ms Hurley said.

The groups are calling for an immediate reconsideration of the proposed cuts.

Funding approval for Kongwak Avenue of Honour

THE KONGWAK Community Group (KCG) have applied for and received State Government funding for stage one of their project to protect and improve the trees in Kongwak's Avenue of Honour.

The grant will deliver \$30,000 to KCG, through the State Government's Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour 2024-25 grant program.

The application was driven primarily by Damien Backholer, member of KCG and owner and director of the Kongwak Butter Factory.

What is thought-provoking about Mr Backholer, steering this particular application, is that part of the planning application for the Butter Factory initially involved a proposal to cut a road between tree numbers two and three of the Avenue of Honour that was planted in 2005.

"We objected to that strenuously, based on the idea that it would probably kill those trees and also that it was disrespectful to our war dead," said one Kongwak local.

The proposal was subsequently rejected and the road was required to be moved to the end of the Avenue of Honour.

Nevertheless, stage one of the project reportedly seeks to undertake works to scope and develop reports and quotes to support stage two of the application.



Funding will seek to improve honour rolls, stop parking under the trees, install information panels, seating and landscaping.

Stage two of the project – which would be managed under a following funding round – seeks to improve tree health, inhibit parking under the trees, improve the honour rolls and potentially install explanatory panels, seating and undertake additional landscaping.

Ultimately, though, Mr Backholer said the money will go towards improving and protecting the trees and they do not endeavour to remove any from the Avenue.

"Unfortunately, we had an

arborist report done recently, and some of the more significant trees are in fair to poor health. So (we're) working with the arborist to look at what can be done to improve tree health."

The KCG also want to stop people parking under the trees when the Kongwak Market is open, on Sundays, which often draws large crowds.

"So, looking into measures that can be taken to permanently restrict parking along there," said Mr Backholer.

The group will be working with the South Gippsland Shire Council for the traffic engineering and design components of this, and approvals.

"It's more than just putting up bollards. You need to get approval to do works like that, in what is actually the VicRoads, road reserve. So, there'll be all the steps involved."

The group has already sought a report from Heritage Consultant, David Helms, who also completed one for the Butter Factory.

"He will be engaged to guide us on what can be done; and there'll also importantly, be engagement with local historians, or those that understand the history of the trees, descendants of individuals that the trees represent, and those named on the honour rolls, and also the broader Kongwak community," said Mr Backholer.

KCG will also seek to make improvements to the honour rolls for the two Avenues of Honour, telling the story of the history and the fallen soldiers that the trees represent through panels with added seating and landscaping for people to enjoy the Avenue.

KCG have until September of next year to complete stage one and according to Damien they plans to work in and with the government timelines for stage two funding and subsequent grant applications.

Strzelecki Citizens Assembly to meet again

THE Strzelecki Citizens Assembly is holding a meeting this Sunday, April 27, at Korumburra Scout Hall in Coleman Park to discuss the suite of South Gippsland Shire Council plans currently up for public comment. While council has already confirmed its Community Vision 2040 will remain unchanged following community consultation on that document, attendees at the Citizens Assembly gathering are encouraged to contribute their visions for the future of the shire.

Draft versions of the Budget, Council Plan and Asset Plan are among the documents community members can comment on until May 7.

The Strzelecki Citizens Assembly, the co-conveners of which include former councillor Andrew McEwen, states its aims are to:

- Have a strong articulate and effective voice for our Ward to our Ward councillors
- Advocate for a democratic, transparent and accountable council for the community

Mr McEwen has previously argued that despite all the community engagement efforts of council, not enough community members are currently getting involved in the process.

Sunday's session is scheduled to run from 2-5pm.

When the Sentinel-Times attended a previous Strzelecki Citizens Assembly meeting early this year, a mixture of opinions were heard regarding the importance of the organisation's existence. Some, such as Korumburra Senior Citizens Club president Janne Grenon were hopeful it will help get the views of community members across to council.

Active community member Terry Waycott, of the Korumburra Round Table, also attended the previous gathering but was unconvinced of the need for a Citizens Assembly, arguing that it is the role of elected councillors to represent the community, taking account of local views.

Cr Nathan Hersey has sent his apologies for Sunday's session noting a previous commitment, having being informed of the session after the date was set.

Year 7 Information and Open Morning



LEONGATHA
Secondary College

FRIDAY 2nd MAY - 9AM START

To begin in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC)
Students will assist with directions (as you arrive)

All Grade 4, 5 and 6 students and their families are warmly invited

SCAN ME





South Gippsland Shire Council News

South Gippsland Shire Pets Facebook Page

Reuniting pets with their owners and helping those without families find their forever home is something we at Council are extremely passionate about.

To help achieve this, a new Facebook page has been created called:
South Gippsland Shire Pets.

This provides a central space for the South Gippsland community to see:

- Lost animals
- Animals for adoption

through Council

- Successful adoptions
- Upcoming notifications such as registration renewals
- Handy tips for pet ownership

Head to the link below to take a look and like the page!
www.facebook.com/sgscpets

Don't forget that your pet registration renewals are due now!

Provide feedback on key Council plans



At the April Council Meeting key plans for South Gippsland were endorsed for community consultations. The suite of strategic documents will provide direction to Council and help to shape South Gippsland in-line with the aspirations of our local community, as outlined in the 2040 Community Vision.

To view the Draft Plans and provide your feedback, visit:
<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/provide-feedback-on-key-plans-for-south-gippsland>

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 May 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

IMPOUNDED VEHICLE - NOTICE OF SALE

Council impounded a silver 2005 Holden Sedan on 19 March 2025 in accordance with Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

Impounded from: Princes Street, Korumburra

Registration Number: UVM317

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

Offers marked "Abandoned Vehicle" and addressed to the Coordinator Community Safety are hereby invited for the purchase and removal from Council. Offers close at 2.00pm on 25 April 2025 and are to be either posted to South Gippsland Shire Council, Private Bag 4, Leongatha VIC 3953 or emailed to **council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au** on or before the said time and date.

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

The highest offer will not necessarily be accepted.

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)

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha
15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra
03 5662 9200
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Loch Resilience Project moves to next phase

LOCH residents are showing strong and growing support for the Loch Resilience Project, a local initiative focused on building practical, community-led solutions to energy, communication, and emergency challenges.

A successful project launch in February, saw 25 residents come together to share concerns, ideas, and priorities around the impacts of power and communication outages.

They also heard from Alison Skinner of the Venus Bay Energy Project, whose story inspired a discussion about what's possible when communities lead the way.

The project team held a community stall at the last Loch Village Market, hosted by the Strzelecki Lions Club.

Locals shared feedback, asked questions, and expressed interest in the project's next phase: a pair of open workshops in May where the community will help shape a long-term plan for Loch's resilience.

"We had some great conversations," said project co-lead Alona Charuvi, a university lecturer, science communicator, and Loch resident.

"People are thinking ahead about their kids, their neighbours, and what happens



Loch Resilience Project leaders Alona Charuvi and Karen Raabe with Strzelecki Lions Club Member Noel, who will be holding two workshops in May for the next phase of the project. ob02_1625

when the power and communication go out. It has affected everyone differently. It's clear that locals care deeply about making the Loch community and surrounding townships stronger and more resilient."

"Since the launch meeting, we've received support from residents, the Strzelecki Lions Club, and interest from community groups including the CFA and Loch Primary School. We all share the vision

of working together to build a plan that supports the current and future needs of our community," Alona said.

The project is funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Mycelia Renewables and supported by the Loch Community Development Association (LCDA).

Through upcoming workshops, small group sessions, and community surveys, the

group will deliver a draft community resilience plan that will guide the next steps needed to make Loch's resilience vision a reality.

Karen Raabe, a communications and engagement consultant who lives on a farm outside of the Loch township, also joined the team at the market to speak with residents and share information about the project.

"This is really about the Loch community shaping its own future," said Karen.

"We welcome everyone to come along, whether they live in Loch Village or the surrounding areas, and share what matters to them, and build something that reflects the needs of our whole community."

Everyone is welcome to attend upcoming workshops and RSVPs are appreciated to help with planning.

Workshop 1: How do we see Loch's resilience in the future? Will be held on Tuesday, May 13 from 6pm – 8.30pm at the Loch Town Hall.

Workshop 2: Co-designing ideas into reality, will be held on Sunday, May 23, from 1pm – 4pm at the Loch Memorial Reserve. There will be activities for kids so parents can join in.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling

HELLO South Gippsland.

Key plans released for South Gippsland

At last week's Council Meeting, a refreshed *Community Vision Review 2040* was adopted and six key plans for South Gippsland were released for community consultation. The plans include the draft *Council Plan 2025 – 2029* that will guide Council direction for the next four years, and the draft Budget that outlines how actions outlined in the Plan will be funded.

Other plans include the draft *Long Term Financial Plan*, the draft *Revenue and Rating Plan*, the draft Asset Plan and the draft *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan*. There's a lot of reading there, but I would strongly encourage everyone to jump on to Council's Your Say website to have a look and provide feedback.

Proposed renaming: Section of Speight Street, Loch

Also open for consultation is the proposed renaming of a section of Speight Street in Loch to Albert Road. The current naming is not consistent with the Naming Rules issued by *Geographic Names Victoria* – specifically that a name should be applied to a single, unobscured and unobstructed road that leads from a start point to an end point in a clear and logical manner. Feedback for both consultations can be provided via: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/>

Pedestrian Link Works: Korumburra

In more good news for Korumburra, work on a pedestrian link connecting Commercial and Little Commercial Streets has commenced. The new walkway will provide an easy connection to the Korumburra Community Hub and make it easier to access parking. The works are expected to be completed later this year.

Thank you

Thank you to Rob Murphy, Managing Director at South Gippsland Water for stopping by last week to provide an update to Council on their key projects. We value our close working relationships with organisations like South Gippsland Water. The closer we work together the better it is for our community.

Thanks also to Councillors Beach and Finlay who represented Council at the opening of two new art exhibitions at Coal Creek recently, and Deputy Mayor Gilligan for attending the Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association meeting over Easter.

As Councillors we love getting out and about in our local community and hearing about what is happening, so thank you for including us. I hope everyone had a lovely Easter and enjoyed spending time with friends and family. Please take care as we head into another long weekend this weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming Anzac Day commemorations.

Seize your chance to contribute to South Gippsland Shire planning

COMMUNITY members are invited to comment on South Gippsland Shire Council's Draft Budget 2025/26, councillors expressing pride in what the document contains, believing it provides what is possible within the financial constraints of rate capping and Government cost shifting.

The Budget records a modest \$3.713 million surplus but council acknowledges tough decisions lie ahead to maintain long-term sustainability.

The draft document also includes a \$21.656 million Capital Works Program.

People have until May 7 to comment on that document and a host of others, including the Draft Council Plan, Draft Rating and Revenue Plan, and Draft Asset Plan.

"It's a Budget that's just about keeping the lights on," Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan said, noting "There's not a lot extra we can do."

However, she spoke of a shift in focus to be more in line



Cr Sarah Gilligan spoke of a responsible Budget that does as much as possible within the financial constraints imposed on council. A08_1625

with the community and highlighted a new \$1.2 million reserve fund to respond to natural disasters and reduce risk.

"This investment is specifically aimed at creating a buffer to support the region's recovery efforts in the wake

of extreme weather events, which are becoming more frequent and severe," Mayor John Schelling and council's interim CEOs Allison Jones and Tony Peterson stated in the document.

Cr Nathan Hersey said that

in addition to rate capping and cost-shifting from higher levels of government, regional councils don't have the same opportunities to impose fees as metropolitan councils, further eroding income.

"We have to deliver more with less," he said of the challenge of striking the right balance with the Budget.

He noted decreased rates for agricultural land, through the differential process, and the fact there is more money in the Budget for community grants (\$20,000 extra), along with funding towards Nyora's future.

\$150,000 has been allocated to begin the process of implementing a developer contribution plan overlay in Nyora, requiring developers to contribute to the long-term infrastructure needs of the township.

Visit yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au to have your say on the Draft Budget and other council draft documents.

Hopes of reinstating public question time in South Gippsland Shire

COUNCILLOR John Kennedy wants to reinstate public question time so community members can put their queries directly to councillors in the council chamber.

He said during Wednesday's council meeting he is keen to see question sessions run for between an hour and an hour and a half.

"People like to ask questions and it would be great for the councillors and CEO to answer questions but it would have to be done in an orderly fashion," he said.

Cr Kennedy believes that the poor behaviour of some individuals in the past during public question time is probably what turned council off holding the sessions.

Those wanting to pose questions at public council meetings now have to submit the questions in writing before the meeting, with any not received early enough taken on notice for the next meeting.

"If everything was done in an orderly fashion, it would be great to have people here asking questions and getting real answers, and if we can't answer here we take them on notice," Cr Kennedy said.

While Cr Clare Williams didn't dismiss the possibility of reinstating public question time, she stressed that people need not wait for meetings to speak to councillors.

"Our phone numbers are on South Gippsland Shire's website and you can contact us at

any time; I like to say within business hours but I know one councillor that takes calls at any time, Cr Rae," she said.

Cr Williams explained that councillors will answer questions at the time if possible or put them through the system if required.

Councillors' email addresses are also available on council's website.

As for reinstating public question time, the latter stages of Wednesday's meeting didn't bode well with a couple of members of the public breaking protocol to disrupt the meeting, prompting Mayor John Schelling to request them to stop their interjections and offer to speak to them after the meeting.



South Gippsland Shire councillor John Kennedy is keen to reintroduce interaction between councillors and the public in the council chambers. A07_1625



Myli team member Shaun at Mirboo North Library.

Storytime and Baby Rhyme Time at Myli

THERE'S something magical about a room full of little voices singing together and picture books being brought to life. At Myli – My Community Library, this magic happens every week at Storytime and Baby Rhyme Time sessions in South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire.

Storytime sessions feature stories, songs and crafts that support early literacy and spark a love of reading from the very beginning. Baby Rhyme Time is designed especially for babies and toddlers, using rhythm, movement and song to build language and communication skills in a relaxed, supportive space.

Due to growing popularity, Myli offers a wide range of sessions across various days and times to make it easier for families to find a time that suits them best.

Monday: Families can enjoy Storytime at Korumburra at 10am and Wonthaggi at 10.30am. Baby Rhyme Time is also held at Korumburra on Mondays at 11am.

Tuesday: Baby Rhyme Time is available at Phillip Island and Inverloch, both starting at 10.30am. Additionally, Leongatha hosts a special Nighttime Storytime on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5.30pm.

Wednesday: Storytime is held at Inverloch at 10.30am.

Thursday: Storytime runs at Phillip Island at 10.30am, while Baby Rhyme Time is offered at Wonthaggi at 11am and Leongatha at 11.30am. Additionally, Mirboo North offers two Baby Rhyme Time sessions, one at 10.30am and another at 11.30am.

Friday: Storytime is available at Foster at 10.30am and Leongatha at 10.30am.

On the third Saturday of each month, Korumburra hosts a special Family Storytime session at 10.30am.

Bookings are not required, and all spaces are breastfeeding-friendly with baby change facilities available. Whether you're a regular or thinking about joining in for the first time, you'll always find a warm welcome at your local Myli library.

Whether you've got a baby, toddler or preschooler, come along and we'll take care of the rest!

To find out more about what's on at your local library, visit myli.org.au.

Start of a new era at Countrywide Clothing & Safety Supplies

WHILE looking forward to horse riding adventures and their hobby farm, Roly and Marianne Jones will miss the interaction and banter with customers at Countrywide Clothing and Safety Supplies but are delighted the business will continue under enthusiastic new owners.

Roly admits that after being in business for 49 years, initially exclusively on the road and then for a time combining that with the Korumburra store that has been running for about 30 years, it will take time to adjust to retirement but is looking forward to sleeping in until dawn.

Old-fashioned country service, a wide selection of goods and traditional store layout have kept customers returning, one even buying up as much as she can whenever she visits the area from Wales.

There'll be no major changes in approach, with new owners Steven and Michelle O'Neill set to make a few little tweaks but keep most things the same.

"We still want that country feel and service," Michelle said.

Roly remarked that the administrative side of the business is likely to change, saying he's a pen and paper man and "these guys know how to use a computer", joking that when he made a spelling



Marianne and Roly Jones welcome new owners Steven and Michelle O'Neill at Countrywide Clothing & Safety Supplies. A19_1625

mistake, he put whiteout on the screen.

It will be a different experience for the new owners, with Steven having sold the bus company he ran for 25 years, and Michelle having worked at VicRoads.

They have been learning the ropes from the old owners and the three staff members who will stay on.

While people enjoy excellent customer service and selecting from a range of items that includes safety equipment, workwear, boots, camping gear and even snakebite kits,

Roly's laid-back manner has also provided plenty of entertainment over the years.

"A lot of banter goes on; we get a lot from the city coming in here quite surprised a retailer can be jovial, and nothing's too much of a worry and if something's wrong you just fix it up," Roly said.

He expressed confidence Steven and Michelle will also ensure customers leave the shop happy.

Roly's fond memories include the now adult visitors to the store who have commented that they used to get

a day off school when Roly was coming to the family farm with his truck and array of interesting items.

He's continued to get out on the road doing deliveries, recalling that when he ran his mobile business he used to drive around most of Gippsland meeting many interesting people.

When Roly is asked to recall some of the funny moments that have happened in the store, Marianne chips in, "The funniest thing that happens here is you."

"When you're 60 plus there's no filter, within reason," Roly says when asked about those who are easily offended, noting you have to pick your mark.

It seems Steven and Michelle will have a bit to live up to in the entertainment stakes but their friendly nature suggests they'll be up to the task.

"The time has come for Marianne and me to make the most of the numbers left on the tape measure of life," Roly told customers in a letter announcing the couple's retirement.

They are looking forward to having time to catch up with friends and family and to taking a holiday down the track.

The thousands of loyal customers and most of the staff over the years are also greatly appreciated.

Vandalism rife in Korumburra and costing the community



Artistic merit is difficult to spot in this contribution to Korumburra's barbecue shelter, the town accounting for a concerning proportion of recent vandalism across South Gippsland Shire.

KORUMBURRA has recently accounted for a disproportionate share of vandalism repair costs incurred by South Gippsland Shire Council and ultimately ratepayers, that figure put at approximately 60 per cent of the shire-wide cost.

Council's Interim CEO Allison Jones revealed that in response to a public question at Wednesday's council meeting.

Ms Jones said it is estimated council has spent between \$30,000 and \$40,000 this financial year, after settlement of insurance claims, on repairs and cleaning up after incidents of vandalism across the municipality.

She also responded to a question on what strategies council has in place to

prevent vandalism, and whether or not new initiatives have been considered to reduce its associated costs.

"Council constructs new facilities in accordance with the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles aimed to reduce the risk of antisocial behaviour such as vandalism; additionally, council supports public art including murals, which are proven to reduce vandalism," Ms Jones said.

She noted council consistently reports vandalism to the police and provides collected evidence to help identify offenders.

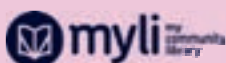
Korumburra's still new barbecue shelter and toilet facilities have already come under attack in the form of graffiti.

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Enjoy stories, songs and fun at Myli's free StoryTime and Baby Rhyme Time sessions – perfect for babies, toddlers and preschoolers!

Visit: myli.au/events for details.



Time now to 'Ride into the Sunset'

Roly and Marianne would like to thank all their valued customers and wonderful team, for their ongoing loyalty and support over the past 49 years.

Countrywide Clothing has been part of our lives for many decades and all of you have made our treasured memories of this time possible.

We wish you all good health, happiness and smiles as we say our very heartfelt goodbye.



131 Commercial St, Korumburra | 5655 1142
www.countrywideclothingandsafetysupplies.com

ME340

I'll represent *YOU*, *NOT* a party.

As our community's independent candidate,
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How to vote for Deb:

Place a **1** next to **Deb LEONARD**

Next, number **EVERY** other box from
2–9 in order of **YOUR PREFERENCE**

Electoral Division of Monash

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ONE NATION

☐ FLETCHER, Tully
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

☐ BROADBENT, Russell
INDEPENDENT

☐ ALDRED, Mary
LIBERAL

1 LEONARD, Deb
INDEPENDENT

☐ DETHLEFS, Geoff
FAMILY FIRST

☐ O'REILLY, David
LEGALISE CANNABIS PARTY

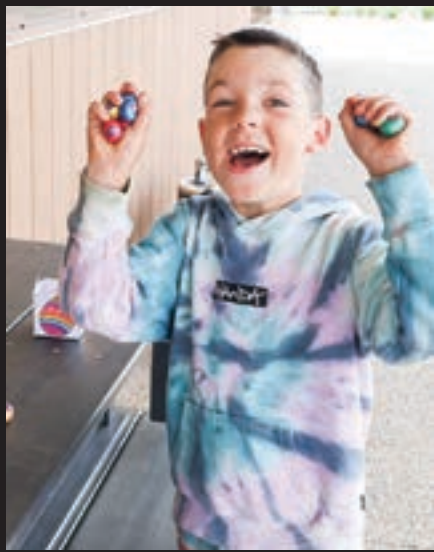
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THE GREENS

☐ WEHBE, Alex
TRUMPET OF PATRIOTS

Unlike other candidates, I won't tell you who to
preference, **your preferences are your own!**
Just make sure to number **EVERY** box,
or your vote won't count.

Deb **Vote 1**
Leonard
INDEPENDENT

Scholarships open for 2026



Grayson Upston, Year 1, proudly shows all the eggs he found.

A milestone Term 1 finish

STUDENTS at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's Drouin Campus celebrated the end of their milestone first term with a joyful Easter egg hunt.

The day began with a casual clothes day, where gold coin donations were collected to support the community's West Gippsland Hospital. For lunch, the students enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle, cooked for them by the Head of St Paul's Drouin Junior School, Rowan van Raay.

Following lunch, the students received a surprise treat from their caring educators – an Easter egg hunt held in the Early Learning Centre playground. Brimming with smiles and excitement, the Prep to Year 3 children eagerly filled their hand-decorated baskets with chocolate eggs.

This fun-filled celebration was a perfect way to mark the end of their first term at Drouin Campus – the newest addition to St Paul's.



Navy May, Prep, collects eggs in her easter basket.

NEWHAVEN College is proud to announce three scholarship opportunities for 2026, created for students who demonstrate outstanding ability across a range of areas. Receiving a scholarship offers students the chance to benefit from the College's exceptional educators and first-class facilities.

General Excellence Scholarship

Newhaven College is calling for applications for their General Excellence Scholarship for entry into the College in 2026. This will be awarded to applicants in Secondary School at any level who can demonstrate outstanding abilities in one or more of the following fields:

- Academic
- Sport
- Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Music)
- Leadership
- Community Involvement

General Excellence Scholarships are awarded based on application and interview.

Music Scholarship

Newhaven College is offering Music Scholarships to talented, passionate, and committed students – both new and current – who show strong musical potential. These scholarships are available to students entering Years 5, 7, 9, and 11 in 2026.

Music Scholarships include individual music tuition as well as reductions in academic tuition fees for the duration of the student's enrolment at Newhaven College, subject to satisfactory progress. The dedicated team of music teachers and tutors is committed to nurturing each student's individual talent, helping them grow and achieve their full musical potential.

Music is a vibrant part of life at Newhaven College. Throughout the year, students can participate in a wide range of musical events, including musical productions, concerts, evening soirees and performances. Individual musicians, choirs, bands and ensembles regularly perform at school assemblies, providing students the opportunity to perform for the school community.

Students who are passionate and dedicated to music and demonstrate strong musical potential are encouraged to apply. Enquiries regarding the Music Scholarship should



Newhaven College students Eden Hallas, Becky Heffer and Edward Lee enjoy the outdoors on campus.



Theodore Wilson participates in weekly violin lessons in Junior School

be directed to Matthew Goss, Head of Music on 5956 7505.

Peter Reith Scholarship

Established last year, the Peter Reith Scholarship is open to all students entering Year 10 or 11 in 2026. The scholarship is in recognition of Peter's extraordinary contribution to Newhaven College.

Peter Reith AM is widely recognised for his distinguished political career, notably serving as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party under Prime Minister John Howard. In the

mid-1970s, Peter envisioned a school founded on cooperation between all Christian denominations – one that valued academic excellence, embraced a global perspective on education, and maintained a deep commitment to community.

Due to Peter's determined efforts, along with a small number of committed volunteers, the school was opened in 1980. Peter is truly a founding father of Newhaven College.

The Peter Reith scholarship will be awarded to a student who, like Peter, strives to

make a positive difference in the world through their actions. Whilst exceptional academic performance is not necessarily required, an above-average academic performance is expected.

Applications open on Monday, April 21 and close on Monday, May 26, 2025.

Scholarship application information and forms can be found on Newhaven College's website, under Enrolments/Scholarships. All applications are to be submitted to the College Admissions team at admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au.



2026 Scholarships

Newhaven College is offering the following for entry in 2026:

- General Excellence Scholarship
- Music Scholarship
- Peter Reith Scholarship

To find out more visit our website or contact our Admissions Team on 03 5956 7505 or email admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

NEWHAVEN COLLEGE

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Why we're backing Mary Aldred at the Federal Election



Toni Wakefield
Local Business Owner

Businesses need a strong local voice and Mary's involvement at Comittee for Gippsland and the Franchise Council gives her the experience we need in Canberra.



Lee Sheehan
Kinder Teacher

Monash is a rapidly growing community and Mary understands how vital investment in our early childhood sector is. She'll fight for us.



Becky Blackwood
Small Business Owner

I've known Mary for years and she has always been a strong supporter of small business. She will always stand up for our region and the things we need.



Hamid Nowruzi
Chef

Mary has supported me from the beginning of my journey here in Australia, I wouldn't be where I am today without Mary.



Sallie Jones
Gippsland Jersey Founder

Mary genuinely understands the challenges farmers face, and her argricultural policy reflects the kind of practical, grassroots support our regional communities really need.



Rob Sinnett
Former Chair WGHG

Mary has been part of our fight for a new West Gippsland Hospital for more than a decade and she understands how vital it is for our community.



I'm committed to fighting every day for Monash.

Our community needs a strong voice who understands the issues facing our region.

From Longwarry to Moe, Warragul to Phillip Island, I'll make sure our community has the representation it deserves in Canberra.

With your support, we can give Monash the voice it deserves.



MARY ALDRED

LIBERAL FOR MONASH

(Small green ballot paper)

You must number every box.
Electoral Division of **Monash**



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 3 | ROBINSON, K |
| 6 | FLETCHER, T |
| 4 | BROADBENT, R |
| 1 | ALDRED, Mary
LIBERAL |
| 8 | LEONARD, D |
| 2 | DETHLEFS, G |
| 5 | O'REILLY, D |
| 9 | STEELE, T |
| 7 | WEHBE, A |

GPS backpacks for bush stone-curlews released on Phillip Island

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks (PINP) is thrilled to share that a further 24 bush stone-curlews have been released on Phillip Island (Milawul) – an incredible milestone for the recovery of this Critically Endangered species in Victoria. The project team led by General Manager Conservation at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Jessica McKelson, Senior Scientist at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Dr Duncan Sutherland, and Australian National University PhD candidate Paula Wasiak, travelled to Mt Rothwell Sanctuary last week to retrieve the bush stone-curlews, fit GPS backpacks and transport them safely to Phillip Island (Milawul).

The Nature Parks is grateful for the collaborative efforts of project partners the Odonata Foundation and The Australian National University (ANU), and support from the Penguin Foundation and our community for this landmark study to improve the long-term viability of the bush stone-curlew in south-eastern Australia.

The project team anticipates an increase in bird movement around the island as we now have a population of 33 wild birds. The bush stone-curlews may be observed along pathways and roads as they establish their new home ranges.

- You can help the bush stone-curlew reintroduction program by:
- Slowing down when driving – dusk to dawn is when birds are most active – remember that most of the birds can't fly yet.
 - Keep dogs on a leash and cats contained at all times.
 - Leave fallen logs on the ground for habitat.
 - Report sightings at the Victorian bush stone-curlews (Burhinus grallarius) · iNaturalist or via email to community@penguins.org.au.

Constables, cuppas and concerns

WONTHAGGI residents had the chance to enjoy a free cup of coffee and a conversation with local police on Wednesday, April 16, as part of the “Coffee with a Cop” community event held at the Wonthaggi Plaza.

Hosted in partnership between the Plaza and Victoria Police, the event gave locals a relaxed opportunity to speak directly with officers, ask questions, raise concerns, and simply get to know the faces behind the uniform.

Senior Constable Megan Krause, from the Proactive Policing Unit, was among the officers in attendance. Stationed outside the Plaza with a rather unique-looking police vehicle, she attracted plenty of curiosity from passers-by.

“The vehicle is a Polaris 4x4 Ranger Crew XP1000,” she explained.

“It's on loan from the snow-fields over summer and will return for the snow season. The Polaris is a great resource for Bass Coast and South Gippsland when responding to search and rescue, beach patrols, medical incidents and injuries, any difficult-to-reach places and, of course, community engagement.”

According to Senior Constable Krause, these “Coffee with a Cop” events are held around three times a year across Bass Coast and South Gippsland. She said the goal is to break down barriers between police and the community.

“It's very important that our community members see us as normal people with a job to do,” she said.



Senior Constable Megan Krause was happy to show off the Polaris 4x4 Ranger Crew XP1000 to curious passersby at the Wonthaggi Plaza. W01_1625

“We want people of all ages to feel confident enough to approach police with any enquiry or issue. To see police in this capacity is refreshing – instead of only seeing our members when we're responding to difficult jobs or tough situations in the community.”

While many attendees were keen to ask about the new Polaris, questions commonly raised at these events include how to report dangerous driving, ways to protect against online scams – especially for older residents – and general conversations about safety and policing.

“To be honest, most of the

time people just love to chat, catch up and have a laugh,” Senior Constable Krause added.

Police hope that events like this leave a lasting impression, building trust and improving communication between officers and the communities they serve.

“We'd love to think that these interactions give the community a clearer picture of their local police members who are protecting their towns and families,” she said.

“Community safety is the priority, and it's important to communicate information on any new resources and how we go about our business.”


The event proved very popular, with nearly 80 people stopping by to speak with officers throughout the hour-long session.

“We were overwhelmed with the turnout,” Krause said.

“It was great to see everyone – from young families to life-long locals – sharing stories.”

She also thanked those who helped make the day possible.

“A big thank you to Wonthaggi Plaza management for facilitating the event. The Plaza Café and staff for making so many great coffees, and of course, to our local community members and their families for coming out.”



KORUMBURRA SECONDARY COLLEGE

Grade 5 & 6 students
and their parents are invited to our

2026 Year 7
Information Night

Tuesday 29th April 2025

6.15pm—Arrive at the Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

The College Staff look forward to introducing you to the next phase of your education and will be showcasing the exciting academic program that is available at our College.

You will also receive valuable resources outlining the ethos and curriculum programs at our College.

We believe that Grade 5 students will also benefit from beginning to familiarise themselves with the Transition Process and are very welcome to attend.

Further enquiries can be directed to: Mr. Christopher Cronin - Middle School/Transition Coordinator on (03) 56 551566

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 | 17



PROMPT action for safer birthing care

GIPPSLAND Southern Health Service has been taking PROMPT action to ensure better and safer care for mothers and babies. Staff recently came together for one of GSHS's regular Practical Obstetric Multi-Professional Training (PROMPT) workshops at the Leongatha campus.

Clinical midwifery educator Linda Fiddelaers said the emphasis was on multi-disciplinary training conducted in house, bringing together doctors, midwives and nurses to work as a team.

"The PROMPT program aims to improve teamwork, communication and increase skills and confidence in an obstetric emergency," Ms Fiddelaers said.

The program involves some lectures followed by high fidelity scenario-based simulation within the workplace.

"It tests systems, teamwork and policies and ensures that we're practising within our workplace for any emergencies and outcomes that could happen," Ms Fiddelaers said.

GSHS has been using PROMPT training for more than a decade with all staff working in maternity services having attended PROMPT workshops, neonatal resuscitation and foetal surveillance.

"The principle behind it is to have better outcomes and improve safety for our mothers and babies" Ms Fiddelaers added.

Continuing community safety campaign at GSHS

Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) will continue a series of life-saving first aid and healthcare support sessions after local residents turned out in force to take part in snake bite training.

GSHS, in partnership with Ambulance Victoria and local expert Jake the Snake Catcher, hosted two Snake Bite First Aid Community Education Sessions in Leongatha and Korumburra – both of which were fully booked.

More than 80 locals attended to learn essential first aid techniques for treating snake bites and gain confidence in managing emergency situations.

Following the success of the sessions, GSHS plans to roll out further community health education programs, including First Responder Training for Teens, Farm First Aid, and Aged Care Planning workshops.

GSHS also plans to run more snake bite first aid sessions in the lead-up to next summer and hopes to provide similar sessions for local schools.

The snake bite education sessions were held after the loss of local resident and GSHS staff member Susan Ritchie.

Her brother Geoff Wyatt said he was thankful for the sessions. "The main thing is – this will save a life," Mr Wyatt said. "The training is very important. The five points that you learn at the course are essential – that's what people will need if they are or are worried about being bitten by a snake."



Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedics Thomai Balderanos and Michelle Williams joined Urgent Care Centre nurse Shareen Bickerton and UCC Doctor Paul Cotton and Jake the Snake Catcher for the community safety forum in the Resources Room at GSHS Korumburra.

The incident prompted GSHS Urgent Care Centre Dr Paul Cotton to call for community education. Emergency and Urgent Care Centres around the South Gippsland region have reported more presentations for suspected snake bites and dry bites this summer compared to previous.

Executive Director Medical Services Dr Angela Williams said GSHS acknowledged the loss of a very valued staff member who was dearly missed.

"We would also like to acknowledge the treating team at Korumburra Hospital for their immediate administration of antivenin and prompt delivery of care," Dr Williams said. "We particularly thank Susan's family for their attendance and input following our recent snake bite session."

GSHS Transformation & Community Engagement Lead, Kate Ginnivan, said the overwhelming success of the snake bite sessions showed the value of community health education.

"Empowering our community with practical, life-saving skills is what these sessions were all about," Ms Ginnivan said. Participants learned how to correctly apply a pressure bandage, the importance of immobilisation, and what to expect when calling 000 in the event of a snake bite.

Ms Ginnivan described the feedback to the sessions as phenomenal, and the demand for more sessions highlighted how important accessible health education is to South Gippsland.

Locals praised the hands-on approach of the sessions.

"My husband and I both attended the first session and found it to be very informative. It was a great initiative to provide the community with this information. The three different spokespersons were very relevant and provided just the right amount of detail. It was great to be able to have a go at using the bandages and a bonus to get to take them home," one attendee said.

"It was a great session, and I'd love to see more of these types of information nights. My husband and I attended with our kids, and they learned a lot. It would be great to have a session aimed at children, as they're the ones we're most concerned about coming into contact with snakes around the house," another participant added.

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The **Liberal Party** is instructing you to give your preferences to Family First and One Nation in Monash. **Russell Broadbent** is doing the same.

That means they want your vote helping extreme Family First candidates like Bernie Finn - who was kicked out of the Liberal Party for **pushing a total ban on abortion, even in cases of rape**, and for his outdated views on same-sex marriage.

Is that what you stand for?

You don't have to follow any How to Vote card. On election day, **you decide where your preferences go**. Number the boxes your way. That's exactly what I'll be doing.

Graeme Hollingsworth

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Leongatha Toyota

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Mental health first aid heads to Leongatha



Leongatha RSL general manager Greg Nugent recently completed a mental health first aid course and is urging others in the community to take up the free course being offered by the RSL in coming weeks. A18_1625

LEONGATHA RSL have taken the lead in mental health first aid for the region, and even further afield, as they host their first publicly accessible mental health first aid training course.

The course, open to those affiliated with the veteran community, including veterans themselves and/or those in their family, friendship, employment and healthcare circles.

Funded by the Department of Veteran Affairs, the free course, usually held online, will see a mix of online learning and interactive workshops in Leongatha with an experienced facilitator that will provide individuals with the tools to be able to apply, identify and assist any person that is showing signs of mental issues.

General Manager of Leongatha RSL, Greg Nugent is one of those who recently completed the training ahead of the

upcoming program.

"It's very worthwhile," Mr Nugent stated.

"It changed how I approach mental health and how I look for trigger points.

"Families, workmates, friends are on the front line in supporting people that are experiencing mental health issues. This course provided tools to assist in what is sometimes a very stressful role."

Having used his new skills already, Mr Nugent is quick to point out that the course is similar to that of a St John's qualification and highly valuable.

"This does not give someone the capabilities to be a clinician, it does however, provide the skills to identify where people need help.

"People are familiar with the idea of physical first aid courses to respond to life-threatening emergencies, this adopts a similar approach for mental health."

A triage for mental health.

"The more people who are trained in this field, the better off we are, particularly in the veteran community. Everyone is better off."

There is no denying the importance of mental wellbeing, particularly in the veteran and service communities.

The final report from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide revealed "that ex-serving ADF members who served in the permanent forces had higher rates of long-term mental health conditions, and 'deaths of despair', which refers to deaths caused by suicide, drug or alcohol poisoning, chronic liver disease, or cirrhosis. Males and females who served in the permanent forces are 21 per cent and 81 per cent, respectively, more likely to die by deaths of despair than Australian males and females."

Through research findings and data, the Commission found that "suicide is not a reflection of the character of an individual or indicative of an inherent deficit in their psyche or moral framework," and "risk factors for suicide and suicidality are diverse. They can be physical (for example, the onset of pain or injury), psychological (including mental ill health, substance abuse or poor emotional regulation) and psychosocial (including problems within relationships, troubled family history and a lack of connection with community)."

Furthermore, the latest National Health Survey (2020-21) study found that, "male veterans were more likely to report a current and long-term mental or behavioural condition than males in the non-veteran population (27 per cent compared with 17 per cent, respectively). In particular, they were nearly twice as likely (21 per cent) to report having a long-term anxiety-related disorder compared with males in the non-veteran population (11 per cent) (AIHW analysis of ABS 2023)."

The RSL are hosting an information session at Leongatha RSL on Tuesday, April 29 at 11am, with people encouraged to come along and ask questions.

"Interested individuals will find out what the course looks like and how to undertake it, we will also be able to answer any questions people may have," Mr Nugent said.

"We would like to thank the DVA for allowing us to offer this course free of charge and acknowledge Leongatha RSL who have contributed to the space and facilitator."

With limited places available, contact course coordinator on 0429 863 228 or scan the QR code in the ad beside.

If this material raises concerns for you, support is available. Please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14, or Defence All-hours Support Line on 1800 628 036, or Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling (openarms.gov.au), available 24/7 to anyone who has served one day of continuous full-time service in the ADF and their immediate families.

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Health care professionals and community members supporting veterans and their families.

Current ADF personnel

Information Session at Leongatha RSL
Tuesday 29th April at 11-00am

For more information phone 0429863228

Limited spaces available

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The Mental Health Literacy and Suicide Prevention Training Program has been funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs



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ANZAC DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

An open letter to my husband

TO MY Dearest Husband,
As I sit down to pen these words, I am overwhelmed with emotions that have woven themselves into the very fabric of our lives. When we first met, I was a young woman in love with a man who had dreams of serving his country. Little did I know that our journey together would be marked by moments of immense pride, profound pain, and enduring love.

When you left for war, my heart ached with the weight of uncertainty. I watched you go, as the brave man I fell in love with, ready to face the unknown for the sake of our nation. Days turned into months, and the distance between us grew. Yet, my love for you remained steadfast, a beacon of hope that guided me through the darkest nights.

News of your bravery reached me like rays of sunlight piercing through the clouds. You were awarded for your valour, a testament to the courage and strength that I had always seen in you. But when you returned, I realised that the scars of war were not only etched on your body but on your soul as well. The injuries you sustained were visible, but the wounds that remained unseen were the ones that troubled me the most.

We began our life together as a family, embracing the joys and challenges that came with this new chapter. As we welcomed our children into the world, I saw the tenderness in your eyes, a stark contrast to the haunted look that sometimes clouded your gaze. It was in these moments that the reality of post-traumatic stress disorder began to unravel before me.

Your post-traumatic episodes were unpredictable, casting a shadow over our lives. I recall nights when the echoes of battle would invade your dreams, causing you to wake up in a cold sweat, disoriented and afraid. Those nights were the hardest, as I felt helpless in my attempts to soothe the storm raging within you. But I held on, knowing that my love and support were the anchors you needed to weather these turbulent times.

As the years passed, physical pain from your injuries grew, adding another layer to the challenges we faced. You struggled with the limitations imposed

by your body, and I watched as frustration and anger sometimes took hold. Yet, within the depths of your suffering, I glimpsed moments of resilience and determination that inspired me to be stronger for you and our family.

Our children, now grown, have been blessed with the wisdom that comes from understanding the sacrifices you made. They have witnessed the strength of your spirit and the unwavering support of a loving wife. Together, we have faced the trials and tribulations that life has thrown our way, emerging stronger and more connected than ever.

Through it all, our love has continued to blossom. It is a love that has been tested and fortified by the fires of adversity. We have learned to cherish the simple moments, finding joy in the everyday acts of kindness and affection that make life beautiful. Our shared laughter, the quiet conversations, and the gentle touch of your hand – all these have become the threads that weave our tapestry of love.

As I reflect on our journey, I am reminded of the vows we took on our wedding day. We promised to stand by each other in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad. Those words have taken on a deeper meaning as we have navigated the complexities of life as a veteran's family. Your bravery and strength have been matched by your vulnerability and humanity, and I am honoured to have walked this path with you.

My dearest husband, you are my hero not only for the battles you fought on the battlefield but for the battles you continue to fight within yourself. Your courage in the face of adversity has taught me the true meaning of love and resilience. Together, we have built a life that is a testament to the power of love and the strength of the human spirit.

As we continue to move forward, I want you to know that my love for you remains unwavering. I will always be here to support you, to hold you when the nights are dark, and to celebrate the moments of light that shine through. Our journey is far from over, but with each step we take, we do so with the knowledge that together, we can overcome anything.

With all my love,
Your wife

Rosetta Joan Wight's unbelievable courage



Sister Rosetta Joan Wight, born in Fish Creek in 1908, served with the 13th Australian General Hospital during World War II. After being evacuated from Singapore aboard the Vyner Brooke, she was among the nurses who landed on Bangka Island. Despite being badly injured, she continued caring for the wounded. Rosetta was tragically killed in the Bangka Island Massacre on February 16, 1942, alongside 21 of her fellow nurses.

ROSETTA Joan Wight, called Joan by her family, was born in Fish Creek on December 3, 1908, to Rosetta and Leslie Wight. She grew up in Fish Creek and went on to become a nursing sister. On August 8, 1941, she volunteered for the army nurse service becoming a member of the 13th Australian General Hospital.

This unit was formed at Melbourne's Caulfield Racecourse on August 11, 1941, and assembled its personnel over the next two weeks. They sailed, from Melbourne, for service overseas on September 2, 1941. At the time of its departure, the 13th comprised 18 officers, 44 nurses, three masseuses and 146 other ranks. It was equipped to treat 600 patients. They arrived in Singapore on September 15, 1941. The hospital was set up at St. Patrick's Boys School on the island's south coast.

Between November 21 and 23, 1941, the unit relocated to the Malayan mainland and set up a hospital at Tampoi, six and a half kilometres from the city of Johore Bahru. The 13th was still at Tampoi when the Japanese launched their invasion of Malaya on December 8. The 13th was the last Australian hospital unit on the peninsula and treated most of the casualties that resulted from the AIF's battles in Johore. It effectively became a large-scale casualty clearing station. Eventually, the Japanese were closing in and the 13th withdrew to Singapore on January 23. Like all medical units, the 13th nurses

By Lyn Skillern

were overwhelmed during the fighting for Singapore. Mounting casualties soon outstripped the hospital's ability to accommodate and treat them and patients had to lie on the lawns around the hospital. It was decided to evacuate the nursing sisters. Rosetta was in the last contingent of 27 nurses evacuated on board the SS Vyner Brooke on February 12. The SS Vyner Brooke was hit by Japanese bombs and Rosetta was badly injured. She was helped on deck by colleagues and placed in a life raft. Rosetta with the other nurses landed on Bangka Island in the Straits of Malacca. They set up on the beach and cared for their patients. The Japanese came and executed the wounded. They then made the captured nurses line up and walk into the sea. Rosetta, who could not stand, was held up by colleagues. When the women were waist-deep in water the Japanese shot them. One nurse, the famous Sister Vivian Bullwinkle, survived by pretending to be dead and was later able to tell the story.

Also in the 13th General Hospital was Bob Barguss of Koonwarra. Bob was captured in Singapore and died as a POW on the Burma Railway.

Lyn will be speaking about Rosetta and other nurses on Sunday, April 27 at the Pioneer Church Mardan.

This Anzac Day please remember Rosetta Joan Wight and her brave colleagues.

Flying the flag for our ANZACs

ONCE again, the cemeteries at Foster, Toora and Welshpool have been brought to life with the flutter of Australian flags as a team of dedicated locals commemorate the graves of our late servicemen and women.

The annual event, held a week before and after Anzac Day, honours the sacrifices made by brave individuals in various conflicts, including the World Wars, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The tradition began back in 2015 when the Foster and District Historical Society, working with the Foster RSL Sub-Branch researched the names of all service personnel from the former Shire of South Gippsland who served in WWI.

The result was an honour roll, now proudly displayed at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre, that provides a lasting record of war service by members of this community.

Continuing the commemoration they initiated the local Flags on Graves project in 2018, providing and erecting Australian flags on the graves of service personnel interred at the Foster, Toora and Welshpool cemeteries, who had served in WWI; 100 years after the end of the first world war.

The Flags on Graves project was started by the Geelong Cemeteries Trust in 2014, with Colac Cemetery taking up the idea and several other cemeteries since jumping on board.

"The funding came from the RSL and historical society but also the families," Meg Rogers, president of the Foster and District Historical



Meg Rogers, president historical society (left) and Carole Williams publicity officer Foster RSL. ns09_1625

Society, explained.

"We asked the families and a lot of them gave more than what we asked."

After extensive research locally by Foster and District Historical Society and Foster RSL Sub-Branch the project has since grown to include the graves of all known ex-servicemen and women at the three cemeteries, including but not limited to WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan. An American flag and Polish flag also fly amongst the Australians, for a miner, who had made his way to the area, after serving in the American Civil War, and a Polish resistance fighter.

"It got families starting to think 'oh was he in the war' and they also wanted a flag, and it became quite a thing," Carole Williams, publicity

officer Foster RSL added.

"You'll see more than just the Australian flag, because people from other countries who might have migrated to Australia but served in the war; so their graves are acknowledged with the flag of their country as well."

More recent research has revealed several unmarked graves of ex-service personnel at Foster and Welshpool cemeteries with plaques now bearing the individual's name and flags flying in the breeze.

Over 400 flags, made possible through community donations, now flutter across the sites and show the appreciation and remembrance of communities for those who served for all Australians.

At the going down of the sun, we remember them.



ANZAC DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Anzac Day Services and events

BASS

Dawn service at 6am at the Cenotaph in Bass (Hade Avenue) followed by gunfire breakfast at Bass Community Hall.

COWES

Dawn Service on the Esplanade, Cenotaph at 6am approx. 40 minutes. 10.40am march from St Phillips Anglican Church followed by the Commemorative Service, Cowes Cenotaph at 11am.

FOSTER / TOORA / WELSHPOOL / FISH CREEK

Foster RSL Sub-Branch will conduct its ANZAC Day activities in Foster on Friday, April 25, beginning with a ceremony at the Cenotaph starting at 11am. Marchers will assemble at the Foster Museum at 10.45am for their march to the Cenotaph. The ceremony will be led by Foster RSL president Bruce Lester, with senior vice-president Ian Sutton attending the flag.

An ex-Army vehicle and a mounted Lighthorse re-enactor will accompany the march.

In his address president Bruce will speak of three Foster ex-servicemen who died for their country: Bob Mahomed, Baden Williams and Will Power. Wreaths will then be placed at the Cenotaph.

A service in the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre will follow, with an address on the role of the Australian war time Navy in the Pacific by guest speaker ex-Australian Navy Lieutenant Commander David Lassam.

Other ANZAC Day events in the Corner Inlet district include the 6am dawn service at the Toora War Memorial, the 9.30am wreath laying at the Welshpool War Memorial and at Fish Creek, a brief service will be held at the Cenotaph at 11am.

In December this year, the Foster Cenotaph will be 100 years old. It has an interesting history, having been built in two parts, with a vaulted chamber underneath. The money for the Cenotaph was raised by the community and opened by the Governor of Victoria, Lord Stradbroke. It is planned to hold an official recognition of the centenary of the Cenotaph later in the year.

INVERLOCH

A Dawn Service will commence at 6am at the RSL Hall Bolding Place Inverloch. Join the team after the service for a Gunfire Breakfast supplied the Lions club (gold coin donation). The Veteran's March will commence at 10.45am from the Cenotaph returning for the Commemoration Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony.

KONGWAK

An Anzac Day service will be held at Kongwak Hall at 10am. Jillian Durance will be the guest speaker and discuss the Avenue of Honour. Anzac Day biscuits alongside tea and coffee will follow after the service. Contact: Bill Brown 0407 881 025.

KORUMBURRA

Dawn service: The service commences at 5.45am at the Coleman Park Cenotaph. Morning service: The service starts at 10.15am.

LEONGATHA

Dawn Service: A 5.45am service at the Leongatha cenotaph will be followed by a gunfire breakfast at the RSL rooms. Morning service: A 11am Commemorative service will then take place at the Cenotaph. People are welcome to attend the RSL rooms for refreshments afterwards.

MIRBOO NORTH

Mirboo North RSL Sub Branch will be holding a Dawn Service at 5.45am in Baromi Park. This will be a reflection type service followed by a light breakfast back at the RSL Hall. Another service is being held at 10.30am at the Secondary College in the auditorium, followed by refreshments at the RSL.

MEENIYAN

Assemble at 9.15am at the Meeniyen cenotaph for a 9.30am march.

MOUNT ECCLES

There will be a 2.30pm service at Mount Eccles Hall.

POOWONG

Korumburra RSL Sub Branch will host a midday service (12 noon) at Poowong Cenotaph.

SAN REMO

An Anzac Day commemoration will be held at the San Remo Cenotaph on the foreshore opposite IGA at 10.45am. Everyone is welcome and there will be an opportunity to lay a wreath or flowers. Refreshments will be served afterwards at The Westernport.

YARRAM

The Yarram RSL Sub Branch will host a dawn service at the Memorial Park at 6am. A parade starting at 10.50am, will muster at the corner of King Street and Commercial Road, with step off at 11am. The march will head to the Cenotaph on Commercial Road, where a Commemorative Service will take place with wreath laying.

WONTHAGGI

Anzac Day Dawn Service will be held at 6am at the Wonthaggi Cenotaph. The march will leave from the RSL to the Cenotaph at McBride Avenue Wonthaggi, for the main Anzac Service at 10.30am. Veterans and Service Personnel are asked to gather in front of the RSL, 60 Graham St. at 10am.

Poowong's earliest Duntroon graduate
Lt Norman Durston
16th Bn 1st AIF



By Tony Moon


NORMAN Durston came from Poowong and was living in St Kilda at the start of the war, working at one point as a "military staff clerk" in Barracks, a role he qualified for when he was 18 years old.

He then attended Duntroon Military College in 1912 and was an early graduate. He had served in the pre-war Militia, and this assisted him when he joined the Australian Imperial Force. He was posted to C Coy, 16th Bn.

Norman Durston left Melbourne on December 22, 1914, on board HMAT Ceramic and landed in Egypt with the battalion at the end of January 1915. There with the battalion, he joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on April 4. He landed with the battalion on April 25 and served at Quinn's Post.


On the evening of May 9/10, 1915, the 15th Battalion, with the 16th in support, conducted an offensive movement from Quinn's Post with the view of testing the enemy's strength and to occupy certain Turkish trenches 25 to 50 yards in front of Quinn's Post. The attack commenced at 22:45 and the trenches were occupied. A large gap between the centre and the left attacking force was reported and the enemy was able to infiltrate the trenches and inflict heavy casualties. Soon after the men of the 16th advanced, all the officers became casualties, and the attack failed.

Read the full story at sgst.com.au



Korumburra RSL Sub Branch

ANZAC DAY SERVICES



Friday, April 25

Coleman Park Cenotaph
Queen Street, Korumburra

DAWN SERVICE 5.45am
MID MORNING SERVICE 10.15am
MIDDAY SERVICE:
POOWONG CENOTAPH 12 noon

ALL WELCOME



BASS VALLEY FRIENDS OF THE R.S.L.

Invite you to our

DAWN SERVICE

on Friday, April 25, 2025

commencing at 6.00am
at the Cenotaph - Hade Avenue, Bass
Followed by a Gun Fire Breakfast
at the Bass Hall, School Road, Bass

Forever Lost.
Forever Changed.
Lest We Forget.



jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au
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9 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi VIC 3995

jordan crugnale mp
STATE MEMBER FOR BASS



ANZAC DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

The tragic tale of Wonthaggi's 'hidden ANZAC'

WHY such an accomplished man as Wonthaggi's Dr Frank Looney would take his own life in Tasmania on October 8, 1934, not 17 years after returning from two years tending to the horrific wounds of the ANZACs and the widespread illnesses of war, is not fully understood.

But there's little doubt that post-traumatic stress disorder, unknown and untreated at the time, beyond such throwaway acknowledgments as "his nerves were shot" played its part in dramatically changing the course of Dr Looney's previously untroubled life.

An accomplished young physician and surgeon by the time he came to Wonthaggi in May 1911, Dr Looney had followed his Victorian goldfields heritage, straight out of Melbourne University in 1907, and travelled to far north Queensland, to treat miners and their families in the frontier silver, lead and copper operations on the Atherton Tableland.

He later returned to Melbourne before shipping out to England and Ireland where he trained in hospitals in Dublin and Middlesex before being lured back to Victoria early in 1911.

Almost certainly his friendship at Melbourne Uni with the legendary Wonthaggi doctor, Lancelot Sleeman, formed part of his decision

to come this way, however with his brother Thomas, an engine driver with the Victorian Railways, living locally and the opportunity to reconnect with mining families, some of whom had moved south from his hometown of Rutherglen, may also have been a factor.

He opened a practice here, in rooms on the corner of Graham Street and McBride Avenue, in May 1911, not only gaining a reputation as an excellent doctor but also immersing himself in the social and sporting life of the town, including football, bowls and tennis among other pursuits, as well as being a founding member of The Wonthaggi Club.

As a handsome young doctor, with a university blue for football, an accomplished pianist and a popular man about town, life in the fledgling coal-mining town of Wonthaggi for Dr Frank Looney was good but the outbreak of war in July 1914 was to change all that.

According to a book about Dr Looney by Wonthaggi author and historian Sam Gatto, who addressed the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society on the subject in January this year, both Dr Looney and Dr Sleeman volunteered their services to the Ambulance and Nursing Corps of the local branch of the Red Cross to train volunteers in connection to



Former Wonthaggi doctor, Frank Looney, died in Tasmania in 1934 aged 53.

providing assistance to the troops. But at the beginning of April, before the ANZAC landing, Dr Looney took a train to Melbourne to volunteer his services for the Royal Army Medical Corps (RMAC).

The AAMC already existed and had enough doctors, but Field Marshal Herbert Kitchener had called for an additional 100 doctors to join a new medical corps, later dubbed 'Kitchener's 100', and together with other members of the group, Dr Looney embarked on the Morea for London on April 19, 1915.

A report in the Wonthaggi Sentinel of a valedictory dinner held for

Dr Looney prior to his departure is evidence of the esteem with which he was held in the area after four years of treating the district's sick and injured.

"Dr Looney was very popular with all sections of the community and it must have been gratifying to him to see so many assembled to do him honour".

Dr Sleeman proposed the toast saying that while he was sure he would regret Dr Looney's departure from Wonthaggi, all would applaud his decision to give his services to the Empire.

After some basic training in London, Dr Looney was posted on one of the improvised hospital ships to treat and transport the casualties of the Gallipoli campaign, writing back to the local newspapers at Wonthaggi, on the promise that they send him copies of the weekly papers, describing the perilous circumstances, injuries and stoicism of the Australian and New Zealand troops.

Following the withdrawal from Gallipoli, many of Kitchener's 100 came home, having signed on for one year, but Dr Looney remained seeing service in the Mediterranean, Egypt, Greece, Serbia and on hospital ships until he was struck down by pneumonia later in 1916 and ultimately returned home.

He was given a welcome back to Wonthaggi in July 1917 and

ultimately decided to recommence practicing locally in October, but all was not well. Dr Looney was overlooked for the position of health officer at the Shire of Phillip Island, amid claims of protestant-catholic sectarianism with the second conscription referendum debate raging at the time. There were also rumours of "a certain statement" made by Dr Looney which cast doubt on his suitability for the job and he ultimately left the town in August 1918.

He initially rejoined the army medical corps but finished up practicing in Finley in NSW where he married Omega Annie Osborne and had a daughter Annie, living there for five years before returning to Melbourne in April 1923 in the lead up to the depression.

He worked for a while in Newport, then went to regional South Australia before ending up in Stanley in north-west Tasmania where he was to take his own life in front of his wife and a friend in 1934 under a cloud of financial trouble, depression and alcoholism unable to settle back into 'normal' life after his experiences in the war.

Having been reacquainted with the tragic story of Dr Looney, the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society is set to launch a fundraising appeal to erect a memorial stone on his unmarked grave in Tasmania.

ANZAC DAY

LEST WE FORGET

25th April

Dawn Service 6am

Gunfire Breakfast 7am

March 10:40am

Service 11am

Carvery Lunch 12pm-2pm

- Cenotaph Cowes Foreshore

- Phillip Island RSL

- Muster at 10.40am St Phillip's Anglican Church, Cowes

- Cenotaph, Cowes Foreshore

- Service members Free
Veterans Free
Adults \$15
Kids under 13yrs \$10
No other food offering available

ANZAC Day Football **LIVE & LOUD** from 3pm

5:30pm Dinner Bookings – normal a la carte menu available



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ANZAC DAY

Leongatha RSL - Commemorative Service

10:45am - Congregate at Cenotaph

11:00am - Welcome and introduction

Mounting of Catafalque Party

Wreath Laying

Ode of Remembrance

The Last Post

Minutes Silence

The Rouse

National Anthem

Dismounting of Catafalque Party

Closing of Ceremony

Commemorative Service inside Memorial Hall

Guest Speaker - Gary Blackwood

Master of Ceremonies Greg Nugent

Introductory Remarks by President, Leongatha RSL Sub-Branch, Willem Verboon

Music by South Gippsland Shire Brass Band



The moral debt owed to Australian military members past and present

By Dr Terry Shannon OAM,
Inverloch RSL Member
and ex-serviceman

AUSTRALIAN society owes a profound moral debt to its military members – past and present. This debt isn't financial or transactional. It's a matter of recognition, responsibility, and respect for the sacrifices made by those who've served in uniform. Whether in war zones, peacekeeping missions, disaster relief, or support roles, service members step into danger on behalf of the nation. Some come home physically or mentally scarred. Others don't come home at all. For this, Australia owes more than thanks – it owes action.

Service in the military isn't just another job. It requires a willingness to put life on the line and endure extreme physical and psychological pressure. Soldiers, sailors, and air personnel are trained to face violence, survive trauma, and protect others, even at the cost of their own safety. Many deal with long-term consequences: PTSD, chronic pain, and injuries that end careers and disrupt families. Some live with these



Australia's moral debt to its service members is not one of dollars, but of enduring recognition, responsibility, and respect. Behind every uniform is a story of sacrifice – some visible, some lifelong, some final. Photo: Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

burdens for decades. Some never fully recover. And many carry them in silence.

Then there are those who don't return – young lives cut short, leaving behind families and communities to grieve and rebuild without them. Behind every fallen service member is a ripple effect of loss. Partners, children, parents, and friends are left to navigate life without their loved ones. The price they pay is ongoing, and society has a duty not to forget them.

The moral debt stems from a

simple truth: these individuals accepted risk so others didn't have to. They fought in places most Australians would never go, under conditions most would never face. In return, the country must ensure that their service is met with lasting support – not just on Anzac Day, but every day.

This means more than ceremonies or symbolic gestures. It means proper funding for veterans' health care, fast, fair compensation for those injured in service, mental health services

that are actually accessible and effective, job support for those transitioning back to civilian life, and not leaving families of the fallen to navigate grief and bureaucracy alone.

It also means confronting uncomfortable truths – about suicide rates among veterans, about delays and failures in the compensation system, about homelessness and poverty among those who once served. If the nation claims to honour its military, it must back that up with consistent, practical support. Empty praise is no substitute for real help.

Australia doesn't need to glorify war to honour its veterans. But it must be acknowledged that those who wear the uniform do so under a burden most will never carry. The country's responsibility doesn't end when a soldier's tour is over. It continues for as long as that person is living with the consequences of their service – or as long as their family is.

The moral debt is permanent. It's written in sacrifice, loss, and commitment. The way to repay it is through action – ongoing, honest, and meaningful. Anything less is not enough.

Bath's pilgrimage to Anzac Cove

THE Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath will visit Anzac Cove to pay her respects to the fallen soldiers who landed on April 25, 1915. Ms Bath is part of a state parliamentary delegation travelling to Gallipoli to mark the 110th Anniversary of the ANZAC landing.

Visiting graves and memorials of fallen Gippsland soldiers, and attending the dawn service with Victorian MPs, Ms Bath said she recently she had the privilege of working with RSL subbranches to identify local diggers buried in cemeteries on the peninsula.

"Anzac Day holds a special significance in the hearts and minds of many Australians and to commemorate the dawn service at Gallipoli is an honoured pilgrimage.

"Knowing many Gippsland families farewell their young men for the Gallipoli campaign, never to return home, I'm sure it will be an emotional experience paying my respects at their graves.

"The spirit of the Anzacs – courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice continue to serve as a reminder, inspiring Australians during times of crisis and motivating us to uphold these values in our daily lives.

"Despite Gallipoli being a failed campaign, it galvanised our nation in the defence of democratic freedoms we enjoy today.


"My sincere thanks to our RSLs for assisting me in researching soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. As a community, it is important we continue to tell the story of our past and present service personnel in war and peacekeeping, pay our respects and honour the legacy of the Anzacs."

RUSSELL BROADBENT MP

Anzac Day is a sacred day, in remembrance of those who served in our armed forces and for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Those who gave their lives to protect the freedom of nations globally. Always with our hearts directed towards our Great South Land. Lest we forget.

TRUE
YOUR[^] INDEPENDENT
MEMBER FOR MONASH

Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP,
Independent Federal Member for Monash, 46c Albert St Warragul VIC 3820



On ANZAC Day & everyday we remember those who served our country so that we may live in peace.

Lest we forget



Melina BATH MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR
EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

5174 7066
181 Franklin Street
melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au



ANZAC DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Air raids and other hazards

COAL producing Wonthaggi mines were seen as a possible Japanese target during World War Two and the local newspaper, the Wonthaggi Sentinel, reports "there were air raid shelters everywhere" around the town at the time. As far distant as Wonthaggi seemed from the theatre of war between 1939 and 1945, the risk of being bombed wasn't as remote as you might think.

German auxiliary cruiser, Pinguin, and a captured Norwegian tanker Storstad operated in Bass Strait in 1940, laying mines off Wilsons Promontory that ultimately sank the cargo ship Cambridge in November 1940. There were likely other untracked incursions.

Wonthaggi and District Historical Society Secretary Irene Williams said this week that there were community air raid shelters at the old greyhound track (site of new Bunnings store), at the Tech School in McBride Avenue and in Kirrak Street (formerly Reid Street) Wonthaggi North.

"Lots of people had their own air raids in their backyards. Everyone took it very seriously," said Mrs Williams.

Well, almost everyone. According to an article in the Sentinel in 1970, looking back 25 years, war-time regulations stipulated at least slit trenches to be constructed at sporting grounds. A trench at the greyhound track, four feet wide and four feet deep, extended 100 yards parallel with the public enclosure and the track.

"To take a shortcut to the track, one stood on the enclosure fence rail and jumped over the ditch. However, the excited, new suited owner of a winner once slipped on the rail and fell into the water filled trench."

A family legacy remembered on ANZAC Day

AS AUSTRALIANS prepare to gather on ANZAC Day in solemn remembrance, few can speak to the day's significance with the depth and perspective of Wonthaggi local, Dan Lucas.

"Both sides of my family have served for generations – my father traced it right back to the Crusades," Dan explained with quiet pride.

"Both my great-grandmother and my grandmother served in World War II, as mother and daughter. My great-grandmother was a Major in charge of movements in Egypt. My grandmother drove ambulances in Burma."

These remarkable women are just two of many in Dan's lineage who answered the call to serve. On his mother's side, his grandfather served as a Warrant Officer Class One (Regimental Sergeant Major) in New Guinea during WWII – his medals now proudly worn by Dan during ANZAC commemorations.

Despite the extensive history of service in his family, Dan says enlisting wasn't expected of him, but rather a decision he came to on his own.

"I was in navy cadets in Sydney. My parents thought I was still at school, but I was

actually catching the school bus to go to work at Woolworths," he admits with a chuckle.

"The school expelled me, which meant I couldn't catch the school bus anymore to get to work. I joined the army in October 1993, when I was 17."

Dan's own service saw him begin in the armoured reserves in Korumburra as a recovery mechanic. He then spent time in the regular army as part of the military police, before returning full-time in the armoured reserves, finishing his six-year military career as a storeman.

One moment that's stuck with him was his posting to artillery.

"When they fired the guns, it looked like the gun had dropped four metres onto the ground – the way the dust instantly rises from the ground."

There are also more solemn memories passed down through the generations – ones that continue to shape Dan's perspective. He recalls his grandmother's reluctance to ever drive again after the war.

"She drove an ambulance over a mine. Her partner was killed beside her. She'd only drive in emergencies after that, she never got her licence again."

Today, Dan serves his community not just through his military legacy, but as Vice President of the Wonthaggi RSL. A former President of the branch, he remains dedicated to keeping its positive momentum going.

"I try to keep supporting the President and ensure we keep growing our community."

Each year, Dan marches with pride in Wonthaggi alongside fellow veterans and community members.

"We used to march in Inverloch before we moved here. I've always marched – even when I lived in Sydney. When I was in cadets, I marched in the first parade where they formally recognised Vietnam veterans."

Dan believes strongly in the importance of keeping ANZAC stories alive, especially for younger generations.

"It's about remembering what they gave for our country. And learning from past mistakes – so hopefully it never happens again."

While there's often concern about the younger generation losing connection with Australia's wartime history, Dan sees hope.

"It's growing. More people are paying respect and starting



Dan Lucas proudly wears his grandfather's World War II medals ahead of ANZAC Day. W05_1625

to pay attention. It's not just about glorifying war. I think it's coming back into schools – they're starting to learn about it again."

When asked what message he'd most like to pass on, Dan doesn't hesitate: "It's a good career. Stressful, but it does change your way of thinking. It does program you to be in a mindset of preparedness. You're always prepared for your next task. Also, there is a lot of discipline involved. Overall, I think it's worthwhile."



**WONTHAGGI RSL
SUB BRANCH
VICTORIA**

60 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

2025 ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Dawn Service: 5.55 am at Cenotaph

Gunfire breakfast will be offered after Dawn Service
RSL - Graham Street, Wonthaggi

March: 9.45am - 10am

Parade Assembly: RSL - Graham Street at 9.30am
March to commence 9.45am from RSL Hall to Cenotaph
for 10.30am ANZAC Day service

March led by the Wonthaggi Band

Main Service commences at Cenotaph - 10.30am

Light refreshments offered at RSL Wonthaggi after service
2 UP for those who wish to partake



**Deb
Leonard**
INDEPENDENT

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 4085C Blair St, Leongatha 3953



Boer War focus at Anzac lunch

WHILE Anzac Day has its origins in WWI, this year's Leongatha Historical Society Anzac lunch honoured those who served in an earlier conflict, the Boer War, or more precisely the Second Boer War (1899-1902).

Russell Dawe, well known to those at the Leongatha Historical Society of which he has been a member, spoke about the service of his grandfather George Williams in the Boer War as part of the 3rd Victorian Bushmen's Contingent.

While George was born in Buninyong, near Ballarat, he came to Leongatha to work as a stockman.

Along with his horse-riding skills, he was also a member of the Leongatha Rifle Club, no doubt making him a handy recruit for military service, being just 20 years old when he boarded the vessel Euryalus to head to the conflict in South Africa.

Russell set the scene with a general outline of the movements of the 3rd Victorian Bushmen's Contingent once it reached Africa, then sharing a letter George wrote to his sister and brother-in-law in which he detailed his role and described the action.



Speaker Russell Dawe, Leongatha Historical Society secretary Lyn Skillern, who also spoke, and President Robert Sage at the Anzac lunch. A07_1525

He spoke of scouting and patrolling, reflecting on the tough conditions for riding in rough and stony country, noting "I've had many shots fired at me when out scouting but as yet I've escaped."

"We were besieged at Rustenburg for about four weeks," he said, describing the experience as "a pretty rough time".

George spoke of the loss of six men in a severe fight at Koster River, an incident that occurred in July 1900 when the 3rd Bushmen's Contingent was ambushed by the Boers.

"One of our men had seven bullet wounds and not one of them was very serious," he wrote.

George was scathing of the command of Colonel Henry Parke Airey of New South Wales, appearing to highlight a lack of censorship compared to later conflicts such as WWI.

"They were led right into an ambush," he said of the men, declaring Colonel Airey "had no flankers or ground scouts out, and when the Boers opened fire on them it came from three sides: our men had

to lay for six hours under fire and were unable to move.

"Colonel Airey got right away and for four hours our officers never had an order from him; in the long run, our Major took the matter in his own hands and fixed bayonets and charged where the Boer were and took it."

Relief ultimately arrived, driving away the Boers who had numbered about 700 against a force of around 300 and had held the hills.

"It was a bit of very bad generalship and Colonel Airey is likely to be severely censured for it," George said.

There appears no evidence that ever occurred.

Airey was already much decorated by that time, including becoming a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in 1888 for his service with the British Army in Burma where he was said to have displayed great gallantry and was severely wounded.

That's not to suggest George's observations were inaccurate.

After returning to Australia, George married Minnie Head from Terang, with George going on to be president of the Leongatha Agricultural & Pastoral Society.

Mayor to be a guest speaker at San Remo

BASS Coast Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead will be the guest speaker at San Remo's Anzac Day commemoration. She will be joined by three secondary school captains, one from Newhaven College and two from Bass Coast College.

Encouraging us all to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy thanks to those who came before us Cr Halstead said, "Anzac Day is a time for us to come together as a community to honour the courage, sacrifice and service of all those who have served and continue to serve our country."

She will attend the dawn service in Bass before the 10.45am commemoration at the San Remo Cenotaph on the foreshore opposite the supermarket.

"My fellow councillors will be attending services across Bass Coast as we pay our respects on behalf of the community," she added.

Members of the small committee organising San Remo's service, always look forward to the speeches delivered by the senior school students as they offer a youthful perspective on the need for remembrance.

Representatives of San Remo and Newhaven primary schools will also be there to lay a wreath and others in the community are invited to do so too.

Vietnam veteran John Methven OAM will act as MC while Peter Buitenhuis will play the Last Post and Reveille. The Ode will be recited by John Turner Sqn Leader (Ret'd).

Morgan and Shiree Mountford, who have just taken over as owners of the Westernport Hotel, are happy to continue the town's tradition of the two pubs hosting morning tea following the commemoration.



INVERLOCH RSL SUB BRANCH
invites you to commemorate

ANZAC DAY

on FRIDAY, 25 APRIL, 2025

a 6am Dawn Service

will be held at the

RSL HALL

Bolding Place, Inverloch

Join us after the service for a Gunfire Breakfast
supplied and cooked by Inverloch RSL Members

VETERAN'S MARCH at 10.45am

from the Cenotaph returning there for
the Commemoration Service and

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

We invite you to join us at the RSL Hall at the completion
of the service for a light luncheon and a cuppa. Bar will be open.



ANZAC DAY

Leongatha RSL • Dawn Service

5:45am • Congregate at Cenotaph

6:00am • Welcome and introduction

Commemorative address by

LTCOL (Rtd) • John Blunt

Wreath Laying

Ode of Remembrance

The Last Post

Minutes Silence

The Rouse

Closing of Ceremony

Gunfire Breakfast back at RSL

Master of Ceremonies Greg Nugent

Introductory Remarks by President,

Leongatha RSL Sub-Branch,

Willem Verboon

Please join us for the Commemorative
Service at 11am at Memorial Hall



Sentinel-Times
COMMENT

It's not the budget
we all voted for

THERE'S something seriously wrong with the draft Bass Coast Shire Council Budget handed down by council last Wednesday.

Island ward councillors Tim O'Brien, Ron Bauer and Tracey Bell alluded to some of the problems, but their concerns may just be the tip of the iceberg.

Cr O'Brien said he was "disgusted, almost outraged" that after 40 years of wanting and now desperately needing a new Phillip Island Recreation Reserve, the shire could only find \$250,000 to make a start on the project this year.

There's no reference in the budget papers to the \$250,000 commitment or what the shire might do with the money beyond the statement of intention to "prepare a functional layout plan for the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve" but we'll take Cr O'Brien's word for it.

By comparison, the budget commits \$3.5 million (total project cost \$7.7m) to continue work on the Inverloch to Wonthaggi inland trail for which no feasibility study was done before the council went out and asked the state government for funding.

The shire received a grant of \$3 million but must stump up \$4.7 million of our own money to make it happen.

How does a bike track between Inverloch and Wonthaggi get priority over making a start on a new recreation reserve for Phillip Island?

Cr Tracey Bell offered a shocking explanation. She acknowledged significant discomfort in presenting a budget based on the previous council's priorities, especially after the voters had unloaded 2/3rds of the former councillors for exactly that reason, acting on priorities "that weren't in line with the community".

She was at a loss to explain why six months after electing a new council, where the outstanding issue was clearly the failure to make progress on the Phillip Island Recreation Master Plan, those priorities couldn't be changed in the 2025-26 budget.

All she could say is that council is a big machine and "apparently six months is a quick time" to try and shift direction.

But why are we just hearing about this now?

Cr Ron Bauer said it was regrettable that this budget had to be crafted using the previous council's four-year plan. He said the community would have expected council to develop new four-year and 10-year plans first so they could bring out the budget that the people had voted for.

He called on the council to introduce a mini budget as soon as those longer-term plans were completed to cut down on unnecessary delay.

So, the budget isn't what the councillors want or what the community voted for either.

But that's not the half of it.

Although it is not entirely clear how the shire is going financially from the details disclosed in the budget, it doesn't look good. A series of underlying losses including \$11.7m (2023-24), \$5.4m (2024-25), \$10m (2025-26) and \$7.9m (2026-27) will seriously undercut the shire's sustainability and working capital, down from \$17.9m in 2024-25 to a working capital position of \$1.9m by 2028-29, against the backdrop of decreased capital works expenditure over the past three years, a consistent failure to complete even a modest capital works program, and increasing debt.

But you know the only things that aren't going down – shire wages up to \$40.660m from \$38.5m last year (total permanent employee expenditure), waste management charges up 7.4 per cent to \$617 for each ratepayer and total rates and charges up from \$77.6m last year to \$81.5m this year.

The community gets the chance to make submissions and ask questions at info sessions at Cowes this Wednesday, April 23, at Inverloch (April 29) and Corinella (May 8) where the shire will have some explaining to do.

No wonder they're looking to cut costs by ripping up bitumen seals in residential areas and failing to commit to funding the works and services that the community needs.

Party politics vs. the people

DEMOCRACY in ancient Athens entitled every citizen to directly vote on laws and policies, and later a Council of 500, selected on a rotational basis, effectively being a government of independents.

Inevitably, this system has devolved into the political party system we have today, where an elected 'representative' is required to toe the party line, often in contradiction of the wishes of the local population that elected them. What sort of representative is that?

In our current system, an Independent can consider each bit of proposed legislation on its merit, regardless of the party in power, and also canvas and push for the needs and wants of their own electorate, unlike a party-bound politician. Ideally, we would have a minority government where neither main party could ride roughshod over the rest of parliament.

Unfortunately, there is a newly independent sitting parliamentarian, rejected by their own party, in our electorate, who did vote against the wishes of his constituents in the 2017 marriage equality referendum. We don't need that sort of independent. Who I will vote for is someone who has worked tirelessly to find out what the people of Monash want, and has promised to truly represent us. I will vote for her.

Yianni Banikos, Fish Creek

Time to look in
house at policies

HOW disappointing but unsurprising to see Nationals MP Danny O'Brien attacking community independent Deb Leonard.

Encouragingly, for Deb, he seems unable to move beyond the already totally discredited claims about funding coming from Climate 200.

But to repeat the rebuttal, Climate 200, set up by climate change activist Simon Holmes a' Court, is funded and supported mainly by community members such as myself and thousands of others to advocate for government to take seriously the climate crisis.

Deb Leonard and many other independent candidates accept funding support from Climate 200 because their goals align.

This sets them totally apart from the two major parties whose climate policies are compromised by their acceptance of millions of dollars from fossil fuel dependent corporations.

Danny, if you have any regard for the future of yours and your constituents' families, use your influence to change the Nationals climate policies.

Attacking a community supported candidate such as Deb Leonard is a new low in political activity.

Noel Maud, Inverloch

Public service is crucial

ALL my life, I have felt a part in the positive benefits of public service. As a child and teenager, I saw my parents, as part of a shared community, supporting my education at Koorooman East Primary School, supporting Watson's Garden Parties and Community Working Bees, to raise funding for Leongatha, outdoor swimming pool and Memorial Hospital.

Aged 20, I was "called up" for two years compulsory National Service, with 371 days in Vietnam, so I appreciate how much crucial administration and personnel support is needed, to support the frontline and so many lives depended on them. It is acknowledged, for every frontline soldier, up to ten "pogo's", are essential, to provide crucial administrative and supply support, for any successful military campaign.

I've worked in gardening services for Council and appreciate the number of administrative and "hands-on" workers, needed to provide essential, frontline services.

So please, when "opportunists", continually take "cheap shots" and suggest and talk about the perceived, better economics and savings of Public Service cuts, remember that it will surely reduce our vital public, frontline services, particularly our vital health services.

Today, I still find it important to publicly volunteer, for a more healthier, productive community. Gardening has developed as my

personal and community passion project, something, I understand, everyone can appreciate and benefit from.

I understand how important and vital, Public Service is to the long term, security, health and wellbeing, of all Australians. Our unbiased, thoughtful, innovative and committed public service and researchers are our taxes and future security, at work.

Please, support a dedicated Public Service!

Dick Lester, Leongatha

Even a little more shade can
make a world of difference

LOCAL residents are lucky to have access to many great parks, playgrounds, and outdoor spaces. But without ample shade, these places not only become hotspots but also high UV exposure zones.

More than 95 per cent of skin cancers in Australia are due to over-exposure to UV radiation. The good news is good quality shade can reduce UV by 60-90 per cent. Creating more natural and built shade is crucial to helping reduce skin cancer risk. Yet too often, UV protection is overlooked in local shade planning.

Recent research by SunSmart found that most local government areas (LGAs) include shade in their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans but only four LGAs out of 79 in Victoria specifically linked shade to UV protection. With more than 3000 Victorians diagnosed with melanoma (the deadliest form of skin cancer) in 2023 alone, local governments have an important role to play in preventing skin cancer by making UV protection a priority.

We urge local council to ensure UV protection is included in their new Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan or integrated Council Plan as a co-benefit of shade. To support this, SunSmart has developed tailored recommendations on how UV can be easily integrated into the council's health and climate priorities.

Including UV in planning can make a world of difference to your community.

Justine Osborne, SunSmart Advocacy and Policy Manager, Cancer Council Victoria

Consider your options

THE Teals, Independents, including Deb Leonard are financially backed in a seriously major way.

A huge chunk of this campaign money has been donated by Climate 200 which was set up by Simon Holmes a Court. He owns green energy industries therefore it would be advantageous to have the Teals support his businesses in Parliament.

Deb Leonard's advertising budget is reported to be 20 times more than all the other candidates in the Monash electorate.

Even with their enormous financial backing they claim to have run out of money and need more.

How would the Teals manage the Australian economy?

In Parliament the Teals have voted with the Greens 77 per cent of the time and we know how extreme they are.

If you don't want irrational spending or more wokeness and you don't want to pay extra taxes on your vehicle or end up paying death duties consider very carefully how you vote in this election by putting Teals, Greens and Labour in the last three positions.

Lewis Stone, Inverloch

Gas plan sailing Australia
into strategic peril

ONE of the key rationale for AUKUS is that submarines are needed to protect Australia's strategic communication and supply lines.

I have no problem with this thinking.

However, I believe in the concept of user pays. Given one of the key beneficiaries of protecting Australia's supply and export routes are the gas exporters themselves, they should be expected to contribute more than they currently do by way of taxes and charges for this service.

Kevin Walsh RFD, Cape Paterson

Vox Pop

Do you think ANZAC day
still holds relevance for
the younger generations?



John Williams

"I don't think they've got the same recognition that the older generation do. They haven't got the same ties, also population demographics are changing and we're much more diverse now."



Clair Turner

"They gave their lives for us. It should still hold relevance."



Paul Geyer

"It's very complicated. In a time of Ukraine and Gaza conflicts, it's easy for ANZAC day to be construed into an anti-war protest. But many people, me included, have family members who served and deserve to be remembered."



Maria Zacutti

"I think it's more relevant than ever. When I was a teenager ANZAC day was all but forgotten, but one day it moved from being a big 'booze-up' to a solemn day of remembrance. I think it was the fact that it resounded with young people because the boys who died were so young, many of them underage."

Liberals ganging up on genuine community Independent

I WAS dismayed to see that both Mary Al-dred (Liberal candidate) and Russell Broad-bent (former Liberal member, now Indepen-dent) are both putting Deb Leonard at eight in their how to vote cards. Are they really telling their voters that they prefer One Na-tion, Family First and, even, Labor over Deb Leonard?

Voters are not mugs and they can see what's happening. Some of the major parties view a genuine community Independent, like Deb Leonard, as a real threat. This is the same game played by the supermarket duopoly – keep out any real competition which could actually result in a better deal for people.

I'm voting for Deb for similar reasons that people voted for Don Chipp a generation ago – to keep the bastards honest! Deb is the only candidate who can stand up for the interests of our local community. She doesn't have to toe the party line and follow policies that have resulted in our region being neglected for too long. Deb Leonard listens, she has common sense, and she has my vote.

Sharon Willcox, Inverloch

Do not eat

RECENTLY when walking along the track to Foots Point, San Remo, we saw a message attached to a fence post, warning: "Black Berries have been sprayed. Do not eat."

It was unsigned. The blackberry bushes were loaded with fruit.

I ask our sitting councillors.
1) May I ask whoever did this spraying:
Can you write a warning message to the birds and other animals, in their language?
Our bird numbers are declining. Why?
Isn't Bass Coast Council [BCC] supposed to be an 'environmentally responsible Coun-cil'?

2) I rang BCC and spoke to a person who claimed to be in charge of contractors.

He said he was not aware that the area had been sprayed.

He appeared confused about spraying guidelines.

He seemed to have no idea about crucial timing.

3) What are the BCC and municipal guide-lines?

I rang another Council and asked them.
The answer was clear: "Spray blackberries in the spring growth surge, before the flowers open!"

This protects the bees and all other ani-mals from being poisoned.

4) Also effective maybe, to cut the black-berries at the base, then spray the small re-growth foliage.

This would reduce the amount of toxin en-tering our environment.

Or, as we have done, with a bit of elbow grease, dig up the roots.

5) Does BCC issue strict guidelines and su-pervision for contractors?

Unfortunately, the profit motive often rules.

J. Rainey, San Remo

Voting for the person, not party

I HAVE never been a member of a po-litical party – I'm a swinging voter. In both State and Federal elections for the Lower House, I pay little attention to the policies or popularity of the party or of the Lead-ers. I consider those when choosing how to vote in the Upper House.

But for the Lower House, I vote for the person who I believe will do the most good for this electorate and represent it best to the State or Federal Government of the day, irrespective of party affiliation or gen-der.

That choice is made on character, matu-rity, knowledge generally and of the elec-torate in particular, life experience – must include private sector experience – be-haviour on the campaign trail, and many other qualities required to be an effective local member.

In this election for the seat of Monash,

one candidate is head and shoulders above the remainder as judged by the cri-teria I use, and that is Russell Broadbent.

He is highly principled, having the cour-age to cross the floor on occasions when his conscience differed from his party's proposals. He has worked incredibly hard and successfully for two decades for this electorate.

I have lived in this electorate for most of that time and have seen how effective and successful he has been in supporting local government, community groups and indi-viduals. He is well respected by all par-ties in Parliament House and will hit the ground running.

I have been significantly annoyed al-ready in this campaign by the Liberal and Teal candidates badgering me every time I launch Facebook or YouTube with shallow advertisements and insincere claims to be able to achieve everything!

I was amazed that the Liberal party, after so many years of Russell success-fully retaining the seat for them, chose to dump him to parachute in Liberal royalty. Russell Broadbent deserves better, and it is no surprise that he is standing as a true Independent, not accepting donations from anyone, but funding his campaign from his own pocket.

I am not a member of Russell Broad-bent's campaign team, just an objective individual who is aware of how good he has been and will be for this electorate. My Upper House selection will be made nearer to election day.

Nigel Hutchinson-Brooks, Korum-burra

Misleading tactics undermine trust

APPARENTLY it is not a breach of any electoral rules or regulations for a can-didate or political party to spread lies or misinformation about an opponent in the lead-up to the federal election. Unfortunately, there is one party in Monash that appears to be exploiting this loophole to the fullest.

Last week a flyer from the Liberal Party claiming that Deb Leonard is part of the Teal Movement and is a Teal Candidate arrived in our letter box. "Teal" is a word used by the media, especially the Mur-doch press and its visual media outlets, to somehow group together independents that are concerned with climate change and local community issues.

The flyer insinuates that Simon Holmes à Court directly backs and finances Deb Leonard. This is simply not true. Deb's campaign is financed partially by Climate 200, but also by many individuals and or-ganisations. For example, I know of ordi-nary hard-working people donating up to \$100 out of every pay packet to her cam-paign. In 2022, Simon Holmes à Court donated \$250k to Climate 200. This represented less than two per cent of all donations to the organisation. Unlike the major parties, all funding directed to Deb is made available to the public, refer de-bleonard4monash.com.au/past_donors. She is not beholden to mining companies and major corporations such that she would be compelled to do their bidding.

Deb was selected by Voices for Monash to run as its preferred independent candi-date for the electorate. Neither Holmes à Court nor Climate 200 had a say in that selection process. Voices for Monash is made up of community members who work together to have the voice of the community heard by our political repre-sentatives.

The Liberal flyer also states that voting for Deb risks a Labor-Greens-Teals mi-nority government. Funny that, Deb's how to vote card does not nominate any prefer-ences. She simply leaves it up to voters to decide whom they preference. If it comes to a potential hung parliament, Deb will side in whichever way is most beneficial to the community of Monash.

If elected, Deb will vote in accordance with her stated policies. These have been

formulated based on her principles, her experience in the local region at both a community and professional level and feedback from the people of Monash. Un-like sitting members of the major parties, Deb will not have to toe a party line.

Rod McGregor, Cape Paterson

Do better with the budget

MY MAJOR concern is the infrastructure issues in the Bass Coast.

To quote the BCSC, "The unmade roads and inadequate drainage create issues for the communities such as dust, mud, pot-holes, flooding, disconnected networks and dynamic traffic safety."

I have looked at the current budget and forward estimates and I am disappointed that these issues are not being addressed by Council.

The Budgets are extremely conservative. For example, from the 2023-24 budget we were forecasting net assets for the 2025-26 of \$866 million. And in this year's budget forecasts net assets for 2025-26 of \$1.301 billion. This is an uplift of over 50 per cent and represents extremely bad budgeting!

We must address the infrastructure is-sues in the Bass Coast, and we can start by gearing our balance sheet to address the infrastructure issues.

I remind Councillors that we do not want any more deaths on our roads due to the lack of footpaths.

The budget is totally irresponsible and needs to be redone to address the infra-structure issues.

Frank W Schooneveldt, Wonthaggi

Stop the spin

I WISH to applaud Anton Gosselin for his letter April 15, 2025, titled: Nuclear vs Renewables.

He provides indisputable facts, figures and examples to show that there is no evi-dence that nuclear reactors damage the environment.

I am sick of hearing the Prime Minister Albanese, Chris Bowen Energy Minister and the Greenies denounce nucle-ar energy and costs but never give mainte-nance costs for their proposed large wind farms on land and sea which will require replacement between 12-15 years, nor do they mention loss of natural environment, wildlife and productive farming land. They are conning us!

Barry Gilbert, Caulfield (formerly South Gippsland)

We need action, not promises

ALTHOUGH Mental Health is not an amusing subject, the Labor Party is treat-ing it as a joke and taking voters for a ride.

I was surprised reading the comments by the Labor candidate for Monash. He omitted to inform voters that it was this Labor government that cut the Medicare counselling sessions from 20 down to 10. It is in the DNA of Labor as Gillard also decreased Medicare counselling sessions from 12 to 8.

Even though Labor is repeatedly saying Libs will cut Medicare.

Decreasing sessions at a time when men-tal health has increased, there are nine suicides a day, attempted suicides about 65,000 annually.

Labor MP Marion Scrygour said in July 2022, we need to do something about the high suicide rate, then in September 2023, she repeated the same mantra, we need to do something about the high suicides, and then in April 2024, when a ten-year-old took his life she repeated we must do better.

What has she/Labor done about sui-cides? COVID caused a lot of mental health stress and Labor promised a Royal Com-mission into COVID yet all Albo had was

an inquiry and States were not involved so waste of money.

Labor also promised to employ 500 community domestic violence counsel-lors yet as of June 2024 only 53 were em-ployed.

J. Boucher, Kilcunda

Editor's Note: If you need support, talk to a GP or health professional, or contact:
• *SANE Australia on 1800 18 SANE (7263) or sane.org.*
• *Lifeline on 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au.*
• *Kids' Helpline on 1800 551 800 or kid-shelpline.com.au.*

Policy settings need to be re-evaluated

FOR the last four weeks, the Sentinel has published articles about "squatters".

As we all know, houses are being pur-chased by investors on the edge of towns, especially Wonthaggi.

However, it is the owner's responsibility to tidy and secure their property.

Rents in Bass Coast are above the aver-age for regional Victoria. The housing cri-sis is impacting all of us, whether home-owners or renters.

It should be no surprise that people without a roof over their heads choose to live temporarily in houses or sheds, rath-er than camp in the bush.

Let's have some compassion and under-stand the situation, rather than blaming the victims.

Instead, blame the policy settings, such as negative gearing, which encourage in-vestors to use housing as a means of in-creasing their personal wealth.

Jessica Harrison, Wonthaggi

Squatters, a community responsibility

HAVE had to read this story a couple of times in the newspapers. I want to stress here that the community is also respon-sible for keeping their street or court safe for their sake and the value of their properties. It is not okay for the police to say that it is a civic case and not crimi-nal. If someone was robbing a property would that not be a criminal offence? These squatters are not doing anything different – taking over a property that is not theirs. It is the owner's responsibil-ity and of course, he should be paying for the cleanup of the property, I have no sympathy for the owners. Then again it is the council that is taking rates on the property and has a community responsi-bility as well.

We seem to be as a community too afraid to get out there, show our faces and confront the authorities, who in this case is the Council. A community can only be safe if we all play our part and everyone on the street and around should be in the face of the council demanding that the house be bulldozed if it cannot be a positive influence on the street. It is pointless making it an article for the pa-pers because it is not much we can do and complaining is not going to get you very far. It is not hard to band together as neighbours and insist that the Council and the owner bring the peace back to your street.

It is obvious that the owner does not care because it is not the house that is of value to him but rather the land. Same with the Council, so long as there is land, they will receive the rates but they also have a responsibility to community. We seem to give our power away to teenagers and losers to take control. Get a grip, get control of your street, do not be afraid because to be afraid is to bear the con-sequences.

You have the power, use it humbly and respectfully because that is your street, that is where you live and you have a re-sponsibility to make the authorities and the owner accountable.

Dilene Hinton, Inverloch



Corinella resident Neil Daly has been petitioning to protect Western Port's environment and biodiversity from urban sprawl and wants future governments to get involved.

Western Port environmental legacy petition to protect the area

By Courtney O'Brien

CORINELLA resident Neil Daly has been petitioning to raise awareness and to urge the State Government of Victoria to legislate a Western Port Strategic Management Plan.

Neil would ultimately like the future state and federal governments to ensure it plans for the region's biodiversity and its economic sustainability, so it can be preserved for future generations to inherit, nurture and enjoy.

Mr Daly began the petition in September last year, after becoming inspired by the various environmental protection groups in the area and has written a number of articles on the subject for the Bass Coast Post.

"I thought there was a need to try and interest more people about the issues regarding the Western Port region, hence, I decided to try and run a petition."

Mr Daly has also been trying to capture the attention of local politicians and election candidates and get them to recognise the uniqueness of Western Port natural areas and to mitigate the growing pressures of small regional towns to expand their industrial and urban zones.

"Over time I've been in touch with a number of politicians, from the Ministers of the Victorian Government, Environment Planning Ministers, to the local members in the state parliament."

After gaining some interest, but little traction on the issue, Mr Daly is now working to raise awareness both among locals and visitors that come from Melbourne, to the region, by attending local markets.

"It's getting the message out to the people who travel down here over weekends and long weekends, or perhaps come to holiday down this way. That's the audience, and that's where I'm finding it a bit hard to try and capture their attention," said Mr Daly.

"Ultimately, I suppose if they don't help us protect what we have, it may not be here in years to come."

Gaining the attention and the support of his metropolitan counterparts, who appreciate the area, Mr Daly believes they could then get together to bring the pressure to bear on the politicians.

"When you come to election time, votes don't matter very much in this region; because I suppose politicians are looking to occupy the seats of power based around where they're going, to make sure they get the numbers," said Mr Daly.

"I suppose Bass Coast and these areas are perhaps a long way from Spring Street. It may not be that important (to them), but ultimately, I'm hoping they will start to consider it important for the environment and the economic future of this region."

To read further details and to sign the petition, go to: change.org/p/save-western-port-protect-its-environment-and-biodiversity-from-urban-sprawl.



Wonthaggi RSL grants officer Mark Stephenson, secretary Toni Cornelius, vice president Dan Lucas, candidate for Monash Mary Aldred, Wonthaggi RSL treasurer Andy Forster and president Kevin Walsh after Mary toured the building and learned what improvements are needed. A05_1625

Wonthaggi RSL calls for modernisation support

By Andrew Paloczi

THERE are plans to revitalise Wonthaggi RSL, with highlights including opening up the back of the building onto a deck, sealing the carpark, creating a comfortable veterans' lounge and replacing the toilets with modern and accessible facilities.

Should those in charge secure funding for the project, one thing that won't change is the traditional RSL model, there being no intention to go down the business path.

Monash candidate Mary Aldred toured the outdated facilities on Tuesday, followed by a detailed conversation with Wonthaggi RSL representatives.

"I've got a big two and a half weeks ahead, but should I be successful, I'd like to catch up within those first few weeks," she said of the approaching election and the prospect of becoming the Member for Monash.

While acknowledging the primary purpose of the building is to serve veterans and their

families, Mary was impressed with the broader community benefit, having heard the CWA runs relief services for local families from the Wonthaggi RSL premises and that there is a strong relationship between the RSL and other local community organisations.

"There are important opportunities to bring people together," she said, with exercise classes and bridge among the activities happening at the RSL Sub Branch.

"I'd like to do everything I can to support this; I've put a huge amount of effort into engaging with local RSL Sub Branches in the area," Mary said.

The intention is to create a multifunction space that could potentially host two events at once and to promote better social cohesion for veterans.

An upgrade of the 1956 building is also important to cope better with the large numbers on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

Sealing of the carpark is identified as a safety issue with some members having mobility challenges and at risk of falls on the current gravel surface.

Toilet facilities, particularly the men's cubicles, are tiny, presenting accessibility issues.

The planned project will also provide separation between the amenities and the bar, the bar to be relocated and turned into a more practical space for those serving.

As well as creating a welcoming space, there will be rooms suited to discussing veteran's issues in private.

That ties in with the Sub Branch's support and services for all veterans and their families, including young veterans, those in charge looking ahead to the need to cater for more people experiencing challenges after being part of campaigns such as Afghanistan and various peacekeeping missions.

Membership of Wonthaggi RSL has risen sharply in recent years, now around 200.

While Wonthaggi RSL provides mental health support and social connection activities for veterans and their families and helps link people to the wider veterans' support community, it views its role as extending to the broader community.

"We do not see the RSL as an exclusively veterans' asset as in accordance with the military concept of mutual support, the RSL works with all groups seeking to advance the welfare of the Wonthaggi community which we call home," the Sub Branch's president Kevin Walsh said.

"We're lobbying for any support we can get, and I think it would be a fantastic asset for the community," Wonthaggi RSL grants officer Mark Stephenson said.

The overall project cost is estimated at \$1.6 million.

While it could be undertaken in stages, the hope is to secure funding for the whole project, with that being the most cost-effective way of proceeding.

Still waiting at Woorayl Lodge for new Boags Road facility

By Andrew Paloczi

IF GOOD things come to those who wait, those in charge at Leongatha's Woorayl Lodge and community members in need of local aged care should expect something special soon, but funding to create a new 80-bed facility in Boags Road is still not forthcoming.

Sentinel-Times headed along to the Lodge's current McCartin Street premises on Tuesday ready for a grand pre-election funding announcement from Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care Senator Anne Ruston and candidate for Monash Mary Aldred.

The pair were greeted by the Lodge's Co-CEO Jaimee Brydon, Board Chair Linda Fiddelaers and treasurer Peter McAlpine, and South Gippsland Shire Mayor John Schelling.

Mary and Anne stopped to chat to residents in the foyer before heading to the courtyard to speak to Board members and the CEO, the suspense building ahead of a hoped-for announcement.



Woorayl Lodge Board Chair Linda Fiddelaers, Senator Anne Ruston, Woorayl Lodge Co-CEO Jaimee Brydon, candidate for Monash Mary Aldred and Woorayl Lodge treasurer Peter McAlpine discussed funding needs for an aged care development in Boags Road. A03_1625

Then it became apparent it was just a general chat about the planned Boags Road facility and what attempts have been made so far to secure funding.

While both politicians acknowledged the importance of the project and the need for the provision of more aged care places locally, they only spoke in general terms about their desire to support the initiative.

"I would be keen to work

with this community on how we make this happen," Anne declared, noting she comes from regional Australia and understands the value of enabling people to remain in their local community, something a larger aged care facility will help achieve.

Mary also vowed to keep working to help make the Boags Road project a reality.

Having been unsuccessful with previous Federal Government funding applications,

those in charge of Woorayl Lodge are finalising an application for a grant through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program.

While the Monash incumbent, now independent and former Liberal Russell Broadbent has committed to pursuing \$40 million in funding to help bring the Boags Road development to fruition, support will be required from whichever major party wins government.



Natasha Gibbons (president of Leongatha Basketball Association), Shane Commadeur (Leongatha Lightning team manager), candidate for Monash Mary Aldred, James Rossiter (Basketball Victoria association development officer), and Cr John Schelling (South Gippsland Shire Mayor) join Leongatha Lightning players at the announcement of a \$3.5 million commitment from the Coalition. A01_1625

Coalition commits to fixing and improving Leongatha’s Splash Stadium

SHADOW Minister for Sport Anne Ruston vowed to stop the indoor rain at Leongatha’s aptly named Splash Stadium, committing \$3.5 million to fix the leaking roof and make other improvements should the Coalition win Government next month.

She was accompanied by Mary Aldred, the Liberal candidate for the seat of Monash.

New president of Leongatha Basketball Association Natasha Gibbons is delighted at the prospect of solving the stadium’s long running challenges.

She looks forward to not relying on an elaborate series of upturned umbrellas attached to the ceiling and connected to pipes to catch water, that system put in place by South

By Andrew Paloczi

Gippsland Shire Council as a stop gap measure.

Waterproofing the stadium may involve putting another roof over the existing one Natasha believes.

She said that as well as fixing the roof, the funding would enable the creation of offices and a small commercial kitchen, along with other improvements.

She noted that as well as the sporting benefits that would provide, it could enable the stadium to be used as a community relief centre if required.

Mary told the Sentinel-Times of her connection to basketball locally and her delight at the prospect of improvements to

Splash Stadium.

“As a former chair of Gippsland United Basketball League, it’s been fantastic to work with the club here over the years and I know how passionate the families, coaches and umpires are about the facility,” she said, then commenting on the undesirable uniqueness of the stadium as it is currently.

“I’ve never seen a roof in all of Gippsland like this one and I’m sure I’d be hard-pressed to find one across Australia with umbrellas holding out water; so I’ve been determined since day one as a candidate to work with the club here and, as a member of the Coalition team, being able to put my case directly to the Shadow Minister

for Sport on a number of occasions about why this is so important.”

Anne made her announcement to a contingent of young Leongatha Lightning players.

“I heard your roof leaks a lot which is not conducive to you having a great court to play on, so if we’re elected as the next Government, we’re going to fix your roof,” she declared.

Anne called for the umbrellas to remain even when the roof is fixed “as a legacy”, she and others impressed by their uniqueness and this scribe feeling they might easily be taken for a modern art installation.

The kids enjoyed seeing Mary and Anne take some shots at the basket, no easy challenge when they were wearing jackets.

10% US tariff on beef exports a concern for local farmers

By Bruce Wardley

A DISAPPOINTING step backwards is how the National Farmers’ Federation (NFF) has described the United States’ decision to impose a 10 per cent tariff on all Australian exports including beef.

Liberal Candidate for Monash Mary Aldred said the US tariff applied to Australian exports highlighted the uncertainty of the global economy and the need for strong economic management here and at home.

“Prime Minister Albanese failed to stand up when Australians needed him and has not been proactive enough in fighting for Australia’s interests,” said Ms Aldred.

“A Coalition Government will always stand up for Australia, and if elected Peter Dutton will take immediate steps to address Albanese’s failure to secure exemptions from US tariffs.”

Independent Candidate Deb Leonard said Monash now has the largest sale yards in Victoria at Koonwarra and the US tariffs on the beef industry could have major consequences for local farmers.

“I’ll work to make sure the beef industry in Australia is supported through any changes in international trade,” said Ms Leonard.

Deb Leonard claims to be the only candidate in Monash with a dedicated farming and agriculture policy which shows her commitment to the farming sector.

Former Liberal Party Member for Monash and now Independent Russell Broadbent believes the US trade war between the United States and China could lead to China buying more beef from Australia.

“That could make a real difference to local meat suppliers,” said Mr Broadbent.

“Australia will do quite well.”

Beef imports from the United States have been banned since 2003 because of an outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease.

NFF President David Jochinke said the Australian agricultural industry supports a considered and measured approach to negotiations with the United States and will work closely with the Government and all sides of politics to seek a resolution to this issue.

The farming sector does not support the introduction of reciprocal tariffs according to Mr Jochinke and supports the Federal Government in standing firm in defence of Australia’s science-based biosecurity framework.

“The NFF has long championed free and fair trade, not just for agriculture but all industries, recognising its role in global economic growth and stability.

“Australian agriculture is unwavering in its commitment to this,” said Mr Jochinke.

“Australian producers are resilient in the face of challenges, being among the least subsidised farmers in the world has seen the sector become highly efficient and productive.

“While this decision creates unnecessary uncertainty, we remain confident in the strength of Australian agriculture.

“Our products are sought after worldwide for their quality, sustainability, and reliability.”

Australia imports A\$2.5 billion worth of United States food and agricultural products annually and about \$400 million worth of farm machinery.

Flying your colours at the footy

AHEAD of the start to early voting on Tuesday this week, independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard joined a bumper Easter crowd at Cowes for a day of football and netball clashes between Phillip Island and Warragul Industrials.

Ms Leonard chatted with patrons prior to the start of the main match, featuring a thrilling finish when Dusties won on virtually the last kick of the day.

Ms Leonard will spend the first day of early voting at the

St Paul’s Old Year 9 Centre in Sutton Street, Warragul.

Other early voting places in Monash are located at the Masonic Lodge in Church Street, Cowes and the Senior Citizens Centre in Murray Street, Wonthaggi.

RIGHT: Independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard chats with former Phillip Island Football Netball Club officials Terry Carman and Noel Burrell while electioneering at the footy on Saturday.



Independents deliver for communities while major parties play catch-up

IN RESPONSE to the recent Liberal Party funding commitment for a new pool and sports hub on Phillip Island, independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard welcomed the announcement but said it’s too little, too late after decades of neglect by the major parties.

“After 40 years of ignoring our electorate, it’s only when the Liberal Party are facing losing the seat to an Independent that they start making

promises,” said Ms Leonard.

“While I absolutely welcome this funding announcement, and I hope the Labor Party comes up with funding as well, the reality is we need closer to \$100 million, not the \$10 million.”

Ms Leonard points to the track record of independent MPs in delivering for their communities, regardless of which party is in power. Independent MPs like Helen Haines, Zali Steggall, and

Andrew Wilkie have secured hundreds of millions in funding for critical infrastructure and services in their electorates.

“As an Independent, it doesn’t matter which party is in government, I’ll be able to fight for Monash and get the funding we need and deserve to build our Pool and Sports Hub, as well as other projects,” said Ms Leonard.

“Independents have a proven record of delivering for their communities. Just look

at Helen Haines securing \$90m for road upgrades and pothole fixes, Zali Steggall securing \$133m grants for community clubs and recreation, and Monique Ryan helping wipe \$3b in student debt. They’re effective because they work for their communities, not party headquarters. That’s the kind of representation Monash deserves.”

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

Candidates face question time at Carinya as over 60s listen in

By Courtney O'Brien

THE OVER 60s age group make up nearly 43 per cent of voters in the Monash electorate, as such, one would think it would be wise for candidates to capitalise on these statistics and get chummy with the crew that have been around for more than one rodeo. That didn't appear to be the case last Tuesday when Carinya Lodge, an Aged Care Facility in Korumburra invited Federal candidates running for Monash, to join them for a meet and greet with residents and answer some questions.

While Mary Aldred and Glenn Arnold for the Coalition got gold stars for turning up early, Tully Fletcher (Labor) and Kuljeet Kaur Robinson (One Nation) rolled in late, and Deb Leonard (Independent) sent her sister and campaign manager, Kate Leonard in her place. But at least they showed up in one form or another.

Russell Broadbent (Independent), Terence Steele (Greens), Alex Wehbe (Trumpet of Patriots), Geoff Dethlefs (Family First), and David O'Reilly (Legalise Cannabis Party) were also invited. Mr Broadbent and Mr Wehbe sent their apologies, Mr Steele failed to respond, Mr Dethlefs' email bounced back, and staff couldn't find a contact for Mr O'Reilly.



Carinya staff with federal candidates who showed up for question time at the aged care facility, Kuljeet Kaur Robinson, Joel Stevenson, Glenn Arnold, Mary Aldred, Tully Fletcher, Kate Leonard, Katie Billing and Sarah Jackson. ob01_1625

Nevertheless, residents heard from those who showed up and made some promises.

True to politics nowadays there was even a bit of a stoush, kicked off by Labor and finished by the Coalition – over erosion, no less – rather than aged care.

It appeared that Ms Aldred and Ms Leonard had done a little bit of homework about what our wisest citizens both want, need and expect from our future government.

Ms Aldred vowed to fight to secure better services, infrastructure and resources to support aged care facilities and staff, to secure more beds locally, to train more health and aged care staff locally, and the big one – to inject

\$900 million into Medicare for more bulk billing and to subsidise mental health sessions.

“For regions like ours, I want to make sure that we are able to improve our roads, invest in health-care and fix the infrastructure base that we've got,” said Ms Aldred.

In a letter read out by Kate, Ms Leonard stated that her priorities included simplifying the 'my aged care' system, improving home care packages, investing in more aged care places locally, expanding Medicare to cover more essential services, such as mental health and dental, and better access to health services locally.

“People want to keep their loved ones close, but it's becoming

harder and harder to secure local aged care,” wrote Ms Leonard.

Mr Fletcher began by “being a bit political,” implying the Coalition are gunning for an American-style medical system. After that, it was eventually revealed that Labor plans to invest in training more doctors and nurses to address the shortage of staff in regional areas and the shortage of housing to accommodate staff. They also plan to extend bulk billing and free GP visits for some.

“It's very straightforward, many of you already receive free bulk billing because of your status,” said Mr Fletcher.

Ms Robinson stated that One

Nation would advocate for more funding for residential facilities, encourage health professionals to move to, and work in regional areas and advocate paying the HECS-HELP debt for those working for three years in the industry. They also plan on lifting the tax-free threshold to \$35,000 for self-funded retirees who are over 67 and not receiving any form of government payment.

Mr Arnold, as a candidate for the Senate, admitted that he was running a different race to the other candidates, but vowed to fight for more funding and more solutions for beach erosion. He also added that he would like to see more medical treatments and expertise made available locally.

“We pay the same taxes as everyone else in Melbourne and Sydney and all the rest of it. I just want our fair share, and I don't want to have to fight so hard to get the things that we need,” said Mr Arnold.

Mr Fletcher took issue with the notion that the issue of erosion had been 'politicised' and claimed he had knocked on many doors in Inverloch and apparently all the locals agree with him. Mr Arnold was not having any of it, stating that as an Inverloch resident, he hadn't had a knock on his door. If nothing else, it might've given the residents a bit more to talk about than usual, at morning tea.

The 2025 Federal Election seat of Monash candidate statements

Alex Wehbe

Trumpet of Patriots



THE Trumpet of Patriots is focused on democracy, individual freedoms, free speech, reducing government intrusion in our lives, breaking the duopoly, real choice and real liberty.

If you are unhappy with how your life has become more expensive to manage, disturbed by the direction of our nation and troubled by the erosion of our Australian values and identity, then at the election on May 3 you must vote differently. If you don't, you'll be locking in our nation's current course for years to come and Australia will face a bleak future.

Every vote for Labor, the Liberals, Greens or Teals is another nail in Australia's coffin. Vote 1 Trumpet of Patriots and set a new course for Australia based on our common sense policies that put Australia first.

We need common sense, practical solutions that focus on what really matters to real people. Our policies are driven by need and necessity, not ideology.

Geoff Dethlefs

Family First



I'M Geoff Dethlefs, a long-time resident of Drouin with nearly 20 years of experience serving the Monash community through education and pastoral care.

I'm running with Family First because families are the foundation of a strong society, and politicians today are failing them.

I'll fight to cut power prices by ending damaging net zero policies and returning to affordable, reliable energy.

As a former teacher and principal, I strongly support parents' rights to choose how their children are educated – free from government interference and radical gender ideology.

I'll also stand firm on protecting women's and girls' spaces in sport and public facilities.

I believe in clear values, practical policy, and standing up for what's right, and I will always put the needs of Monash families first.

I'm running with a team – not as an independent – because real change in Canberra takes unity.

Together, we can rebuild a future based on truth, responsibility, and freedom.

Kuljeet Kaur Robinson

Pauline Hanson's One Nation



AS YOUR One Nation candidate for Monash, I am standing to be a strong, genuine voice for everyday Australians who feel increasingly overlooked by the major parties. Our region deserves better representatives who truly understand local concerns and are ready to stand up for what matters most.

From supporting our farmers and creating secure local jobs to protecting our freedoms and ensuring a fair, sustainable immigration system, I will work tirelessly to put the needs of Monash first.

Right now, the cost of living continues to soar, small businesses are burdened by unnecessary red tape, and vital regional services are being stripped away. It's time for common-sense solutions – ones grounded in accountability, integrity, and a deep commitment to our community.

One Nation is focused on restoring affordability in everyday life, investing in rural health and infrastructure, and ensuring our children receive a quality education, free from political bias and grounded in real-world skills and values.

Let's bring real representation back to Monash.

David O'Reilly

Legalise Cannabis Party



DAVID was born in Seymour, Victoria, to Army parents. He completed high school in Moorabbin and enlisted in the Australian Army at the age of 17.

After an initial period of service, David took a short break during the 1980s before re-enlisting in 1990. He served until his discharge in 2011, achieving the rank of Warrant Officer Class One (WO1). His extensive service included multiple deployments overseas, with periods in Iraq, Afghanistan and Indonesia during the tsunami response, as well as work alongside other Pacific nations.

In recognition of his dedication, David was awarded an Australia Day Medallion in 2006. He continued to support Defence in civilian roles, retiring from all positions in 2018.

David remains deeply committed to serving the veteran community. He currently holds several roles, including Vice President of the Morwell RSL.

David is running in the 2025 Federal Election to further his advocacy for cannabis reform and support the Legalise Cannabis Party's lead Senate candidate, Fiona Patten.

Terence Steele

Greens



BE CONCERNED with the nuclear and fracking threats in Gippsland

I'm a long-time environmental advocate and Greens member but was compelled to nominate for the seat of Monash as we need to address the serious environmental threats posed by proposed nuclear development in Gippsland and the likely return of fracking.

These are dangerous steps backwards at a time when bold climate action is urgently needed.

Motivated by grassroots democracy and climate justice, I call for immediate government and community action.

We're facing the greatest crisis in a thousand years. We must act now to build a fair, sustainable, and inclusive future.

Looking after the environment and being focused on social justice for the people of Monash is a clear pathway to a more sustainable economic future. We need to look at the big picture for Monash to meet the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis now and for prosperity for many more years to come.



Volunteers from the San Remo CFA including 'Tubs' and Jacqui circulated around the town on Good Friday collecting for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday appeal.



Enjoying the family walk around San Remo for the Good Friday Appeal were Melissa with Briony, Jackson and Lucas.



Kilcunda Fire Brigade were outside in the sunshine rattle tins on Good Friday, from left, Captain Dave, Allan, Andrea and Daniel. Kilcunda Fire Brigade raised \$3254.95. C03_1625

Amazing \$61,809 from San Remo

MORE than Bairnsdale, Shepparton, Morwell or even Wonthaggi! The people of San Remo have been credited with contributing a whopping \$61,809 to the Royal Children's Hospital's Good Friday Appeal.

Led by an amazing effort from the San Remo CFA who raised \$19,306.75 from their exhaustive annual door knock, in which collectors and a fire truck went to every house in the town, the ultimate total was boosted by a number of other events.

Along with an outstanding effort by San Remo Hotel's Walk for the Kids, Easter raffles, auction and silent auction, there was also Jim's Bait and Tackle's Easter fishing competition, Beand's \$1 from every coffee, San Remo Discount stores raffle and the incredible donations from many of our local businesses; the combined

community total currently stands at \$57,760.25.

But according to organisers, this does not include online donations or QR code donations that go straight to the Royal Children's Hospital but register to the San Remo 3925 postcode for a final official tally nudging the \$62,000 mark.

"What an achievement. I am so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community, especially as this year's Good Friday Appeal Area Manager," said San Remo CFA member Sarah Fry.

"I am tremendously proud to be a volunteer with San Remo CFA and want to thank all our volunteers who made yesterday's (Friday's) events happen. The biggest thank you to our community. I am overwhelmed by your generosity and beyond words, I am so proud to call this area home."



Taking part in the town walk fundraiser for the RCH on Good Friday were Lotti, Harla, Hudson and Reeve with dog Dolly.



Kilcunda firefighter John and his partner Sue pitched in behind the BBQ on Friday. C05_1625



It was all systems go at Inverloch Fire Brigade on Friday as firefighters prepared to hit the streets at 9am. C06_1625

Korumburra gives its all for Good Friday appeal

KORUMBURRA'S generosity was evident, as it is every Good Friday, auctioneers Jimmy Kyle and Josh Chiavaroli giving their time to sell an array of items donated by community members and local businesses to help the Royal Children's Hospital provide the best care possible.

Bidders paid impressive prices, signed footy jumpers among the popular items, especially a Hawthorn one that fetched \$450.

The auction started with a footy theme as a couple of Korumburra Bena family memberships were snapped up by separate bidders.

Agricultural services, a wide variety of hampers, overnight stays and even chicken pellets and lucerne hay for horses all sold.

Jimmy pointed out there should be plenty of interest in a tattoo voucher up for grabs that ultimately made \$310.

"There's a lot of ink getting about here today; who needs a bit more?"

Josh regularly reminded bidders that whatever the cost, everything was good value and for a worthy cause.

"It's only your pride on the line," he told one bidder,



Auctioneers Jimmy Kyle and Josh Chiavaroli drum up interest in a jumper signed by the 2025 Western Bulldogs players that made \$300 for the Good Friday Appeal. A10_1625

encouraging them to offer a little more for a signed Bombers jumper that made \$350.

Korumburra Business Association president Jack Gilchrist was again one of the most generous bidders, even thrusting his hand up when he wasn't sure what the item was, the cause more important.

While he was pleased to discover one of his

purchases included a bottle of alcohol, he balanced things out healthwise by snapping up a box of fruit.

Popular local identity Tommy Brown maintained his tireless fundraising efforts, wandering the hotel premises and encouraging people to buy raffle tickets, his meat raffles having already raised valuable funds in the lead up to Good Friday.



Popular Korumburra identity Tommy Brown has again been busy drumming up support for the Good Friday Appeal. A12_1625



Getting the bus to Kilcunda for the George Bass RCH Good Friday walk were volunteers Barry Williams and Eddie Legg with Virginia, Jenny and Barry.



Taking part in the treasure hunt walk at San Remo on Good Friday, for the Royal Children's Hospital appeal were Saly, Lace, Avani and Angie.

It's easier than ever to get vaccinated

THE Gippsland Region Public Health Unit is reminding people that it's easier than ever to book in your annual flu and COVID vaccinations, and for many people, it's also free. Vaccines are free for adults over 65, kids between six months and five years, those with chronic conditions, pregnant women and First Nations people under the National Immunisation Program.

GRPHU Acting Director Alyce Wilson wants to ensure more Gippsland communities are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

"It's easier than ever to book your vaccine for the flu season, there are many opportunities to protect yourself, you family and community from infections," Dr Wilson said. "Talk to your GP pharmacist, or for those who are pregnant, your midwife."

The end of April marks World Immunisation Week, a World Health Organisation (WHO) initiative that this year is celebrating the theme: Immunisation for all is humanly possible.

WHO figures reveal that in the past 50 years, vaccination has accounted for a 40 per cent improvement in infant survival worldwide. It means for the first time in human history, more kids are now living to celebrate their first birthday and beyond.

In Australia, anyone over six months can get a flu vaccine, but very young babies can be protected if their mums are immunised while pregnant. As well as protecting babies from the flu, pregnant people can now get their RSV vaccines for free between 28 and 36 weeks under the National Immunisation Program. This is to protect bubs under six months who are at increased risk of severe RSV infection.



Zuppa Inglese (Topsy cake!)



By Meg Viney

THIS Italian delicacy has been a family favourite. You can make your own sponge cake – I have to admit I prefer it, but please make your own custard. Rum is called for but really a medium sherry will do unless you have rum. You will probably have some custard left over, to do with what you will.

Vanilla Custard

- 3 eggs and 2 yolks (save the whites in the freezer for pavlova)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 cups milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

Beat the eggs and sugar, then stir in the milk and vanilla.

Using a double boiler (not necessary if you are careful) warm the mixture, stirring constantly, until it coats the back of the spoon and thickens. Cool.

Sponge

Make a sponge of your own recipe – hopefully, you have one.

Assemble

Slice the sponge into three layers. Place the first on a serving platter and cover with 1/3 cup rum/sherry, then 1/3 to 1/2 cup raspberry preserves. Pour over 1/2 cup cooled custard. Repeat the layers.

Finally, beat 2 cups of cream and spread over the entire outside. Allow to sit a while before serving.



Chris Smith, SAV Board Members Colin Scott and John Day, Stephen Fullarton, Tony Zoanetti, Carer Sharyn Latham and Henk Gerbes. B05_1625

Living in fear of the silent stroke in Bass Coast

THE first meeting of the Bass Coast Regional Stroke Recovery Group at PICAL in Cowes heard how stroke survivors in South Gippsland and Bass Coast are now helping others.

Bass Coast Health which normally sees over one hundred stroke patients each year has seen stroke events jump by 35 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Bass Coast now has the highest incidence of stroke per capita in regional Victoria.

The informal gathering at PICAL convened by the Stroke Association of Victoria (SAV) was told locally available community-based support services are readily available to help with life after stroke.

"Peer stroke support is available to assist everyone with skill development activities, vocation support and linkages to community stroke support services," said SAV Board Member Colin Scott.

One stroke survivor told of her experience with a silent

stroke.

"Many people I know have symptoms of a silent stroke," she said.

"I went back to work after my second stroke but couldn't do my job.

"My memory was affected, and I wanted to know why.

"My GP told me I'd had another stroke."

Anxiety and fear of a stroke happening again is common.

"We need to find out what is needed for stroke survivors on Phillip Island," said Mr Scott.

The stroke survivors said they could see the benefit of discussion groups.

"Survivors need to know they are not alone, and they can share their experiences."

Breaking the isolation is important for new stroke survivors.

SAV Board Member John Day explained that it was common for people to hear voices in their head.

"People need to be able to sit down with a mate for a talk and

coffee."

Stroke survivors spoke about the time it took to overcome their anxiety.

"Each day the anxiety builds up, day by day."

The Stroke Association of Victoria is hoping to get staff from the Wonthaggi Hospital to talk to stroke survivors about their recovery journey.

"Four minor strokes changed my whole life," said one stroke survivor.

"Now I feel more peaceful about life."

Simple things like walking groups and playing golf can be helpful.

"Getting a group of carers in the room can be so inclusive," said Mr Day.

Carer Sharyn Latham said stroke survivors can be assessed for a My Aged Care package with four different levels of care.

Some of the services provided in the package include home care, personal care, lawn and garden care, transport to medical

appointments, and access to District Nursing services.

Flexihealth Home Care Packages are available from Bass Coast Health Wonthaggi.

Fortnightly discussion groups for stroke survivors will be held at PICAL in Cowes and the Wonthaggi Power Football and Netball clubrooms on alternate Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon. Today, Wednesday, April 23, is Wonthaggi.

To find out more go to strokeassociation.com.au or email info@strokeassociation.com.au.

To request an Aged Care assessment, you can self-refer or discuss your care needs with your GP, current care provider, or family and friends who can refer you for an assessment via My Aged Care.

To request additional information or to transfer from an existing Home Care package to Bass Coast Flexihealth phone 5671 3476 or email flexihealth@basscoasthealth.org.au.

Easter fun for all across South Gippsland



Josie, Tanith, Maddie and Lacey were all smiles at McIndoe Park. Ns02_1625

EASTER events were popular across the weekend, especially in Leongatha.

Easter in the Park at Leongatha's McIndoe Park drew in families of all ages as they embraced the unusually good weather for April.

The free event featured plenty for the kids with face painting, arts and crafts stalls and of course an easter egg hunts, with even the adults joining in.

Hosted by the Christian Reformed Church of South Gippsland, the event's key theme was embracing the message of the Gospels in Christ's death and resurrection.

Foster also held their own Easter in the Park which was organised by Connections Church.

Both events were well attended.

Elsewhere Coal Creek's Easter Egg Hunt was sold out and Wonthaggi State Mine had a fantastic array of visitors passing through the doors and completing the hunt, not to mention one local little chap winning the Friends of the State Coal Mine Easter bonnet competition.

Out of the ordinary art from recycled materials at ArtCubes

MULTIPLE award winning South Gippsland artist Mandy Gunn had a willing audience of young children over the school holidays helping to create art using recycled materials at the Art Cubes program in the Venus Bay Community Centre.

'Out of the Ordinary' art was a rare opportunity for children to work with Mandy Gunn who lives and works from her studio between Walkerville and Tarwin Lower.

Studying painting at Monash University in the 1990s and later completing a master's degree at the Victorian College of the Arts, Mandy quickly incorporated weaving into her unique artistic style.

Mandy collects, cuts, weaves, and collages recycled materials into extraordinary books, woven constructions and breathtaking wall hangings.

During her residency at the Art Cube in Venus Bay Mandy has showcased an amazing collection of woven and constructed works that are both thought-provoking and beautiful.

A prolific artist Gunn works across multiple mediums, using everyday materials, industrial waste, and organic and



Sammy and Aeysha at the Venus Bay Community Centre creating art from recycled materials. B16_1525

synthetic 'manmade' waste, cardboard, aluminium, rubber and paper; continually finding new ways to transform what many may consider rubbish into commanding works of art that tell stories about everyday life and the way we live.

With more than thirty solo exhibitions since 1995 and over 130 group shows Mandy Gunn's work is not only prolific but has won numerous awards.

Mandy's large scale woven

hangings have been exhibited and commissioned for major galleries and businesses around Melbourne and overseas.

A young Mandy Gunn was one of the earliest featured artists at the Gippsland Art Gallery formerly the Sale Regional Art Centre in the early 80s.

Mandy warmly welcomes parents and children into her world of multi-textural collages and stunning recycled art.

The final event celebrating the three-month Art Cubes program at Venus Bay is Jorja with Karavana Flamenca at the Venus Bay Community Centre from 5pm to 7pm on Saturday, April 26, BYO picnic, rugs and chairs.

A four-week series of workshops 'Introduction to Acrylic Painting' for absolute beginners will begin at the Community Centre on Monday, May 5, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

The acrylic art workshops are for those who are new to art and want to explore how to paint without having to go out and buy all the supplies first. No prior experience is needed with the workshops promising to be open and relaxed.

Led by accomplished painter and teacher Elaine participants get to take their completed artwork home.

Bookings can be made in person at the Venus Bay Community Centre or email carol@vbcc.org.au.

To view Mandy Gunn's work search for [mandy.gunn](https://www.instagram.com/mandygunn) on Instagram or go to Mandy Gunn inter-woven collected, cut and created at the Gippsland Art Gallery gippslandartgallery.com.

Little penguins star in fundraiser flick

THE famous Phillip Island Penguin Parade will be live-streamed into thousands of loungerooms around the world, raising vital funds to care for sick and injured little penguins.

On Thursday, April 24, the eve of World Penguin Day, people will be able to tune in to the iconic spectacle, watching hundreds of little penguins emerge from the water and waddle to their burrows via a network of nature-sensitive cameras set up around the Parade. Viewers from as far as China, India, America and the UK will be watching, with special commentary from Phillip Island Nature Parks' rangers.

The one-off live event kicks off The Penguin Foundation's fundraiser, which raises money for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and little penguin habitat conservation.

Jessica McKelson, General Manager Conservation at Phillip Island Nature Parks, said little penguins, while remarkable and resilient, face a growing number of threats.

"From malnutrition and illness to injury and heat stress, little penguins have a lot to contend with for such small birds," Ms McKelson said. "With your support, we can continue to offer them the care and protection they need to survive and thrive."

"Each year, we admit little penguins suffering from illness or injury associated with various environmental issues like food scarcity, extreme weather events and changing oceanic weather patterns. Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is staffed with passionate and skilled team members, who work tirelessly to provide life-saving care. With each of these challenges, the future of the little penguin can be put at risk, making our rehabilitation, health research and conservation efforts crucial for the local population."

The Penguin Parade live stream first aired in 2020, running for 112 consecutive nights and amassing 25 million views across 112 countries.

Every donation makes a difference: \$25 provides essential care for a malnourished penguin; \$50 will fund the rehabilitation of an injured penguin; \$100 helps restore critical habitats through revegetation efforts; \$250 equips the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre with the tools and resources needed to care for more penguins in need; \$500 supports long-term research and conservation projects.

To watch, tune in to youtube.com/user/PIPenguinParade on the eve of World Penguin Day, April 24 at 6 pm AEST.

A joyous day of singing workshops

SPEND a day in the acoustically beautiful Meeniyan Hall singing with and listening to these wonderful groups, Akasa and Makepisi, as they lead a workshop at 11am on Saturday, April 26, followed by a concert performance at 2pm.

Workshop participants are invited to showcase the workshop songs in the afternoon concert.

Akasa's passionate vocal and rhythmic songs combine exceptional songwriting and musicianship to create a truly distinctive sound. Influenced by sounds and cultural movements from across the globe. Akasa's music is relevant and empowering.

Makepisi: In the style of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, the powerful voices of this five-piece a cappella male vocal group have appeared in South African choirs and shows that have toured internationally, including The Lion King. Their rich, invigorating sound is guaranteed to inspire and uplift.

All are welcome for the day, morning workshop, or to watch the concert. BYO water, and for lunch, bring along a picnic or find a table in one of Meeniyan's great cafes.

For more information, contact Jane Coker via email jane.coker@rwacus.com.au or phone 0400 053 266.

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group brings 'The Addams Family' to life

WONTHAGGI Theatrical Group is thrilled to present the delightfully macabre musical, The Addams Family, opening Friday, May 23 and running until Sunday, June 8. This family-friendly production promises laughs, catchy tunes, and all the spooky charm you'd expect from one of the world's most famous households.

The Addams Family tells the story of Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, who has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable – and very normal – family. When the two families meet for a fateful dinner, secrets are revealed, relationships are tested, and chaos ensues. It's a heartwarming story of love, family, and embracing the wonderfully weird.

Directed by Rafal Pyka, this production promises to dazzle with its gothic glamour and

off-kilter charm, where nothing is quite as it seems – it's a family of twisted perspectives, and a world with no straight lines.

Adding to the spectacle are Linda Hamilton's thrilling choreography, Fiona Moldrich's dynamic musical direction, and Kerryn Lockhart's expert vocal direction, all working together to bring this darkly comic world vividly to life.

The entire cast and production team have been working tirelessly to ensure a magical theatre experience for audiences of all ages. With toe-tapping musical numbers, quirky characters, and plenty of laughs, The Addams Family is perfect for the whole family.

Don't miss this spooky spectacular at The Union – Wonthaggi. Performances run from Friday, May 23 to Sunday, June 8. Tickets are selling fast – come join the family!

Tickets are available at bit.ly/wtgaf13.



Kerryn Lockhart, playing Morticia, alongside Jay Nelson, playing Gomez, bring passion to the stage. Photo: Trevor Foon.

Send us your photos

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

Sentinel-Times

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

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BASS COAST CULTURAL VENUES | THE UNION THEATRE, WONTHAGGI

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



Lenny and Frankie Fowles have fun at the Korumburra Middle Hotel while they wait for their uncle Jimmy Kyle to auction items for the Good Friday Appeal. A14_1625



Ella Hopwood and Charlotte Beadel relax at the Korumburra Middle Hotel before its annual Good Friday auction. A15_1625



Korumburra locals Matt Harland and Rob and Amy Gallagher await the Royal Children's Hospital fundraising auction at the Middle Hotel. A16_1625



Nyora's Kim Hare and Kristy Bell checked out auction items before bidding got underway at the Korumburra Middle Hotel. A17_1625



Helping to collect funds around San Remo on Good Friday for the Royal Children's Hospital were CFA volunteers Nick, Fingal, Tim and dog 'Doc'.



Jaz, Tracie and Joyce were manning the Manna Community Garden stall at the Prom Country Farmers Market on April 19.



Elia was selling Fish Creek Mount of Olives pure extra virgin olive oil at the market on Saturday.



Sean, Mariah, Kirby and Seth enjoyed exploring the market on Saturday.



Susie and Rosie were impressed with the market's offerings.

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Good Friday auction at Korumburra Middle Hotel, Easter in the Park at McIndoe Park in Leongatha and Prom Country Farmers Market.



Keeping the crowds fed for Foster's Easter event were Brian, Margaret, Bill and Eric on Saturday April 19.



It was family time for Ashleigh, Jimmy, Ava and Zoe for the Easter event.



Steve, Leongatha Presbyterian Church minister, Mel and William made the most of the Easter event.



Kenneth was busy making bunny ears for eventgoers.



Face painting and 'bunny ears' were the theme for Kylie, Prisca, Kellie and Indie.



Cassandra and Jing embraced the warm weather at the market.



Richard and Rosemary of Grand Ridge Organics had plenty of products for sale at the market.



John and Justine were kept on their toes for Easter in the Park at McIndoe Park in Leongatha on April 19.

State taxes education roadshow not coming here

DESPITE Bass Coast having almost four times the state average for unoccupied housing and South Gippsland more than twice the state average, the government's state taxes education roadshow will not be coming here.

The roadshow will visit Ballarat, Geelong, Bendigo, Echuca, Melbourne, Colac, Hamilton, Rosebud, Morwell, Lilydale, Sunbury, Lakes Entrance, Mildura and Warracknabeal.

But not Cowes, Wonthaggi, Inverloch or Leongatha.

Instead, those at a loss to know if they should be paying the Vacant Residential Land Tax of one per cent, two per cent or three per cent CIV on their holiday house or investment property or the 7.5 per cent short-stay levy will have to go online and listen to a one-hour webinar or remain (not so) blissfully unaware of their new responsibilities.

Meanwhile, as late as last month's council meeting, the Bass Coast Shire Council is continuing to ask for a prescribed fee of \$300 per short stay property in the shire, despite the State Government ruling in September 2023 when it introduced the Victorian Government's 7.5 per cent short stay levy, that local council charges on short stay accommodation would be removed (see Victorian Parliamentary Budget Office 2024 'The Victorian Government's 7.5 per cent short stay levy Impact on property owners' – bit.ly/3GjRABx).

As well as continuing to implement its Local Law #1 Neighbourhood Amenity 2022, designed to take action against the owners of short stay properties who allow anti-social behaviour at their properties, the council voted to lobby the state government to be allowed to keep their local law and \$300 levy, despite the expressed policy of government to remove such levies as double-dipping against holiday homeowners.

Confused? You will be.

Here's a pitch from the State Revenue Office to those interested in details about their responsibilities.

Register for the short-stay levy

If you are accepting bookings for short stays in Victorian property, you may need to register for the short stay levy to lodge and pay your returns. If you have already registered, no further action is required until lodgement and payment of your return is due.

To help you understand about the levy, the government is holding a series of webinars which cover:

- Which properties the levy applies to and which properties are excluded
- Who pays the levy
- How to calculate the levy
- How to register
- How to lodge a return and make a payment.

The webinars go for one hour and are free to attend.

Booking platforms, owners and tenants that collect booking fees of \$75,000 or more per year must lodge and pay the levy quarterly. Booking platforms, owners and tenants that collect booking fees less than \$75,000 per year must lodge and pay annually.

If you are a booking platform, or you accept direct bookings for short stays in short stay accommodation, you must register for the levy. After you register, the government will provide resources to help you easily pay the right amount at the right time. Book your short stay levy webinar bit.ly/3Y7GR36.

There you'll find a calendar of webinars and in-person roadshows. Each webinar will focus on a property tax to give you a greater understanding of how it works and what you need to do.

Property tax webinars are now available for:

- Land Tax.
- Vacant Residential Land Tax.
- Commercial and Industrial Property Tax.
- Windfall Gains Tax.

If you can get to one of the State Taxes Education Roadshow you'll hear details of all property taxes and recent changes to state taxes, including the short stay levy and vacant residential land tax.



Left off the map: Despite Bass Coast and South Gippsland having some of the highest rates of unoccupied housing in Victoria, the State Taxes Education Roadshow will bypass towns like Cowes, Wonthaggi, Inverloch, and Leongatha – leaving local property owners to navigate complex new taxes online.

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The exemption from the hefty Vacant Residential Land Tax available to holiday homeowners who spend at least 28 days in their second home in the calendar year is believed to have accounted for at least some of the bumper crowd that arrived in Bass Coast locations over the Easter to ANZAC Day break.

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 | 37

Architect designed for maximum impact and minimal maintenance



SET on an approximately 493 square metre block just two minutes stroll to the pristine beach, superbly constructed over three levels and offering airy light filled spaces that invite the outdoors in. Inside, the clean lines, sophisticated finishes, and a soft neutral palette create a serene atmosphere. Thoughtfully designed for year-round comfort, the home benefits from an open northerly aspect, with zoned reverse cycle air conditioning and ceiling fans providing climate control in every season.

The living room is window walled on three sides, centred around a feature fireplace. The kitchen is a dream for entertainers and foodies alike, with Miele appliances and sleek contemporary styling. It flows into an open dining and family area, which extends onto a treetop-height entertaining deck, ideal for alfresco family dinners or a lazy morning coffee accompanied by bird-song.

Flexibility is at the heart of the layout, offering up to four bedrooms with three beautifully appointed bathrooms plus a practical dedicated laundry space. Secluded rear patio and extra space outdoors to add a storage shed if desired.

Bore and tank water service the property, with an outdoor shower perfectly placed for rinsing off the sand after trips to the beach. Offered partially furnished and already a sought after holiday rental, this property is ready to continue its legacy as a relaxing coastal escape, or to become your own private paradise. A must-see for anyone dreaming of a sophisticated coastal hideaway.



4 | 3 | 2

493m²

2B Harbour View, **Sandy Point**

For Sale \$1,100,000

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WOORARRA WEST

- Spacious Australian homestead
- Situated on 105 acres
- 3 bedrooms, and 2 bathrooms
- Workshop, gge, l'scaped gardens
- (2) spring fed dams

POA

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

MARDAN

- Highly productive undulating blue-gum grazing hill country
- 52ha/130acres (approx.) ideal for fattening cattle or turnout
- Absolute water security, start of Toomeys Creek
- Springs, dams, troughs, all set in high rainfall region
- 14 paddocks, stock yards, excellent shedding, and est. trees
- Beautifully presented, fully updated 2 bed, 1 bath w/b cottage

\$1,640,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

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

FOSTER

- 12.5 acres, flat & frontage
- Ex shedding, two 4-bay
- 3 bed, 2 bath, lovely rural views
- Covered fernery and gazebo
- Town water mains, solar power

\$1,180,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

RANCEBY

- Grazing block, great location, 6 min. to Korumburra, 30 min Warragul
- 23ha / 57acres (approx.) hill country with hay paddocks
- 5 paddocks with lead up to good quality steel stock yards
- Water by way of dams, good catchment in high rainfall region
- Native tree planting in rear gully section, providing shelter
- Ideal for fattening cattle or dairy turnout, an opportunity to farm

\$660,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

WANTED TO BUY

We have a qualified buyer, seeking

80ha /200ac to 120ha / 300 acre approx.

Grazing country for fattening steers/heifers

Ideal would have balance of flat to hill grazing

Well set up, with or without a house

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

Perfect location

ELDERS Rural Services Australia proudly presents 172 Sullivans Road, Whitelaw, an immaculately maintained farm, and thoughtfully renovated miner's cottage presents an opportunity for those seeking acreage and is ideally situated just five kilometres* west of Korumburra in sought after blue gum country.

The property is well set up with quality fencing and a central laneway for ease of cattle movement and has multiple hay paddocks. There are five dams, and the main dam has an electric pump to header tank. Troughs to all paddocks.

The charming three-bedroom, one bathroom cottage has stunning views of the surrounding area. The kitchen includes a gas cooktop, electric oven, dishwasher, and open fireplace. The living area includes a woodfire heater and reverse cycle split system to ensure comfort all year round. A character filled building formerly an antique shop offering exciting potential for conversion into accommodation or a studio retreat (STCA).

This 105 acre* property features quality shedding which includes a hay/machinery shed of 15.5m x 13m, disused dairy with an attached shed on concrete, measuring 12.4m x 8.1m, extra-large double bay garage on concrete 11.4m x 8.3m with attached workshop.

Located Korumburra 5.4 kilometres*, Leongatha 20.7 kilometres*, Inverloch 30.6 kilometres*, Mornington Peninsula 84.9 kilometres* and Melbourne 118 kilometres* this is a must-see property providing that perfect country lifestyle.

For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487.

* Denotes approximately

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligence-checklist.

3 1 6

105* acres

172 Sullivans Road, **Whitelaw**
For Sale \$1.55 Million
Agent Elders
Ben Townsend 0400 594 487



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Toora North

26 Acres

Tranquil 26 Acre Horse Property

- Spacious 4-bed, 1-bath home
- Stables, arena & 3 horse boxes
- Lock up shed, garage & feed/woodshed

Web ID: 300P137639

\$795,000

Korumburra

956m²

'Moorong House'

- 2-bed Californian Bungalow

Leongatha

705m²

Charming Home

- 3-bed, 2-bath home, colonial style kitchen

Korumburra

Ideally Positioned in Quiet Court

- 3-bed, 1-bath, perfect 1st home

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Property Manager
0439 383 091

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523



423

625m²

22 Pall Mall, **Ventnor**

For Sale \$2.30 - \$2.45m

Agent Alex Scott & Staff

Cowes Office 5952 2633

Absolute waterfront luxury in Ventnor

PERFECTLY positioned on the foreshore of Ventnor, this exquisitely rebuilt coastal retreat offers an unrivalled blend of style, space, and seamless indoor-outdoor living. Designed to take full advantage of its breathtaking location, the home's carefully considered layout ensures both privacy and effortless flow between spaces.

Stepping inside, the grand entry opens to an expansive lower level where soaring ceilings and double-glazed windows enhance the sense of space and natural light. This level is home to three generously sized bedrooms, each thoughtfully positioned for comfort and privacy. A stylish family bathroom and a second living area provide a relaxed retreat for guests or children, while plush premium carpet and wood-look vinyl flooring ensure durability and warmth throughout.

The seamless flow continues upstairs, where the heart of the home awaits. Here, the open-plan kitchen, dining, and main living space spill onto a sprawling deck, offering uninterrupted panoramic views of the ocean. The designer kitchen is a showpiece, featuring sleek stone benchtops, premium appliances, and ample storage, making entertaining effortless. Whether you're hosting guests or enjoying a quiet morning coffee, the ever-changing seascape provides a spectacular backdrop.

The master suite is perfectly positioned on this upper level, capturing incredible ocean views through floor-to-ceiling windows. Wake up to the sunrise over the water, step out onto the deck, or unwind in your private ensuite – this is truly a luxurious retreat.

Outside, the coastal lifestyle continues. Step straight from your backyard onto the sand, with direct access down to the beach. For boating enthusiasts, a mooring is located just offshore, and the owners are generously including a dinghy for easy access to your boat.

Storage is no issue, with an oversized double garage plus a huge undercover parking space, perfect for accommodating a full-sized boat or caravan.

Every element of this home has been designed with coastal living in mind – where style meets practicality, and the water is always within reach. This is more than just a home; it's a rare opportunity to secure absolute waterfront luxury on Phillip Island.

Call Alex Scott & Staff Cowes on 5952 2633 to arrange your own private inspection.

Country escape awaits

PERCHED on the hills within the highly sought-after Leongatha North, this charming lifestyle property enjoys sweeping views across rolling farmland and the Leongatha township. Set on approximately 5408sqm of land, this home offers the perfect blend of country charm, comfort, and functionality.

Built in 1987 by respected local builders Considine and Johnson, the residence boasts a classic wraparound verandah, a perfect spot to relax and soak in the serene surroundings. Inside, the home features three great-sized bedrooms, one family bathroom, and an open-plan kitchen and dining area that flows seamlessly into a cosy lounge room with stunning views and a comforting wood fire heater. A standout feature is the huge second living area, ideal as a games room, family room, or easily convertible into a fourth bedroom to suit your needs. The timber kitchen showcases quality cabinetry, generous bench space, and a layout that caters to everyday living or entertaining. A separate laundry with ample bench space adds practicality. Outdoors, the property continues to impress:

- Bore water supply and ample tank water
- Mature gum trees and landscaped gardens with sprinkler system
- Netted veggie garden plus established orchard
- Two powered sheds with concrete flooring plus woodshed
- Double carport with undercover access to house

This is a rare opportunity to secure a lifestyle property in one of South Gippsland's most desirable rural locations. Whether you're looking for a peaceful escape or a family home with space to grow, this one may tick all your boxes.

To arrange your inspection, please contact the friendly Alex Scott Leongatha sales team:

Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299, Andrew Newton 0402 940 320, Tony Giles 0407 528 192, Dan Huther 0418 334 801

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in preparing the above information, it is to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the appropriate legal documentation to complete your due diligence.

Please note that some images have been virtually staged to provide a visual representation of the room dimensions.



316

5,408m²

405 Leongatha North Rd, **Leongatha North**

For Sale \$980,000

Agent Alex Scott & Staff

Leongatha Office 5662 0922



<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>11 A'Beckett Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neat and tidy 3 bed, 2 bath weatherboard• Close to Parks, Schools and main street• Side lane access, garden shed, est. garden</div> <div>\$535,000</div> <div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>Unit 5, 49 Guys Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom brick• Ducted heating and cooling• Great Investment</div> <div>\$390,000</div> <div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div>	<div>PIONEER BAY</div> <div><div>NEW LISTING</div></div> <div>9 Daisy Avenue</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom with garage• Freshly renovated• Feature-packed and bay views to match</div> <div>\$579,000 - \$595,000</div> <div>Contact: Grantville Office</div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>1/7 Baillieu Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 bedroom unit• Close to town centre</div> <div>\$375,000</div> <div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div><div>NEW PRICE</div></div> <div>6/18-20 Ogilvy Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flat walk to town shops• 2 Spacious bedrooms, single car garage• Close to school zones</div> <div>\$319,000</div> <div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>9 Mair Crescent</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spacious family home• 4/5 bedroom, 2 bathroom• Under house workshop</div> <div>\$550,000</div> <div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div>	<div>GRANTVILLE</div> <div><div>NEW LISTING</div></div> <div>66-68 Stewart Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 lounges• Beachside house on a double block</div> <div>\$795,000</div> <div>Contact: Grantville Office</div>	<div>NORTH WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>3A Delmarni Court</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1981m² allotment• 4 bedroom, 2bathroom</div> <div>\$1,050,000</div> <div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div>
<div>MIRBOO NORTH</div> <div><div>NEW PRICE</div></div> <div>3 Gilfedder Terrace</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5ac aprx. lifestyle prop, 3 bed 2 bath 5 car• Beautifully maintained with garden• Shedding, separate paddocks and more</div> <div>\$1,060,000</div> <div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div><div>NEW PRICE</div></div> <div>23 Bridge Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grand period home• Prime corner location• 3 bedroom, 3 living</div> <div>\$675,000</div> <div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div>	<div>GRANTVILLE</div> <div><div>PRICE REDUCED</div></div> <div>9 Grantville Glen Alvie Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom with garage• Charming family home</div> <div>\$665,000</div> <div>Contact: Grantville Office</div>	<div>KILCUNDA</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>10 Bellevue Circuit</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.5 acres with great views• 4 bedroom home</div> <div>SOLD \$1.4m</div> <div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div>OPEN EVERY THURSDAY 4:30PM-5PM</div> <div></div> <div>10 Roughead Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated unique brick cottage, 3 bed, 1 bath• Zoned 'Mixed Use', top end of Roughead St• Home-based business or office space</div> <div>\$409,000</div> <div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>24 Massimo Way</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elevated Position• Easy to manage 763m² block• Modern 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom</div> <div>\$575,000</div> <div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div>	<div>CORONET BAY</div> <div></div> <div>5 Rue De La Pai</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom• Side access for a caravan or a boat• An Artist's Haven by the Sea</div> <div>\$720,000 - \$760,000</div> <div>Contact: Grantville Office</div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>15 McKenzie Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close to schools• 3 bedroom with character</div> <div>SOLD \$450,000</div> <div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div>

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

GRANTVILLE

5678 8433

1505 Bass Highway

Angus Hall 0466 326 487

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

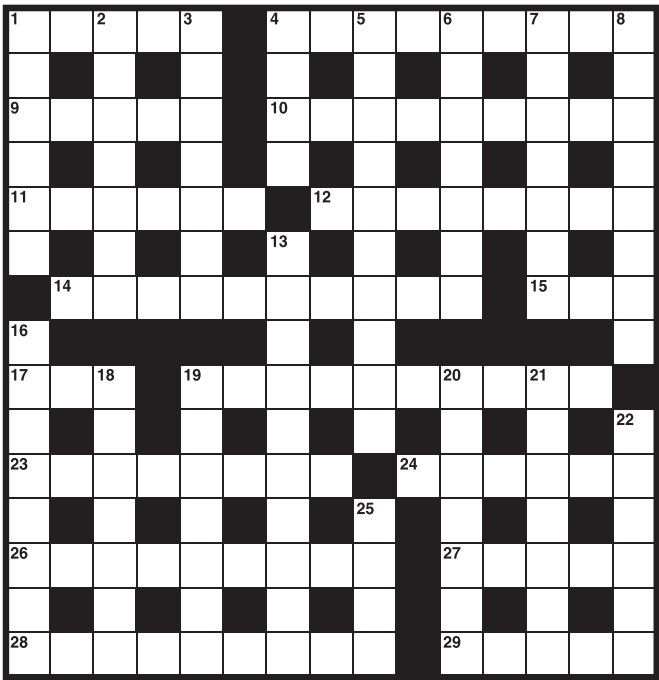
Phil Hanley 0417 140 508

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 | 41



CROSSWORD

No. 277

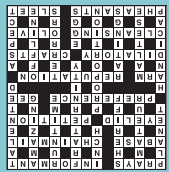


- ACROSS**
- 1 Supplicates (5)
4 Provider of information (9)
9 Belittle (5)
10 Middle Age armour (5,4)
11 For blinking (6)
- 12 Formal request signed by many people (8)
14 Choice (10)
15 Exclamation of surprise (3)
17 Tentacle (3)
19 Public estimation (10)

- 23 Slow (8)
24 Skillfully produces (6)
26 Purifying (9)
27 Greenish (5)
28 Game birds (9)
29 Frozen shower (5)

- DOWN**
- 1 Heavenly body (6)
2 Non-professional (7)
3 Local law enforcer (7)
4 Measure of length (4)
5 Brotherhood (10)
6 Length of a film (3,4)
7 Miraculous (7)
8 Masterful (8)
13 Relative dimensions or size (10)
16 Disability (8)
18 People of Malta (7)
19 Viewing figures (7)
20 Fears (7)
21 Disconnected (7)
22 Appearance (6)
25 Ova (4)

SOLUTION

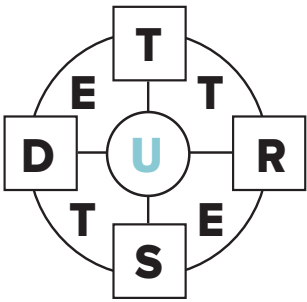


9-LETTER

No. 277

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

Today's Aim:
20 words: **Good**
30 words: **Very good**
40 words: **Excellent**

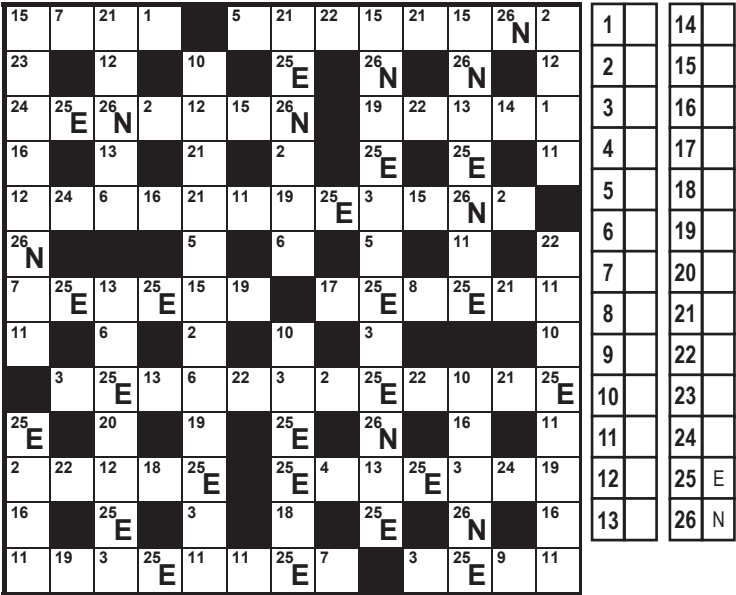


uttered, utters
tutted, used, user, utter,
trusted, trustee, tuts,
trued, truest, trust,
surd, sure, suttee, true,
sued, suede, sue,
stutter, STUTTERED,
strut, strutted, stud,
rusted, ruts, rutted,
rue, ruses, rust, rust,
reused, rude, ruderst,
duster, etude, reuse,
duet, durst, dust,

CODEWORD

No. 267

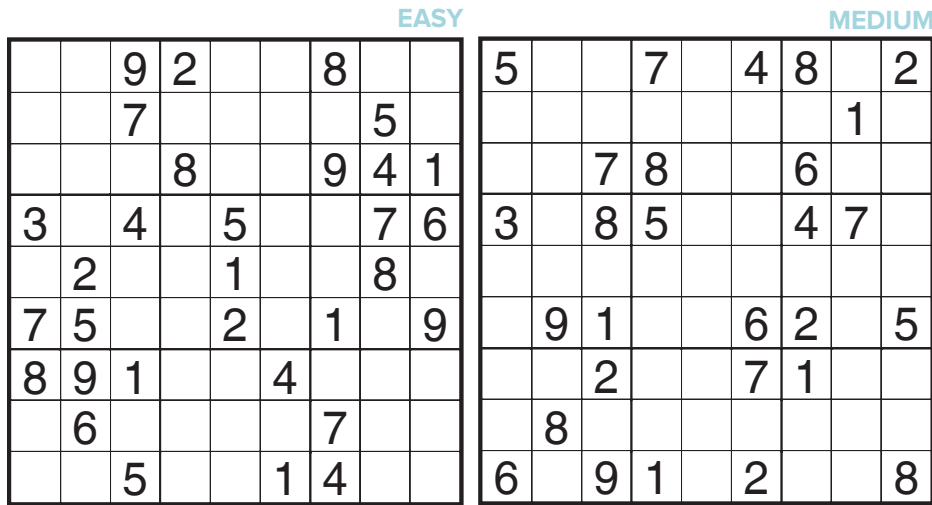
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



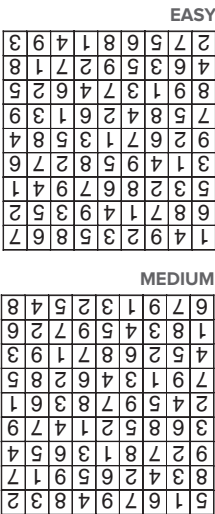
SUDOKU

No. 276

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

- Which scale is used to measure the spiciness of chilli peppers?
- Mike Myers (pictured) shares his name with the antagonist from which horror franchise?
- In which year was the element barium first isolated?
- Which famous politician said, 'In the twinkling of an eye, I found myself without an office, without a seat, without a party, and without an appendix'?
- What song does Annie Lennox sing in the 1991 film *Edward II*?
- How many kilometres is the diameter of the Earth's moon?
- What breed of dog was the original Greyfriars Bobby?
- What is the science of epigraphy?
- Hyson is a variety of what kind of drink?
- Who was known as 'The Champion' in English Test cricket?



ANSWERS: 1. Scoville scale 2. Halloween 3. 1808 4. Winston Churchill 5. Every Time We Say Goodbye 6. 3475km 7. Skye Terrier 8. Inscriptions engraved on stone or metal 9. Tea 10. W.G. Grace

WORD SEARCH

No. 187

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



- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| ACCRETION | DEVISE | PLEA |
| ALIBI | DISSENT | RECOGNISANCE |
| BAR | FUNGIBLE | RELIEF |
| BENCH | GENERAL | RESIDUARY |
| CASE | DAMAGES | REVIEW |
| CAUSE | GRANT | SCIENTER |
| CIRCUIT | INTESTATE | TRIAL |
| COMPENSATION | LEGACY | UNQUALIFIED |
| CONSENSUAL | MAJOR | WASTE |
| COVERT | MINOR | |
| DEMUR | PANEL | |

SECRET MESSAGE: Where there is a will, there is a lawsuit



Fonterra lifts autumn milk prices for local dairy farmers

FONTERRA Oceania has delivered a welcome autumn break for Australian dairy farmers increasing its minimum milk price for 2024/25 by 2.45 per cent or 20 cents/kgMS.

Matt Watt, Director Farm Source and Sustainability for Fonterra Oceania, said the weighted average milk price has been lifted to \$8.35/kgMS comprising 17 cents per kilogram of butterfat and 24 cents per kilogram of protein.

In recent months, according to Fonterra, global market conditions have held up and continue to show signs of improvement.

“As we earn price in the market it’s always been our commitment to farmers that we will pay it on,” said Mr Watt.

“While current uncertainties in the global economic and trade environment remain, and there is potential for disruption the softer Australian dollar has enabled improved returns on some of our export exposed product supporting this step-up” he said.

The United Dairy Farmers of Victoria (VFF UDV) welcomed Fonterra’s recent step-up in farmgate milk prices as a positive move for suppliers but has cautioned farmers that prices remain below global benchmarks.

“This highlights the continued need for robust protections under the Mandatory Dairy Code of Conduct,” said VFF UDV President Bernie Free.

“The additional support provided by Fonterra will be welcomed by farmers facing rising input costs, dry conditions,



Fonterra lifts milk prices for Gippsland dairy farmers. B27_4524

and ongoing market volatility. “It’s important to recognise that even with this step-up farmgate prices are still lagging behind what we’re seeing internationally.”

While the global dairy market has shown some signs of recovery, Australian producers continue to face unique pressures including escalating energy and feed costs, labour shortages, and weather extremes.

VFF UDV noted that strong and transparent pricing frameworks are essential to help Victorian dairy farmers remain viable and competitive.

The announcement from Fonterra also reinforces the critical importance of the Mandatory Dairy Code of Conduct according to VFF UDV which establishes clear rules around milk supply agreements and ensures farmers are treated fairly in negotiations.

“The Dairy Code plays a key role in restoring balance to the dairy supply chain,” said Mr Free.

“It helps safeguard producers

from unfair contract terms and gives them more confidence when making investment and production decisions.

“We will continue to engage with processors, government, and our members to push for a sustainable dairy future where the hard work of Victorian farmers is properly recognised and rewarded.”

Australian farmgate milk prices are forecast to increase to approximately 68.2 cents per litre (\$8.90/kg MS) over the coming months, a four per cent lift from the previous year despite a potential fall in global dairy product export prices influenced by factors like rising international dairy prices and a slowdown in milk production.

While rising international dairy prices are expected to support higher farmgate prices a potential fall in global dairy product export prices is also anticipated.

A slowdown in milk production in the first half of 2025 is expected to contribute to higher

farmgate prices alongside pressures from the northern hemisphere.

In the medium term, real farmgate milk prices are forecast to fall due to lower world prices influenced by subdued Chinese demand and increased production in major dairy exporting regions.

For the 2024/25 season Fonterra Australia is forecasting a Farmgate Milk Price midpoint of \$10.00 per kgMS according to VFF UDV aligning with their expectation for the season, as indicated in various updates and reports.

The initial forecast range for the 2024/25 season was \$9.50 to \$10.50, but this was adjusted to \$9.70 and then \$10.30 in more recent updates.

Fonterra’s Darnum plant processes over 2.6 million litres of milk daily from farms throughout Gippsland producing a range of nutritional powders and whole, skim and fat-filled milk powders for the domestic and international export market.

Applications now open for Rural Land Management Program

BASS Coast landowners looking to improve their land management practices can now apply for the 2025/26 Rural Land Management Program (RLMP). The rebate program provides financial incentives to support sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.

This year, the application process has been updated to align with Council’s other grant programs. Landowners are encouraged to check each year in March for application openings, as direct notifications will no longer be sent via mail, email, or SMS. If you’ve applied in the past or recently purchased rural land, now is the time to check your eligibility and apply before May 31, 2025.

New this year, Bass Coast Shire Council also introduced an interactive map to make it easier to check if your property is eligible.

The program supports a range of projects that improve environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity, including:

- Controlling and eradicating weeds
- Protecting and enhancing remnant vegetation
- Preventing and reversing soil erosion
- Protecting waterways and undertaking revegetation
- Pest animal control
- Control and reversing soil salinity.

Who can apply?

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a landowner or ratepayer in Bass Coast Shire
- Own at least four hectares of rural land that is either:
 - Zoned Farming or Rural Living under the Bass Coast Planning Scheme, or
 - Meets the definition of ‘Farmland’ under the Valuation of Land Act 1960

Approved applicants receive the rebate upfront on their rates notice before works are carried out, helping to offset costs for land management improvements.

The Rural Land Management Program is a great opportunity to invest in your property and make lasting improvements that benefit both your land and the broader environment. Applications are now open and close on May 31. To check your eligibility and review the program guidelines, visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/landrebate.

ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF
Est. 1886

**LIVESTOCK AGENTS,
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www.alexscott.com.au

36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480

Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA
David Ryan 0408 311 895
LEONGATHA
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager 0408 176 063
Jack Curtis 0427 762 670
WARRAGUL
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager 0418 595 265
Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816
Jordan Sim 0448 058 435
Mark Malacarne 0418 654 590
Georgie Snell 0417 100 657

FOSTER
Dick Faulkner 0408 595 174
Brian Vuillermin 0429 436 040
WONTHAGGI
Rob Ould - Livestock Manager 0408 595 183
David Holden 0428 749 390
Alan Bolding 0419 723 255
PAKENHAM
David Setches - Livestock Manager 0409 443 473
Glenn Barwick 0408 975 476
Morgan Croucher 0457 001 877
Tim Gibson 0420 306 599
Imogen Price 0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898
WONTHAGGI
Phillip Hanley 0417 140 508
Cal Nation 0439 334 163
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783
GRANTVILLE
Angus Hall 0466 326 487
INVERLOCH
Marni Lee Redmond 0403 525 413
BERWICK
Tom Gibson 0438 574 472

LEONGATHA
Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Peter Dwyer 0428 855 244
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
Tony Giles 0407 528 192
Dan Huther 0418 334 801
WARRAGUL
Alan Steenholdt 0409 423 822
PAKENHAM
Tom Gibson 0438 574 472
LANG LANG
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

MELBOURNE LAND
Matt Koster 0474 781 711
COWES
Greg Price 0419 337 441
Brian Silver 0407 347 509
Chase Watters 0423 272 819
VENUS BAY
Daniel Lawrie 0417 631 252
Sue Lawrie 0419 885 489
KOO WEE RUP
Angus Hall 0466 326 487

SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE

**Rural Land
Management Program:**
Applications now open

Bass Coast landowners looking to improve their land management practices can now apply for the 2025-26 Rural Land Management Program (RLMP).

The rebate program provides financial incentives to support sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.

Who can apply?

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a landowner or ratepayer in Bass Coast Shire
- Own at least 4 hectares of rural land that is either:
 - Zoned Farming or Rural Living under the Bass Coast Planning Scheme, or
 - Meets the definition of ‘Farmland’ under the Valuation of Land Act 1960
- Approved applicants receive the rebate upfront on their rates notice before works are carried out, helping to offset costs for land management improvements.

To check your eligibility, review the program guidelines or apply, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/landrebate

Applications close **31 May 2025**.



David Setches of Alex Scott & Staff Pakenham sells at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A09_1625

Better bred cattle performing strongly but rain still needed

WITH just over 3000 head of cattle available at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, the market for better-bred animals proved strong across the various weight categories.

Livestock manager at Alex Scott & Staff Pakenham, David Setches, said the results were on par with those of a fortnight ago, although the number of feeder cattle present was down a little.

On Thursday, feeder cattle fetched between \$4 and \$4.50 per kilo.

The lighter, mid 300 kilo steers made from \$4 to \$4.85, David said, lighter weighted calves from about 250 kilos getting between \$4.50 and \$5 a kilo.

"Any of those lighter weight cattle sold extremely well, with a lot of those cattle going north," David said, noting the presence of northern buyer Duncan Brown.

"Duncan Brown was pretty active; what he didn't buy, he bid on," David said.

There was also some feedlot competition, Campbell Ross and JBS involved in the action.

"All in all, it was a very solid result considering the dry weather we're faced with," David said.

"We want to see significant rain happening soon while the ground still has a bit of warmth in it and we can get some grass to grow; if we start to get a bit of a break now, things will take off."

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Store numbers keep coming

By SGSAA

AS THE dry season continues agents yarded another 3000 head at this week's VLE Leongatha store sale in another good yarding with some excellent weaners yarded.

Most of the regular buyers attended along with the return of a northern buyer from two weeks ago.

There were limited heavy Angus feeder steers in the 450-550kg bracket compared to sales over the past few months with a couple of orders unable to operate due to insufficient of these types on offer with prices firm for the few quality pens and 10 cents easier for the coloured and secondary types

A feature large annual draft and many other quality pens of vendor bred weaners were on offer and sold to strong demand for the Angus steer calves with results in line with previous sales with buyers a little more selective on the coloured calves with prices firm for the best and a little easier for secondary types.

The weaner heifers were generally a little easier with not a lot of weight in the offering with a lot of the lighter weighted steers and heifers heading into northern NSW.

Xbred and dairy types eased a little with quality not as good as previous yardings.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Apr. 17, 2025

Steers			
MA & DJ Towt 11 Hereford	581kg	\$2.92	\$1700
NE & EF Ripper 13 Angus	527kg	\$3.41	\$1800
G Jones 11 Hereford	509kg	\$3.59	\$1830
Mondamac Pastoral 12 Angus	508kg	\$4.24	\$2160
EG & KM Triantafyllou 14 MG	483kg	\$3.62	\$1750
Pure Peninsula Honey 16 Char	474kg	\$3.77	\$1790
A Smolcic 14 Angus	465kg	\$3.82	\$1780
P Le Page 14 Angus	453kg	\$3.96	\$1800
Whodeany P/L 14 Brangus	453kg	\$3.53	\$1600
Rosebank 13 Shorthorn	441kg	\$3.76	\$1660
MA & DJ Towt 14 Hereford	438kg	\$3.19	\$1400
Netherwood Pastoral 13 Angus	425kg	\$3.99	\$1700
D Hurley 20 Angus	420kg	\$4.18	\$1760
G Jones 10 Hereford	420kg	\$3.69	\$1550
B East 18 Char	411kg	\$4.01	\$1650
KJ & HM Nicklen 17 Angus	404kg	\$4.05	\$1640
Gippy Rural Enterprises 23 Angus	399kg	\$4.38	\$1750
P Le Page 14 Angus	396kg	\$4.11	\$1630
Highfield Ag 10 Angus	396kg	\$4.03	\$1600
A Lade 20 Red Angus	391kg	\$3.78	\$1480
M Kesper 20 BB	389kg	\$3.93	\$1530
CJ Pendergast & Co 19 Angus	384kg	\$4.18	\$1610
CJ Pendergast & Co 16 Angus	380kg	\$3.73	\$1420
Netherwood Pastoral 16 Angus	377kg	\$4.29	\$1620
RK & WJ Horner 12 Angus	372kg	\$4.08	\$1520
D Hurley 25 Angus	371kg	\$4.43	\$1650
Oakbank Past Co 18 Angus	365kg	\$3.96	\$1450
MA & DJ Towt 11 Hereford	363kg	\$3.35	\$1220
Yanakie Past 25 Angus	361kg	\$4.23	\$1530
Black Range Angus 17 Angus	361kg	\$4.20	\$1520
K Farley 15 Char	349kg	\$3.72	\$1300
GB Pattison & ML Cooke 10 Angus	349kg	\$3.15	\$1100
D Hurley 16 Angus	343kg	\$4.65	\$1600
CJ Pendergast & Co 24 Angus	339kg	\$4.44	\$1510
Yanakie Past 24 Angus	331kg	\$4.31	\$1430
Hurley Stead 14 Angus	330kg	\$4.84	\$1600
MP & KN Brennan 11 Angus	326kg	\$3.21	\$1050
KJ & HM Nicklen 21 Angus	325kg	\$4.12	\$1340
CJ Pendergast & Co 13 Angus	321kg	\$4.29	\$1380
CJ Pendergast & Co 25 BB	318kg	\$3.89	\$1240
CJ Pendergast & Co 22 Angus	300kg	\$4.50	\$1350
Gembrae Ag 20 Angus	300kg	\$4.32	\$1300
GS & J Tuckett 18 Angus	299kg	\$4.81	\$1440
Yanakie Past 10 Angus	287kg	\$3.68	\$1060
PF & KM Fitzgerald 10 Char	287kg	\$3.31	\$950
S Dickinson P/L 13 Angus	283kg	\$4.23	\$1200
Gembrae Ag 19 Angus	276kg	\$4.15	\$1150
Woodstock Properties 14 Angus	275kg	\$4.28	\$1180
WB ML & HB Armstrong 12 Angus	275kg	\$3.84	\$1060
CJ Pendergast & Co 22 Angus	275kg	\$4.00	\$1090
Wiltshaw Farm 13 Angus	265kg	\$3.95	\$1050
GS & J Tuckett 16 Angus	263kg	\$4.44	\$1170
R & C Farrell 14 Angus	263kg	\$4.02	\$1060
CJ Pendergast & Co 15 Angus	254kg	\$4.44	\$1130
CJ Pendergast & Co 19 Angus	216kg	\$4.34	\$940
Hume Family Trust 29 BB	216kg	\$3.81	\$825
Hume Family Trust 19 Angus	212kg	\$4.29	\$910
G Clarke 15 Angus	184kg	\$4.76	\$880

Heifers			
EG & KM Triantafyllou 12 Angus & MG x Angus	423kg	\$3.55	\$1500
DC McGrath 11 Angus	395kg	\$3.96	\$1400
Chester Shorthorns 11 S/Horn	388kg	\$3.60	\$1400
Netherwood Past Co 18 Angus	378kg	\$3.75	\$1420
N & T Ross 12 Angus	373kg	\$3.68	\$1370
860 Ballarto Road P/L 10 Ang	358kg	\$3.63	\$1300
Netherwood Past Co 11 Angus	353kg	\$3.53	\$1250
KJ & HM Nicklen 22 Angus	353kg	\$3.39	\$1200
LJ & LJ McCrorey 12 Angus	343kg	\$3.53	\$1210
CJ Pendergast & Co 15 Angus	342kg	\$3.21	\$1100
S Briggs 14 Angus	338kg	\$3.46	\$1170
Clarendon Park 11 Angus	328kg	\$3.44	\$1130
BL Johnson & GA Woods 12 Char	328kg	\$3.62	\$1190
CJ Pendergast & Co 15 Angus	321kg	\$3.33	\$1070
MS & SL Reedy 14 Angus	316kg	\$3.38	\$1070
CJ Pendergast & Co 22 Angus	299kg	\$3.35	\$1000
KJ & HM Nicklen 17 Angus	297kg	\$3.62	\$1080
CJ Pendergast & Co 18 Angus	297kg	\$3.37	\$1000
AJ Casson 13 Blonde D'Aquitaine	286kg	\$2.97	\$850
G Gawlik 14 Char	273kg	\$3.36	\$920
Clarendon Park 16 Angus	274kg	\$2.55	\$700
Willurah Park 15 Angus	267kg	\$2.88	\$770
CJ Pendergast & Co 21 Angus	262kg	\$3.28	\$860
CJ Pendergast & Co 20 Angus	255kg	\$3.13	\$800
S Dickinson P/L 10 Angus	255kg	\$2.74	\$700
R & C Farrell 17 Angus	253kg	\$2.84	\$720
C & R Liston 13 Angus	233kg	\$2.78	\$650
CJ Pendergast & Co 11 Angus	222kg	\$3.01	\$670

X-Bred Steers			
J McMahon 15 Angus	446kg	\$3.74	\$1670
P & M Hanratty 10 mixed	422kg	\$3.12	\$1320
Melton Park 10 Angus/FF x	381kg	\$2.46	\$940
GB Pattison & ML Cooke 17 Angus/FF x	364kg	\$3.04	\$1110
R Pratt 14 Spark/FF X str	287kg	\$2.74	\$790
Friesian Steers			
SA & NM McRae 13 Friesian	435kg	\$2.20	\$960
Melton Park 19 Friesian	316kg	\$2.24	\$710
D Farley 11 Friesian steers	465kg	\$2.21	\$1030
X-Bred Heifers			
Melton Park 20 Angus/FF x	323kg	\$2.29	\$740

Lardner Park Calf Market Report Monday, April 14, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$16 to \$35
Friesian Bulls	\$30 to \$74
Friesian Heifers	\$37 to \$50
Beef Bulls	\$30 to \$265
Beef Heifers	\$30 to \$100
Number of Calves:	300
Number purchased to rear:	68

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Exchange Hotel, 43 Main St, Foster

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Tues 6th May 5:30pm-8:00pm
The Criterion Hotel - 90 Macalister St, Sale

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LINK: <https://bit.ly/4llx4jY>

QR SCAN:

No cost & meal provided

This event received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund

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Two new Master Breeders and first Emerging Breeder announced

FARMERS from Gippsland and north-east Victoria have been added to the Jersey Australia Master Breeder honour board, while the breed's first Emerging Breeder has been announced.

Darryn Hourigan's Darrynvale Jerseys from Milawa in North East Victoria and Trevor Saunders and Anthea Day's Araluen Park Jerseys from Shady Creek in Gippsland were announced as Jersey Australia's new Master Breeders at a dinner on Sunday night, April 13 in Melbourne.

Jersey Australia also revealed Rodney and Stephanie Goode from Boronia Ridge Jerseys at Poowong North in Gippsland as the inaugural Emerging Breeders.

The Master Breeder awards were introduced in 2023 to recognise breeding excellence over the past 20 years and the commitment of farmers to the breed. The award requires breeders to have been a member of Jersey Australia for at least 20 years and to register 25 animals a year on average across those 20 years along while producing elite brood, type and production cows and elite bulls.

The Emerging Breeder award introduced this year is based on 10 years' continuous membership, registering at least 100 animals a year under the breeder prefix, breeding two or more cows scoring 90 or more in classification, breeding at least two cows that produce more than 3000 kg/MS, and the breeder must have started genomic testing.

Jersey Australia board member and chair of promotions, Jane Sykes, said the Emerging Breeder award aimed at encouraging and recognising younger farmers advancing the breed.

"The greatness of a Master Breeder does not happen overnight; it takes time and patience," she said.

Mrs Goode said she developed a love of Jerseys from her parents and bought them into Rodney's herd.

"We will keep on trying and hopefully continue to get better and better," she said.

Darrynvale Jerseys was established in 1970 and is owned and operated by Darryn Hourigan, his partner Rochelle and Darryn's son Bailey and daughter Ellie are also involved in running the farm. It has registered 2888 cows and has had 351 classified as Excellent.



Rodney and Stephanie Goode of Boronia Ridge Jerseys have been recognised as the inaugural Emerging Breeders at the Jersey Australia Master Breeder awards.

Darrynvale is a platinum production herd and regularly achieves more than 7000 litres average, with some cows producing up to 11,000 litres.

In the early 1980s, Darryn's father Keith invested in Big Hollow and Merri-land genetics in New Zealand, including the world-renowned Daisy family which has had an enormous influence in the herd. Darryn continues to breed award winning cows with deep pedigrees.

Trevor Saunders and Anthea Day, both fourth generation farmers, purchased their farm at Shady Creek in 2004 and combined the best from their separate herds to move forward as Araluen Park. They also incorporated the Stony Run stud prefix into their herd.

Araluen has registered 2757 cows and produced 366 excellent cows. It has multi-Australian generationally-bred cow families from America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

Dairy's Finest sale averages \$4850

DEMAND remains strong for Australian Jersey cows with all 23 lots being sold in Dairy's Finest showcase sale last week.

The sale at Moama on Monday night as part of the Jersey World Conference tour averaged \$4850.

Top lot of the night was Attaview Aldrin Inch 4 selling for \$7500 for Reece and Toni Attenborough to Lloyd Akers from Loxleigh Jerseys.

Dairy Livestock Services auctioneer Brian Leslie said the catalogue represented the best of Australian Jersey herds.

"Overall, we had a good result, reflecting the dry times in southern Australia," Mr Leslie said.

"They all sold and we had a lot of interest, especially online where we had 382 logged on to the Stocklive platform watching the sale."

Cows were sold to buyers from South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland.

"The breeders put their best cattle forward and they should be very proud of their offerings. The buyers should be happy with what they picked up and the cattle will do a great job for them. It was an excellent catalogue and I think we'll hear a lot more about the cattle sold in the sales."

Mr Leslie said the top lot was a good buy.

"The Inch family is one of the emerging families in the breed and she attracted strong competition," he added.

There was also strong demand for semen packages with sexed semen straws selling for up to \$350 per straw.

Jersey Australia general manager Glen Barrett thanked vendors for providing quality lots to support the sale.

"Jerseys are a growing breed in Australia and I'm sure the buyers will appreciate the efficiency and profitability of the modern Jersey cow," Mr Barrett said.

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GROWN STEERS

A/c Strzelecki Views (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus steers, 18-24 mths

A/c Britcan P/L, Yanakie (SEJ)

20 Angus steers, 15-17 mths, By Kunuma Angus bloodlines, GF & ABF

A/c D & C Moore, Buchan Sth (NUTRIEN)

28 Angus steers, 24-26 mths

A/c Bowka Pastoral, Nerrena (SEJ)

15 Angus steers, Battersby blood, 16 mths, VB, GF, ABF and NE Accred

A/c Stephens McMaster Farming, Kardella (SEJ)

10 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c GL & RC Hall (NUTRIEN)

'Four Winds' Flinders Island

200 Angus heifers, Landfall & Lawson blood, NE Accred, JBS Farm Assured, GF & ABF, PTE

A/c Britcan P/L, Yanakie (SEJ)

20 Angus heifers, 15-17mths, By Kunuma Angus bloodlines, GF & ABF

WEANERS

A/c Malabar Farm, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)

110 Angus & BB steer weaners, By Weeran Sires

38 Poll Hereford steer weaners, By Wirruna sires

6-7 mths, weaned last week of February, Cydectin

Pour-on, VitB12 & Sel + Copper inj 16/4/25 GF only & ABF, NE Accred

A/c A.G. Landy, Walkerville (SEJ)

60 Angus & Black Baldy steers, 8-9 mths, weaned 5 weeks, By Temania & Landfall AI Bulls, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Hiho, Hedley (SEJ)

50 Angus & Hereford mixed sex, 7-8mths, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred, yard weaned, Harris Farms & Ponderosa blood

A/c Barooma, Giffard (SEJ)

40 Angus mixed sex, weaners, 7-8 mths, Temania blood, very quiet

A/c M & M Cattle Co, Powlett River (SEJ)

30 Angus /Hereford heifers, Battersby blood, 14 mths, Weaned, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred

A/c JT & P Fleming, 'Mertonvale' Willung (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 11 mths, Merlewood blood

A/c Tablelands Pastoral, Boisdale (PHC)

20 Poll Hereford steers, 12 mths, Mawarra blood

A/c Z Redpath, Fish Creek (SEJ)

20 Angus steers, 7-8 mths, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred, yard weaned 6 weeks, Alpine Angus blood

A/c Minarou P/L, Maffra (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 6 mths

A/c Davren Park, Boisdale (NUTRIEN)

13 Angus steers, 12 mths, NE Accred, VB, GF & ABF, 2x5in1, Drenched Late March

COWS & CALVES

A/c J & D Elliott, Stony Creek (SEJ)

10 Angus /Friesian X cows with, 5-6 mths old Angus Calves at foot, not rejoined

10 Angus/Friesian & Shorthorn X cows, with 1-2 mths Angus calves at foot

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DEATHS

EVANS, John Gordon:
13.03.1952 - 20.04.2025.

Passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Survived by his wife Debra.

Loved father of Rebecca, Morgan, Luke and Bryn.

Adored poppy to Wallace, Anna, Hiram, Stella, Arthur and Alice, Able and Casey.

Rest easy Dad. We Love You Forever.

OP'LOUGHLIN, Valerie Anne:

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Valerie Anne O'Loughlin (nee Minster) age 82, who departed this life peacefully at Armitage House Wonthaggi, on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Valerie was a beloved wife of Des (dec.), loving mother of Kieran and Laurissa, and adored nanna to Lucy, Lincoln, Khloe, Cooper and Liam. Loved sister of Pam.

Her warmth, strength, and kindness touched the lives of all who knew her.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

♥ Reunited with Dad ♥

DEATHS

O'LOUGHLIN, Val:

The Tarwin Lower and Districts Bowls Club offer their condolences to the Family on the passing of past player and member Val O'Loughlin.

OPRAY, Edward James:
12.12.1947 - 17.04.2025.

Much loved husband of Annette.

Loving dad and father-in-law of Michael and Briallen, Brendan and Kristy.

Adored grandpa of Tamnais, Tavish and Olivia.

Remembered with love.

Annette and family would like to thank Koorooman House for the care, consideration and friendship shown to Ed.

RIECK, Una Mary:

Late of Kirrak House, Wonthaggi, formerly of Cape Paterson and South Oakleigh.

Passed away peacefully in her sleep on Friday, April 18, 2025, aged 102 years. Loving wife of Stephen.

Much loved mother of Malcolm, Stefan, Wilton and family.

You lived a life that your mother and father would be very proud of.

Be at peace now.

DEATHS

RUSSELL, Lindsay John:

Passed away peacefully in Wonthaggi on April 14.

Beloved partner to Patricia (dec.).

Loved dad to Shari, step father to Barry, Joanne, Susan and Pauline. Father to Dane. Pa to Aaron, Breanna, Zoe and Maddison as well as great pa pa to Alexia.

Pa to Charly-Jane, Alex, Jack, Maddison, Monique and Claire.

Proud member of the Corinella Bowls club.

We are grateful for the care given by Mercy and Bass Coast Health as well as his mates with a special mention to Billy and Pete.

We will miss you and your quick wit and backhanded compliments.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Please go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au for details.

TESSARI, Glenda Joyce:
15.06.1940 - 14.04.2025.

Loved wife of Leo (dec.).

Much loved mother and mother-in-law of David and Kathryn, Brett and Leanne.

Cherished nonna of Nathan, Alisha and Darcy, Aimee, Shaun and Leah, Monet and Sian.

Proud great nonna of Vinnie.

'God Bless'

DEATHS

TESSARI, Glenda Joyce:

Glenda, You made us laugh and you made us cry.

Your smile lit up the room and the room was always full of love.

Your passing has left a hole in our hearts that can never be filled.

You are finally with dad again dancing to Daniel O'Donnell.

We will love and miss you always.

-- David, Kathryn, Alisha, Darcy and Vinnie, Monet and Sian.

Our hearts are broken, no words will ease our pain.

But we will take comfort now you are pain free, and with Leo once again.

You were special to all of us, we will miss your smiling face.

Our memories will stay forever, knowing you are in God's Place ♥

Loving memories forever.

-- Brett, Leanne, Nathan, Aimee, Shaun and Leah.

TESSARI (nee Studham), Glenda:

Loving sister of Pat. Beloved aunty to Darren and Cazz, Anne Maree and Bernie, Craig and Mel.

Forever in our hearts. Will miss you forever.

DEATHS

TESSARI (nee Studham), Glenda:

Dearly loved sister and sister-in-law to Drew and Christine. Adored Auntie Glen to Jacinda, Steven and Meghan. Always loved and remembered and will be forever in our hearts.

Resting peacefully xxxx.

TESSARI, Glenda Joyce:

Loving sister of Lynne and Graeme (dec.). Adored aunty of Kim, Brooke and Adrian. Great aunt of Ava, Freya and Jobe. Treasured memories that will last us a lifetime.

"There is no better friend than a sister, I love you Glenny"

TESSARI (Studham), Glenda Joyce:
15.06.1940 - 14.04.2025.

Much loved sister of Margaret. Sister-in-law of Tom (dec.). Dearly loved Aunty Glen of Caroline and Blair (dec.), Ryan and Hope, Macie and Sonny, Mitchell and Jakeb, and Thomas and Nina. Dear friend of Susan and Paul and Russell.

At peace with Jesus.

TESSARI, Glenda:

Glenda, you were a very special person to the Churchill family.

A second mother to Michael and Toe'jo (Rohan).

I will miss our chats. Sincere sympathy to David, Brett and families.

Noel, Lany, Michael, Rohan and families.

"Look out Leo here she comes"

DEATHS

WILLIAMS, Margaret Joy (Peg):
19.01.1935 - 12.04.2025.

Passed peacefully at Woorayl Lodge Leongatha, aged 90. Beloved wife of Jack (dec.). Adored mother of Lynn, Cheryl, Kenneth, Sally and their partners. Loved grandmother of 11 and great grandmother of 12. Loving sister of Beverley.

Loved Always and Forever.

Private Service at Peg's request.

WILLIAMS, Phyllis:
14.09.1940 - 20.04.2025.

Passed away peacefully after a long illness.


Loved wife of John. Loving mum and mother-in-law of Paula and Mark, Sari and Jason.

Adored nan of Amy and Gavin, Daniel and Neesha, TJ and Paige. Loved great nan of Starla, Oaklen and Crew.

--Sadly Missed

A Private Family burial will be held.


FUNERALS


GAGER:
A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr Phil Gager will be held at Leongatha Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Cnr Hassett and A'Beckett Street, Leongatha on Sunday, May 4, 2025, commencing at 2pm. Afternoon tea will follow.

ALL WELCOME!

O'LOUGHLIN:
Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mrs. Valerie Anne O'Loughlin (nee Minster) will be offered at St. Laurence O'Toole Catholic Church, 31 Ogilvy St, Leongatha on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, commencing at 1pm.

At the conclusion of Mass the funeral will leave for the Tarwin Lower Cemetery.



OPRAY:
A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. Edward (Ed) Opray will be held at the Dumbalk Hall, 29-31 Farmers Road, Dumbalk on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, commencing at 2pm.

A Private family burial will precede the service.

For live-streaming go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au



IN MEMORIAM

HOLDEN, Alan Stanley:
22.04.2023.

Thank you for the years we shared, the love you gave, the way you cared. In my heart you will always stay. Loved and remembered every day.

Forever and always.

--Anne

HOPWOOD, Kay:
27.04.2024.

Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. Memories live on.

Malcolm and boys and family.

SPERLING, Barbara:
21.04.2020.

5 years has passed quickly. Miss you every day.

Love Al and family.

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29 Jumbunna Rd, Saturday, April 26. 8am-12pm.

WONTHAGGI NORTH:
13 Oxford Way, Saturday, April 26, 8am-2pm.

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4th prize - Carla Jenkins.
5th prize - Shaun Roffey.

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48 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Sentinel-Times Classifieds

SITUATIONS VACANT



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.

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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.

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<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

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Sentinel-Times

SITUATIONS VACANT

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You've been looking for a fresh start?

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- Work with a fun, supportive team who love what they do.
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If you're an apprentice at any stage or a fully qualified stylist looking to grow in a salon that truly supports you – we'd love to hear from you!

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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.

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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

Wombat killer arrested

WITH the help of the local community, police have caught the man responsible for the killing of multiple wombats which occurred in Venus Bay, in February this year.

Up to ten wombats were killed on Tuesday, February 18, and were subsequently lined up along the roadside, predominantly in the First Estate of Venus Bay.

Locals were shocked, dismayed and distressed by the violent and sadistic act, police were notified and the community were keen to see the perpetrator caught.

Jason Hullick, Acting Inspector with the Bass Coast Police Service Area spoke to ABC Radio last week confirming they had made an arrest.

“So, we actually conducted an investigation in conjunction with DEECA, about maybe, ten days ago. A local man was arrested by police, and in a joint operation, was interviewed by police and some representatives from DEECA,” explained Mr Hullick.

“As a result of that, the gentleman will be charged on summons to appear at court.”

CCTV footage was initially used to identify three vehicles that may have been involved in harming the wombats, but it was ultimately the eyes, ears and information that came from the community that led to the arrest.

“It’s a really good result and we’d really like to thank the local community for getting behind us and providing some information.”

“We believe there were multiple vehicles, although we haven’t essentially pinpointed whether the whole three of the vehicles were actually involved in harming the animals,” said Mr Hullick.

“We certainly believe there was one in particular, which is the fellow that has been arrested. The investigation is still ongoing. We haven’t closed the door on that because obviously, if we can identify another party that’s actually offended as well, that person would most likely be arrested, as well.”

Mr Hullick commented that the community has been helpful and the police are always happy to receive relevant information about the incident.

“We’re always asking for information if there’s any more out there – people hear things, the local community, the old bush telegraph – works really well.”

If you have information contact Inverloch Police Station on 5674 1202 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

CWA donates to Steve Plumb Foundation

THE COUNTRY Women’s Association (CWA) of Wonthaggi recently raised and donated \$1807 to the Steve Plumb Foundation, which will go to students at Bass Coast College (BCC) experiencing financial difficulties.

The CWA have been raising money from their bake stalls and have also had generous donations of nearly 100 slices and cakes for their stalls from Nicole Pearson at the Coal Mine Café.

The donation will help support any number of the 1700 students that are spread across the four BCC campuses.

The Steve Plum Foundation was set up in memory of Steve who worked at the senior school.

When he passed away his family decided to donate money to go towards the students, because it was something he was really passionate about.

“It pretty much is there to assist kids that meet the criteria who need help with the uniforms, that sort of stuff,” said Caroline Grainger, from Wonthaggi CWA.

“So, we’re quite passionate about that ourselves.”

The CWA also donated to the foundation to raise awareness of its existence across the region.

“Not a lot of people know about it, and it’s only us and the family who donate to it at the moment. It’d be really great if there were other people who could put money towards it, and we could achieve a lot more with the kids at the school,” said Caroline.

For those interested in donating to the Steve Plumb Foundation or for more information contact Bass Coast College (Mackenzie Campus).

Fish Creek home shortlisted for The Australian Institute of Architects awards



Shortlisted for the Australian Institute of Architects awards is this home in Fish Creek, overlooking Wilsons Promontory and Corner Inlet. Photos: Tom Blachford



A second living space features a cosy snug that can be closed off, and has its own smaller, slow combustion fireplace.



The home has been carefully sited to maximise and capture the views from each of the rooms in the house.

THE Australian Institute of Architects has announced the shortlist for the 2025 Victorian Architecture Awards, with a private retreat in Fish Creek among those nominated.

Fishharven sits on a hilltop of rural Fish Creek, overlooking Wilsons Promontory and Corner Inlet.

Designed by Neil Architecture, this project sought to provide a welcoming sanctuary to accommodate the family and friends of the client, to enjoy semi-retirement and to sit comfortably on, but not dominate the landscape.

Inspired by the vernacular of farm outbuildings, the main house is made up of a series of three pitched roof pavilions clad in corrugated galvanised steel, interconnected by a flat roofed glazed section.

Each pavilion features a distinct sculptural roof form, carefully sited to maximise and capture the views from each of the rooms in the house, while also providing sheltered outdoor spaces to retreat from the prevailing winds and enjoy the outdoors.

Located off the east end of the main living space, there is a private main bedroom retreat, with its own ensuite and small study space.

Off the west end of the main living space, is a wing including a second living space; a cosy snug that can be closed off with its own smaller, slow-combustion fireplace.

There are three additional bedrooms, two with queen beds, and one bunk room with four built-in bunk beds.

A family bathroom with a bath and an additional powder room are included in this wing.

The garage is a freestanding sculptural form that speaks to the farm vernacular

of detached buildings and completes the cluster of buildings in the landscape.

It provides space for up to two cars, a ride-on mower, firewood store and gardening tools.

While the exterior is robust and enduring with low maintenance material incorporated to stand up to the elements, the interior, by contrast, uses warm materials that make you feel relaxed.

The interior is made up of terracotta tiles, timber lining, exposed concrete flooring with a warm aggregate, hessian wallpaper that tones with the timber, but provides a point of difference from the rest of the house.

The north-facing walled garden provides a space with an outdoor fireplace and chimney.

The chimney is reminiscent of a relic from the past – and the only thing remaining after the rest of the house was destroyed by the elements.

David Neil, Director of Neil Architecture, stated that their approach is to always be mindful of the specification of materials.

“We generally aim to select materials that last and are obtained from a sustainable source. This home should be able to stand the test of time, which will therefore make it a sustainable investment into the future,” explained David.

“A place of calm, to be inspired and celebrate nature.”

The Australian Institute of Architects awards celebrate the most inspiring architecture across the state.

Victoria leads the nation with the highest number of entries, reflecting a strong culture of design excellence, creativity, and community impact.

Winners will be announced at the awards night on Friday, June 27.

Boost on nutritious foods helping students thrive

LOCAL schools and outside-of-school-hours care programs (OSHC) are being supported to promote students’ health and wellbeing through the Vic Kids Eat Well initiative. Vic Kids Eat Well is a state-wide movement that increases nourishing foods and drinks in school breakfast clubs, canteens, lunch orders, fundraising, and OSHC menus, that is implemented locally by the South Coast Prevention Team (Health Promotion workforce of Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service and South Gippsland Hospital).

The South Coast Prevention Team are currently offering \$200 to eligible schools and OSHC to support actions that promote nutritious food and drink options for students. Actions could include establishing or further funding a kitchen garden, trialling new options on the menu or developing a student-led cookbook.

Welshpool and District Primary School have recently joined the Vic Kids Eat Well



Georgina, Health Promotion Officer, South Coast Prevention Team with students Joe and Kai of Welshpool and District Primary School.

movement and utilised the incentive opportunity to refresh their veggie garden and boost nutritious vegetable options on their breakfast club menu.

School Principal Gabrielle Boyd says, “We are excited to team up with the South Coast Prevention team to deliver the Vic Kids Eat Well initiative.”

“Staff and students will redevelop our current vegetable

garden to produce fruit and vegetables which can be cooked up ahead of time, frozen and then added to the breakfast club menu. What a wonderful way to connect over healthy, school-grown food!” Gabrielle added.

South Gippsland Hospital Chief Executive Officer Paul Greenhalgh congratulated Welshpool and District Primary School, saying, “Well done. Involving students

in growing, harvesting and cooking fresh produce is a great way to increase nutritious foods in the school.”

Mr Greenhalgh further commended everyone involved in the initiative. “Congratulations to all local schools and outside of school hours care working to create positive change through their involvement in the Vic Kids Eat Well initiative”.

Enjoyable and nutritious foods play an important role in our health and wellbeing. Children and young people who eat nutritious foods in their everyday lives can be more alert and interested in activities, which can improve their concentration, memory and learning.

By harnessing the power of community and taking simple steps, the Vic Kids Eat Well movement helps to create supportive environments for students to learn, play and grow. For more information or to utilise the \$200 Vic Kids Eat Well opportunity, please contact prevention@basscosthealth.org.au.



BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

ALTHOUGH classes were on a break for the school holidays, the NDIS Capacity Building participants got to do some special activities.

In the first week, the group took a bus trip to Fountain Gate. They did a little shopping and enjoyed lunch at the food court. The main purpose of the trip though was to indulge in the Gold Class cinema, where they saw the new version of Snow White.

Then last week, the group had an early Easter celebration with an Easter Egg hunt,

cupcake decorating, and arts and crafts.

These special holiday activities are a great way to give participants something different. It also helps people who come to different sessions to get to know each other a little better. So in addition to being a lot of fun, it still helps in building their skills.

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit bcal.vic.edu.au or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

■ WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

You've heard of a laser printer, but what about a printer that really prints with lasers?

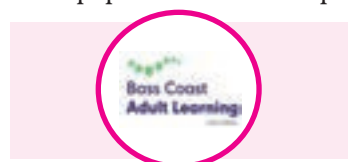
One of the Woodies members uses a laser engraver to enhance pieces, either by burning directly onto the wood or with metal nameplates.

Although woodworking may be considered a 'traditional' pursuit, the group is all for including modern techniques and tools. Some may prefer to stick to hand tools or make joints without fastening for

the discipline of it. Others will use whatever works. There's no right or wrong, just different approaches.

The most recent piece made with the laser engraver is a beautiful Acknowledgement of Country sign for the workshop.

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

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

GOT an item that needs fixing but unable to do the job yourself? Then how about booking it into the Fixit Café. Call or email us to book it in and have it assessed as to which fixer will be the best match. The Wonthaggi Men's shed do a great job. Note that the item must be one that you can carry in and bring with you any spare parts to help with the rehab. This month's Fixit Café is on Sunday, April 27, 10am to 12noon, like, this Sunday. Booking before the day is essential to get a time slot for your repair. So, while you may have something to

be fixed, you could have fixit skills that you may consider offering the café. They are always looking out for handy persons – welders, needle work repairers, electricians, mechanics etc. It all takes place at the Wonthaggi Men's Shed which is beyond the Big W car park, past the Goods Shed.

Every second Friday of the month, from 1pm to 2.30pm the Bass Coast Parkinson's Peer Support Group meet for those and their families dealing with this disabling condition. Parkinson's is a neurological disorder with a

complex range of symptoms unique to each individual. Living with Parkinson's can be extremely isolating and challenging for both individuals and their families. While the Parkinson's journey is a deeply personal experience, it doesn't have to be undertaken alone. To enrol contact Fight Parkinson's Vic. on 1800 644 189. The next meeting is on Friday, May 9.

The New Wave Gippsland Bass Coast is a self-advocacy group that is run by and for people with an intellectual disability and acquired brain injury living in the Bass Coast

Area. The group works together to ensure that everyone has the same rights, choices and opportunities as everyone else in the community. They meet every Thursday from 9am. Call the New Wave Gippsland Bass Coast peer worker Peter Drew on 0439 425 238 or contact the WNC for further contact information.

Looking forward to seeing you here at the WNC.



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

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 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!

For the more artistically inclined we are also offering a Drawing Pet Portraits workshop with Constance on May 10 and 24, perfect for beginners or anyone looking to refine their drawing skills. Using a picture of your very own pet, she'll guide you through transforming that photo into a stunning work of art which you can take home and keep!

We also have a few engaging info sessions coming up including a hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to use the Vic Emergency App and other essential apps for staying safe during emergencies on April 30. There is also a seminar on May 2 about living at home longer and accessing

home help services to ensure you're as comfortable as possible during those later years.

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 history of posies, and get expert care tips. Plus, take home your handcrafted creation!

Additionally, we're looking for new people to participate in our Book Club which meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 1pm to 2.30pm every month where one fortnight you talk about the assigned book and the other you can discuss anything you've been reading lately in this friendly group.

We also have some interesting Bus Trips coming up, including a visit to the Cranbourne Royal Botanical Gardens on April 29 as well as a

trip to the Emerald Lakeside on May 6. We are also heading to the Holden Museum on May 27. As usual, we offer a Personal Day Bus Service every Wednesday with a small fee for pick-up/drop-off you're your home in Leongatha, Korumburra, and surrounding areas.

If you're interested in making a positive impact and to learn new skills, we're looking for volunteers! We need bus drivers to assist with our exciting trips and volunteers to support our daily operations. Join our team and contribute to making a difference within the community.

We look forward to seeing you at Leongatha Community House!



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



Get your fix on

HAVE you got a favourite household item that needs fixing? The friendly team of fixers repair clocks and other electrical and non-electrical household Fixit café (an activity of Wonthaggi Men's Shed) saves money, reduces waste and creates a resilient community.

Repairs are carried out by volunteers (donations are gratefully received) for people while they enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a snack.

Items that can be repaired need to be small (you have to be able to carry them) and exclude microwaves and computers. Bookings are essential.

To make a booking phone staff at the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre, Mitchell House on 5672 3731.

The Café will be open from 10am to 12 noon on Sunday, April 27 and is located at the Harvest Centre in the Wonthaggi Community Garden. Enter through the Big W carpark and go past the Goods Shed to find parking.

• FAITH FACTOR

Easter – Hope for the Hopeless

By Rev. Graeme Liersch, Anglican Church Wonthaggi/Inverloch

EASTER, it comes around in March or April each year.

Aussies take great delight in having an extended long weekend, and it usually coincides with school holidays, so many people escape the rigours of life and go somewhere different, whether it be camping or a trip to a holiday resort.

Unsurprisingly, many don't even know why we get a holiday in this way each year. Some link it with the Good Friday Appeal, and the novelty of Hot Cross Buns, chocolate easter eggs or bunnies add to this festive like occasion.

It is somewhat of a shame that many don't see the deeper meaning of Easter and stop to savour the reality it brings. I say this because Easter is really about 'Hope', something that many don't seem to have.

Yes, a lot of people are living life with hopelessness overshadowing them, it brings on depression and often results in unresolved conflict, separation and sometimes even worse, death itself.

How then is Easter about 'Hope'?

Easter is about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at the hands of Pontus Pilate early in the first century AD. According to the good book, the Bible, Jesus died to set us free from the pain of sin and eternal death. He died to give us 'Hope' for a life beyond this earthly life.

The High Priest let the cat out of the bag when he prophesied: "You know nothing at all! 50 You do not realise that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." (John 11:49-50 NIV).

Christians know that God exists and that He wants to have a personal relationship with us. To this end, we've discovered that only God can create this relationship, so Jesus, God's only son, born of the Virgin Mary, had to die.

Die He did, on Good Friday, but on Easter Sunday He rose from the dead, breaking eternal deaths hold over human life.

Thus, Easter is about Hope, the Hope for a better life beyond death, residing with God, the Father Son and Holy Spirit for ever in eternity. Think about this the next time Easter comes around, for this is why it is a holiday (holy day).



Miah prepares for her finals.



Mostyn and Zac with coach Dylan at the Championships.



Coaches Lorri and Dylan with first-timers Levi Jarrett and Georgia Perry, and returning swimmer Gemma Cook.

SGB competes at the top level in the Australian Age Championships

DIVING into the pool to race against the future Australian Dolphin team was part of the excitement for the 13 SGB swimmers at the Australian Age Championships.

The event was held in the Chandler Swimming Pool in Brisbane over the past nine days. Every swimmer competing has met the tough qualifying standards, and the SGB swimmers held their own against the best in Australia, watching as records fell, new champions emerged, and their teammates gave their all.

It has been a long, tough season this year for the SGB swimmers, with several major weekend-long meets in the lead-up to Nationals being hard work in the heat, but this did not faze the competitors, who were cheered on by family from the stands.

The weather made it challenging at times, with big storms, the outdoor warm-up pool closed due to lightning strikes on some days and everyone crowding into the indoor warm-up pools.

The competition started with the multi-class racing, with SGB being represented by three competitors: first timers Levi Jarrett and Georgia Perry, and returning swimmer Gemma Cook. Gemma was excited to have fellow teammates with her down on the pool deck this year.

The trio were thrilled with their results, all making finals, as was their coach, Lorri.

“To have a whole team of MC swimmers on the pool deck was so exciting. We had other members of the squad who are swimming next week up in the stands cheering them on. I felt so proud of our club and what we have been able to achieve,” Lori said.

“With changes to the records, breaking them into age groups meant they had even more to aim for, and Levi and Gemma



Miah in action during the finals.

were excited to now be Victorian record holders.”

Levi now holds the Victorian 12-year-old boys s19 50m Backstroke and Freestyle records, and Gemma the 13-year-old girls s6 100m and 200m Freestyle records.

Gemma Cook:

- 50m back 12- 13yrs - 20th
- 200m Freestyle 12-13yrs - 10th
- 100m free, equal 12th
- 50m Freestyle 12-13yrs, A final - 3rd place
- 200 IM 12-13yrs - 14th
- Levi Jarrett:
- 50m Backstroke 12-13yrs - A Final - 9th
- 50m Freestyle 12-13yrs - 17th
- Georgia Perry:
- 100m Freestyle 12- 13yrs - 17th
- 50m Freestyle 12-13yrs - 19th swam in B Final

Inspired by the multi-class crew, the able-bodied swimmers took to the pool to give their best.

At this level, the difference between 30th and 60th can be 0.5 of a second, but the swimmers gave their all and had some pleasing results. The tough conditions were felt by all swimmers competing at the meet, but the SGB

swimmers, all hoping to be returning next year to compete again, have learned a lot about racing at the top level and will return with more experience under their belts. The experience gained by racing at such a high level of competition, though daunting at times, will be invaluable.

Coach Dylan was pleased with their efforts.

“They have trained hard, and to be here, racing against the best of Australia is their reward. It’s tough for them, with the facilities we have to train in compared to some of the other clubs here, which is what makes their efforts even more amazing,” Dylan said.

“There have been some tough swims, and the weather has made it hard, but they have held their heads high and done the best they can, and that is all we can ask of them. There is some stiff competition out there, but they have given it a red-hot go. We had a couple of swimmers make finals and a couple that only just missed out.”

The event, broadcast on 9now, was keenly watched by friends, family and the rest of SGB, as they cheered the swimmers on from afar.

Claudia Croatto, 16yr, 50m Breaststroke 39th, 100m Breaststroke 28th, 200m Breaststroke 27th, 50m Free-style 68th

Billy Fisher, 15yr, 50m Breaststroke 65th, 100m Breaststroke 66th

Maggie Fisher, 13yr, 100m 76th Backstroke

Cormac Flynn, 15yr, 50m Breaststroke 52nd, 100m Breaststroke 54th, 200m Breaststroke 39th,

Izzy Lynch, 13 yr, 50m Breaststroke 31st, 100m Breaststroke 60th

Mostyn Lumsden, 17 yr, 50m Butterfly 32nd

Rahni Matheson, 16yr, 50m Breaststroke 10th, 100m Breaststroke 23rd, 50m Free-style 61st

Miah Roberts, 15yr, 50m Backstroke 17th, 100m Backstroke 16th, B final competitor, 200m Backstroke 21st

Jarrah Tagell, 15yr, 400IM 35th

Zac Sherar, 16yr, 100m Freestyle 65th, 200m Freestyle 47th, 400m Freestyle 26th and 100m Breaststroke 46th

The swimmers will now have a few weeks’ break before the winter Short Course season of racing starts.



The 2025 Inverloch IRB team who took to Ocean Grove for the TRE Motorsport Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) Competition recently.

Inverloch SLSC is off and racing

THE Lifesaving beach patrol season may be coming to an end, but that just gives Lifesaving Clubs the opportunity to compete in the TRE Motorsport Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) Competition.

The first round of the competition was held over two days at Ocean Grove where Lifesaving Clubs across the State gathered to compete against each other. The races reinforce the boat skills learnt by members and hones their boat rescue scenarios with patient pick-ups involved.

Inverloch SLSC had two male teams and three female teams entered with many of the team members competing for the first time.

Team Manager, Brydie Smith said “the water conditions on Saturday saw 1.5 metre waves, increasing in size in the afternoon providing challenging surf conditions to navigate for the competitors.”

“Support to the Inverloch team from Wye River Surf Life Saving Club during the carnival was welcome when they lent us one of their boats when

we experienced motor issues on the Inverloch IRB. Their female team also paired up with one of our teams which enabled the composite team to compete and gain further racing experience.”

Inverloch SLSC finished seventh overall on club points for the U23 category with most teams progressing through the heats in their events. The U23 Female Teams event saw Inverloch place third in the Finals which was a great effort after making up a huge time gain in the second leg of the event.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

WEDNESDAY
April 23

- ▲ 6.01am
1.33m
- ▼ 11.50am
0.48m
- ▲ 7.15pm
1.44m

THURSDAY
April 24

- ▼ 12.29am
0.81m
- ▲ 7.02am
1.30m
- ▼ 12.42pm
0.57m
- ▲ 8.13pm
1.40m

FRIDAY
April 25

- ▼ 1.28am
0.77m
- ▲ 8.22am
1.30m
- ▼ 1.47pm
0.66m
- ▲ 9.15pm
1.39m

SATURDAY
April 26

- ▼ 2.39am
0.70m
- ▲ 9.53am
1.37m
- ▼ 3.06pm
0.75m
- ▲ 10.15pm
1.41m

SUNDAY
April 27

- ▼ 3.55am
0.58m
- ▲ 11.13am
1.50m
- ▼ 4.31pm
0.79m
- ▲ 11.14pm
1.45m

MONDAY
April 28

- ▼ 5.03am
0.43m
- ▲ 12.19pm
1.66m
- ▼ 5.48pm
0.79m

TUESDAY
April 29

- ▲ 12.08am
1.50m
- ▼ 6.02am
0.30m
- ▲ 1.17pm
1.79m
- ▼ 6.47pm
0.77m

Email us your
fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

Good Friday Appeal shoot

ARCHERS were on target for a good cause in Meeniyán, raising \$630 for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, more than doubling last year's tally.

The South Eastern Target Archers turned out in impressive numbers, sharing laughs and fun and indulging in lots of chocolate.

People enjoyed a variety of competitions, both archery and games.

Duncan triumphed with the required Mystery Score of 42 from one round, edging out Katrina (41) and Emily (39).

John Hatch was the raffle winner, while Cam Downing took out the Guessing Jar competition.

The club thanks everyone who contributed, including Kerrie Benton for the donation of the Guessing Jar, and all those who donated items for the raffle.

Club coaches Jon, Cam and Jen set everything up and offered encouragement and guidance for beginners, helping the day run smoothly.



Archers get ready to line up Easter-themed targets during an entertaining Good Friday fundraiser in Meeniyán.

Korumburra's Kyle Webster charges back in ProMX racing

KORUMBURRA'S Kyle Webster has charged back to championship-challenging form, after the disappointing DNF at Wonthaggi last month, leading another strong day for the Honda Racing team in the second round of the 2025 Penrite ProMX Championship at Appin south west of Sydney on Sunday, April 13.

Under ideal racing conditions, according to a report on auspromx.com.au Appin's hill-side circuit saw intense racing from the first gate-drop, as Kyle Webster claimed a perfect scorecard in the Kawasaki MX1 category.

The defending champion topped every session and moto despite some furious battles with series leader Jed Beaton all day.

Webster stormed to the top of the Top 10 Super Pole Shoot-out, finishing the session with a lap time of 1:37.751. Penrite Racing Empire Kawasaki rider Luke Clout was able to get the better of championship leader Beaton (Monster Energy CDR Yamaha) to take P2 but was still 0.23s off Webster's best time.

KTM Racing Team duo Nathan Crawford and Kirk Gibbs finished the session fourth



After a disappointing DNF in race two at Wonthaggi last month, Korumburra's Kyle Webster surged back through the ranks of the 2025 Penrite ProMX Championship with a perfect display at Appin NSW on April 13.

and fifth fastest, respectively.

On a freshly watered track, Clout barged his way to the holeshot in the opening moto, as the two title favourites,

Beaton and Webster, found themselves in fifth and sixth.

Webster charged to the front, clearing riders quickly and took control of the race, with Beaton hot on his heels.

Despite some desperate late efforts by Beaton, Webster took the moto win by just 1.2

seconds, while a tenacious Clout finished third. Crawford and Gibbs dived all race on their way to P4 and P5.

On a rough, demanding circuit, Webster hung on to win an absolute cracking second moto that went down to the wire.

Crawford snatched the holeshot and held the lead for about half the moto but succumbed to Beaton and Webster, who then went toe-to-toe for the race's remainder.

Webster fought off an all-out charge from Beaton to claim a 1.1-second victory and clean-sweep the day's motos, while Clout pushed hard to finish third.

Crawford and Repco Honda Racing's Wilson Todd completed the top five.

Webster, Beaton and Clout filled the round podium, while Beaton (91 points) retains his championship lead over Clout (76). Webster has made big moves up the standings, now third on 75 points.

All interest now turns to Adelaide's Gillman circuit this Sunday, April 27 where Webster gets the chance to resume his place at the top of the championship after three rounds.

Soccer starts this weekend

THE Gippsland Soccer League season kicks off this weekend on Sunday, April 27.

Competitive home and away matches are played on Sundays across the league for the U12s through to the senior divisions.

The Gippsland Soccer League (GSL) is a grassroots league, where new and experienced players can participate in competitive soccer, in a supportive environment with qualified coaches.

Its senior competition has both women's and men's divisions.

The junior competition caters for both boys and girls with mixed-age competitions for U12s, U14s and U17s.

The junior girls' competition has expanded on last year's success to incorporate an U12 girls and an U15 Girls division in 2025.

While girls are welcome to hone their skills in the mixed teams, new girls often feel more comfortable to grow their skills and confidence playing against other girls.

The MiniRoos program is for children aged five to 10.

MiniRoos teams gather in localised hubs on Saturday mornings, offering opportunities for girls and boys to experience soccer in a non-competitive and fun environment, promoting participation and skills development.

The clubs who form the GSL are Inverloch Stars, Wonthaggi United, Phillip Island Breakers, Lang Lang United, Korumburra City, Leon-gatha Knights, Mirboo North United, Trafalgar Victory and Drouin Dragons.

Each club has their own coaches and training programs to develop their players.

Clubs are still taking registrations, so it's not too late to get on board.

For more information, please contact your local club or visit the GSL website at gippslandsoccer.com.au.

The GSL board would like to wish all clubs and respective teams all the best for season 2025.

Tune in next edition as the Sentinel-Times brings you the Soccer Preview feature.

Phillip Island Bridge Club wishes Molly happy birthday

BRIDGE players attending Monday's game celebrated life member and long-term Newhaven resident Molly Downing's 91st birthday.

Several members contributed to the spectacular afternoon tea including birthday cake, cheesecake, sponge cake, chocolate eclairs and chocolate crackles.

After the game, bubbles were opened and a bar tab was provided generously by Rob Maclellan, who also donated lovely savoury food platters.

Molly has recently moved to the Peninsula to be closer to family.

She still has her magic touch with the cards and, with partner Rob Maclellan, finished a very creditable fourth.

First place on Monday (seven tables) North/South pairs went to Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour with 72.62 per cent, and guests Ron and Val Huntley won East/West pairs with 62.2 per cent.

First place Nationwide (six tables) on Wednesday went to Judy O'Connell and Lorrie Read with 68.52 per cent.

Vikings unstoppable, Hornets buzz, and a new look at the darts centre

ROUND 6 of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League delivered a night full of action, tight finishes, and a fresh new look at the darts centre.

The Vikings continued their dominance, cruising to a 7-0 victory over the undermanned Dart Vaders, keeping up their winning streak and holding firm at the top of the ladder.

In one of the closest matches of the night, the Riverboys just scraped past The Mustangs 4-3 in a thrilling battle. Miramar also had reason to celebrate, taking down the Storm 5-2 to move into second place.

Joe's Hornets and Aulin went dart for dart in a seesawing contest, with the Hornets just getting the edge 4-3. Meanwhile, The Breakers continued their consistent season with a commanding 6-1 win over Deadly Darts.

Off the oche, big congratulations to our hardworking Treasurer Meredith, who took out the San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle – a tasty reward for someone who keeps our league running smoothly!

And speaking of smooth, how about our brand-new pull-up banner? Unveiled this week, it proudly showcases

all our valued sponsors and community partners who help make our league possible. It's a great reminder of the support behind the scenes – and it looks fantastic at the darts centre.

We'll be back in action on April 28 for the Joe Rizza Memorial Trophy night – a drawn-teams, round-robin format that promises a lot of fun and fierce competition.

RIGHT: Treasurer Meredith won this week's San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle and stands alongside the new sponsor's sign.





Jan Clark, Helen Gladstone and Brian Newman were the Breakaway Bowls winners on Monday.



The Friday winners at Breakaway Bowls were Marg Ford, Peter Grenville and Linda Newman.



United Indoor Bowls Club Wonthaggi and Mardan Bowling Club celebrated 68 years of competition recently. Pictured from left, Joe Occhipinti, Teresa Ireland and John Evison.



Inverloch Bowling Club's Monthly Triples winners Caz Donohue, Di Silver and Maureen Taylor (skip).



Brett O'Donovan, Graham Turton, Laurel Lee and Bruce Corrigan (skip) were the Thursday social bowls winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club Saturday Winners George Stein, Hans Bischofberger and John Duscher.



Best Triples Game players from Mirboo North/Toora, Joe Paynting, June Paynting and Phil Stimson at the Foster Bowls Club.



Green 1 winners Ted and Laurel Lee at the Inverloch Bowling Club, following the Night Bowls competition.



Rosedale's Nev and Karen were the Best Pairs Game players at the Foster Bowls Club.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

THE members who attended on Monday enjoyed a great day of bowling once again. The winners were Jan Clark, Helen Gladstone and Brian Newman. They won with +21 – great job, guys. Another great day of bowls was enjoyed by all on Friday. The winners were Marg Ford, Peter Grenville and Linda Newman with +8 – well done.

FOSTER

THE club held its first Six Player Mixed Medley Day, sponsored by Bev and Charlie Tyers, on Sunday, April 13. It was great to see six teams were keen to take on the challenge.

The club welcomed some new teams from Loch and Rosedale, as well as some regulars from Mirboo North, Toora, Fish Creek and Port Welshpool. After a challenging eight games played per team, everyone headed inside for a scrumptious afternoon tea.

The winners on the day were the fill-in Foster team of Kelvin Park, Norm Cooper, Ian McLeod, Ray Prain, Michael Flanagan and Judy Prain. The runners-up were the Fish Creek team of Bill Symmons, Dave Christie, Don Cripps, Lynn Poletti, Linda Heywood and Milton Heywood.

Prizes were also awarded for the 'best games' in each format of play.

The Best Pairs Game went to the Rosedale team of Nev and Karen.

The Best Triples Game went to the Mirboo North/Toora team of Phil with June and Joe Paynting.

Best Fours Game went to the Mirboo North/Toora team once again with Marg Briscoe, Joe Paynting, and Ann and Andy Plowman.

Congratulations to all winners. Although the day began with players a little perplexed by the format of play, it finished on a real high.

Everyone had a really enjoyable day, commending the club on a job well done.

The club's Car Boot Sale on Easter Sunday was a great success.

There were lots of stallholders and plenty of shoppers.

Everyone was pleased with the day.

The drawing of the Easter raffle also took place.

The winners as follows:

First prize of the side of lamb sponsored by Prom Meats went to Tania Pell.

Second prize of the handmade quilt sponsored by Sheila Ryan went to Winne McAinch.

Third prize of an Easter hamper sponsored by the club members went to Gwen Facey.

Fourth prize of an Easter hamper went to Carla Jenkins.

Fifth prize of the Easter breakfast hamper went to Shaun Rofey.

Many thanks to the wonderful sponsors and those who bought tickets.

It was another great fundraising effort, raising extra funds towards the future new green and club refurbishments.

INVERLOCH

THIS week's Night Bowls competition saw five two-game winners on each green.

On Green 1, Ted and Laurel Lee took the honours whilst on Green 2 Phil and Mean Price were the narrowest of winners after going to shots up.

There will be no event next Tuesday, but the competition will resume on April 29.

Inverloch Bowling Club's Monthly Triples saw 14 teams battle it out over four games.

The winners on the day were Maureen Taylor (skip), Caz Donohue and Di Silver.

Runners-up were John Newcombe (skip), P. Forrest and G. Cornell.

They finished with four wins and 68 points.

Best first and third games went to Ron Burge (skip), Peter S. and Keith Cousens.

Best second game went to Jeff Gilbert (skip), George and Gary.

The best fourth game went to Barry McGowan, Frank C. and Tony McK.

The next Triples game at

Inverloch will be on the third Wednesday in September.

Thursday's social bowls saw 30 players enjoy perfect bowling weather.

The winners on the day were Bruce Corrigan (skip), Brett O'Donovan from Kilkivan Bowls Club, Laurel Lee and Graham Turton.

They finished with two wins and 34 points.

Runners-up with two wins and 30 points were Mal Marshall (skip), Phil Price and Darryl Floyd.

WONTHAGGI

ANOTHER good week at the club.

Wednesday saw eighteen bowlers grace the greens for two games of triples over ten ends. Only one team was a two-game winner: Aldo Sartori, Rob Dennis, and Ray Saunders, with a score of two wins and 33 points.

Thursday brought fine weather and a good turnout for a game of social bowls.

This Thursday, we have lunch for the Golden Oldies. It's always a great time to catch up, have a good chat, and enjoy lunch together.

Saturday saw thirty bowlers once again play two games of triples over ten ends. There was only one two-game winning team: George Stein, Hans Bischofberger, and John Duscher, with a score of two wins and 32 points.

The runners-up were Alan Bolding, Trevor Teer, and Stan Noad, with one win, one loss, and 23 points.

Steve Bruyen was the lucky winner of the Big Easter Egg, taking out first prize in the raffle.

Bowls this week:

Wednesday: Social bowls at 12.30pm

Thursday: Social bowls at 10am, plus the Golden Oldies Lunch

Friday: Coaching at 10am

Saturday: Social bowls at 12.30pm

Don't forget Friday night meat tray raffles and the members' draw at 6pm. Doors open at 4pm.

Have a good week and good bowling!

KORUMBURRA

TUESDAY: April 15.
Stableford: 47 players.
A Grade: Pete Wallace (16) 37 points.
B Grade: Noel Ladgrove (27) 39 C/B.
NTPs: first Billy Wrigley, seventh Craig Kerr, 10th Tim Fowles and 13th David Enbom.
Thursday, April 17:
Stableford: 20 players.
A Grade: Tim Fowles (10) 35 points.
B Grade: Joseph Salvatore (26) 30 points.
NTPs: first Wayne Knights, seventh Shane Harland, 10th Brian Clasby and 13th Tim Fowles.
Saturday, April 19:
Sponsor: Steve Rose.
Colonial Ambrose (Irish Team Stableford): 52 players.
Winners: Ray Ludenia, Peter Johnson, Malcolm Garnham and Brian Pope 102 points.
NTPs: first Chris McConnell, seventh Shayne Harland, 10th Chris Clements and 13th Thomas Wyatt.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY women played a Stableford round and enjoyed the perfect autumn weather.
Congratulations to all players and well done to the winners coming in with some great scores.
A Grade: Heather Grist (19) 37 points.
Runner up: Lyn McIvor (20) 34 points.
B Grade: Julie Brannaghan (24) 40 points.
Runner up: Barb Twite (22) 38 points.
C Grade: Viv Enbom (34) 37 points.
Runner up: Kath Welsh (31) 33 points.
BDTL: Trudi Mantell and Merrissa Cosson 33 points, and Aliesha Wrigley 32 points.
NTPs: first Julie Brannaghan (Kellys Bakery), seventh Shelley Snooks, 10th Heather Grist and 13th Merrissa Cosson.
On Saturday, the club had 12 women play with Johanna van den Heiligenberg (12) winning on a countback from Deb Wrigley (23) with 36 points.
BDTL went to Jenny Blackmore with 35 points and Jennie Loughnan with 34 points.
NTP on the 10th was Johanna and Aliesha Wrigley was closest on the 13th.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, April 15: Stableford.
Overall winner: Frank Kauhausen 40
A Grade: 1: Roy Kleverkamp 36
2: Nicholas Byrne 34,
B Grade: 1: Phillip Edwards 38
2: Jeffrey Brewer 34
C Grade: 1: Frank Kauhausen 40
2: Geoffrey McDonald 35
Nearest the pin: fifth Martin 157cm NTP second shot, 14 John Ryan 187cm and 16 Hans Hoefler 135cm.
Thursday, April 17: Par.
Overall winner: Neil Mackenzie 26 +2
A Grade: 1: Jamie Grenville 11 -2 C/B, 2: Neale Gillin 12 -2 C/B
B Grade: 1: Gary McGrath 15 0, 2: Ashleigh Hutton 14 -3 C/B
C Grade: 1: Malcolm Legge 17 0, 2: David Chugg 20 -1
D Grade: 1: Neil Mackenzie 26 +2, 2: Gerald Freestone 27 0
Nearest the pin: fifth Sean Munley NTP second shot, 14th Jeremy de Silva and 16th David Child.
Saturday, April 19: Stableford.
Overall winner:

Mark Allison 24 43
A Grade: 1: Paul Richardson 11 38, 2: Terry Lund (Woorayl Golf Club) 9 35C/B
B Grade: 1: Peter Read 16 36C/B, 2: Daniel Jolley 13 36
C Grade: 1: Geoffrey McDonald 19 35C/B, 2: Andy Bassett 20 35C/B
D Grade: 1: Mark Allison 24 43, 2: Samuel O'Neill (The SGA Golf Club) 25 36
Nearest the pin: fifth Jake Malone 76cm NTP second shot, 14th Paul Richardson 50cm and 16th Rob Scholz 267cm.

Ladies

FORTY-TWO women enjoyed the favourable weather and competed in the annual Bruce and Anne Gibson American Foursomes board event.
The course was in excellent condition with lots of run on both greens and fairways.
Life member Dot Stubbs partnered extremely well with Melina Willder to finish with 35 points.
The winning combination thanked Anne for her very generous sponsorship of this event.
Mandy Moyle and Wendy Brown were the runners-up, on a count back, with 32 points.
Balls down the line went to 30 points Colleen Touzel and Trish Owen, Di Williams and Anna de Bondt, Anne Gibson and Michelle Roberts, and Kim Harris and Chris Lay.
The nearest the pin on the 16th was Leanne Costello and Karen de Groot was closest with her second shot on the fifth.

MEENIYAN

SINGLE Stableford was the event for the day, proudly sponsored by Meeniyen Pharmacy.
Once again, captain Susan Straw came out with the winning score of 34 points and the runner up was Faye LePage with 31 points.
Sue Hoskin and Faye LePage won the nearest the pins.
Down the line balls went to Jan Trease and Dot Christie.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, April 15: Stableford.
A Grade: T. Bradshaw, (7) 32 points.
B Grade; J. McFarlane (16) 41 points.
DTL: J. Gunn and M. Richter 33, C. Gunn 32, and R. Thompson 31c/b.
NTP: fourth T. Whitelaw, sixth J. McFarlane, 13th M. Payne and 16th D. Taylor.
Birdies: fourth S. Woodall, and 16th R. Thompson and D. Taylor.
Saturday, April 19: Two Person Ambrose.
Member and Guest: P. Draper and R. Fleming (4) 61 net.
Member and Member, D Woodall and A Woodall (8.5) 61.5 net.
DTL: M. Payne and T. Donnison 62.5, B. Bradshaw and T. Bradshaw 64, M. Snell and J. Conlan 64, S. Beitz and N. Casboul 64.25, J. Hughes and S. McInnes 65, and S. Woodall and N. Bracecamp 65.5 c/b.
NTP: fourth M. Payne, sixth S. McInnes, 13th A. Woodall and 16th S. McInnes.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: April 17, SR. 71.
Competition: Stableford 18-hole.
Winner: Stephen Kane 35.
Runner up: Martin Cox 34.
BDTL to 32: Chris Wilkinson 34, Ian McNish 33, Rod McBride 33 and Jarvis Harvey 32.

Results: April 17, SR. 36.
Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18.
Winner: Norm Burne 19.
BDTL to 18: Mark Nicholson 19 and Secondo Tiziani 18.
Results: April 18, S.R 71.
Competition: Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Appeal Ambrose.
Amount raised: \$2400.
Overall winners: Tony Grant, Tom Miller, Nicolas Cairns and Caley Hill 55.625.
Runner up: Patsy Britt, Alan Jones, Catherine Bolding and Simon O'Halloran 57.625.
Longest drive men: Jarrod Brusamello.
Longest drive ladies: Andrea Grenville.
NTP second shot: Max Lucke.
NTP men: Andrew Cox second, Glenn Rielly eighth, Colin Sherrif 13th and Alan Mclean 17th.
NTP ladies: Patsy Britt second, Heather Cameron eighth, Layla Robinson 13th and not claimed 17th.

Results: April 19, S.R 71.
Competition: Stableford.
A Grade: Rod McBride 41.
B Grade: Phillip Studham 40.
C Grade: Gary Youtlen 41.
Balls down the line to 36: Ian Baker 38, Dale Burgess 38, Jim Jordan 37, Kevin Jamieson 37, Jonathon Clayton 37, Joshua Snidson 36, Glenn Hewlett 36 and Juergen Braun 36.
Eagle: Kevin Jamieson first.
NTPs: Peter Hanley second, Gino Hennequin fourth, Brad Pinal propin eighth, Mark Tiziani 13th and Russell Parker money hole 17th.

Ladies

THERE were 20 players enjoying a perfect day for a round of Stableford.
The three grade winners had wonderful scores.
A Grade's winner was Catherine Bolding (17) 37 points, B Grade and round of the day went to Geraldine Prentice with a brilliant (23) 40 points, and C Grade's winner was Jenny McRae (29) 37 points.
NTP on second was Robyn Wilkinson, eighth Catherine Bolding and 17th Jan Beaumont.
BDL went to Marg Johnson 35, Anne Poulton 33, Dawn Judkins 32, Irene Walsh 32 and Bev Sloan 30.
The finalists for the Singles Knockout have been settled with Anne Tschiderer vs. Lisa Brusamarello next week.

WOORAYL

ANOTHER beautiful autumn day welcomed players on Wednesday, April 16, for a Par competition.
The club thanked Carol Johnson for her sponsorship, and it was great to have her back playing after a lengthy injury break.
Congratulations to the A Grade winner Ann Poole on being square with the card.
It was a wow moment for the B Grade winner with Barb James recording a fabulous +9.
Balls down the line went to Anne Grist -1, Inge Giliam -2 and Carol Johnson -3.
Nearest the pins were the eighth Ann Poole, 11th Elly Berryman and 17th Inge Giliam.
Special mention goes to Tracey Ryan, who had a gobble on the fourth.
A reminder that this week, the golfers will be playing at Mirboo North in the annual 'Challenge Day'. Arrive at 9am for 9.30am tee-off.



Catherine Bolding, Geraldine Prentice and Jenny McRae were the winners of Wonthaggi Golf Club's Stableford round on Wednesday.



Winners of the Bruce and Ann Gibson American Foursomes Mel Willder and Dot Stubbs with sponsor Anne Gibson at the Leongatha Golf Club.



B Grade winner Barb James and A Grade winner Ann Poole with sponsor Carol Johnson (centre) at the Woorayl Golf Club.



Korumburra's Wednesday winners were Heather Grist and Viv Enbom. Absent: Julie Brannaghan.



Runner up Faye LePage with Single Stableford winner Susan Straw at the Meeniyen Golf Club.



Joseph Salvatore was the B Grade winner at the Korumburra Golf Club on Thursday.

Heath Shaw
heads to Giants

IT'S all happening this weekend at Koorumburra as former AFL star Heath Shaw takes to the field for the Giants in their clash against Dalyston – and to the stage beforehand!

Heath will join Ricky Nixon as a guest speaker during a special clubroom event on Saturday, April 26, with a light lunch provided and the talk running from 12pm to 1.30pm, all ahead of the senior match-up.

Tickets are \$50 with tables available. Contact Russ White on 0409 574 334 to book.

Leongatha Small Bore

GIPPSLAND Shield - 50 metres:
Held at Leongatha on April 13.
Traralgon won the round with 801.4685 with Leongatha very close behind on 801.2770.

Sale came third on 799.9310.
Best shooters (scratch) on the day were: David Garrett (Traralgon) scoring a 200.011 in Bench Rest; Daniel Croatto (Leongatha) scoring 192.007 in Prone.

Best Handicap winners on the day were: Darcie George (Traralgon) scoring 200.4829 in Bench Rest; and Geoffrey Young (Sale) scoring 200.2643 in Prone.

Next round will be held at Traralgon Small Bore Rifle Club on Sunday, June 1, at 10am.

2025: 50m Prone Pennant – Section A:
Round 10: Leongatha A 586.025 defeated Casterton 585.028. Christopher Sargent: 198.008, Daniel Croatto: 195.010, Kenneth Hart: 193.007, Jack Sargent: 187.005.
Ladder: MISC A 36, FPTRC A 32, Leongatha A 20, Kyneton 20 and Casterton A 12.
2025: 50m Prone Pennant - Section D:
Round 10: Mildura 563.014 defeated Leongatha B 519.006. Mathew Eldridge: 181.003, Bradley Hall: 168.001, Cameron Davidson: 170.002.

Ladder: Brunswick 40, Mildura 28, Numurkah B 12 and Leongatha B 8.

The club shoots Friday nights at 8pm at the rifle club on the Leongatha Recreation Reserve. Any inquiries, please call R. Spratt 5664 2358.

Butterfly shock Radak at
Wonthaggi Table Tennis

BUTTERFLY defeated Radak three to two. Fourth placed Butterfly rolled the previously unbeaten top of the table Radak in unwithering middle of the paddle fashion. David and Warren added a dosage of jolliness to conquer the formidable foes in Andrew and Dirk.

David and his loaded loop ominously dropped only one set all night against quality to stake a claim to the big prize at season's end – and doing his jolliness no harm.

Double Fish defeated Nittaku four to one. Double Fish's Sven and Nittaku's Braden seven setter was Ali and Fraser's thriller in Manila, a combative classic.

Braden's left-handed slingshot, not unlike Fraser's famous left hook, seems to have Sven's measure.

However, Sven's forever adaptive style of poise and panache, just like Ali's, repelled and eventually overcame Braden's bash ball.

It was a win for beauty over brutality. This time.

Donic defeated Stiga three to two.

When Stiga's Tim and Luke enter the hall, it feels like a Hunter S Thompson novel, dripping Californian chutzpah and hippy can do.

Pong USA diplomat champion Glenn Cowan would be chuffed. However, Donic's Justin was having none of that. He and Michael won the doubles in six sets to position the team nicely in the run to the finals.

A Grade ladder: Radak 16, Donic 16, Double Fish 12, Butterfly 12, Stiga 4 and Nittaku 0. Leading players: Justin 10, Dirk 7 and David 7.

Thursday night: B Grade. Ball defeated Smash four to one; Bat defeated Serve three to two. After losing the first set 11 to two, Bat's Yeti and Sam bounced back to win the doubles and clinch the team win.

Ladder: Serve 11, Bat 6, Ball 6, Smash 4 and Edge 3. Leading players: 6 Trish, and 5 Shane, Vicki, and Yeti.

Town closes 2024/25 season



Leongatha Town's women's award winners were Kate Oates (Coach's Award), Brenda Stewart (Bowling) and Lucy Carter (Most Improved) pictured with captain Sari Hickey.



The Senior award winners for Leongatha Town were Rhett Hume (Hat Trick and Matt Trotman Most Determined), Frazer Livingstone (Coach's Award), Trent McRae (B Grade Batting, Cricketer of the Year, and Young Family Player of the Year), Levi Hickey (B Grade Bowling), Madura Madusanka (A Grade Batting, Bowling and Cricketer of the Year) and Davern Goss (Geoff Cashin Best Club Person).



Leongatha Town's junior award winners were Max Carter (Batting), Frazer Livingstone (Bowling), Shem Hickey (Cricketer of the Year) and Hayden Bruce (Coaches' Award), pictured with coach Alex Aeschlimann.

LEONGATHA Town Cricket Club finished off the season with its presentation night.

The presentation night was a chance to celebrate the club's premiership B2 team and the top performers.

The club thanked its members for another successful season.

Award winners were as follows:

U15: Batting: Clancee Salmon, Bowling: Mitch Hogarth, Cricketer of the Year: Shem Hickey, Coach's Award: Hayden Bruce.

U17: Batting: Max Carter, Bowling: Frazer Livingstone, Cricketer of the Year: Max Carter, Coach's award: Jack Cashin.

Women's: Batting: Nat Challis, Bowling: Brenda Stewart, Cricketer of the Year: Nat Challis, Coach's Award: Kate Oates, Most Improved: Lucy Carter.

C Grade: Batting: Travis Strybosch, Bowling: Poly Joseph, Cricketer of the Year: Travis Strybosch.

B Grade: Batting: Trent McRae, Bowling: Levi Hickey, Cricketer of the Year: Trent McRae.

A Grade: Batting: Madura Madusanka, Bowling: Madura Madusanka, Cricketer of the Year: Madura Madusanka, Coach's award: Frazer Livingstone.

Young Family Player of the Year: Trent McRae, Geoff Cashin Best Club Person: Davern Goss, Matt Trotman Most Determined: Rhett Hume, Hat Trick Balls: Rhett Hume and Sam Clark.

Visitors boost numbers at Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun

WHAT a perfect morning it was for our Easter long weekend edition of the Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun! The weather turned on the charm with blue skies, a crisp breeze, and that unmistakable buzz of a long weekend in the air. A fantastic turnout saw 55 participants take to the trail for their Saturday 5K fix.

This week we welcomed visitors from near and far, including friendly faces from Hastings, Diamond Creek, Yackandandah, Inverloch and Churchill parkruns. We also had one first timer join us – welcome to the parkrun family! We hope you enjoyed the beautiful Grand Ridge trail and come back for more.

A huge shoutout to this week's wonderful volunteers who made the event possible. Thank you to: Jodie Pincini, Annie Holland, Glenn Wearne, Rebecca Davis, Robert Gray, Rongshang Zhang, Tim Buckley, Verity Keith and Katrina Palmer.

Without you, there is no parkrun – so thank you for giving up your time and energy to make it all happen!

We also saw some fantastic performances out on the course, with personal bests achieved by Jasan Hysen, Levi Rawlings, Riley Smith and Brendan Johnson.

Congratulations to all four of you on your new PBs – great effort!

First across the line today was Ross Thomas, leading the pack with a strong run. The first female finisher was Finley Smith, continuing her impressive form. Well done to both!

Thanks to everyone who came out, whether to run, walk, volunteer, or cheer. See you back next Saturday for more fun on the trail!





Leongatha and District Cricket Association's Champion Players for the 2024/25 season were Ian Thorn (C2), Trent McRae (B2), Aaron Kaddatz (A2), Damien Symmons (B1), Cam Baudinette (C1) and Tim Wightman (A1).

LDCA cricketers congratulated

THE top cricketers of the 2024/25 season were announced at Leongatha and District Cricket Association's presentation night.

The evening was held at the Austral Hotel in Korumburra on Friday, April 4.

It was an opportunity to reflect on the successful season and to look ahead to what's to come in 2025/26.

The award winners were as follows:

A1: Bowling Award: Ryan Williams (OMK), Batting Award: Daniel Mock (Phillip Island), Champion Player: Tim Wightman (Nerrena).

A2: Bowling Award: Jesse Dugard (Inverloch), Batting Award: Matthew Donohue (Glen Alvie), Champion Player: Aaron Kaddatz (Nyora).

B1: Bowling Award: Tarryn Allan (Phillip Island), Batting Award: Damien Symmons (Nerrena), Champion Player: Damien Symmons (Nerrena).

B2: Bowling Award: Levi Hickey (Leongatha Town), Batting Award: Mark Hardy (Leongatha Town), Champion Player: Trent McRae (Leongatha Town).

C1: Bowling Award: Cam Baudinette (Nerrena), Batting Award: Owen Fitzpatrick (OMK), Champion Player:

Owen Fitzpatrick (OMK).

C2: Bowling Award: Michael Whiteside (OMK), Batting Award: Warren Stewart (Inverloch), Champion Player: Ian Thorn (Glen Alvie).

Women's: Bowling Award: Brit Thomas (Koonwarra L/RSL), Batting Award: Krystin Wurzbacher (Nyora), Champion Player: Jackie Newman (Inverloch).

U17s: Bowling Award: Frazer Livingston (Leongatha Town), Batting Award: Rhys Newman (Inverloch), Champion Player: Rhys Newman (Inverloch).

LDCA awards: Charltonian - Best Presented Club: Imperials Cricket Club, Clive Salmon Award Best Umpire Award: Ashleigh Stride, Fred Zeuschner Best U18 Cricketer: Ayden Williams (Imperials), LDCA Life Membership: Graham Wightman, Semkin-Wood GCL U15s player: Cooper Newman (Inverloch), Clark-Wyatt GCL U18s award: Ayden Williams (Imperials), GCL Women's Medal: Brit Thomas (Koonwarra L/RSL), Gray-Moore Senior GCL Award: Joel Brann (Wonthaggi Club), Anderson-Bolding Melbourne Country Week Medal: Ethan Lamers (OMK).



Leongatha and District Cricket Association's inaugural women's award winners Krystin Wurzbacher (batting), Brit Thomas (bowling) and Jackie Newman (Champion Player).



Leongatha and District Cricket Association's life member inductee Graham Wightman.



Imperials' Aydan Williams received the Fred Zeuschner Best LDCA U18 Cricketer award at the recent presentation night.

Stingrays celebrate season

INVERLOCH Cricket Club recently held its presentation night.

All cricketers were congratulated on a great season, which saw the A2 side crowned premiers.

The presentation included three people inducted as life members of the club - Gavin Bolding, Jackie Newman and David Newman.

The award winners were as follows:

A2: Bowling Award: Jesse Dugard, Batting Award: Jack Butcher, Fielding Award: Riley Harris, Champion Player: Jesse Dugard.

B1: Bowling Award: Walter Taberner, Batting Award: Brett Debono, Fielding

Award: Jack Rowe, Champion Player: Walter Taberner.

C2: Bowling Award: Aedan Parker, Batting Award: Lucas McMillan, Fielding Award: Jordon Foote, Champion Player: Warren Stewart.

Women's: Bowling Award: Katrina Slidders, Batting Award: Keely Dennerley, Fielding Award: Nicole Creaser, Champion Player: Jackie Newman.

Inverloch awards: Best Club Person: Jackie Newman, Inverloch Cricket Club Life Member: Jackie Newman, Inverloch Cricket Club Life Member: David Newman, Inverloch Cricket Club Life Member: Gavin Bolding.



Gavin Bolding, and Jackie and David Newman recently became life members of the Inverloch Cricket Club.



South Gippsland Umpires Association's boundary and field umpire and boundary coach Gemma Cook recently took part in the 2025 UMPowered Coaching Conference, which she found to be a valuable experience. Tk01_1625

Umpire empowered at coaching conference

LOCAL umpire and boundary coach Gemma Cook was recently invited to the 2025 UMPowered Coaching Conference.

The exclusive conference selects 25 participants and is designed to develop the next generation of umpire coaches through expert training, industry insights and networking opportunities.

Gemma has been umpiring football for eight years, four of which have been with South Gippsland Umpires Association.

She is a boundary and field umpire and is now in her first year of boundary coaching alongside Tim Kemp.

Gemma said the experience at the conference was invaluable and she enjoyed hearing from a range of speakers.

"It was really good. They were really going into depth about how to communicate with different people," she said.

The conference was held over a weekend.

On the Saturday, the participants were given the opportunity to sit in the coaches' box and ask questions during a quarter of an AFL match.

On Sunday, they were invited to AFL House, where they heard from the speakers.

"We heard from some very well-respected ladies, as well as some AFL coaches," Gemma said.

"It was a worthwhile experience. It taught me you can achieve anything if you just keep pushing forward, and that's the message I want to pass on to the local kids.

"What I am taking from it is I would like to get everyone involved and try to adapt all the drills to suit the kids, so they are more likely to stay."

Gemma has found umpiring with the South Gippsland Umpires Association to be a welcoming experience, and she has enjoyed umpiring the fast-paced action of the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Senior matches.

Gemma encouraged anyone who has been thinking about umpiring to get involved.

"Definitely do it. It's a good way to earn money, gain friendships and a different kind of respect," she said.

Box Hill Hawks footy fest this Sunday

ITS almost here, the Box Hill Hawks VFLW and VFL double header against Port Melbourne is this weekend, Sunday, April 27.

Player photo signings, halftime Auskick games, and free entry this is one for the whole family!

And never fear if the kids are not part of a club, they're welcome to join in the fun.

Gates open at 10.30am with the VFL match kicking off at 11.05am and the VFLW at 2.35pm.

Wonthaggi Power's canteen will be open for refreshments.

So, what are you waiting for, head to Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve!



Drouin's Indie Hayes, Chief Executive Officer at Latrobe Health Services Ian Whitehead, Drouin's Alexis Walsh, Morwell Eagles' Milce Hayes, committee member at Female Football Gippsland Amanda Johnstone, Morwell Eagles' Demi Radford and region manager at AFL Gippsland Tim Cotter are looking forward to the Latrobe Health Services Gippsland Gather Round Female Footy Festival.

Community invited to highly anticipated Female Footy Festival

AFL Gippsland, Latrobe Health Services and Female Football Gippsland invite the community to the highly anticipated Latrobe Health Services Gippsland Gather Round Female Footy Festival, set to take place on Sunday, May 25, at the Yinnar Recreation Reserve.

The landmark event will celebrate female participation in Australian Rules Football, showcasing the talent and passion of youth girls and women across the Gippsland region.

The day-long festival of football will feature a series of exciting matches played across two ovals, providing a platform for players of all ages to shine.

The event promises to be a fantastic day out for families and football enthusiasts alike.

"This partnership with Latrobe Health Services is a fantastic boost for female football in Gippsland. The Latrobe Health Services

Gippsland Gather Round Female Festival of Footy promises to be a wonderful celebration of the talent and growing participation of women and girls in our region. We're thrilled to be working alongside Latrobe Health Services and Female Football Gippsland to deliver what will be a memorable day at the Yinnar Recreation Reserve," region manager at AFL Gippsland Tim Cotter said.

"Partnering with AFL Gippsland to host the Gippsland Gather Round is a natural extension of our values – it's about supporting equity and accessibility and promoting healthy lifestyles."

Chief executive officer at Latrobe Health Services Ian Whitehead said they are proud to be part of an event that not only celebrates the strength, skill and camaraderie of female footballers in Gippsland, but also inspires the next generation to embrace

their potential both on and off the field.

"We are incredibly excited to welcome Latrobe Health Services as the naming rights sponsor for the Latrobe Health Services Gippsland Gather Round Female Festival of Footy," Female Football Gippsland president Graeme Smith said.

"Its commitment to community health and wellbeing aligns perfectly with our vision of promoting active participation and inclusivity in sport.

"This partnership will play a crucial role in ensuring the success of this event and fostering the growth of female football in our region."

In addition to the action on the field, the event will provide an opportunity to get a free Shane Warne Legacy Health Check, provided by Latrobe Health Services in their role as the Legacy's founding partner.

No booking is required.

Clashes, comebacks and contenders

EVEN at this early stage of the competition it has become obvious that if any side is not ready to play every week, they are more than likely to come unstuck against any team in the competition and at any time.

Hill End v MDU

Hill End nearly stole their first win in many a month, when they fell agonisingly close to predicted finals contender Morwell East.

The Hillsmen were ok in round one, but in round two there was evidence of a side capable of mixing it with some of the best.

Make no mistake Hill End is a side on the rise and although disappointing in their season opener, the Demons quickly showed improvement to account for Thorpdale before the Easter break.

"Looking forward to Hill End this week who had a solid game against Morwell East," Rhett Kelly MDU coach said.

"We will once again have a few changes due to a few injuries in round two. I hope that we can back our efforts up and prove to each other that we are on the right track after two completely different performances to start the year off."

MDU have the talent but consistency from talent is key to the Demons' fortunes this year, Trent McRae, Jarvis Lacy, Shaye Wals and Jason Kennedy, were some of the best against the Blues, and they, along with a handful of teammates will need to continue to perform each week.

Stony Creek v Yinnar

This clash is a super important one for the home-ground Lions, their round two win was a good one, but it is the benchmark, or at least one of, that they must face this week and what better way to test yourselves than against one of the best in front of you own supporter base.

"Coming off the bye and having our first home game of the year, we get the in-form team of the comp in Yinnar will be a great challenge for our boys, one we are very much looking forward to," Troy Shephardson, Stony Creek coach exclaimed.

Embracing the challenge is the key, and whilst doing so, identifying which of your personnel lift to the occasion can fast track who should be where and when.

Yinnar demands that their opposition play their best to stay with them and if they don't it will be a most uncomfortable afternoon for Stony Creek.

Thorpdale v Foster

Thorpdale, as honest as they are and

By Rob Popplestone

as aggressive as they can be, fell short in round two, and this weekend a challenge every bit as demanding when they take on an impressive Foster outfit.

"Round two was disappointing as we couldn't get the game on our terms all day," Daniel Taylor, Thorpdale coach said. "Looking forward to our first home game of the year against Foster, it's another big game."

The Blues will need more of their best from the likes of Jacon Patullo, Heath Ferguson, Shaun Falla, Travis Patten and James De Virgilio, just to name a few, but it will take support from another dozen to really take it up to Tigers.

"We look forward to going up to Thorpdale and seeing how we go," Sam Davies, Foster coach said. "They've recruited well – so they'll test us big time"

Blues coach, "Tac" Taylor is capable of getting his side up and about for clashes just like this one, and he will need to as well, as this Foster team appears to be the real deal.

Toora v Fish Creek

Toora have gone from the heat of Yinnar to the fire of Fish Creek in the space of a fortnight, the Magpies might be at home, but the task of taking on the reigning premiers on the rebound is as tough as it is likely to get. Mind you Toora were reasonably happy with some of their efforts against last year's runners-up, Yinnar, in round two.

"We played some really good football in the first quarter where our pressure was up and our ability to move the ball was on point, this week it's another massive task in round three coming up against Fish Creek who will be looking to bounce back from their round one defeat but we will be ready for the challenge," Jay Accardi, Toora coach said.

The Kangaroos may have won the ultimate prize two years in a row, but in a new year, like Toora, they were beaten by Yinnar also in the opening round.

"There were some positives with a few first gamers as well. Some polish and game style proved too strong in the end so credit to Yinnar," Jarrad Walker, Fish Creek coach said. "It will be two weeks off for us after a round two bye, so a few weeks off to regroup and iron out a few deficiencies... Looking forward to taking on Toora, always a physical contest and never easy at their ground. We took a lot of our first game so looking to put some of our learnings into practice."

All eyes on Daly as Tigers hosts Sharks

By Rover

MIRBOO North hosts the Tarwin Sharks this Saturday at Tigerland, when Mid Gippsland football and netball returns for round three, following the Easter break.

Both clubs' senior footy sides are looking for their second victories after respective round two losses.

Mirboo North is coming off a 34-point defeat against Boolarra and Tarwin went down by 26 points to Stony Creek at Shark Park.

This will be the Sharks' second visit to Mirboo North since joining the MGFNL in 2021.

On that occasion in 2023, Tarwin recorded a 50-point win, that included a five-goal haul from former player, Ryan Waddell.

This time, Mirboo North will need to keep an eye on Troy Daly, who has returned to Tarwin after 201 games at Wonthaggi Power that netted 281 goals in 12 seasons.

Daly's five goals against the Lions shows he certainly knows where the big white sticks are located.

Others in good form for the Sharks include, Ben Chalmers, Lachie Jones, Ferguson Warren and Flynn Brosnan.

For the Tigers, Jesse Chila, skipper Hudson Kerr, Beau Peters, Patrick Lewis

and Jacob Blair have been amongst their best performers in the first two rounds of 2025.

Guru Rover's seven vital football lessons for this week:

As broadcast on South Coast FM's 'Mirboo North Magazine' radio program.

1. Liniment loosens a footballer's muscles; wisdom helps him understand the game plan.
2. Whenever footy fans become confused, it's time to get smart and listen to the experts.
3. A full-forward, whose shots for goal go left and right, is akin to a golfer's birdie putts not going in the hole.
4. Good footballers keep their marks close to their chests.
5. A profound message for all aspiring footballers: Balance your dreams of success with plenty of action in every game of footy you play.
6. Like birds of a feather, the rules of football law and due process always go together.
7. A team that continually runs the ball around the boundary line, rather than using the corridor, is only tinkering at the edges.

VFL / VFLW

BOX HILL HAWKS V PORT MELBOURNE

ALL THE ACTION BROADCAST LIVE TO AIR ON

SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2025



Ruby McCartney attempts to keep the ball in play under pressure from her Kilcunda Bass opponent.



Kylie Wookey looks for options through the IK defence during the B grade match.



It was all arms in the goal circle as IK and Kilcunda Bass fought hard to win the ball during the B grade match.



Emma Felsovary battles for possession as her IK opponent Linsey Boddy looms.



Emily Andrew takes possession for Kilcunda Bass as her opponent Ivy Hunter attempts the intercept.

KILCUNDA BASS

A GRADE: The girls were excited to get out on court against Inverloch on Easter Saturday. The game was full of intensity, and Inverloch set the pace early on. The girls worked as a team to narrow the margin, but unfortunately, they couldn't get over the line. It was a great team game with a lot of positives to take away. Award: Tamika De Nardis.
Final Score: IK 57 d K-Bass 49.

B Grade: With only four of our regular B Grade players available, we knew this round would be a challenge. The lack of time together as a team meant limited structure and cohesion, despite that, the girls fought hard right to the end. As the saying goes, "You either win or learn." We'll take the lessons from this game, identify where we can grow, and come back stronger next time. Award: Kira Hamilton (Cape Pilates voucher)
Final Score: IK 46 d K-Bass 28.

C Grade: C grade fought hard against Inverloch-Kongwak but ultimately fell short. The score remained close for most of the game. Despite good defence and great patches of play in the attacking end, we struggled to convert key opportunities in the second half. The team is determined to come back strong next week. Award: Ruby McGillivray (Summersalt Voucher).
Final Score: IK 31 d K-Bass 23.

D Grade: Known for their strength and consistency, Inverloch proved a challenging opponent, but our team rose to the occasion with confidence and determination. Our defensive end worked tirelessly, applying pressure through the entire game and earning multiple tips and crucial intercepts. In the goal ring, accuracy was a standout, with our shooters holding their nerve and consistently converting opportunities. This accuracy, combined with strong mid-court connections and relentless defensive efforts, created a game we can all be proud of.
Award: Lynne Boag (Cape Pilates voucher).
Final Score: IK 20 lt K-Bass 36.

17 & Under: The team started off strong with the attacking end working well together. Maisie and Jilli were accurate at goals. Our mid-courturs worked really well together (Peyton, Alana, and Sadie), conscious of implementing moves worked on at training. Our defenders worked well all game, Matilda, Jya, and Hope played body on body and tried their best to slow down the play. The Inverloch shooters were very accurate and could shoot from wherever the ball landed in the ring. Awards: Jya Donohue, Jilli Wallace and Maisie Van Der Walt.
Final Score: IK 45 d K-Bass 19.

15 & Under: Our defence was spectacular throughout the entire match, they didn't drop their heads or their intensity for one minute. A switch in our attack worked in our favour and the connection in the ring was simply superb. All our mid-court stepped up and did their jobs. Hard work and dedication always pay off and we deserved that win. Congratulations to the entire team, you've all worked so hard and we look forward to a new challenge next week against Phillip Island. Awards: Paige O'Brien, Kealey Trewavis & Lexie Baker with a special shout-out to all the girls for an amazing performance.
Final Score: IK 21 lt K-Bass 23.

13 & Under: The team has been building strength and confidence each week, and it all came together beautifully on the court. Their teamwork, communication, and determination were on full display. It was fantastic to see the hard work at training pay off, and the smiles at the final whistle said it all – well done, team! Awards: Frankie Leary (Canteen), Emily Vanderspek (McDonalds Award) and Summer VanStensel (Easter Bunny).
Final Score: IK 16 lt K-Bass 27.

11 & Under: With some new players joining our team our focus was on the basics. We changed the team up to try to find the right combination and give the kids some exposure to different positions. Inverloch was far too strong, but the girls enjoyed just being out there doing what they love. We have a lot to work on at training, the only way is up from here. In the last quarter, our defenders managed to keep Inverloch to only two goals. Awards: Vanessa Vanderspek (Canteen Voucher), Ebony Boce (McDonald's Award) & Sage Van Der Walt (Easter Bunny).
Final Score: IK 32 d K-Bass 3.

Phillip Island wins six out of eight

ON A bright, sunny day at the Phillip Island netball courts last Saturday, there was a big crowd in from early in the day for a huge day of netball between the Island and the visiting Warragul Industrials club.

The day started well for the Island with strong wins in both the Under 11s (19-2) and Under 13s (35-20) but they were put on notice by Dusties in the Under 15s with the visitors careering away to a 32-24 victory after a high-standard match.

In one of the matches of the day, Phillip Island's Under 17s just got the better of Dusties in a free-flowing affair, winning 37-32, delighting the crowd with many passages of athletic play.

The D Grade match was also competitive with Phillip Island showing its depth with a 37-26 win but it was Warragul which won C Grade in equally impressive fashion, 41-19.

In the final two matches on an exhausting day, Phillip Island dominated both the B Grade and A Grade matches, with the impressive work of the B Grade goalers Meika White, Ruby Formosa and Abbey McCaughan setting up the win in the first half, getting the team out to a 31 to 14 lead at that stage and continuing to link up well from defense to attack to maintain control throughout.

In A Grade, Aisha Hibbert and Ella Duggan shared the scoring in a bright first quarter to get Phillip Island out to a 17-7 lead and there was no coming back from there. The two Island wingers, Isla Cousins and Lexi Walton gave their team good service through the midcourt and it was noticeable that the Dusties' goalers constantly had to work the ball in and out in an attempt to find better shooting locations, but their efforts regularly broke down such was the positional work of defenders Jaclyn Clark and Hollie Castagna.

It was a strong performance front to back performance by the Island girls but it doesn't get any easier next week against Killy-Bass who put up a great showing against the strong IK A Grade team before going down 57-49 in a high-class contest.



Phillip Island A Grade shooter Aisha Hibbert sizes up this shot on goal during a strong display by the Island on Saturday.



Phillip Island wing attack Isla Cousins stops the progress of her Warragul opponent during a convincing win by the Island A Graders.



Isla Cousins finds A Grade goal attack Ella Duggan on the move through the midcourt in the match against Warragul Industrials on Saturday.



32

BEN FISHER

Melbourne
Collingwood
Fremantle
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



81 Commercial Street,
Korumburra
5655 1024



33

MATT ROBERTSON

Melbourne
Collingwood
Adelaide
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



119 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1027



33

CARL LINDSAY

Melbourne
Collingwood
Adelaide
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



145 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1137



35

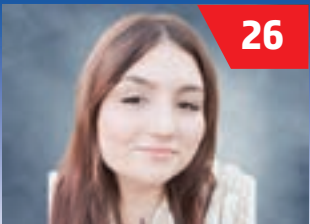
ALEX GEYER

Melbourne
Collingwood
Fremantle
St Kilda
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



Wonthaggi 5672 5522
Leongatha 5662 2941



26

JAE DAVEY

Richmond
Essendon
Fremantle
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



62-64 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
7051 0720



36

DARRYL MCGANNON

Melbourne
Collingwood
Fremantle
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



1 Roughead Street,
Leongatha
5662 2327

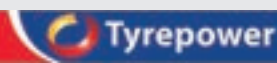


29

KRIS BAKER

Melbourne
Collingwood
Adelaide
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



78-80 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5760



30

RYAN SHANE

Richmond
Collingwood
Adelaide
Brisbane
North Melbourne
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Carlton
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



Leongatha Toyota

7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5662 2302



32

**CRAIG FARRINGTON
DARREN TILEY**

Melbourne
Collingwood
Fremantle
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



6/5 Cyclone Street,
Wonthaggi
Darren 0405 603 569
Craig 0415 641 845



35

ADAM WARE

Melbourne
Essendon
Fremantle
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



2/88-98 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
1800 358 131



36

JUSTIN CAPORALE

Melbourne
Collingwood
Fremantle
Brisbane
Port Adelaide
GWS
Gold Coast Suns
Carlton
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



41 McCartin Street,
Leongatha
5662 2529



31

LEIGH DONOHUE

Richmond
Collingwood
Fremantle
Brisbane
North Melbourne
Western Bulldogs
Gold Coast Suns
Geelong
Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 1



Wonthaggi
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AFTER ROUND 6

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Darryl McGannon	36
Justin Caporale	36
Aaron McGregor	35
Adam Ware	35
Alex Geyer	35
Liam Sawyer	35
Warren Stewart	35
David England	34
Dylan Clark	34
Carl Lindsay	33
Matt Robertson	33
Ben Fisher	32
Brad Hodson	32
Craig & Darren	32
Hayden Poppe	32
Keith & Eddie	31
Leigh Donohue	31
Ryan Shane	30
Brett Jacobs	29
Kris Baker	29
Jae Davey	26



35

WARREN STEWART

- Melbourne
- Collingwood
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



Wonthaggi Toyota
346 Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi
5632 3503



38

PHIL HARDY

- Richmond
- Collingwood
- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



Bass Coast LIGHT ENGINES
317 White Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4017



34

DYLAN CLARK

- Melbourne
- Collingwood
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



1 A'Beckett Street
Inverloch
5674 1432



34

DAVID ENGLAND

- Richmond
- Essendon
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



3/45-61 McKenzie St,
Wonthaggi
5644 2080



37

PETER FORT

- Melbourne
- Essendon
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



47 Station Street,
Korumburra
0417 332 141



31

KEITH KELLY
EDDIE CHANDLER

- Melbourne
- Collingwood
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



54 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1311



35

LIAM SAWYER

- Melbourne
- Collingwood
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 3



16 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
5672 1007



35

AARON MCGREGOR

- Melbourne
- Collingwood
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



24 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 5906



32

BRAD HODSON

- Melbourne
- Essendon
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 2



15/17 Murray Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5878



29

BRETT JACOBS

- Melbourne
- Essendon
- Fremantle
- St Kilda
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Gold Coast Suns
- Geelong
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



28 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 4770



32

HAYDEN POPPE

- Melbourne
- Essendon
- Fremantle
- Brisbane
- Port Adelaide
- GWS
- Sydney
- Carlton
- Hawthorn

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



6/6 Cyclone Street,
Wonthaggi
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Warragul Industrials in last gasp win at Phillip Island

IT HAD been a highly successful day for Phillip Island on Easter Saturday at Cowes, right up until former Norwood and Sandringham powerhouse, Goy Lok, found his Warragul Industrials' teammate Luke Walker in the goal square for the equaliser with only minutes to go in the main game.

They'd lost the fourths but had comfortable wins in both the thirds and reserves, and also took six out of eight netball matches including A Grade and B Grade in comfortable style.

The weather was superb, ideal for the huge Easter crowd, the playing surface was lush, the merchandise stand was doing a roaring trade and the beer was icy cold, right to the end despite queues snaking away past the end of the clubrooms for much of the day.

The sun was shining, and the action on the ground was fast and furious... it was thirsty work!

There's little doubt this feature event of the Phillip Island Bulldogs' season was a raging financial success and it looked set to be a thrilling triumph on the field as well when the Island's coach Cam Pedersen accepted a soft pass from Hayden Bruce after good lead up work by his brother Charlie and stretched the lead to 13 points at the 22-minute mark.

But the Dusties' players continued to come at Phillip Island, with Wilson McGillivray hitting the post to cut the lead to two straight kicks and both Goy Lok and Kuiy Jiath continuing to provide plenty of drive out of the midfield.

Jiath attacked the ball in the middle, fended off an opponent and found Michael Debenham, on to the dangerous Lok and suddenly there was only a goal in it.

The ball went back into Dusties' forward line out of the centre, but Hayden Bruce looked to have made a score-saving tackle on the half-back flank and Charlie Bruce collected the loose ball superbly to relieve the pressure. However, Dusties' Will Gibson turned it back his team's way and Lok ran it forward to where Luke Walker finished off in style.

The scores were 16.10 all with only seconds to go but it was the dynamic duo of Jiath and Lok who again imposed their influence on the game and between them produced a heart-breaking winner, Lok leading up to a Jiath pass and calmly slotting it through from 35 metres out.

"That was an absolute ripper," was the comment from one spectator.

"That's as good a game of country football as you'd see," said another.

Admittedly, they were both Dusties' supporters.

The match had everything from an impressive opening quarter by Phillip Island including the first two goals by Billy Taylor, and a long bomb by Daniel Pearce which appeared to set the scene for an Island win. A late goal off the deck by Jack Taylor seemed to cement their dominance and they went in with a six-goal to-two opening.

But there after Warragul matched it with the speedy Islanders, using their physicality to create opportunities, with the close attention spilling over in the third quarter resulting in the Island's coach Cam Pedersen being 'yellow carded'.

The last quarter, with five goals either way made for a cracking finish and it was Dusties who got their noses in front at the end in a match that could have gone either way.



Beau Davies tackles his Warragul opponent in the tight clash on Saturday. Photos: Carol Ratcliff.



Jaymie Youle shepherds his Dusties counterpart.

WEST GIPPSLAND
COMPETITION
RESULTS

RND
4

PHILLIP ISLAND FOOTBALL CLUB

106 112

PHILLIP ISLAND WARRAGUL IND

Phillip Island 6.1 10.4 11.7 16.10 (106)
Warragul Ind 2.5 6.6 12.8 17.10 (112)

GOALS, P-Island: Cameron Pedersen 4, Nick Anderson 3, Hayden Bruce, Billy Taylor, Jack Taylor 2, Charlie Bruce, Brayden Kleverkamp, Daniel Pearce 1 each
BEST: Max Walton, Charlie Bruce, Cameron Pedersen, Daniel Pearce, Nick Anderson, Connor Thompson
GOALS, Warragul Ind: Robert McCallum 5, Todd Beck, Goy Lok 3, Wilson McGillivray, Luke Walker 2, Thomas Commadeur, Michael Debenham 1 each
BEST: Kuiy Jiath, Robert Mccallum, Todd Beck, Kyan Willis, Goy Lok, Luke Walker

RESERVES

Phillip Island 3.4 4.4 12.6 16.9 (105)
Warragul Ind 1.1 1.1 1.1 1.1 (7)

GOALS, P-Island: Jack Huther 4, Brady Ross 3, Lucas Chihotski, Bryce Pewtress, Ben Taylor 2, Oliver Hibbert, Ethan Michaelides, James Nicolaci 1 each
BEST: Brady Ross, Ben Taylor, Max Mattock, Finlay Cousins, Lucas Chihotski, Jack Huther
GOALS, Warragul Ind: Russ Ware 1
BEST: Chevy Edwards, David Fromberg, Oakley Walsh, Mitchel Jameson, Harrison Radcliffe

THIRDS

Phillip Island 3.4 4.6 8.9 12.11 (83)
Warragul Ind 0.2 2.2 2.3 4.6 (30)

GOALS, P-Island: Oliver Duggan 5, Benjamin Chihotski 2, Yianni Caffieri, Blake Murphy, Charles O'Garey, Isaac Savona, Max Taylor 1 each
BEST: Oliver Duggan, Yianni Caffieri, Ayden Fawaz, Jasper Cashman, Jeremy Kelly, Jack Briggs
GOALS, Warragul Ind: Zac Tepper 2, Steward Oling, Angus Watts 1 each
BEST: Jarrod West, Adriel Zuccolo, Zac Tepper, Steward Oling, Angus Watts, Benjamin Smith

FOURTHS

Phillip Island 1.4 1.6 2.6 4.8 (32)
Warragul Ind 0.1 5.3 8.4 12.4 (76)

GOALS, P-Island: Sam O'Garey 2, Kai Cashman, Charlie Fischer 1 each
BEST: Jack Mascaros, Archie Williams, Hayden Power, Max Jess, Charlie Fischer, Felix Bathgate
GOALS, Warragul Ind: Ky Bannister 3, Jack Morgan, Steward Oling 2, Oliver Adlington, Ronnie Buck, Alex Ingham, Campbell Moore, Cooper Vickery 1 each
BEST: Jack Morgan, Brody Walsh, Alex Ingham, Ky Bannister, Ollie Ireland, John Huggins

THIS WEEKEND'S DRAW

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

ELLINBANK ROUND 3

Buln Buln v Bunyip
Nilma Darnum v Ellinbank
Trafalgar v Neerim South
Poowong v Longwarry
Nyora v Lang Lang
Catani v Yarragon

GIPPSLAND ROUND 3

Traralgon v Morwell (Friday, April 25)
Wonthaggi v Drouin
Bairnsdale v Leongatha
Moe v Maffra
Sale v Warragul

MID GIPPSLAND ROUND 3

Hill End v MDU
Mirboo North v Tarwin
Stony Creek v Yinnar
Thorpdale v Foster
Toora v Fish Creek
Boolarra v Morwell East (Sunday, April 27)
Newborough - BYE

WEST GIPPSLAND ROUND 3

Warragul Ind v Tooradin-Dal (Friday, April 25)
Koo Wee Rup v Nar Nar Goon
Phillip Island v Kilcunda Bass
Cora Lynn v Inverloch-Kongwak
Korumburra-Bena v Dalyston
Garfield - BYE

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Timothy Gunn
(Kilcunda Bass) marks
despite the efforts of IK's
Jordan Bertacco.
Photos: Anna Carson



Panthers break 10-year drought

EASTER Saturday's match was one for the history books, as Kilcunda Bass' Seniors defeated Inverloch-Kongwak for the first time in 10 years.

The drought-breaking game is sure to set the tone for Kilcunda Bass' 2025 campaign, with the Panthers enjoying a lot of early success.

"We were in great form in round one. We lost in round two, but you don't know how things are going to go until the season starts. Waragul Industrials are a strong team, and we still played some good footy. There were a lot of positives to take from that game," Kilcunda Bass coach Lee Rowe said.

"We took what we learnt into the game against Inverloch and we were pretty happy with the result."

It was a beautiful day at the Inverloch-Kongwak Recreation Reserve, with a huge crowd turning out for the Easter Saturday clash and a slight breeze towards the town end.

Both teams looked to be in good shape heading into the match.

Kilcunda Bass lacked momentum in the first 10 minutes of the game, allowing Inverloch-Kongwak to get a few goals onto the scoreboard early.

Continued page 62

Dean McRae launches to take a strong grab for Kilcunda Bass.

Box Hill Hawks VFLW/VFL Matches



Sunday, 27 April

starting at 11:00am

Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve

Free entry



**BASS
COAST**