

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

Sentinel-Times



FARMERS FIRED UP

A RALLY on the steps of Parliament last Tuesday morning didn't stop the Victorian Government from pushing through its controversial Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund, which was voted in by Thursday night.

The Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) replaces the previous Fire Services Levy (FSL) which will see significant rate increases for all Victorian homeowners, business operators, and farmers from July 1, 2025.

The State Government passed the legislation with cross-benchers agreeing to the bill, prior to the budget being released today (May 20), despite the coalition vehemently opposing the bill.

By Courtney O'Brien

The FSL was instated in 2013 via council rates notices and raised funds for 87.5 per cent of Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and 77.5 per cent of the Country Fire Authority's (CFA) annual budget.

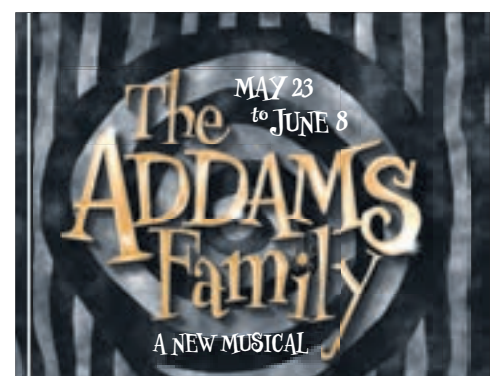
The new ESVF will be issued the same way, but will also be used to fund VIC-SES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Emergency Recovery Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria, Emergency Alert Program (automatic emergency warning SMSs), and the Emergency Management Operational Communication Program as well as the CFA and FRV.

The variable charge will increase for residential properties (based on the capital improved value) from 8.7 per cent (cents per \$1000 CIV) up to 17.3 per cent – almost doubling.

While commercial properties will be hit with a 100 per cent increase, industrial rates will rise by 64 per cent, and farmers will cop a staggering 150 per cent hike compared to what they previously paid.

Some farmers will get an exemption if they are CFA or SES volunteers or if they are in a drought declared area, which does presently include Bass Coast, South Gippsland and French Island.

Continued page 3



Starts this weekend
See pages 34-35

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Farmers fired up as levy increases financial burden

From page 1

The Nationals' Melina Bath said the tax was nothing more than a desperate cash grab from the State Government that will do nothing to fix the real issues plaguing Victoria's emergency services.

"Every single Victorian who pays rates will be hit by this cruel tax, but it's our farmers who bear the brunt with a 150 per cent increase," Ms Bath said. "Labor is shockingly punishing farmers when many are also CFA volunteers, SES members, and first responders."

"To hit families with this new tax while they struggle with cost-of-living pressures and target farmers gripped by drought is unconscionable."

Across Victoria over 300 CFA brigades went offline on Thursday night in protest of the ESVF with another protest planned for the steps of parliament today.

Acting Chief Officer of CFA Garry Cook stated on Friday afternoon,

"Volunteers and brigades, many of whom are from rural communities, have had a long summer of fire activity and are facing a lot of pressure as a result of drought which is impacting their livelihoods."

"We respect their rights to engage in matters relevant to their local communities, including those who are concerned about the potential impact of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund."

While the government has announced a reduction in the levy for farmers – reducing it from 189 per cent to 150 per cent, and a



Over 500 people rallied against increases to the fire levy last Tuesday with protests expected to be even larger today.

temporary pause for those in drought-declared areas, the Victorian Farmers Federation said these concessions do little to ease the broader burden that will be felt across regional and rural Victoria.

"The sheer reality is that this levy will create a crippling financial burden to farmers," said VFF President Brett Hosking.

"This decision shows a clear disconnect between our state government and the day-to-day realities faced by those on the land. It almost feels like the worse this drought gets, the harder the government pushes to take more from farmers."

The Victorian Greens supported the Labor bill, provided a number

of changes be made to the initial proposal, and stated that all the legislation does is provide a legal tool to provide secure, ongoing funding for emergency services into the future.

"With increased bushfires, floods and droughts, we need fully funded emergency services to keep us all safe – so we don't face a horrific situation like the LA fires," said Leader of the Victorian Greens, Ellen Sandell.

When asked for comment, Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale stated:

"I know this is a very difficult time for many members of our community, particularly farmers, with drought conditions and bad

harvests. I am glad to see some recent changes to the levy, including reducing the cost to primary producers and providing refunds for farmers in drought-impacted areas.

"Eligible CFA and SES volunteers and life members will also receive a full refund on their primary residence. In addition, eligible farmers in declared drought-impacted areas will be able to claim an additional partial rebate in 2025/26. This means that these farmers will have no increase in their Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy rates compared to those they paid the previous year for their Fire Services Property Levy."

"Every single dollar raised by this new fund will support our emergency services – this is an extension of the Fire Services Levy which brings in the SES who currently have to pay, for example, their own fuel, protective uniform, extinguisher checks and equipment repairs."

"These changes will give emergency services the funding and equipment they need as they face natural disasters which are happening more often and becoming more destructive."

Eastern Victoria members Renee Heath (Liberal), Jeff Bourman (Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party Victoria) and Melina Bath (The Nationals) all voted against the bill, whilst Tom McIntosh (Labor) and Harriet Shing (Labor) voted along party lines in favour of the bill.

New levy a burden to farmers

By Cr John Schelling,
Mayor of South
Gippsland Shire Council

"LATE (Thursday) night, the Victorian Government passed its controversial Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) following last-minute deals with crossbench MPs. This new fund – or tax, as it should rightly be called – will unfairly impact regional Victoria, particularly our farmers, who will bear a disproportionate share of the tax burden."

Let me be clear: South Gippsland Shire Council strongly supports our emergency services. We recognise the vital role they play in keeping communities safe. However, we do not support a funding model that unfairly targets country Victorians."

Rather than shifting costs onto ratepayers, the Victorian Government should prioritise its spending and fund emergency services through consolidated revenue."

While negotiations with the crossbench delivered a few modest concessions – including a token reduction in the tax increase for primary producers from an exorbitant 189 per cent to a still excessive 150 per cent – this is cold comfort for regional communities already doing it tough."

A large number of emergency service members – many of whom are primary producers – are voicing their dissatisfaction with the new tax."

South Gippsland Shire Council stands with them."

Under this legislation, local councils will be responsible for collecting this tax via rates notices – effectively making us the Victorian government's reluctant tax collectors."

In an effort to provide some relief for primary producers, this year's draft Council budget has proposed to reduce agricultural rates by lowering the farm differential from 70 to 65 per cent. While this won't undo the damage of the new levy, it's a step toward supporting our farmers during what has already been one of the driest autumns on record."

This new tax may be well-intentioned, but for country Victoria, it's yet another blow. We deserve better."

Who is eligible for the 'Emergency Services' rebate?

MEMBERS of the Victorian Legislative Council spent most of Thursday night debating the Fire Services Property Amendment (Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund) Bill 2025 but their commentary revealed that the devil of the legislation may be in the detail.

In an exchange with Jaclyn Symes, the Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development, Eastern Victoria MP Melina Bath highlighted the issue of who is eligible for the rebate and the funding generated by the levy.

"The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard are financial and affiliated members of the CFA. Can you confirm that the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard members will be eligible for, first of all, a rebate, as they are a volunteer service, and are they eligible for funds?"

Minister Symes said the

government had no intention of gazetting anyone other than CFA and VICSES volunteers to be eligible for a rebate.

"I was having a conversation earlier with Mr Davis about the MOU between Shepparton Search and Rescue and the SES. That confers a lot of operating procedures and legally binding responsibilities, and they basically become the equivalent of SES in a statutory authority sense. Affiliation does not do the same. I do not have any intention of gazetting anyone other than CFA and VICSES volunteers to be eligible for a rebate under the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund. Similar to my answer to the list that Mr Davis read out, we will continue to work with agencies on their funding requests in the usual way," said Minister Symes.

"Just to clarify, the Australian Vol-

unteer Coast Guard, even if they do have an affiliation with the CFA and financial membership with the CFA, will not be receiving funding through this legislation, through this levy, and they will not be getting a rebate? I am just confirming that," asked Ms Bath

"If they are CFA volunteers, they will be eligible for a rebate," said Minister Symes.

The Liberals' David Davis had earlier listed organisations such as Shepparton Search and Rescue Squad, Echuca and Moama Search and Rescue Squad, Life Saving Victoria, Marine Search and Rescue, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Alpine Search and Rescue Victoria and Bush Search and Rescue Victoria that were not in bill and not supported in the bill.

"Just to understand about the rebates, the list of organisations I

read before, will they be eligible for rebates? Do you want me to read them again? Echuca-Moama..." asked Mr Davis.

Minister Symes tried to be clear.

"As I just said, Mr Davis, it is VICSES and CFA volunteers that will be eligible for a rebate because they are the agencies that will be part of the funding arrangements that we are proposing."

But then it got murky.

"Shepparton Search and Rescue members will also be eligible for a rebate by virtue of the MOU with the SES. Anybody else that is in a similar situation and has an MOU in the future would be able to consider that as well. In relation to ordinary volunteers across the board, I certainly value the work they do, but this rebate is for dedicated emergency services personnel such as CFA and SES."

Melina BATH MP
THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR
EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES

DISPLAY:	Advertising closes at 3pm on Fridays
CLASSIFIEDS:	Advertising closes at 12 noon on Mondays

The South Gippsland Sentinel-Times is published on Tuesdays.

*Please note changes occur as a result of public holidays.

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Produced and published by Michael Giles, of 47 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi for South Eastern Newspapers Pty. Ltd. A.B.N. 30 005 353 168. Printed by Express Print, 5 Jones Road, Morwell. Registered by Australia Post Publication No. VAC 336188/00002.

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3° 18°	5° 17°	7° 18°	7° 20°	9° 21°	11° 21°

IN BRIEF

Firewood collection season about to close

THE current autumn firewood season ends on Monday, June 30, but collectors are reminded individual collection areas may close earlier if there is no more firewood available.

Within designated collection areas firewood collectors can collect and cut wood that is on the ground due to natural fall or forest and fire management works, heavy penalties apply to anyone who cuts down a tree, living or dead.

Firewood collection will re-open for spring in designated collection areas from September 1 to November 30, 2025.

For more information about collecting firewood in your local area go to fm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region.

Bin fire alerts smokers to put out their cigarettes

CFA responded to a non-structure fire at around 3.51 pm on Wednesday, May 14, on the Esplanade in Cowes. Crews arrived to find a cloud of smoke coming from a bin.

Two CFA vehicles from Phillip Island attended the scene, and the incident was declared safe at 4.01pm. Council was contacted due to a small amount of damage to the bin.

The fire is believed to have been started unintentionally by a cigarette butt.

Free workshops to better prepare

GIPPSLAND residents are being offered free workshops to better prepare their homes for bushfires, storms, floods and other hazards. Local charity Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) has partnered with the Resilient Building Council (RBC) to help Gippsland homeowners assess their property's resilience and take simple steps to improve it.

The free workshops will guide residents through RBC's easy-to-use digital self-assessment tools, which provide practical, tailored recommendations to strengthen buildings against disaster risks.

"Whether you're living in an older home, planning a new build, or rebuilding after a loss, these workshops will be invaluable," said GERF President Andy Tegart.

"This free program will provide clear, cost-effective advice on steps (big or small) you can take to strengthen and better protect your home or business," Mr Tegart said.

Resilient Building Council CEO Kate Cotter encouraged homeowners to make use of the tools and incentives on offer.

"Once you've completed the self-assessment, you can choose to have your Resilience Rating certified by an expert and access your Resilience Rating Certificate," Ms Cotter said.

"Households can use their certificate to access insurance

or mortgage benefits and have peace of mind that their home is better protected."

To find workshop locations and dates, and to register online, go to: gerf.org.au/rbc

Cr Edwards gets the ball rolling

BASS Coast Shire Bunurong Ward Councillor, Meg Edwards, had been contacted by locals about safety concerns within the community and resident John Searle said she decided to do something about it.

"We have already had one meeting at which community safety was discussed. One idea brought to the meeting was the introduction – or maybe re-introduction – of Neighbourhood Watch," said John.

"At our next meeting, a representative from Victoria Police will be present to help us look into what this would involve." Anyone interested is invited to attend this meeting at the Wonthaggi Baptist Church in McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi on Wednesday, May 21 at 6.30 pm.

Please RSVP to Cr Meg Edwards via email meg.edwards@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Tender awarded for \$1.4M Wonthaggi netball pavilion

WORK is about to start on the new Wonthaggi Netball Club pavilion with local contractor TS Constructions to construct the pavilion at a cost of \$1.397 million.

The project involves the construction of a single-storey pavilion facility featuring three change rooms with associated amenities, an umpire duty room with amenities, a first aid room, a multi-purpose area, kitchenette, canteen, office, accessible toilet, and a store-room.

\$1 million in grant funding was received from the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions as part of the State Government's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP said the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund encourages councils, clubs and communities to work together to design facilities for their individual towns with a focus on getting more people involved regardless of their age, gender or ability.

Ms Crugnale thanked the clubs for being active in their quest for funding, the extraordinary work their committees, volunteers and members do to support players and their families and to the significant financial contribution Bass Council had made to ensure the facilities were delivered in partnership to benefit our community for years to come.

The netball pavilion is a multi-year project part of the Bass Coast Council 2024/25 and 2025/26 capital works program.

Managing a dry season

SOUTH Gippsland Landcare Network is hosting a free event on Wednesday, May 28 from 1pm- 3.30pm at the Koonwarra Hall. Fiona Baker is a Beef Extension Officer with Agriculture Victoria and she will be joining the event to discuss different options farmers can consider, as this dry autumn continues, and in the lead-up to winter.

These include calculating live-stock feed requirements, early weaning, sowing a winter crop, purchasing feed, selling stock, applying fertiliser, using a stock containment area, etc.

Fiona has extensive experience in feed management, buying and selling fodder, pasture assessment and much more. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Everyone is welcome to attend and reach out to a neighbour and invite them along. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Register at events.humanitix.com/dry-autumn-with-fiona-baker-from-ag-vic or email kirby@sgln.net.au.

South Gippsland veterans honoured in grants

MULTIPLE local ex-service organisations and community groups have been successful in the latest round of grants to upgrade RSL facilities and create welcoming accessible places to commemorate and support Victoria's veterans.

Mirboo North RSL Sub-Branch will receive \$47,137 to replace windows which are currently either boarded, broken, or have damaged frames.

Kongwak Community Group will receive \$10,000 from the Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour grants programs for improvements to the Kongwak Avenue of Honour.

The Korumburra RSL Sub-Branch will receive \$15,565 for interior painting, temporary sealing of three walls containing asbestos, and the re-sanding and polishing of timber floors that date back to the building's opening in 1959.

"I've first-hand seen the great work the Korumburra RSL Sub-Branch does in preserving local veterans' history and providing a wonderful meeting place for residents," said Eastern Victoria MP Tom McIntosh.

"By preserving these South Gippsland memorials and upgrading veterans' facilities we're helping future generations understand the legacy of service."

Korumburra RSL Sub-Branch Vice President Tony Moon said Korumburra was very grateful for the Veterans Capital Work program.

"The grant money will go towards a long overdue spruce-up of our RSL Hall interior.

"A local painter is already hard at work painting our walls and ceiling and it looks great.

"We will also use the funds to strip and resurface our floor."

Man arrested with imitation firearm

A MALE was arrested on Graham Street near the Bendigo Bank last Thursday at approximately 9.30am, following reports of a male with a firearm in the area. Police responded swiftly and located the individual, who was challenged by officers and dropped the firearm without resistance. He was arrested at the scene. The firearm was later confirmed to be an imitation weapon. The man was arrested for possession of a firearm and will be summonsed to appear at the Korumburra Magistrates' Court at a later date.

Car accident at Bass

A VEHICLE failed to give way at the intersection of Soldiers Road and Bass Highway on Monday around 9.30am. It's understood no persons were trapped.

Are Fisheries officers being cut or not?

CONCERN has been expressed that sacking of 33 of the state government's 69 frontline Fisheries Officers is imminent but reports are conflicting.

Last Thursday, May 15, Bass MP Jordan Crugnale joined 50 fisheries officers and their supporters on the steps of Parliament noting that between them, several Cowes-based officers had 150 years of expertise service.

"We know just how active and highly regarded they are as we saw most recently two alleged abalone poaching incidents on the Island," said Ms Crugnale on Facebook.

"We want the Cowes Station to remain open and fully staffed," she said.

But whether that happens is yet to be revealed.

Meanwhile, the Liberals and Nationals tabled a petition in State Parliament signed by more than 21,000 Victorians, calling on the State Government to scrap its plans to gut Fisheries compliance and enforcement.

Speaking about the proposal, Shadow Minister for Outdoor Recreation, Sam Groth, said government was planning to slash the number of fisheries officer positions in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port Bay – Victoria's busiest fishing and boating areas – from 27 down to just nine. Statewide, 35 roles will be cut, he said, reducing overall staffing from 192 to 157.

"The petition reflects growing anger and concern from recreational fishers, environmental advocates, and coastal communities across the state," said Mr Groth.

"Poaching has already begun. While most people do the right thing, a small percentage who don't will wreak havoc on our fisheries.

"Labor's dismantling of fisheries enforcement will leave our waterways vulnerable to illegal fishing, marine damage, and serious safety risks."

VicGrid listens: No turbines for South Gippsland or Bass Coast

THE new Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) map is out and we're not on it.

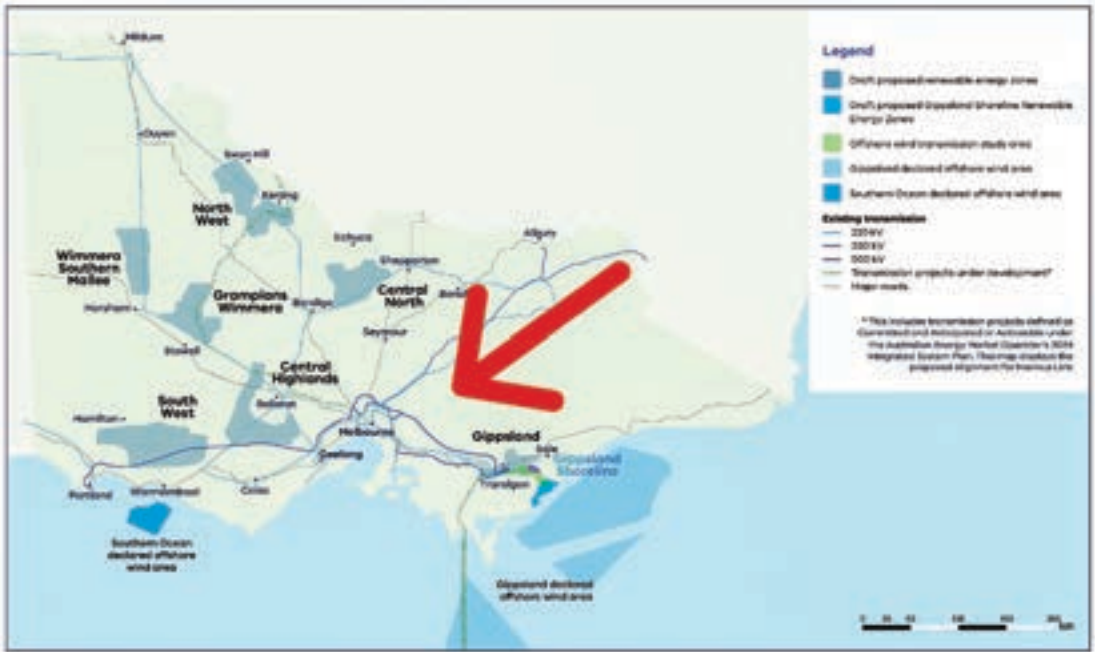
Areas of South Gippsland previously earmarked for turbine development at Korumburra and between Foster and Fish Creek, for example, have been removed.

Most of the turbines and solar farms will be located in the west of the state but that doesn't mean Gippsland is not pulling its weight. The new VicGrid Proposed Renewable Energy Zones map also shows the offshore wind energy zones for Victoria and they're almost all located off the coast of South Gippsland and Wellington local government areas.

There's also a shoreline renewable energy zone to coordinate offshore wind connections in an area from McLoughlins Beach near Yarram to Seaspray near Sale. Of course, this plan only looks at what we need in the next 15 years. All bets will be off again after that as Victoria and Melbourne in particular continue to grow.

Community-based lobby group, Responsible Renewables, has welcomed VicGrid's 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan draft, which it says confirms the Wilsons Promontory/Waratah Bay region will only see the underground Marinus Link, while "this sensitive area is rightly excluded from designated Renewable Energy Zones and protected from related infrastructure".

"This decision respects what residents, visitors, and all who cherish this special region value: pristine natural environments, extraordinary biodiversity, rich cultural heritage, and spectacular land and seascapes that belong to future generations as much as our own," said Laura Jennings, spokesperson for Responsible Renewables.



VicGrid has identified seven proposed Renewable Energy Zones across Victoria for onshore renewable energy infrastructure and a shoreline renewable energy zone to coordinate offshore wind connections in an area from McLoughlins Beach near Yarram to Seaspray near Sale (blue area).

"While this brings some clarity, stronger community consultation remains essential as renewable energy expands across Victoria. Government and developers must genuinely engage with local communities to shape this transition thoughtfully. Responsible Renewables remains committed to supporting Victoria's necessary energy transition while protecting our region's unique environmental, agricultural, and tourism assets," said Ms Jennings.

Here's what VicGrid had to say when the long-awaited news on the proposed Renewable Energy Zones dropped on Friday afternoon, May 16:

"VicGrid, the government body responsible for planning and developing the state's renewable energy zones, has released the Draft 2025 Victorian

Transmission Plan for community and industry feedback ahead of the release of the final plan later this year.

"The Victorian Transmission Plan is necessary to keep the lights on and keep energy costs affordable as Victoria's coal-fired power stations close.

"It sets out how much more wind and solar energy Victoria is expected to need over the next 15 years and identifies the most suitable locations for new renewable energy and transmission projects. In response to significant community and industry consultation conducted in 2024, the draft plan identifies proposed areas for the renewable energy zones.

"In total, less than one per cent of the state will be needed for onshore renewable infrastructure. The proposed renewable energy

zones cover about seven per cent of the state. Not all this land will host energy infrastructure."

People can have their say on the draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan at engage.vic.gov.au/vicgrid or at one of many in-person hubs and events.

VicGrid CEO Alistair Parker has encouraged further community feedback.

"The transition to renewable energy will benefit all Victorians and boost regional economies, but it needs to be done right with long-term planning, certainty for industry, genuine consultation and real benefits for host communities, landholders and First Peoples," said Mr Parker.

Drop in for information at the Yarram Neighbourhood House, on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 and Wednesday, June 11, 2025 from 11am to 3pm.

\$50M island bridge works top billion dollar road blitz

ONE OF the features of a \$976 million 'Better Roads Blitz' in Tuesday's State Budget, to fix potholes and upgrade road surfaces across Victoria, will be a \$50 million maintenance program on the San Remo-Phillip Island Bridge.

But it's no gift. If the government doesn't fix serious problems with the bridge now, the Department of Transport and Planning could be forced to consider load limits, lane closures or worse.

The huge maintenance program follows extensive assessment of the condition of the bridge in late 2024 after concerns were raised about cracking, rust-staining, or spalling of the concrete covering of the bridge's steel structure.

At the time, the department said the assessment of the bridge's condition would take several months, conducted while Westernport Water was undertaking its Pipeline Bracket Renewal project.

"Specialised crews will inspect the surface, sides and underneath of the bridge with minimal disruption to traffic, and expert divers will also be used for underwater structural inspections."

The results of that assessment are in, and the government has moved quickly to address the problem as a matter of urgency.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale welcomed the funding announcement last Friday, saying frankly that it was a matter of safety.

"If we don't invest and take action now, the bridge will continue to deteriorate to the point where it will become unsafe," she said.

In its statement about the impending announcement in the budget, the Government said it was allocating \$50 million "to undertake important maintenance work on San Remo Bridge, the link to Phillip Island, which ensures residents and the 3.5 million tourists who visit the island each year can get there safer and sooner."

When the Phillip Island-San Remo Bridge was built by contractor John Holland and opened in November 1969, it featured the traditional construction method of reinforced concrete.

Normally, covering the steel structure of a bridge with concrete will reduce the rate of corrosion of the steel, even in a harsh coastal environment, to a very low, even negligible level.

But problems can and do arise.

As part of its Better Roads Blitz the government said it was building on what it claimed was "Victoria's biggest single-year investment in road maintenance ever" last year by announcing an even bigger single-year investment in road maintenance this coming financial year.

The timing of the Phillip Island Bridge works, with possible load limits, lane closures and delays is yet to be revealed.

New high-voltage lines for Woodside near Yarram

WHILE the news was good for Bass Coast and South Gippsland, especially for those who don't want to see wind turbines and new transmission lines running across their green rolling hills, it wasn't so good for the people of the Woodside area near Yarram.

As part of the new draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan published last Friday, it is planned to construct new high-voltage lines, starting at Woodside, connecting the offshore

wind projects to the grid in the Latrobe Valley.

Here are some of the new aspects of the transmission plan:

- A draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone between the Gippsland coast and South Gippsland Highway, from Seaspray to Reeves Beach, where offshore wind developers will need to locate underground cables that connect to a connection hub near Giffard. This zone is not

designed to host onshore wind or solar projects.

- A Gippsland offshore wind transmission stage two project, which includes a new 500 kV transmission line from the existing transmission network near Driffield to Woodside, and a new 500 kV line from Woodside to Giffard. New terminal stations will be needed at Driffield and Woodside.

- A draft proposed Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone in

between Morwell and Sale where VicGrid is planning between 320 and 240 megawatts (MW) of new onshore wind energy in this zone.

- A second Hazelwood to Yalourn 220kV transmission line, approximately 10 kilometre long.

Local landholders at Woodside are determined that the high-voltage lines will go underground and Alistair Parker, CEO of VicGrid, seemed to leave that open on ABC Radio this week.

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THE NATIONALS *for Regional Victoria*



Cr Brett Tessari

I WAS disappointed to learn the Legislation for the State Government's controversial Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) had passed parliament. I know my fellow councillors share this disappointment along with our community. Particularly our farming community who will be disproportionately affected by this levy. They're the heart and soul of our small rural CFA and SES stations, passionately volunteering their time to protect the community they love.

Our Council has actively advocated against the State Government's ESVF, raising concerns about its potential financial impact on local communities and the administrative burden it places on councils.

Now, I know many of you are going to say, "just don't pay it", trust me, we explored it. But councils right across the state have come together with a united voice. We are in this fight together, standing up for the communities we serve.

In April, Council passed a motion demanding greater transparency and fairness in the rollout of the new levy, calling for detailed information on implementation, local reinvestment, and support for those unable to afford the levy. A comprehensive report addressing these concerns will be presented at the Council meeting this Wednesday.

Council's role as a State tax collector is inefficient, burdensome, and reputationally risky. Council continues to call for a revised model where the State Government, through the State Revenue Office, assumes responsibility for collection and delivery.

When there is something proposed by a State or Federal Government that we think will hurt the local community we will also fight hard to get it changed, as we are currently doing with the state's ESVF.

One of Council's most important jobs is to speak up for our community and make sure Bass Coast gets its fair share of funding and support. That's why the Mayor and I regularly meet with decision-makers in Canberra, to build strong relationships and push for the things our growing community needs.

After a real nail-biter of a count, I would also like to extend my congratulations to the new Federal Member for Monash, Mary Aldred. We're looking forward to working with her on the stuff that really matters for Bass Coast.

With the Albanese Government re-elected, the Mayor and I will keep doing what we've been doing: building relationships and making sure the needs of our patch are front and centre.

In my role as Deputy Chair of Peri Urban Councils Victoria, and through the Mayor's roles as Deputy Chair of One Gippsland and Regional Board Director for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) representing Gippsland, we've got a strong seat at the table to make sure Bass Coast's voice is heard at the state and federal level.

Residents push back on Wonthaggi expansion proposal

A GROWING wave of opposition is building in Wonthaggi's north, as residents push back against a development plan for Regency Drive and surrounding streets, citing concerns about poor communication, increased traffic, environmental destruction and a potential drop in property values.

The proposed Development Plan, currently under review by Bass Coast Shire Council, would enable further subdivision in the recently rezoned area, which transitioned from Low Density Residential to General Residential in January under the Planning Scheme Amendment C152, led by the Victorian Planning Authority.

But residents say they were never properly consulted on the change nor given a clear picture of what it would mean for their community.

Everett O'Keeffe, a long-time resident of Regency Drive, is one of many locals who feel blindsided.

"We were not consulted in the slightest by anyone," Mr O'Keeffe said. "No one came to us and asked us if we think it would work. And all of a sudden, I'm looking at a document that's got a road through the back of my place, and some people have roads right where their house is."

Planning Scheme Amendment C152 also introduced the Wonthaggi North East Precinct Structure Plan (PSP), which aims to increase residential growth and outlines a target density of approximately 11 dwellings per hectare.

Mr O'Keeffe, like others in the area, is concerned that he may eventually be forced to subdivide or sell due to increasing rates – a consequence of the rezoning – despite having no interest in selling. "The only thing they can do is start raising my rates until I can't afford to pay them anymore," he said.

"Up until then, they can't put a road through my property unless I sell it to them and let them do



Residents Dianne Haines, Terry Haines and Maureen Duke are among those voicing their frustration over the handling of the Regency Drive proposal. W02_1925

that."

He described the proposal as "a complete lie" and "a piece of garbage no one can read," accusing those responsible of hiding behind vague and intimidating language.

"If I was to submit something like that in Latin, it would be thrown out straight away. It doesn't even say how the blocks are meant to be built. I can't imagine how Council has said this has got some substance to it that we need to vote on."

Residents from neighbouring Sussex Court, like Terry and Dianne Haines, weren't even informed of the proposal until just days before the deadline for public submissions.

"If we hadn't gotten a letter from Everett, we never would have known about this," Mrs Haines said. "And that's a real problem."

Terry Haines said he was told 40 submissions were received before the March 31 deadline, of which 33 opposed the plan, six supported it and one was neutral.

The couple raised concerns about traffic, construction noise, environmental damage and falling property values.

"We wanted to meet with some of the councillors so they could

come and have a look," said Mrs Haines. "But they said they don't do that sort of work. What are councillors for, if not to see firsthand the impacts these plans have?"

She noted that their street is home to native wildlife, including wallabies and diverse birdlife – habitats she fears will be lost if the development proceeds.

In a written statement, a Council spokesperson confirmed that no final decision has been made and that feedback from the community is being considered.

"Council acknowledges that many residents have raised concerns regarding the potential subdivision of properties, removal of local flora and fauna, impacts on property values, and increased traffic and noise," the statement read.

"Some residents have also expressed that aspects of the proposed Development Plan appear vague or unclear."

Mr O'Keeffe believes this vagueness has not been without consequence.

"This proposal has scared the hell out of a lot of people here," he said. "We've got some people who think that roads are going to be put through their house and

there's going to be compulsory acquisition. It's been terrible."

He believes the process is eroding trust and community spirit.

"It may be legal what they're doing, but it does feel very un-Australian."

He also raised safety concerns about the plan's reliance on extending Regency Drive – a dead-end road – as a key access point for a growing residential area.

"You can't have that many people on a road that has a dead end," he said. "If something drastic happened here, you could create a traffic jam where the fire trucks can't get up here."

When asked what an acceptable path forward might look like, Mr O'Keeffe said it starts with transparency and respect.

"Australia is not land-poor. We don't need to pack everyone into high-density areas. Lifestyle blocks are part of what makes this place great."

For now, locals like the O'Keeffes and Haineses are urging Council to reconsider the plan entirely or at the very least, restart the consultation process with genuine community input.

"This is not how democracy is meant to work," Mr Haines said.

"We all deserve a voice."

Wonthaggi not safe at night claim Graham Street shopkeepers

A NIGHT of senseless vandalism in Graham Street, Wonthaggi has left at least two local shopkeepers appalled at what they fear were random acts of vandalism.

"There's no sense behind it," said Jodie Williams, owner of Gypsy Dreaming.

Police are calling for CCTV camera footage after two shopfronts were smashed on the same night between 7pm and 6.30am on Tuesday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 14.

The front glass door to Gypsy Dreaming was broken but the suspect failed to gain entry.

Further down Graham Street, a side entrance window was shattered at Mitchell and Co Traditional Butchers but again nothing was taken.

"The shop was empty," said butcher Brandon Bull.

Both shopfronts are likely to cost many hundreds of dollars to repair.

"Gypsy Dreaming is a special place for me and my customers," said Ms Williams. "We've been in business for 10 years and never had any trouble before."



"It's just not safe late at night," says Brandon Bull of Mitchell & Co Traditional Butchers. B04_2025

Selling dresses and skirts made from natural fibres, lace, scents, books and journals, crystals and handmade beanies, scarves and woollens Gypsy Dreaming has a loyal following.

"It was a violent act of vandalism that we're seeing more and more of," said Jodie. Brandon Bull from Mitchell and Co. Traditional Butchers was just as surprised.

"It's never happened before that I can remember," said Brandon.

"We work hard for what we have here. I guess there's not much police can do."

Encouraged by the support they've received from customers

both businesses were trading as normal the next day once their premises had been secured.

"It cost me \$500 to repair the door," said Jodie Williams.

"There's a lot more violence about the town," said Brandon Bull.

"It's just not safe late at night."

Investigations into a series of reports of damage in Graham Street remain ongoing and police are working to establish whether the two incidents are related to any other reports of damage in the same area.

In the first instance a front glass display window was smashed and an aluminium door frame damaged according to police and the offender or offenders also caused damage to another store window close by, but no entry was gained and nothing was stolen.

Anyone who witnessed either incident or has information which may be useful to police is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au or contact Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100.

Supporter speaks up amid Regency Drive development debate

By Trent Westaway

WHILE many Wonthaggi North residents are voicing concerns over a proposed development plan for Regency Drive and its nearby streets, some are stepping forward to support the vision, describing it as a measured response to the town's growing population and evolving needs.

Sue Bird has lived on Regency Drive for more than two decades and calls the street home in every sense of the word.

"I've lived in Wonthaggi all my life – 66 years – and this part of town has always offered the best of both worlds," she said.

"The space, the peace, and the community. It's why I built my life here. But I also know change is coming, and this plan is about managing that change, not just reacting to it."

Bird supports the draft Development Plan. She sees the proposal not as a threat, but rather as a future-focused opportunity.

"It gives people options, without forcing anyone into anything," she said. "No one is being told they have to develop, but if we choose to, there's a structure in place to guide how that happens. I think that's a good thing."

Her comments echo those of the project manager representing the developers behind the plan.

In a written statement, Kainen Schrape implies that the ship for pushback may have already sailed, stating the proposal builds on years of consultation and is not about whether development should occur, but rather



With 66 years in Wonthaggi, and 20 in Regency Drive, Sue Bird supports the proposed development plan. W03_2025

how it should unfold.

"The area was rezoned from Low Density Residential to General Residential by the Victorian Planning Authority, following a public process that began in 2020," he explained.

"Only two of the 32 landowners within the Regency Drive precinct formally objected at the time."

He said the plan acts as a high-level framework that outlines potential roads and lot layouts, with built-in flexibility and a goal of preserving local character.

"As project manager, I'm advocating for a capped density model – most lots would be 800 square metres or larger. This approach prevents overdevelopment and maintains the open, semi-rural feel of the area," he said.

"It's about thoughtful planning, not high-density infill."

Mr Schrape, who is a Wonthaggi resident himself and grew

up on Wentworth Road, also said that more than half the landowners within the precinct are not objecting to the plan. Many, he said, view the opportunity to subdivide as a practical step toward retirement, financial security, or staying in the area by downsizing on their own terms.

For Bird, that message resonates. "I've got five kids. Downsizing one day without leaving my neighbourhood means a lot," she said. "This plan lets long-term residents benefit from the change rather than be caught off guard by it."

In the weeks since the proposed plan went on public exhibition, pushback has intensified. Some believe the proposal could bring noise, traffic and environmental harm, while others fear rate increases or even forced sales.

Bird acknowledged those concerns but urged these residents to have a broader viewpoint.

"Growth is always going to bring questions, but the key is doing it in a way that's fair and well thought out," she said.

"I've read the plan. It's not perfect, but it's trying to balance community values with the reality that Wonthaggi is expanding."

She also believes some opposition may stem from misunderstanding.

"I've heard people worry about roads going through homes or townhouses popping up everywhere. But that's not what's being proposed," she said. "This isn't a free-for-all. It's a plan. And people still have the right to choose what to do with their land."

According to the proposed plans, future infrastructure will include improved roads, pedestrian links, access to green spaces, and proximity to a new sports precinct and local services.

"Regency Drive is centrally located within the Wonthaggi North East Precinct Structure Plan. The proposed connections ensure future residents won't just be stuck in cul-de-sacs – they'll be part of an integrated community," Kainen explained.

As Bass Coast Shire Council reviews the recent 40 submissions received – 33 of which opposed the plan – Schrape says that community voices will continue to shape outcomes.

"I remain committed to a responsible and respectful process. Ultimately, this isn't about forcing development – it's about giving clarity, preserving choice, and ensuring the town's growth happens in a way that respects its roots."

Voice your opinion Rhyll

THE Bass Coast Shire Council has included Rhyll Recreation Reserve as a location for a fenced dog park on the island in the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan. The plan shows that the entire northern side of the park will be exclusively used for dogs and their owners. The Rhyll community is asking residents to respond to the survey while it's still in consultation stage until June 9.

Judy Lawrence from the Rhyll Community Association said this would mean the end of the Twilight Markets and would certainly restrict many other events that are held in the park.

"It would also mean that our planned exercise trail would be vastly modified or scrapped, together with the plan for the Community Garden – a proposal being considered for the corner of the Rhyll Park in the South East corner.

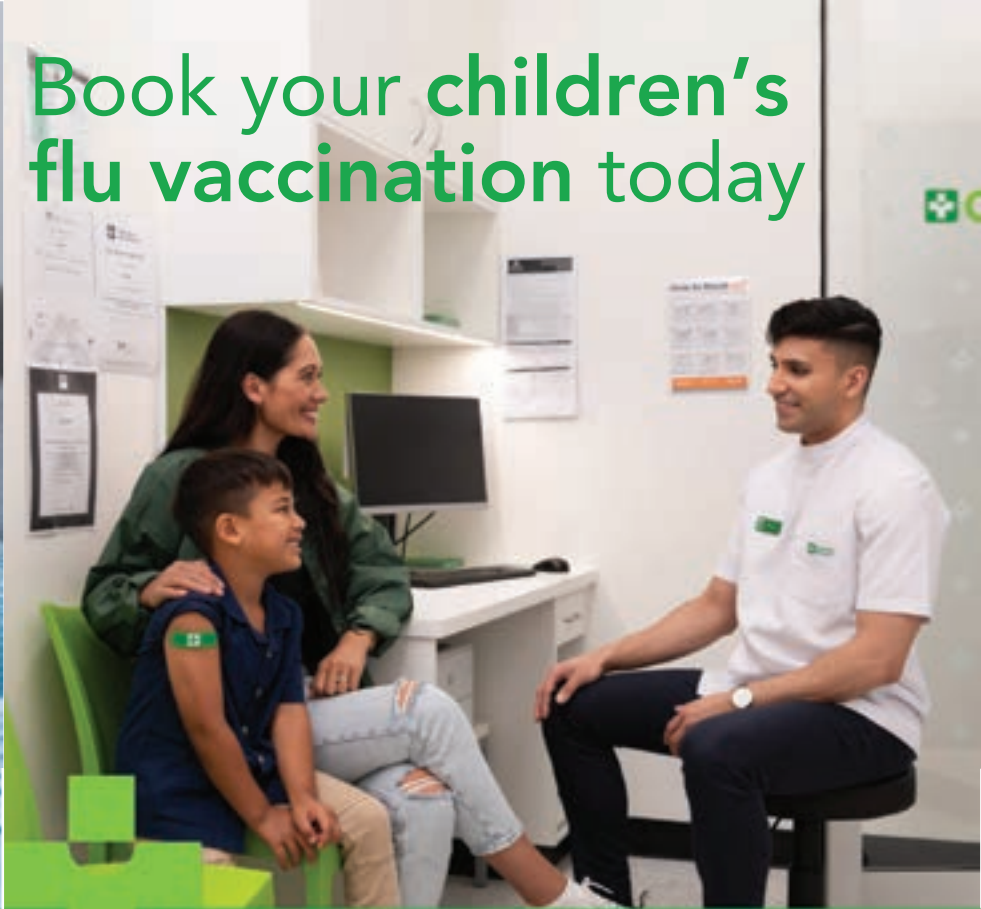
"At present, the dog park is in 'community consultation' mode, but the only other area that has been suggested for the island is Blue Gum Reserve. We would like to see as many residents as possible responding to the survey," said Judy.

"We're not against dogs, hey, we pay for our own doggie bags for the area, but it's the suggestion of it being at the park – it's just too small, and it's a space for kids to play soccer and football. In any way it's designed, having it there is going to cut the park in half – it's simply not big enough," said Judy.

The Rhyll committee said they have received several emails from concerned residents who have either rejected the idea of the fenced dog park or suggested an alternative site.

"Reasons vary from the danger to wildlife (echidnas), dangers of unsocialised dogs, potential for dog fights and injuries and noise that will be generated from the dog park. One suggestion from a resident was the area at the top of Beach Road and Reid Street."

Have your say, visit at Bass Coast Engage.



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They'll tell you how to walk the dog

YOU can't just walk your dog anywhere you like in Bass Coast, regardless of whether it's on a leash or off.

For example, it might come as a complete surprise to many to learn that between December 1 and April 30 each year, you can't go for a stroll along 'Lovers Walk' in Cowes with your dog, on the shared pathway connecting The Esplanade to Stradbroke Avenue.

Between the hours of 10am and 5pm, and also between 8pm and 7am, dogs are completely prohibited in this area, on leash or not. But regardless of the rules, posted at both ends of the walking path, it remains one of the most popular locations for local residents and visitors to go for a walk with their dogs at all times of the year.

It's not civil disobedience, it's simply how it is... people using the pathway to walk up to the Cowes' shops from their homes, holiday houses and other accommodation in the East Cowes area.

This anomaly and other issues relating to how Bass Coast Shire Council manages dogs, cats and other domestic animals within the shire are the subject of a four-year review of the shire's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) to decide the arrangements needed for 2026-2029.

Last Thursday, May 15, the shire held a meeting of its Domestic Animal Management Advisory Committee for the first time since 2016 at the Berninait cultural centre.

In attendance were representatives of the shire, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Birdlife Australia, Friends of the Hooded Plovers group, Phillip Island Conservation Society, Inverloch Dog Group, Friends of Surf Beach, the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dogowners Group,



Did you know that you can't walk up to the shops in Cowes with your dog, along 'Lovers Walk', for much of the time between December 1 and April 30 each year? That might change when the shire's new Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) comes out.

Coronet Bay Ratepayers Association and the shire's dog trainers.

The meeting was supposed to be invite-only, with only registered community groups supposed to attend, but a representative of the so-called Friends of San Remo Wombats group had a seat at the table.

As much as the Friends of San Remo Wombats group say "we have no issue whatsoever with off-leash dogs on allocated beaches if the owners do the right thing", the group has sponsored an open letter to the Bass Coast Shire Council on change.org in the form of a petition, so far signed by 671 people, calling on council to "reassess the allowance of off-leash dogs on the San Remo back beach/fore-shore".

In a Facebook post about the future of off-leash dogs on the San Remo back beach, the group has said that if rule-breakers allow their off-leash dogs to continue "visiting

wombat burrows" and putting wildlife at risk, council should consider taking away all off-leash privileges from them and also those doing the right thing.

It's exactly the situation that the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dogowners Group don't want to see.

According to the group's president Cheryl Owens, the group has a simple three-point plan: reduce all restrictions on the shire's off-leash dog beaches to the period between December 15 and January 31, add a new off-leash dog beach exercise area at Cape Woolamai between the Grollo Estate and the Phillip Island Bridge, and retain all existing off-leash and on-leash exercise areas for dogs.

"It was refreshing to hear the representative of Birdlife Australia saying that a dog on-leash presents no more risks than a person walking on the beach," said Cheryl Owens.

"We also heard that the number of registered dogs in

Bass Coast has risen by 26.2 per cent since the last review of the DAMP. The percentage of dog ownership by households in Bass Coast is significant and we need more places for people to walk with their dogs, not less."

And Ms Owens said the council shouldn't be wasting time trying to put new dog parks where they're not wanted.

"The people of Rhyll don't want a dog park, and we never asked for it. No one wants a dog park at Rhyll so why waste money, time and effort pursuing it. Move on to places where people want them and they're needed."

Ms Owens said she supported the initiative for an additional dog park at Inverloch.

"They've got a good one on the Inlet side but they desperately need another one."

Of course, the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) isn't only about dogs. It's also about controls on cats including the recently introduced rules on cat containment.

If you'd like to have your say, go to the Engage Bass Coast website engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/DAMP and consider filling out the survey which is open until June 9 and has already attracted hundreds of responses.

You can also attend one of the shire's pop-up DAMP sessions and have a chat to the council in person, including on:

- Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 12 noon to 2pm at the Berninait Arts and Cultural Centre, Cowes
- Thursday, May 29, 2025, 3pm to 5pm Inverloch Community Centre
- Monday, June 2, 2025, 4pm to 6pm Wonthaggi Plaza
- Thursday, June 5, 2025, 10am to 12 noon Corinella & District Community Centre.

Loch servo owner sick of constant break-ins just for cigarettes

A SMALL business, doing its best in the toughest of conditions, to serve the town of Loch and the surrounding region, has been broken into again and again, by would-be thieves.

The Shell Service Station has been broken into three times in the last five weeks, with significant damage caused to infrastructure on occasion.

Store owner Dominic Mahoney has had the business for the past eleven years and break-ins have never been so frequent.

He commented that the thieves leave behind repairs to be made, a mess to clean up and paperwork for another insurance claim, however, they don't actually take anything.

"They're after the cigarettes, but they can't get to them," said Dominic.

"The cigarette cabinets are particularly hard to get into."

This hasn't stopped the would be thieves from trying time after time; and after every attempted burglary, Dominic puts in additional security measures, so the thieves have to find a new way to get in.

"They broke in with a crowbar by wedging it into the door last year, and you can't do that now, there's a metal bar in the place of that - things like that."

Amongst the additional repairs, security measures and clean ups, Dominic will now also be forced to spend thousands of dollars on purchasing a new cigarette cabinet.

"This one's all completely bashed up. I'll have to get a new one with a new lock and stuff. It's dodgy to shut the rollers. I haven't bought that yet. That's about \$3000."

Dominic believes the thieves are after the cigarettes to sell on at a reduced price - because they are now so expensive with additional government taxes.

From March 2015 to March 2025, the excise on factory-made cigarettes increased threefold, and smokers now pay \$1.40 more per stick than ten years ago.

Additional tobacco excises were announced in the 2023-24 Federal budget where the excise rates for all tobacco products are to be increased by five per cent annually in addition to routine indexation, from September 1, 2023 to September 1, 2025.

As of March 2025, the excise payable on a budget pack of 20 cigarettes was \$28.06 plus GST of \$3.45 making up about 83.0 per cent of tax or \$31.51 on an advertised packet selling for \$37.95.

Dominic believes the thieves weren't from the area as he doesn't stock enough cigarettes to make it worth their while.

"For two of them, they definitely weren't from here. I could tell that they weren't - they didn't do things the way they would do them if they'd been inside the shop."

While the store owner has footage of the thieves' cars, they didn't have number plates, or the identity of the thieves, so it limits what the police can do.

If anyone has any information please contact Crimestoppers 1800 333 00.

DEECA calls tenders for the Inverloch surf beach

RAIN and high winds along the Bass Coast have done little to reassure nervous Inverloch residents fearful their lifesaving club could soon be undermined. Warning signs posted along the Inverloch surf beach warning of unstable dunes have fallen into the sea with little remaining of 100 cubic metres of sand dredged and dumped on either side of the lifesaving club prior to Easter.

Releasing the latest update for the Inverloch sand renourishment project State Member for

By Bruce Wardley

Bass Jordan Crugnale MP suggested a tender will be awarded to a successful contractor between May and August this year with dune reconstruction to commence between September and November 2025.

"The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) plans to dredge 110,000 cubic metres of sand from Anderson Inlet and pump it along one kilometre of the surf beach to a height of three

to four metres," explained Mr Crugnale in a newsletter delivered to Inverloch residents.

A \$10 million package recently announced by the State Government for six sites along the Victorian coastline included funding to repair and extend the geotextile container wall at Inverloch, safe access to the Inverloch surf beach, road asset protection and dune stabilisation for the planting of vegetation.

Jordan Crugnale MP anticipates these works will happen

either before or during the initial dune reconstruction phase retaining natural environmental values and providing a safe and accessible beach.

"This project is a large scale, engineered restoration project which aims to rebuild part of the lost sand dune with the long-term aim of creating safe access to the beach from the Surf Life Saving Club building and Surf Parade."

Read the full story online at sgst.com.au



ALL YEAR LEVELS

INFORMATION SESSION

Tuesday 3rd June

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RSVP by 30th May admin@villagehighschool.org



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Embrace the Upcoming Cooler Weather

As we approach the cooler months, remember to embrace all South Gippsland has to offer, even during winter!

The dropping temperature is a perfect time to pop on a coat and embark on an adventure by foot or bike on one of the region's many stunning trails and tracks.

Try a stretch of the 130 kilometre Great Southern Rail Trail, running from Nyora to Yarram. The Trail has many gentle sections suitable for all ability levels, and your four-legged friends are welcome to join you on a leash!

If you are not feeling quite that energetic, South Gippsland also has a spread of festivals, cosy shops and cafes to enjoy.

Stop in at one of the many picturesque towns for a hot drink and hearty meal, or browse through one of the charming clothing or homewares boutiques. There are also galleries and libraries scattered across the region for all to enjoy.

South Gippsland is full of beauty and wonder. For all upcoming events and activities, head to:

visitsouthgippsland.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Southern Lights Festival at Coal Creek and Loch Food and Wine Festival are returning this winter!

Head down to Korumburra on Saturday 7 June and Loch on Sunday 8 June to enjoy these fantastic events.

For details of these and other events happening in South Gippsland this winter, go to: visitsouthgippsland.com.au/events

South Gippsland Shire Council News

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

DRY SEASON SUPPORT

GippsDairy with support from Agriculture Victoria are running two events to help farmers during dry conditions.

Tactics for Dry Times
Session 1

When: Wednesday 21 May
Where: Inverloch

Session 2

When: Wednesday 27 May
Where: Drouin

For more information and to register, visit:

www.dairyaustralia.com.au/events-calendar

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

RFT/443 - 25/26 Resheet Program

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 27 May 2025.

Documentation is available from Council's e-Tendering Portal

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha
15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra
03 5662 9200

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Thalia Baker, Isla Haw, Demi Bradshaw (South Gippsland Shire Council community development officer), Rupert Gilligan De Wolff, Emily Rogers, Luke Hannigan and Erica Begg are ready for their latest Youth Council meeting at Mirboo North Library on Tuesday. A05_2025

South Gippsland Youth Council giving young people a voice

YOUNG locals have an outlet for their good ideas while building leadership and organisational skills through membership of the South Gippsland Shire Youth Council.

The current group of 11 members help guide South Gippsland Shire Council's future direction through their interaction with councillors and council officers, ensuring young voices are considered in determining the Shire's needs.

Event planning is another focus for the Youth Council, with the organisation and running of a successful youth disco in Mirboo North a highlight.

Demi Bradford, South Gippsland Shire Council's community development officer, supports the Youth Council members, allowing them to drive initiatives and helping them develop their leadership and event management skills.

The group meets monthly in various South Gippsland towns, with Cr Brad Snell attending each session.

As well as the youth disco that attracted over 120 attendees and ran smoothly, the Youth Council has run a youth book club throughout the shire.

Demi said it is an incredible feeling seeing the group develop skills they can use for the rest of their lives, describing learning how to run an event as "a massive undertaking".

Isla Haw has been part of the Youth Council since it began in 2023, persuaded to join by an expectation it would be fun and the fact she enjoys leadership positions.

"I like making a difference," she said.

Isla spoke of the teamwork required to organise the youth disco and the fact everyone carried out their specific roles, with that including getting food truck quotes in her case.

She said that as well as creating an outlet for young people's ideas, the Youth Council helps them to disprove the negative stigma around teenagers, showing they can be

valuable contributors to the community.

As well as organising and running the disco, the group's promotion of the event ensured it exceeded expectations, with initial predictions that between 20 and 50 people would attend.

Promotion took place across schools, through social media, South Gippsland Shire Council, community noticeboards and local newspapers.

There is strong communication within the diverse group that form the Youth Council, the members of which are supportive of each other.

Luke Hannigan has also been a member since the start, enjoying working as part of a group and the opportunities to connect with others in the community.

"It's been a great way to meet councillors and council officers," he said, explaining that leads to opportunities to contribute to South Gippsland Shire Council decision-making and advocacy efforts to other levels of government.

Erica Begg also loves working with other Youth Council members.

"Meeting these guys and hearing their ideas," she says when asked what she considers the highlight of belonging to the group.

Thalia Baker found her way onto the Youth Council through her involvement with Live4Life, a mental health education model designed specifically for rural and regional communities, with Demi holding a crew support role with that organisation.

"I really like the community of Youth Council," Thalia said, describing it as welcoming and warm.

Foster, Yanakie, Mirboo North, Leongatha, Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower are represented on the Youth Council.

Its membership was open to those aged between 14 and 25 years, and while that is currently full, there is a possibility of additional spots opening up if staffing allows.

Sentinel-Times will report if such an opportunity occurs.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



HELLO South Gippsland.

National Volunteer Week 2025

I would like to begin this week's message wishing our volunteers a happy National Volunteer Week (May 19 to 25). Volunteering is an essential part of community; helping to increase connectedness and improve social vibrancy. Being a volunteer myself, I can't recommend it enough. Through volunteering I have met and made great friends and worked to achieve the shared goals of my community. I was listening to the radio the other day and it mentioned that volunteering increases the life satisfaction of ageing people as it promotes socialising, physical activity, learning and helps to bridge generational gaps.

For any young people reading this today, the benefits of volunteering are endless. It can provide essential work experience, networking opportunities and build self-confidence and leadership skills.

The theme for this year's National Volunteer Week is all about 'Connecting Communities' and I can't thank our volunteers enough for all that they do.

60 Years of the Leongatha and District Netball Association

Speaking of our great volunteers, on Saturday Night, Di and I attended the Leongatha and District Netball Association (LDNA) 60 Year Anniversary. LDNA is an instrumental part of the Leongatha and broader South Gippsland community. The Association not only encourages our young people be part of team sport, but they also have hosted numerous deb balls providing memorable moments for generations of young adults. I'd like to congratulate all the people who have volunteered their time and energy to LDNA contributing to the lasting success of this invaluable community group.

South Eastern Australia Transport Strategy

Last week I attended the quarterly meeting for the South Eastern Australia Transport Strategy (SEATS) in Drouin. We discussed Leongatha's Kamikaze Corner (South Gippsland Highway-Bass Highway intersection) and the Australia Governments funding for Simons Lane. This Leongatha intersection is a sore point for our community and is now one of SEAT's top advocacy priorities. I hope to see funding for an alternate route plan and a proposed solution in the future.

Councillors Out and About

My fellow Councillors have been proudly representing our region throughout Victoria. Last Thursday, Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan and Councillor Nathan Hersey joined leaders from across State at the Victorian Coastal Councils Association connecting with fellow coastal communities, sharing insights and tackling the unique challenges we all face along our beautiful shorelines. Additionally, on Friday, Councillor Nathan Hersey took part in the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) meeting. There, he championed key motions on behalf of South Gippsland, advocating for the support our community deserves.

IDAHOBIT Day

Saturday, May 17 marked the official International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism, and Transphobia, more commonly known as IDAHOBIT Day. Council recognised the day of significance last Wednesday with a flag raising ceremony. Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan gave a heartfelt speech, highlighting our diverse and inclusive community. I encourage everyone to demonstrate respect – today and every day. Take care.

Rainbow celebration in Leongatha champions equality

A JOYOUS celebration of the LGBTIQ+ community occurred in Leongatha on Wednesday as members of the public, councillors and council staff marked IDAHOBIT, albeit a couple of days early.

Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan explained the origins of the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, noting it marks the anniversary of when homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organisation's list of psychiatric diseases on May 17, 1990.

While acknowledging much progress has occurred in the 35 years since, in terms of improving "acceptance, support and the visibility of those in the queer community" Cr Gilligan stressed there is still much work to be done on the road to equality.

"Events such as this shine a light on discrimination still faced by some in our community and invite us to do better



Cr Bron Beach, Leongatha Girl Guides leader Robyn Begg and Cr Sarah Gilligan embrace diversity in Leongatha. A08_2025

every day to make everyone feel included," she told those gathered for the raising of the Philadelphia Pride flag.

The design of that flag, which features a black and a brown stripe in addition to the traditional rainbow colours, was commissioned by

the Philadelphia City Council to incorporate queer communities of colour.

During her speech, Cr Gilligan reflected on the marriage equality debate in Australia, saying she couldn't at the time marry her partner of 25 years, noting she wanted

the right to do so whether the couple chose to or not.

She commented that as a member of the queer community, she wants to be celebrated, not just accepted.

"In 2025, we should be moving forward celebrating diversity as an important part of our community," Cr Gilligan said.

Referring to a Gippsland study that revealed only 14 per cent of respondents believe leaders in the community listen to the concerns of LGBTIQ+ people or are doing enough to support them, she acknowledged that as a leader, she needs to be more visible.

"The longer I'm in a leadership position, the more important I can see it is for me to be visible as a queer woman," Cr Gilligan told the Sentinel-Times, having thanked all those in attendance as she raised the flag and encouraged people to celebrate the LGBTIQ+ community.

Monash remains a Liberal seat 24 years on

WHEN asked what resonated most with voters, Mary attributed her achievement to a deeply local, hands-on campaign.

“I put myself forward as a genuine local who has had a track record of 20 years of working with local community groups,” she said.

“Whether that was as chair of the basketball league or community aged care, I think people see me as someone who rolls their sleeves up.”

Being on the ground wasn’t new for Mary. “I was in the field as a candidate for the longest period,” she said, reflecting on her extended pre-campaign community engagement.

She acknowledged the tough competition from independent candidate Deb Leonard and Labors’ Tully Fletcher but remains humbled by the result.

“It was certainly a very tough contest,” she said. “I’m incredibly privileged to be in this position today.”

Once the AEC formally declares her victory, Mary said she plans to get straight to work.

“As soon as I am formally declared, I’m not going to waste a second,” she said.

Her top priorities include making sure the commitments Labor made are delivered. Working very closely with veteran groups, community organisations, and sporting clubs, and focusing on small and family-run businesses, making sure they have the support and representation they deserve.

Mary said she is especially keen to maintain grassroots communication.

“One thing that worked really well over the last 18 months is listening posts in all communities, a convenient way for people to stop me and offer feedback.”

She also plans to continue roundtables with small business owners, veterans’ groups, and – notably – young people.

“I’ve had some valuable feedback on issues important to them, particularly around mental health and social media.”

With a sprawling electorate, Mary said she’ll have an open-door policy but understands that it is a long way for many to travel.

“I’m very mindful that we live in a large electorate, and for a variety of reasons, it’s not always practical for people to travel to another town,” she said.

“I want to make myself as accessible and available as possible in every town.”

She also wants to continue her work with disability and carer groups, not only on individual cases but broader policy as well.

“This is an electorate where you have to know your ground,” she said.

“And that’s the type of work I’ve been doing for 20 years. I want to build on that and be a very engaged, very proactive local member.

Leonard concedes in hard-fought contest

LAST week the AEC advised Monash candidates that they were discontinuing the three-candidate preferred count and resuming the two-candidate preferred count, leaving Independent Deb Leonard too far behind to make it into the top two.

As Deb conceded defeat in the hard-fought contest, she left voters with a message to remember that “your vote, every vote, is powerful”.

“While the result is not what we had hoped for, I am so incredibly proud of the positive, community-driven campaign we ran together,” she said. “I want to express my deepest gratitude to my amazing campaign team and the hundreds of volunteers who worked their hearts out over many months to put forward a bold vision for Monash’s future.”

Deb said the grassroots campaign was never about her, but about giving Monash a genuine, local voice in Canberra.

“The incredible spirit and commitment of everyone involved shows the hunger for a new way of doing politics in our region – one that puts the community first above all party games.

“This is not the end, but the beginning of a new kind of community politics in Monash. I can’t wait to see this evolve.”

Our Mary ready to start work as the newly elected Member for Monash

By Bruce Wardley

MESSAGES of congratulations flooding in, the dust had barely settled on Mary Aldred’s 2CP preferred victory in Monash before the newly elected Liberal member for Monash found herself on a plane headed for Canberra ready to vote for a new leader of the Liberal Party.

Within hours the Liberal Party had not only voted Sussan Ley as their first female leader, but Mary Aldred had been confirmed as the first woman to represent the electorate of Monash with both Labor’s Tully Fletcher and Independent Deb Leonard conceding defeat.

Congratulating Sussan Ley on her elevation to Liberal Leader by just a handful of votes Mary Aldred said Ms Ley had been a frequent visitor to Monash over the last 18 months and understood our community well.

Ms Aldred posted her sincere appreciation on social media to Sussan Ley for joining her on visits to Baw Baw Food Relief, storm affected residents in Mirboo North, veterans and community leaders at the Phillip Island RSL, residents impacted by coastal erosion in Bass Coast, sporting clubs in the Latrobe Valley and local businesses.

Reflecting on the protracted election count in the Division of Monash Ms Aldred said it had been a long and complicated process but now we have a result.

“I look forward to contributing as part of a coalition team and being a strong local voice for Monash,” said Ms Aldred.

“I understand, with my election comes the expectation from day one to deliver locally and take a strong national stand on behalf of the people of Monash, and that’s exactly what I intend to do.”

Mary Aldred thanked her volunteers and supporters for their tireless work over 18 months particularly those who had scrutineered around the clock over the last week.

“I thank my family for their unconditional love, and to my broader Liberal Party family across the Victorian Division I give my profound thanks for placing your untested faith in



Mary Aldred (Liberal MHR elect) will be the first woman to represent Monash alongside Sussan Ley, the first female leader of the Liberal Party.

me when you selected me as your candidate,” said Mary.

Ms Aldred acknowledged Labor candidate Tully Fletcher for his gracious phone call and warm words once the result was announced early last week.

“In particular I want to recognise Russell and Bronwyn Broadbent for their service to the former electorates of Corinella and McMillan and to the electorate of Monash.

“They are good people, and I wish them well,” said Mary.

“We live in the best part, of the best country, on earth.

“Much of the nation’s wealth is generated in regions like ours and I will fight to ensure we have the infrastructure and services we need,” said Mary.

“Gippsland’s regional success fuels our national prosperity, and I will always stand on the side of the jobs and industries that sustain this.

The Liberal Party has an enormous task ahead, but it is not insurmountable.

“In my view, that job includes recrafting our economic message to be the Liberal Party’s central offering of aspiration and opportunity to all Australians.

“To focus on growth and productivity, to be the party that takes the policy lead on the adaptation of new technology, and to enliven the belief that small and family businesses are the drivers of innovation and entrepreneurship in this country.

“To the people of Monash, I will work my heart out for you.”

ALP candidate Tully Fletcher said Labor would be back.

After a week of complex counting Mr Fletcher said once the AEC had completed the two-candidate preferred count for Monash he called Mary (Aldred) to concede the seat and congratulate her on retaining Monash for the Liberal Party.

“I wish her well for the next three years,” said Mr Fletcher.

Tully Fletcher acknowledged the long service of departing former Liberal MP Russell Broadbent and wished Russell and his wife Bronwyn all the best for their next chapter.

“It’s been an honour to stand as Labor’s candidate in Monash,” said Mr Fletcher.

“Like so many Labor campaigns around Australia our Monash Labor campaign was powered by hundreds of local Labor members, union members, and volunteers.

“I’m sorry I wasn’t able to deliver the result we wanted this time.”

Mr Fletcher said his team had fought hard and in only eight weeks the low-budget Labor campaign had outperformed the huge ad spend by his opponents.

Wonthaggi emerged as a Labor stronghold.

“I’m proud to be from ‘Wonni’,” said Mr Fletcher “and I’m grateful to the many friends, neighbours, teachers, schoolmates, and workmates who supported my campaign.”

Acknowledging Mary Aldred’s clear win, Independent Deb Leonard said her campaign

was only about 1000 votes behind Labor in the 3CP count and if she had come in above Labor, there is a fair chance that with Labor’s preferences she could have won.

Ms Leonard said from the day they launched their grassroots movement they knew they were taking on the political establishment.

“It was always going to be a challenge, and in the face of it all we remained true to our values and our community, putting forward a bold vision for a better Monash.

“Over many months, we connected with thousands of locals who shared our hunger for change.

“We elevated the issues that matter most to Monash families, cost of living pressures, healthcare access and regional infrastructure.

“We showed Federal politicians that they can’t take our community for granted.

“We pushed them to listen to us, we got them to promise funding that they’ve never promised before, we brought our community together and we showed that any person can stand up to the major parties.

“We even incited a vigorous fear and smear campaign,” said Ms Leonard.

“For the first time in over 20 years we have a new member for Monash and for the first time in history we have elected a woman as our Federal representative,” said Ms Leonard.

“I wish Mary Aldred all the best as our new member.”

Ms Leonard said it has been an absolute pleasure and an honour to have stood as an independent community candidate.

Deb Leonard thanked volunteers who knocked on doors and made calls.

“From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being part of this journey.”

Defying the national trend for the coalition by achieving a 1.13 per cent swing in favour of the Liberal Party (at the time of printing) Mary Aldred secured 55,365 votes (54.03 per cent) on a two candidate preferred (2CP) basis in Monash with 77 out of 77 polling places returned and 100 per cent of ballot papers counted.

Bridge reconstruction too far for Kernot residents

STEWART Road bridge at Kernot closed on Monday, April 7 and here we are more than a month later and no one is any the wiser about when it will reopen again.

This Wednesday, a petition containing 476 signatures will be presented to council saying that the estimated six-month repair timeframe is unacceptable and will place a heavy burden on our community.

The head petitioner, Rob Parsons, says he has also been given an assurance by several councillors that the issue will be debated at the meeting.

“The problem as we see it is council wants to upgrade the bridge to a 43-tonne limit when it was previously 20 tonnes,” said Mr Parsons.

“But we don’t really want B-double trucks using it. We

already had a B-double milk tanker jack-knife at the bridge some time ago.”

Mr Parsons said the community would like to see modest repairs carried out to get the bridge open again to local cars while the shire worked on a long-term plan.

The other issue for the local community is the fact that the CFA tanker is on the other side of the bridge and has already had to be driven around three times in recent weeks.

What the petition says:

“We, the undersigned residents, business owners, and concerned community members, urgently call upon the Bass Coast Shire Council to expedite the repair and re-opening of the Kernot Bridge located over the Bass River at Stewart Road, Kernot.

“The recent closure of this vital crossing due to structural issues has caused significant inconvenience to local residents, farmers, and businesses. The detour required for daily travel is adding unnecessary time, fuel costs, and disruption to those who rely on the bridge, particularly those commuting for work, transporting goods, and accessing essential services.”

They’ve listed four points.

- Prioritise the repair of Kernot Bridge to ensure minimal disruption.
- Seek urgent funding to accelerate the works.
- Provide regular updates to the community on progress and expected timelines.
- Explore temporary solutions to ease the burden on affected residents.



The users of the Stewart Road bridge at Kernot have already sustained significant inconvenience, disruption and cost since its closure early in April and they want to see council seek urgent funding to accelerate the works.

Gippsland needs offshore wind power according to the Marine Conservation Society

By Bruce Wardley

OFFSHORE wind power in Gippsland will help meet Australia's target of 82 per cent renewable energy by 2030 according to the Australian Marine Conservation Society.

A new offshore wind report 'Improving Decision Making in Relation to Offshore Wind' commissioned by the AMCS has called for a clear, science-led roadmap to guide the roll-out of offshore wind power.

AMCS Campaigns Director Tooni Mahto said the rapid pace of development of offshore wind energy demands stronger leadership to ensure the transition is done correctly.

"Renewable energy to help Australia meet its 82 per cent renewable energy target must be progressed to protect environmental and cultural values of the region," said Ms Mahto.

The report highlighting key environmental concerns and the benefits of renewables draws insights from six declared offshore wind power zones including Gippsland.

Commissioned by the AMCS and authored by the Biodiversity Council and the Australian Centre for Offshore Wind Energy (ACOWE) the report calls for a balanced approach to wind power that accelerates clean energy while protecting Australia's unique marine life and respecting cultural heritage.

"There is a role for First Nations people to ensure the protection of the things they love and care about," said Ms Mahto.

"Offshore wind development must prioritise Indigenous rights, leadership and cultural heritage to ensure the wellbeing of Country and fair benefits for First Nations communities."

With 87 per cent of Australians living within 50 kilometres of the coast, offshore



Barry Beach Marine Terminal in South Gippsland has already been utilised for research by wind energy proponent Blue Mackerel hoping to establish an offshore wind project in Bass Strait. B01_2025

wind has the ability to play a pivotal role in decarbonising the energy supply according to the AMCS including hard-to-abate industries like steel and aluminium.

"Industrial-scale projects must be planned and implemented with care," said Ms Mahto.

"Australia's oceans are constantly windy.

"Increasing community interest in offshore wind energy has led to misinformation about the impact of offshore wind turbines.

"Gippsland needs timely, transparent and science-based information to empower the local community to engage in offshore wind planning and how this can benefit local communities.

"Offshore wind is a new development in our oceans and there is a major opportunity to progress it in a way that protects nature.

"Evidence-based policy is needed from all levels of government. The bottom line is Australia has to get off fossil fuels."

AMCS has called for the transition to the oceans to be done at the highest standard possible in a meaningful way with a national framework.

"With offshore wind energy projects required to go through multiple approval stages we are keen to see a strong set of environmental data as they progress," said Ms Mahto.

"We need to develop offshore wind zones to provide consistent and sustainable sources of power with a package of mitigation and protection measures to ensure marine ecosystems are not damaged with each area having its own unique set of marine values.

"Communities need this infrastructure.

"Transparency is important for the whole marine ecosystem."

Studies of Southern Right and Humpback whales have shown the migration and breeding season of whales occur at predictable times of the year.

"Construction of wind turbines would be paused during

these times," said Ms Mahto.

Specialist marine biologists are collecting data on migratory birds.

"Mitigation measures for migratory birds include blade design," she said.

"It is about making sure there is enough information to make a good decision.

"Communities can trust that process."

Gippsland offshore wind turbines are predicted to produce up to 25 gigawatts (GW) of generating capacity which is roughly equivalent to 25 coal-fired power stations.

The combined capacity of Loy Yang A and Loy Yang B is currently 3.2 GW.

The Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021 (OEI Act) has established a regulatory foundation for six designated priority Offshore Energy Infrastructure Zones including waters off the Gippsland coast.

Australia's oceans are home to an estimated 500,000 marine species many of them found nowhere else according to the AMCS and there are still significant knowledge gaps around the potential impacts of offshore wind on marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

"There is an opportunity for government to take a lead in the leveraging of private investment in offshore wind power while ensuring strong science, community consultation and environmental safeguards," said Ms Mahto.

"The burning of fossil fuels is a greater threat to the oceans.

"Ninety-five per cent of the great kelp forests in the southern ocean have already been lost."

Offshore renewable energy will make a significant contribution to the removal of fossil fuels according to the AMCS which is advocating for a national framework to make sure all oceans are protected.

AusNet continues to invest in community

SEVEN community groups across the Shires of Bass Coast and South Gippsland will share in AusNet's \$1 million second round Energy Resilience Community Fund.

Phillip Island Information Centre received \$28,400 to install a 22kWh storage battery that will enable the site to act as an emergency hub, providing relief services to the community during emergency events.

Corinella and District Community Centre received \$17,800 to produce a power outage booklet for the community, to increase awareness of how to prepare for an emergency and provide advice on how to become more energy resilient.

The Gippsland Climate Change Network received \$28,000 for a solar and battery system to create a community resilience hub at the Welshpool Memorial Hall that will provide continuous power during power outages and severe weather events to charge phones, store perishable food, use cooking facilities, and maintain communication.

Mycelia Renewables received \$18,700 to facilitate six energy literacy and short courses focused on vulnerable community members that will deliver two professional courses to four community centres across Bass Coast and South Gippsland. The courses will be complemented by a public education campaign to engage the community more broadly in understanding energy transition, energy efficiency and resilience.

Prom Coast News received \$8800 for an emergency awareness campaign to be delivered as a multi-media emergency awareness phased program across print and digital platforms. The campaign will focus on understanding the types of natural disasters and emergencies that may occur across the Coastal Promontory Ward and how to prepare and respond.

South Gippsland Radio 3MFM received \$24,000 to install an automatic transfer switch and a 7kVA diesel generator with a 450L fuel tank to power transmission equipment and recharge UPS batteries during an outage. This system is designed to minimise fuel consumption and the logistical challenges of refuelling at remote and difficult to access locations.

Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club at Sandy Point received \$48,700 for a solar system and storage batteries to enable the club to provide community services during outages and emergencies. A reliable power supply is essential to maintain the club's role as a base for rescue operations, a communication centre and community facility.

Applications for the next round of grants open on Monday, May 26, 2025. For further information go to ausnet.com.au/ercf.

BlueMACKEREL

Community Benefits Program – Have your say

The proposed Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind Project is located off the coast of Brataualung and Tatungalung Country in Gippsland, approximately 10km from shore near Seaspray and Woodside Beach.

The project is undergoing feasibility assessments. If constructed, it could generate 1GW of renewable energy by 2032 – enough to power over half a million Victorian homes.

The Blue Mackerel would include a benefits program – designed with the community, for the community. To create a program that delivers lasting and meaningful value, we need your input.

Contact us at info@bluemackerel.com.au or call +61 3 9021 0602.

How to get involved

- Complete a short online survey
- Host a conversation using our Conversation Toolkit, or
- Invite us to speak with your community

Visit www.bluemackerel.com.au to take the survey or download the Toolkit.



Feedback is open until 31 July, 2025

We aspire to a genuine partnership with the Gunaikurnai people, custodians of the Land and Sea Country on which Blue Mackerel is planned.



BLCAC (Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation), members of The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network, pictured last year on Country Day.

Call for Bass Coast to unite for reconciliation

NATIONAL Reconciliation Week, from May 27 – June 3, is a time for everyone in Bass Coast to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

This year, the theme of Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future, and asks us all to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

Bass Coast Reconciliation Network (the Network) acknowledges National Reconciliation Week each year with member organisations hosting events at their workplaces for their teams with some open to all community members to attend.

National Reconciliation Week is bookended by two significant

milestones in the reconciliation journey – the successful 1967 referendum, when Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the 1992 Mabo decision, when the High Court of Australia recognised native title – the recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights over their lands did survive British colonisation.

“We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures,” said co-Chair of the Network, Dr Bev Munro.

The day before National Reconciliation Week, May 26, is

National Sorry Day, commemorated nationally to remember and honour the Stolen Generations.

Public events happening across Bass Coast to acknowledge the week include a program of free First Nations films and Story Times at your local Myli Library, a special free screening of “Off Country” at Berninnet and celebrating the launch of Bass Coast Health’s Reconciliation Action Plan on Wednesday, May 28 in Wonthaggi.

“Across Bass Coast, organisations are acknowledging National Reconciliation Week in their workplaces, schools and communities and everyone is encouraged to join in and show their support,” said Dr Munro.

Find out more and join the events happening across Bass Coast for National Reconciliation Week basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation.

Bass Coast community event for National Sorry Day to help heal

THE Bass Coast Reconciliation Network invites the community to acknowledge the mistreatment of Australia’s Stolen Generation and promote healing on National Sorry Day with a community gathering at Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club.

The community will come together in a collective show of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians on May 26 to recognise the important date of significance.

National Sorry Day, also known as the National Day of Healing, is an annual commemoration that acknowledges the mistreatment of First Nations children who were forcibly removed from their families, communities and cultures.

First Nations community member and co-chair of the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network (BCRN), Dr Bev Munro said:

“Sorry Day provides us an opportunity to reflect on the Stolen Generations, and the pain and suffering past practices have caused. However, we need to also reflect on our current practices as a community.

“The recent report ‘Are you waiting for us to die?’ notes that only six per cent of recommendations made to support the Stolen Generation have been implemented.

“These recommendations were made almost 28 years ago.

“How sorry are we as a country if this is our response?”

BCRN co-chair, Kate Lochlin, said Sorry Day was an important day for the whole community

to acknowledge the pain and suffering caused by the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

“The Cape Paterson gathering on National Sorry Day provides us with an opportunity to think of all the children and their families of the Stolen Generation and the heartache endured by their forced separation,” Ms Lochlin said.

“We encourage the community to join us in a collective commitment to healing and support for First Nations.

“Everyone, including children, are invited to be part of the gathering at Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club from 10am to 1pm to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generation survivors and reflect on how we can play our part in the healing process.”

The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network includes membership from Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health, Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bunurong Land Council, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group, Myli – My Community Libraries, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

The gathering will include a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Bunurong man, Robert Ogden and a guest speaker from the local Aboriginal community, followed by a light lunch, yarns and music by Fonzie (Paul) Patten.

For more information, visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/reconciliation

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Supporting Reconciliation across Bass Coast

Join us at these free public events

SORRY DAY - COMMUNITY GATHERING

Monday 26 May - 10am-2pm - Cape Paterson Surf Club
All welcome to this special day of healing. Gold coin donation.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK EVENTS

- Bass Coast Health - Reconciliation Action Plan launch
Wednesday 28 May - 9am - Wonthaggi Hospital
- Free Film screening of “Off Country”
Wednesday 28 May - 11am-12.30pm - Berninnet, Cowes
- Free Reconciliation themed Film screenings & Story Time sessions - local Myli libraries

For event details and bookings:
www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to Next

27 MAY - 3 JUNE

#NRW2025 | RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

Leongatha schools united in educational excellence

LEONGATHA Specialist School, Leongatha Secondary College, and Leongatha Primary School proudly stand as cornerstones of educational excellence in our community. Together, these three schools form the Leongatha Education Precinct – a collaborative hub dedicated to fostering environments where every student is supported to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

United by a shared commitment to student success, each school delivers high-quality, inclusive education that equips young people with the skills, knowledge, and values they need to navigate the challenges of today and build a bright future. The Leongatha Education Precinct is more than a geographical partnership – it's a dynamic, community-focused alliance that celebrates learning at every stage and for every learner.

As we mark Education Week, we celebrate the strength of our shared vision and the positive impact of our schools in shaping confident, capable, and compassionate South Gippsland Specialist School young people.

The South Gippsland Specialist School (SGSS) is a vibrant and inclusive community where every student is celebrated and empowered to reach their full potential. We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment for students with diverse needs. With a strong focus on inclusion, we have become a beacon of opportunity and empowerment for young people from many different cultures and all walks of life. SGSS promotes respect, learning, safety, inclusion, and teamwork, values that guide every aspect of our educational programs.

At SGSS, we take a collaborative, holistic approach to education, with a dedicated team of teachers, education support staff, and Allied Health professionals working together to create personalised learning opportunities for each student. Our programs aim to develop academic, social, and life skills, fostering independence and self-esteem.

Our school is more than just a place for learning, it's a community where students grow emotionally and socially.

Leongatha Primary School, a hub of growth and achievement, is committed to providing every student with a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

In 2025, the school continues to prioritise literacy and positive student engagement, integrating the Berry Street Educational Model to create a structured, nurturing learning environment.



Grade 6 Leaders Community Engagement on ANZAC Day.

From the Step into Prep program, which ensures smooth transitions for young learners, to exciting projects in the upper grades like the Grade 4 Biological Sciences unit and Grade 5 study of Australian history, the school is buzzing with academic energy. Camps, excursions, and cultural awareness activities, including the school's Reconciliation Action Plan, provide students with rich learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom. With a strong focus on respect, resilience, and inclusivity, Leongatha Primary is building a brighter future for its students, supported by a dedicated staff and engaged community.

At Leongatha Secondary College, the focus is on preparing students for success not only within the classroom but also in their future careers and as contributing community members. With a curriculum built on student voice to foster individual pathways, the college integrates character development, essential skills, and a passion for learning from Years 7 through 12.

In the Senior School, a new study and revision initiative helps students build essential study habits, with a strong emphasis on self-management, time management, and independent learning. Workshops led by universities, wellbeing organisations, and community organisations, further support students' individual learning needs. The school's innovative spaces, co-designed by students, feature flexible furniture and mindfulness zones, ensuring a productive, student-centered environment.

All three schools are committed to providing an educational experience that equips students with the skills, knowledge, and values they need to excel today and into the future.

Leongatha Secondary College

At Leongatha Secondary College, we are dedicated to assisting our students to be as successful as they can be during their time at

the college, and in preparing them for their future beyond school. To that end, we have co-constructed the college's Effective Teacher and Learner Traits with a range of stakeholders from within our community, including students, staff, parents and carers. Our desire to embed these traits into our curriculum has been in direct response to needs being identified at a global, national and local level pertaining to successful and responsible citizenship.

Throughout Years 7, 8 and 9, students undertake learning linked directly to this work; exploring character traits, developing attitudes and forming knowledge about what skills can be practised and which translate into the workplace.

Within our Senior School we are also building upon this work, drawing from strong evidence relating to the academic benefits of revision and study routines. We are working with students from right across the Senior School, developing skills such as self-management, organisation and time management, and onto independent learning. We're assisting and motivating students to take responsibility for their learning at school and to carry this into their future workplace.

Students are being worked with on a regular basis to understand the importance of developing these and being afforded time to practise these. In 2023, we have commenced a new study and revision initiative where students design, and shape their study program and environment.

Year 10, 11 and 12 students now participate in study and revision lessons within their programs and are being explicitly taught how to effectively study and explore strategies which suit their personal learning styles. This is taking place via an additionally scheduled session with each of their classroom teachers every fortnight. Teachers are sharing targeted strategies to revise key content and develop



Grade 6 cultural tour of Melbourne.

exam literacy skills and encouraging students to implement these during this time where they can also offer feedback and further tips.

Complementing these classroom sessions are skills workshops run by university students, we have also introduced longer before school and after school opening hours for extended individual study, as well as tutoring and homework club where students can have access to specialised subject teachers for individualised support.

Students are currently co-designing their innovative and flexible senior study space and classrooms to suit their needs for all of this work, with flexible sit/stand ergonomic furniture, collaborative conferences spaces and a calm space for mindfulness being incorporated into their design.

At Leongatha Secondary College we're aiming to place students at the forefront of decisions and using their voices to shape the learning environment and programs to suit their needs. All in the effort to support them to be as successful as they can be during their time at the college, and in preparing them for their future beyond school.

Leongatha Primary School

2025 Principal's Report: A year of growth and achievement

As we dive into Term 2 of 2025, Leongatha Primary School is bustling with energy, excitement, and a renewed focus on creating an enriching learning environment for all our students. The commitment from staff, students, and families continues to shape an outstanding school experience, with every grade level making significant strides in their educational journey.

Our Senior School is thriving

with a structured literacy approach, fostering consistency across classrooms. The integration of the Berry Street Educational Model has further enhanced student engagement, with clear routines, brain breaks, and positive reinforcement of core values: respect, resilience, and a love of learning.

In the Junior School, our youngest learners have seamlessly transitioned into their classrooms, thanks to the well-organised Step into Prep program. This early foundation is proving invaluable, as students settle into reading and math lessons with confidence. With a dedicated team of educators, the first years of school are full of opportunity, engagement, and growth.

Grade 3, 4, 5, and 6 students are also diving deep into exciting projects. From the Grade 4 Biological Sciences unit and the Grade 5 study of Australian history through My Place, to the Grade 6 inquiry into fractions and the hands-on Winter Sport, every class is busy with innovative learning. Camps and excursions are adding to the excitement, with Grade 4 heading to Woorabinda and Grade 5 exploring Melbourne.

Beyond academics, we are making great strides in our Reconciliation Action Plan, actively involving students in cultural awareness activities and ensuring a whole-school approach to inclusivity.

Leongatha Primary continues to foster a nurturing environment where every child can thrive. With a dedicated staff and a supportive community, we look forward to another year of achievements in 2025. Thank you for your continued partnership in this journey!

Celebrating Education Week

Open Afternoon

Thursday 22nd May 2025

It's Education Week and to celebrate we would like to welcome you to our Open Afternoon at Leongatha Secondary College and Leongatha Primary School

Campus Tours

2.15pm

Community BBQ

3.15pm

O'Brien says budget must deliver

THE NATIONALS Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien is calling on the State Government to ensure the 2025-2026 State Budget delivers for Gippslanders.

"The Victorian Government has a history of forgetting Gippsland exists until it's time to find somewhere to stick a wind farm or transmission line," Mr O'Brien said.

"Here in Gippsland South, our roads are crumbling and we have less social housing than we did when the current formed government more than 10 years ago.

"Crime rates have skyrocketed, land taxes are unprecedented and small businesses are closing down at alarming rates.

"Gippslanders are paying more than ever before and yet have very little to show for it."

Mr O'Brien said with the State Budget set to be handed down today (May 20), it provides a chance for the Government to put its money where its mouth is and prove it cares about regional communities like those in Gippsland.

"I appreciate I am likely beginning to sound like a broken record, but we have local schools like Sale College that are in desperate need of funding for a rebuild and the stadium at Mirboo North Secondary that needs a full financial commitment.

"I am also aware that Leongatha Secondary College is one of 29 Victorian schools that are still eagerly awaiting a Budget commitment, despite receiving a 2022 election commitment from Labor.

"Similarly, the Foster and

Mirboo North fire stations are still waiting for funds to be committed for urgently needed rebuilds."

Mr O'Brien said it was obvious to anyone who has travelled around Gippsland that more investment is also needed to maintain and upgrade our roads.

"The condition of our roads is more than just embarrassing, it is dangerous."

Mr O'Brien said he would also like to see increased investment in social housing stock and maintenance as well as increased funding for programs like the dental voucher program which assists those in regional areas like Gippsland with long public dental waitlists.

"The State Government needs to acknowledge that Regional Victoria is more than just Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo.

"Gippslanders have not received a fair deal from previous budgets under the State Government and it is past time for that to change."

Mr O'Brien said projects he is hoping will receive a financial commitment include:

- Upgrade for Leongatha Secondary School;
- Mirboo North gymnasium;
- New fire stations for Mirboo North and Foster;
- Stage 2 of the Leongatha heavy vehicle bypass;

Mr O'Brien said these were just a few of the projects that needed to be funded in this year's budget.

"We need improvements right across the board for Gippsland in roads, public transport, public health and educational facilities to support our growing local community."

Shitty showgrounds situation may lead to a lockout

THE Korumburra A & P Society are threatening to lock the gates to the showgrounds if dog owners continue to leave dog excrement on the ground, without picking it up.

An increasing amount of people are using the showgrounds to walk their dogs or let them have a run off leash, in the absence of a dedicated dog park in the town.

While most dog owners are respectful of the site and do the responsible thing, there are reportedly a small number of users who are refusing to pick up their dog's waste, and it's impacting others.

"The football club obviously use the oval, they're tenants of ours and when a player's training or on game day and there's dog poo that they fall into, it's unpleasant," said Danial Robbins, President of the Korumburra A & P Society.

"There are even people that have been witness to people's dogs having a poo and then said to that person to pick it up, and they've been told to go and get effed."

Danial believes that more appropriate facilities need to be implemented to cater to the nearly 6000 dogs and dog owners in South Gippsland.

"Unfortunately, there's no such asset at the moment."

"I'm a strong advocate for the council to start looking down the avenue of a dedicated dog park in Korumburra for the community to use," said Danial, who suggested land on the corner of O'Neill's Road near the Railway Precinct would be suitable.

"There's that much room along that railway corridor to be utilised. I think it's time for the council to –



These gates could soon be shut to dogs and dog owners if dog excrement continues to be left on the grounds. ob02_2025

I know it's another asset for them to look after – but I think it'll make more people more responsible if there's something a bit more dedicated."

The South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC) doesn't currently have designated off-leash areas, as dogs can be walked off-leash in most public areas, provided they are under effective voice control.

SGSC have stated that a dog leash order is expected to be introduced as part of the next Domestic Animal Management Plan (due for renewal in 2026), based on previous community engagement which indicated support for a strengthening of orders in urban locations.

As part of any leash order, it is likely that off-leash areas will be designated.

While SGSC also provide dog litter bins and 'animal waste' bags in 15 parks and reserves across the Shire, including one at Coleman Park in Queen Street, Korumburra,

they state that: it is expected that dog owners have their own bags with them to dispose of dog waste.

Danial added that while the A & P Society would be happy to look at providing similar waste facilities down the track, it's not something that's viable for them at the moment and dog owners have a responsibility to arm themselves appropriately.

"It's just an extra cost for us to be honest, as a not-for-profit organisation, to purchase those bags as well – I know it's not much – but these things add up.

"If you're taking your dog for a walk, you would understand your dog, nine times out of 10, it's going to have a poo."

Danial commented that the A & P Society will continue to monitor the situation and if it comes to it, action will be taken.

"If it does continue, we will lock the gates on the oval, and there'll be no access for people to use it with their dogs."

“They’re brilliant to deal with – always helpful and supportive.”

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THERE is no better time to install a rooftop solar system and batteries with the Federal Government solar battery rebates to start on July 1, 2025.

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A 15 kW residential solar power system installed by Advanced Solar and Batteries.

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Australia Post increases People of Post grants

LATEST research commissioned by Australia Post has found that 40 per cent of regular-giving Australians have donated less in the past 12 months due to cost-of-living pressures, with half of Australians saying they give less to charity because of the increased cost of groceries and essentials.

To help address growing financial pressures faced by community groups nationwide, Australia Post is awarding over \$400,000 in grants to over 200 grassroots community and not-for-profit groups through its People of Post grants program.

In Victoria, Australia Post has awarded grants to 79 nominated community organisations. Now in its eighth year, the People of Post program is a unique employee-led community grant initiative that enables Australia Post team members, including Posties and Post Office workers, to nominate local community or not-for-profit groups for a grant of up to \$2000.

Bass Coast/South Gippsland Wildlife Rescue and Shelter, founded by Sue Moore was a recipient of the community grant. The volunteer organisation is committed to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of native wildlife across Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

Their mission is to provide compassionate care for injured, sick, and orphaned native animals, ensuring their safe return to the wild. The organisation has been awarded a People of Post grant to help Sue purchase new surveillance cameras and equipment to monitor wildlife in rehabilitation, enhancing their ability to track progress and ensure the security of the animals without causing distress or increasing human contact.

"We've had 320 animals come through in the past 12 months, including 80 koalas. At the moment, we've got a koala with a steel plate in its leg - we've named him Kenny," said Sue. "We've got a hospital shed, incubators, and volunteers who help clean, transport and care for the animals. Sometimes people drop them off in the shed. The cameras will be used to monitor owls in the aviary, and also help us keep an eye on the koalas - whether they're exercising, sitting out the front, or tucked off to the side."



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Community generosity lifts spirits after chicken coop attack

MEMBERS of the Leongatha Community Garden were in shock and disbelief last week when they found their chicken coop had been broken into. However, garden members spirits were lifted and their hearts were warmed as the generosity of the community kicked in when they heard about the incident.

“The generosity shown by Leongatha and some of the businesses has been outstanding,” said Neil Barrett, President of the Leongatha Community Garden. “Mitre 10 have offered to provide all the materials we need to repair the chicken coop, which is great. People have offered eggs; people have offered chickens. So, it’s really been very positive from that aspect. Because we’ve had chickens on and off in this particular chicken coop, for many years and people, especially kids, that come to visit the garden, it’s one of the first places they run to, to see the chickens. So, we want to get the chickens back in there as soon as possible.”

Leongatha Community Garden members will be holding a working be today (Tuesday, May 20) to build a new coop.

CONVERSATION
with Claire



Funds for practical outcomes perhaps
By author Claire Chitty

I DON’T know about you, but I’m seeing growing frustration amongst people with council requests.

For over six years, residents have campaigned Bass Coast Shire Council to create a separate path to accommodate the constant stream of horses that frequent the beach at Norseman Road, Coronet Bay. During the racing season, this access track services up to 24 racehorses daily, plus other riders. Consequently, countless hooves churn up the sandy track, causing deep furrows.

After interacting with the horses at Wattlebank Farm recently, I have immense respect for these powerful hefty creatures. I don’t have an issue with animals sharing the beach but for many, being forced out of the way as they sprint over the sand can be irritating. Some even feel that training takes place when the tide is out; walking on uneven beach is exhausting and dangerous for weak ankles.

There’s also a tree root protruding into the Norseman path, causing a tripping hazard. This creates serious implications for beachgoers, kayakers and walkers, particularly older people. We’ve spoken to riders for their option; they would be happy with a concrete path.

I’ve repeatedly contacted council; their response is, “Due to budget constraints and lack of resources, the project has been postponed for now, and to keep reminding them.”

Hello, it’s not our job to remind council. It’s a safety issue that needs rectifying. So, what’s the solution?

If budget constraints are a problem, why is money being thrown at the Fred Gratin Reserve where, two years ago, council employed an outside contractor to create a strategic planning future development map? Residents provided feedback and now another, less elaborate plan was recently shared, reducing the full-sized basketball court to half size to adapt pickleball. The children and teenagers of Coronet Bay regularly use these facilities so why fix something when it’s not broken and waste more ratepayer money?

Wouldn’t it be more beneficial to channel funds into practical outcomes for the wider community? And Council, while you’re at it, can you please change the fortnightly red bin collection to weekly, rather than the green bins?



Melina Bath and Danny O'Brien Leader of the Nationals with Bush Users Groups on May 14, 2025.

Victorians oppose new national parks

ON FEBRUARY 19, Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath, tabled the largest petition in Legislative Council history, a petition with more than 40,208 signatures for No New National Parks, which stands up for the rights of those who want to keep accessing state forests for traditional bush activities. On Wednesday evening, May 14, Melina Bath took the petition to debate in the Legislative Council, with support from Gaelle Broad MP – Member for Northern Victoria, who stated it was an honour to speak on this petition, “the largest petition we’ve ever seen in the history of this chamber.”

The debate centred around the state government’s plans to introduce three new national parks. The new national parks will be created by linking existing state forests, parks and reserves. The largest, combining Lerderderg State Park and Wombat State Forest to create the Wombat-Lerderderg National Park covering more than 44,000 hectares between Daylesford and Bacchus Marsh. This proposal was made in May 2022, and Melina argued that the government’s budget cuts to Parks Victoria have led to poor land management and overgrown tracks, claiming that new parks would restrict traditional activities, including hunting and camping, without improving conservation.

Tom McIntosh MP from

Eastern Victoria defended the Labor Government during the debate, claiming that it’s creating permanent protections for Victoria’s three new national parks to help conserve native flora and fauna and enhance recreation and tourism opportunities.

In the gallery, during the debate, were representatives from all over regional Victoria including Field and Game Australia, Mountain Cattleman’s Association of Victoria, Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria, Bush Users Group United, Australian Deer Association, SSAA, Victorians Against the Great Forest National Park, and small business people, all of which supported the No New National Parks petition.

“Parks Victoria has had \$95 million gutted from its budget and a halving of its core services. Locking up more of our state forests as national parks serves no one, and restricting Victorians from our traditional pursuits, such as free and dispersed camping, dirt and trail bike riding, horse riding, hunting, four-wheel driving, prospecting and fossicking, does not guarantee any better conservation of vulnerable species,” said Melina.

“This country, our country, evolved by and through people – First Nations people – managing the land in the landscape. Forests were selectively cool-burned, species were hunted

and people lived in and around their environment. Today this government is finding excuses to restrict access. In flawed ideology, Labor has committed to locking up 50,000 hectares in the Pyrenees, Wombat and Lerderderg state forests as national parks, and the minister has doubled down on this today.

“Community is teaching people how to respect free camping sites, and our volunteer groups are increasingly lifting that heavy load of weed eradication and pest eradication because the government has dropped the ball.”

Tom responded by stating, “We have found the right balance here to protect what needs to be protected while keeping the land open and accessible for the activities that Victorians love. It is far from being locked up.”

Katherine Copsey MP for South Metropolitan said, “My question today is: why is Labor dragging its feet on the three new national parks in the central west? Back in 2021, Labor promised national parks in the Wombat and Wellsford forests, Mount Buangor and the Pyrenees. It is now 2025, and we are yet to see a single new park.”

While Wendy Lovell, MP of Northern Victoria, spoke to the debate stating, “You can add to that 40,208 the 13,969 Victorians who signed a petition that was tabled by Wayne Farnham, the member for Narracan, and

I have a petition that is still live that has 11,767 signatures on it at the moment. So that is over 66,000 Victorians – 66,044 Victorians – who have signed petitions saying they do not want new national parks in Victoria, just in the last six months,” she said.

“Changing the status to a national park does not guarantee it any additional resources. There is no additional money that comes with that for the management of the park, for the protection of the park.”

The debate raised concerns, not only of those in the direct suburbs but those visitors from across Victoria who enjoy their recreational activities on the weekends, and Jeff Bourman of Eastern Victoria for Shooters Fishers Farmers rose to congratulate Melina Bath on the petition, saying, they want to lock out people who work real jobs and enjoy their weekends.

“They want to lock out people who live outside the shield of the quinoa curtain. They will carry on that anyone who opposes their elitist agenda is anti-environment or anti-conservation,” said Jeff. “This is not about the environment or conservation. This is about the politics of snobbery and division. It is about the cultural elite telling the millions of Victorians living outside the echo chamber what is good for them.”



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Please call the Home Care Package team for further information and support through the process.

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Email: homecarepackages@sghs.com.au



GSHS partners with the Maggie Beer Foundation

GIPPSLAND Southern Health Service (GSHS) is bringing a fresh focus on flavour, nutrition, and innovation to residents' dining experience.

GSHS has partnered with Maggie Beer Foundation's highly regarded Trainer Mentor Program to ensure that residents enjoy meals that are not only healthy but also delicious and satisfying.

Hotel Service Manager Trenton Crisp said the partnership was officially launched early this month with a week of hands-on training for kitchen staff led by Amanda Reid from the Foundation.

"Our kitchen team spent the week immersed in hands-on training, exploring ways to enhance meals with protein-rich, nutritious ingredients," Mr Crisp said.

The program is known for its success in transforming aged care kitchens across Australia by pairing staff with expert chef mentors.

The five-day intensive training is just the beginning. Mr Crisp said the program would continue with three monthly mentoring visits, access to an extensive online learning hub, and membership in a professional peer forum – all designed to support long-term improvement and innovation in aged care kitchens.

Even at this early stage, the impact at GSHS has been remarkable.

"The team has embraced new techniques with enthusiasm and creativity, and residents are already enjoying the benefits," Mr Crisp said.

Across the country, aged care facilities involved in the Trainer Mentor Program have reported improved food quality, greater staff confidence, and higher resident satisfaction.

"GSHS is proud to be part of that growing success story," Mr Crisp said.

Justice of the Peace milestone celebration

THE Document Signing Station run at the Wonthaggi Police Station by the local JPS from across Bass Coast and South Gippsland is celebrating another wonderful milestone with one of the dedicated Justice of the Peace notching up more than 500 shifts, a remarkable effort.

This service began in 2013 and continues to thrive, and has been replicated across Victoria.

JP's act as an independent witness of documents used for official or legal purposes. They are all committed volunteers who provide this valuable service to support their community, and they are easy to find at the Police Station in Wonthaggi, providing this service in a very friendly and professional manner, without fuss, free of charge and at a time when it is often most needed.

JP's work shifts of four hours, Monday to Friday and have now completed over 1,900 shifts, equating to almost 8,000 hours of voluntary work. They are attending to more than 1,000 documents a month here and a further 5000 documents elsewhere across the community each year.

"Brad Proudlock JP has been a part of this small team since before 2015, and what a remarkable job he has done," said JP John Duscher OAM, JP, FRVAHJ (Coordinator Wonthaggi DSS), "consistently working every Wednesday and filling in many times when others were not available or unwell."



Mary O'Connor, Caroline Talbot, Dr Terence Shannon, John Duscher, Terry Hall, Jenny Proudlock (Brad's wife), Sharry Eavis, (all Justices of the Peace from across Bass Coast and South Gippsland), Senior Sergeant Jason Hullick and (front middle) Brad Proudlock.

"He recently notched up his 500th shift and in that time has dealt with over 19,000 documents at the Signing Station and a further 26,000 documents elsewhere, including Aged Care facilities, Bass Coast Health and at home. That's an incredible 45,000 documents and not one complaint about writer's cramp! Congratulations and thank you, Brad!"

Coordinator John Duscher JP spoke on the significance of Brad's contribution and the dedication and commitment of all the volunteers, many of whom have been on board since it began. John

was joined by other JPs to celebrate Brad's achievement.

On behalf of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices, John presented Brad with a well-earned, highly respected Fellowship Award and best wishes and congratulations were received from our local Member, Jordan Crugnale.

Incredibly, there are currently only 3,500 JPs servicing Victoria's population of over seven million people, while NSW has over 75,800 and Queensland over 80,000. John has called on other local JPs to contact him to also help

out on the busy roster if they can.

John also shared the wonderful contribution of Dr Terence Shannon and acknowledged his milestone of over 350 shifts, yet another measure of his great commitment to this community.

"What a terrific team we have here. Many of the JP's travel quite a distance to do their shifts, from all parts of South Gippsland and Bass Coast."

John also acknowledged the tremendous support from the Victoria Police members at the Station, where they are always made welcome and appreciated.



Meet your Local WFI Insurance Rep, Brad

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Have your say: Draft Circular Economy Framework



Council has developed a draft Circular Economy Framework to guide and support the development of a circular economy in Bass Coast. The Framework is underpinned by the three core principles of circular economy:

- to design out waste and pollution
- keep materials in use at their highest value
- regenerate nature

The Framework outlines key actions for Council, as well as opportunities for community to get involved. We want to gather ideas and understand your priorities, and how we can best support the transition to a circular economy for our Shire.

Have your say

To read the draft Framework visit Engage Bass Coast at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/circular-economy-framework or contact our Sustainable Environment Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 for more information.

We can see you



Can you see us?

LIONS EYE HEALTH NIGHT

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The Inverloch & District Lions Club



Listen to the Centre of Eye Research Australia, Deputy Director and world renowned authority on Age-related Macular Degeneration **Professor Robyn Guymer AM**

Learn from **Associate Professor Guei-Sheung (Rick) Lui** how his research into gene therapy could potentially replace eye injections.

Learn about the Lions Eye Health School Program

View the video presented to the Federal Government in September 2024 that features the Willmott Family and the effects of Geographic Atrophy (GA) has had on the lives on the whole family.

Find out why Team Sisters (Willmott Girls) are so passionate about raising awareness about eye health and money for research through their participation in the annual Lions Ride for Sight.

When: Wednesday 28th May 2025

Time: 6pm

Where: Wonthaggi Workmens Club, 75 Graham St Wonthaggi

\$55 per ticket includes a 2 course meal (drinks at Bar prices).

RSVP Payment can be made through the QR Code below, please book to confirm your attendance by Thursday 22nd May



If you require anymore information please contact Sharon Oates 0417 101 998

Sponsored by The Community Bank Inverloch



Murder trial: Like the parents she didn't have

A GIPPSLAND Child Protection officer, Katrina Cripps, told the Supreme Court in Morwell on Thursday, May 15, that she had been called to conduct a welfare check on Erin and Simon Patterson's children following a report to the after-hours service on Monday, July 31, 2023.

The Patterson children had been admitted to Monash Children's Hospital earlier that day for assessment after reports they'd eaten leftovers the day after a poisonous mushroom lunch was held at their Leongatha home on Saturday, July 29, 2023.

Ms Cripps visited the children at Monash Children's Hospital the next day, on Tuesday, August 1 also speaking with Simon and Erin Patterson, following it up with a visit to Mrs Patterson's home on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 2.

Together with another child protection colleague, Ms Cripps discussion with Erin Patterson at Monash on the Tuesday was wide-ranging covering her relationship with her husband and his parents, custody and child support arrangements, the lunch, the Beef Wellington and where she had sourced the mushrooms.

Asked about her relationship with Simon's extended family, Ms Cripps said Erin had told her that Don and Gail Patterson had been "like the parents she hadn't had", following the deaths of her own parents some years earlier.

She said they'd always treated her like a daughter-in-law, that she loved them very much and felt very supported by them until the relationship changed in recent times.

She said Erin had told her that since her relationship with Simon changed, she felt he was isolating her from his family and that she wasn't being invited to family events that she had previously attended.

According to evidence given by Simon Patterson in court on Friday, May 2, it was in October 2022 that he and Erin had an exchange via Signal messages, during which Erin felt slighted about being belatedly invited to Gail's 70th birthday party.

"It seems that my invite to tomorrow is a bit of an afterthought and not even from your parents, so I might pass thanks as I'd rather not go somewhere I'm not welcome," Erin said in a message.

Ms Cripps was also asked if she spoke to Erin about her relationship with Simon.

She did. She said Erin told her that Simon was controlling and emotionally abusive at times and that he said things that would make her doubt herself as a parent and as a mother.

Ms Cripps said Erin did say, however, that they had a good relationship until recently.

She also discussed a family lunch with her in-laws, Gail and Don Patterson, and the kids, some four or five weeks before the Beef Wellington lunch, going on to discuss that as well.

Asked what the reason was for the lunch on July 29, 2023, Ms Cripps said Erin told her she had arranged it to discuss a medical issue, agreeing with legal counsel for the prosecution, Sarah Lenthall, that it was also to get advice on how to address the issue with the children.

She said she spoke about preparing the Beef Wellington from a recipe in the Recipe-Tin cook book, served with mashed potato, green beans and packet gravy.

"Did she tell you where she got the mushrooms for the Beef Wellington?"

"She did, yes," said Ms Cripps, noting that Erin told her she used mushrooms from the local Woolworths store, adding that she'd read that the dried ones she got from the Asian grocer would add flavour to the dish.

They also discussed what the adults had eaten and how the children came to get leftovers from the meal.

Ms Cripps said Erin told her she had eaten half of her Beef Wellington, Ian and Heather all of theirs, Gail half and Don all of his plus Gail's leftover piece.

There was also testimony about Ms Cripps' visit to Erin Patterson's house at 1pm on Wednesday, August 2 and a call she had facilitated for SallyAnn Atkinson of the Department of Health, who had been trying to contact Erin about a possible public health issue associated with where the accused had sourced the poisoned mushrooms.

Food, dehydrator and blood test positive for mushroom toxins

By Michael Giles

THE highly toxic amatoxins found only in death cap mushrooms, including alpha-amanitin and beta-amanitin, were detected in urine samples provided by one of the victims of the poisonous Beef Wellington lunch, Korumburra's Don Patterson, at the Dandenong Hospital at 9.01pm on Sunday, July 30, 2023.

These details, as well as laboratory analysis of samples from the other victims of the mushroom meal, together with the leftovers and residue from the food dehydrator were provided to the court on Day 12 of Erin Patterson's triple murder trial last Thursday by Head of Forensic Science at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine Dr Dimitri Gerostamoulos.

The trial, which arises out of the deaths of three people and the hospitalisation of another, after a meal of toxic Beef Wellington at Erin Patterson's Leongatha home on July 29, 2023, continues in the Latrobe Valley Law Courts this week.

An expert witness in literally hundreds of cases where poisoning has been alleged, Dr Gerostamoulos, also a toxicologist, pharmacologist and Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University, said there had also been positive results from Ian Wilkinson's blood serum and urine for the beta-amanitin toxin.

None were detected in the samples from the other deceased, Korumburra sisters Gail Patterson and Heather Wilkinson.

Dr Gerostamoulos said laboratory analysis had also been performed on the leftovers from the meal, recovered by Mirboo North Senior Constable Adrian Martinez-Villalobis from a red-lid rubbish bin outside Erin Patterson's house on Monday, July 31, when he visited the address with Leading Senior



Head of Forensic Science at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine Dr Dimitri Gerostamoulos told the Supreme Court last Friday that he would expect adverse health outcomes from another person who ate the same meal of death cap mushrooms as someone who died from the meal.

Constable Kate Mulry.

Photos were shown to the court of four pieces of the leftover Beef Wellington pasties, on individual trays, with Dr Gerostamoulos acknowledging that mushroom paste from the leftovers as well as a meat sample both tested positive for the beta-amanitin toxin.

A small amount of material recovered from the Sunbeam Food Lab Electronic Dehydrator, which Erin Patterson purchased from Hartley Wells in Leongatha on April 28, 2023, and recovered by police later from the Koonwarra tip, was also tested with both alpha-amanitin and the beta-amanitin toxins detected in three individual samples taken from the dehydrator.

"And is it your evidence that they are exclusively

associated with death cap mushrooms?" asked prosecution lawyer Sarah Lenthall.

"Yes, they are," said Dr Gerostamoulos.

It was the evidence of Dr Gerostamoulos that none of the nine samples provided by Erin Patterson, including blood and serum, tested positive for any of the death cap mushroom toxins.

None of the eight specimens collected from the older of the Patterson children at Monash Medical Centre on July 31, 2023 tested positive for the toxins, nor the samples provided by the younger of the children.

Dr Gerostamoulos said it was estimated that 50 grams or three tablespoons of amatoxins constituted a lethal dose for a 70-kilogram adult.

Under cross-examination by

Colin Mandy SC for the defence last Friday, Dr Gerostamoulos was asked if the same meal might impact the individuals differently who ate it. He agreed.

"Can I suggest these things, that there are a number of variables to how someone might recover from a toxic ingestion of mushrooms," said Mr Mandy to which the Head of Forensic Science agreed.

Mr Mandy asked if it might depend on the amount consumed, a variation in toxicity from one person's portion to another, and the toxic response of the individual?

"Some people have a better toxic response than others?" asked Mr Mandy.

"Yes, depending on an individual's tolerance to that particular toxin or their physiological response, that may be different," Dr Gerostamoulos said.

Mr Mandy went on to suggest that the general health of the individual, their age and weight might be a factor?

"Yes, that can be a factor in terms of the amount that's consumed, yes," said Dr Gerostamoulos.

On re-examination by Ms Lenthall for the prosecution, Dr Gerostamoulos was asked what he would expect the health outcome to be of a second person, with no serious pre-existing health condition, who ate the same meal containing death cap mushrooms as someone else who died from the meal.

He said there would likely be some adverse outcomes for that person who survived, the severity of which could depend on some of the factors raised earlier.

He described an incident that happened in Victoria recently where someone passed away and the other person ended up in intensive care.

Erin Patterson has pleaded not guilty to three charges of murder and one of attempted murder, saying what happened was a tragedy and a terrible accident.

Mobile phone puts Erin near death cap sites

ON DAY 14 of Erin Patterson's triple murder trial in Morwell, on Monday this week, May 19, the court heard from a retired pharmacist and senior poisons information specialist who posted the location of death cap mushrooms in the Loch area in April 2023.

Christine McKenzie took a number of photographs of the mushrooms and posted four of them on the publicly available iNaturalist website, using her username, chrismck, which geotagged the location.

It has been alleged that Erin Patterson visited the location, and also another site in the Outtrim area where there had also been a post showing the location of other death cap mushrooms on May 21, 2023.

The court also heard from Dr Matthew Sorell, the

principal of Digital Forensic Sciences Australia Pty Ltd, a digital forensic expert, who provided detailed testimony about the likely location of Erin Patterson's mobile phone on the morning of May 22, 2023, in both the Loch and Outtrim areas.

Erin Patterson, a 50-year-old Leongatha mother of two, has been charged with the murder of three of her in-laws Don and Gail Patterson and Gail's sister Heather Wilkinson and also the attempted murder of Heather's husband Ian after a lunch of poisonous Beef Wellington at her home on July 29, 2023.

Mrs Patterson sat in the rear of a packed court during the day's testimony. She has pleaded not guilty to the charges, saying that what happened was a tragedy and a terrible accident.



On day 14 the court heard from digital forensic expert Dr Matthew Sorell.

First quarter capital grants windfall for Bass Coast Council

BASS Coast Council is forecasting a full year operating surplus of \$7.5 million after a first quarter surplus of \$4.3 million due to earlier than expected capital grant payments.

The actual year-to-date operating surplus for Bass Coast Shire is forecast to be \$10.9 million favourable to budget (\$28.7 million) due to \$8.1 million in unbudgeted capital grants and early receipt of the \$1.2 million Financial Assistance Grant.

Earlier than expected capital grant payments amounted \$9.1 million.

The full year adjusted underlying net result excluding non-recurrent capital grants is forecast to be a \$4.8 million deficit compared to the budgeted deficit of \$114,000.

A major part of the reason for Council's unfavourable full year underlying result is due to the inclusion of \$3.25 million in expenses for the transfer of the Wonthaggi and San Remo Cemeteries to the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust.

The 2024/25 budget has provided for additional borrowings of \$3 million with the balance to be funded by council's strategic reserves however the underlying result has been impacted by the delivery of \$1.2 million in operational programs carried forward.

Council is forecasting a full year financial statement deficit of \$235,000 due to lower than budgeted revenue for statutory fees and fines, inclusion of expenses for the transfer of the Wonthaggi and San Remo Cemeteries, as well as costs incurred for emergency sand-renourishment at Inverloch and Silverleaves. These unbudgeted items have been offset by operational grants received for emergency events, and a lift in interest revenue due to a beneficial investment environment.

According to Bass Coast's first quarter performance review five actions have been completed, one is at risk and two need attention.

At risk of not being achieved is the transition of council's transport fleet to electric vehicles to reduce emissions and support council's Climate Change Action Plan.

Council received external grant funding of \$3 million to complete upgrades for the Almurta Glen Forbes Road culvert and Archies Creek Road, and upgrades to the Cowes cricket nets and Wonthaggi netball pavilion.

This has been offset by the deferral of \$5.4 million in capital works including \$2 million for the renewal of Grantville Glen Alvie Road, \$1.1 million for Wonthaggi Activity Centre Plan development and \$0.5 million for the Wonthaggi-Inverloch shared pathway.

Performance highlights for Bass Coast Shire in the first quarter include a contract awarded for Bass Coast Leisure Facilities, development of a draft public art framework, recruitment of a community panel for council's deliberative engagement planning process and completed maintenance for recently planted street trees.

A delay in securing funding for the Cowes streetscapes project has led to on-site work at Cowes being postponed until the last three months of 2025.

A number of plans including the draft Circular Economy Strategy and Integrated Transport Strategy are currently out for community consultation.

Awards won at Strzelecki Lions Club changeover dinner meeting

THE Lions Club of Strzelecki held its 28th Changeover Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, 14 May, at the Poowong Hotel.

Celebrations included welcoming the first female member to the club, a terrific fundraising result for the year enabling disbursements of \$61,750, more than halve distributed within our local community, and awards given for outstanding service to our community.

Funds were raised from our successful Loch Summer Markets and the annual Dairy Expo held at Korumburra.

Recipients included Poowong, Loch and Nyora schools, and CFA units; Milpara House Foodbank, Lifeline Gippsland and Free 3D Hands of Phillip Island.

Established by local farmers, the Club became a traditionally male-only club, despite great involvement of women from the start.

Following a review in 2024, a decision was made to welcome female membership and promotions led to the welcoming of three new members, including the first female Sue Hawker of Poowong.

Nyora resident Allison Jones was awarded the Topsy Motton Award for exceptional support and contribution to the Club and community, for her long-standing support of local schools and the Lions Loch Summer Market.

Retired member and Waragul resident Ken Hallyburton received the Allan Roberts Award.

The Dinner was presided over by Lions Zone Chairman Rod Jackson of Leonagatha, who invested the new members and the incoming board.

After two years at the helm, President James O'Connor of Mountain View is handing over to President-Elect Frank Hirst of Strzelecki.



Awards Committee Chair Noel Gregg, and Topsy Motton Award recipient Allison Jones, with award proposer Jenny Watson.



Allan Robert's Award recipient, Ken Hallyburton, presented by Glenda Olsen and Thema Hutchison. Ken was thanked for his many years on the early 6-10am shifts on the egg and bacon barbeque at the Loch Markets.



President-Elect Frank Hirst, receives the symbols of office from outgoing President James O'Connor.

Paper plane fun at Newhaven College

ON A sunny Friday, many Newhaven College Junior School students chose to participate in a paper plane competition, initiated by Year 4 student Jude Thompson.

With help from Odin Jamieson in Year 2, Jude planned, advertised, and judged the competition.

It was thrilling to see so many children enter, and thank you to their families for supporting Jude's leadership.

The two winners for the longest throw were Joey Leary and Ari Loizou and, amongst some very strong entries, Maverick Steel took out the prize for most creative plane.

Jude chose to donate the proceeds of the competition to the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL), and the College is proud to announce that \$122 was raised!

Jude is congratulated for his initiative and for providing a fun lunchtime activity for our students.



Year 4 student Jude Thompson (right) initiated the fundraising event for PICAL, pictured here with his classmate Brinsley Dwyer.

Bass Coast to go deeper into debt

HOLD on to your wallets Bass Coast Council is about to borrow more money and go deeper into debt to fund \$3 million in maintenance obligations for the Wonthaggi and San Remo cemeteries, \$2.2 million for the construction of tracks and trails including the Wonthaggi to Inverloch walkway, and \$725,000 for the Cowes Activity Centre Plan.

Bass Coast Council will be asked at this week's council meeting to refinance an existing loan of \$12.5 million and approve a new loan of \$5.925 million, pushing total council borrowings to \$18.499 million.

Council officers believe short-term interest rates are about to ease due to instability in financial markets and an increase in the United States bond rate (US-10Yr Treasury Yield).

"A sharp easing in the interest rate cycle has resulted in a divergence between short-term rates which have fallen sharply, and long-term rates which have not moved," explained council officers.

To capitalise on the forecast reduction in short-term interest rates it has been recommended Bass Coast's interim funding facility be packaged into two tranches, \$8.499 million over three years and \$10 million over ten years.

The new borrowings by Bass Coast Shire of \$5.925 million are tied to the delivery of capital work projects specified in the 2024/25 Budget including perpetual maintenance obligations associated with the transfer of the Wonthaggi and San Remo cemeteries to the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust.

It has been recommended that Council accept the Treasury Corporation Victoria loan in two tranches, \$8.499 million payable over three years at an estimated interest rate of between 3.75 per cent and 4.25 per cent, and \$10 million payable over ten years at an estimated interest rate of 5.0 per cent to 5.5 per cent per annum.

Council's interest costs in relation to these loans are expected to be between \$840,000 and \$911,000 each year consistent with the current interest rate of 4.69 per cent charged on council's existing loan facility with TCV.

More street petitions over the removal of dust suppressant seals

A RAFT of petitions will go to Bass Coast Council this week opposed to the removal of dust suppressant seal on residential roads in Cowes, Rhyll and Wonthaggi.

Seven petitions and joint letters have been tabled relating to Reid Street in Rhyll, Queen Street in Wonthaggi, and Park Lane and Koala Estate in Cowes.

An earlier petition received for Reid Street led to Bass Coast Shire issuing a statement in April saying it would consider community concerns and take no action until a report is presented to council by no later than May.

Following feedback from residents and property owners council said it would pause upcoming works to remove deteriorated dust suppressant seals on Outlook Drive, Scenic Drive, Bayview Drive, Park Lane, and Maxwell Street in Cowes; Queen Street, Wonthaggi; and Reid Street, Rhyll.

"This pause will allow for careful consideration of community concerns, investigation of treatments, financial analysis and will ensure that our approach continues to meet local needs and road maintenance standards".

A petition containing nine signatures was received from residents in regard to the dust suppressant seal planned to be removed from a section of Queen Street (between Merrin Crescent and Broome Crescent) in Wonthaggi.

A petition from residents within the Koala Estate in Cowes contained 121 signatures including residents of Scenic Drive, Outlook Drive, Maxwell Street and Park Lane. Another petition was received containing 10 signatures from residents in streets within the Koala Estate.

Investigations are continuing to determine the cost and contribution amounts required to upgrade roads that would retain the sealed surface, whether as an interim dust-only treatment option or a full road and drainage upgrade project. It has been suggested postponing the dust suppressant seal removal for 12 months (until April 2026) will allow council officers time to consult with the head petitioners and property owners.



One year milestone for digital licences

SINCE the launch of the digital driver licence one year ago, 1.5 million full licence holders and 323,000 learner and probationary licence holders have downloaded the technology.

More than one third of eligible licence holders have accessed their driver, motorcycle, and heavy vehicle licences safely and securely via the myVicRoads and Service Victoria apps.

Feedback from Victorians has been overwhelmingly positive according to the government, with ease of use and convenience being the most common reasons for people embracing the technology.

Physical licences are still being issued for all Victorian drivers and can continue to be used for identification purposes.

Drivers can add their digital licence to the Service Victoria app or myVicRoads app on their smartphone.

The digital driver licence has a highly secure, timed QR code that can be scanned by businesses and other authorities to verify authenticity and prevent fraudulent use. Digital licences also detail when a licence has been cancelled or suspended.

The licences can also be updated in real-time if there are changes to licence conditions or personal information like home addresses.

Shitbox Rally t-minus one month

THERE'S just under one month to go until the Shitbox Rally sees locals Shaun Prestage and Nathan Laurens-head to Perth for the start of winter rally route as team Wackadoo Let's Go Cruise.

The rally starts on June 19 and takes travellers through Murchison, Mount Augustus, Derby, Home Valley and up through to Darwin, arriving (hopefully) on June 28.

The duo have been out and about across the community raising funds in recent months having raised near on \$10,000 ahead of this rally alone.

"We've raised just shy of \$40,000 since we began," they stated.

The Shitbox Rally is the less a race and more a challenge... dared only by those who are keen on adventure, crave something a little different and love raising money for charity.

The cars themselves must be worth just \$1500 and will take on some of the most formidable roads across Australia... maybe they should consider Gippsland in the future!

The largest community lead fundraiser for the Cancer Council, the Shitbox Rally is now in its 15th year and so far has raised in excess of \$55 million dollars.

Determined to raise \$15,000 this rally, there is still time for the community to pitch in.

Head to winter2025.shitboxrally.com.au/wackadoo-lets-go-cruise to donate today.

Movement that inspires

THERE'S a reason Kia is a multi-award-winning brand.

The vehicles combine style, features, value for money and a great warranty. Did you know the seven-year unlimited warranty is transferrable on future sales?

"Kia has a range of vehicles – electric, hybrid, petrol, diesel, they've got everything, and the cars start at \$23,000 driveaway," Managing Director, Warren Stewart explained last week ahead of Kia's launch in Wonthaggi on July 1.

"When the Barina, Corolla and Yaris were sub \$20,000 we couldn't get enough of them – they sold like hotcakes. We are looking forward to having new vehicles available below the \$25,000 mark."

From the small Picanto to the Stonic light SUV, Sportage, Sorento, Carnival and the multi-award winning all-electric EV9 large SUV, there is a vehicle to suit every lifestyle and budget.

"Kia is a very strong brand, and we believe that Kia will become the number two brand in Australia, behind Toyota. It's doing very well globally, very well here in Australia, and we think their vehicles are a great fit for the community. It will really complement our Toyota offerings."

Working hard behind the scenes, Warren and his team are looking forward to introducing Kia to the local community at their dealerships in Wonthaggi and Leongatha.

"The showroom in Wonthaggi



Warren Stewart is excited to bring Kia to the townships of Wonthaggi and Leongatha, providing a stylish and affordable option to the community.

has undergone a complete transformation and we are looking forward to commencing a new showroom in Leongatha that will take about six months and will open in the fourth quarter of this year."

Whilst the Sportage is likely to be the most popular vehicle in the region (read about it below), the new Tasman Ute also brings its own ounce of excitement.

"We are very excited about the new Tasman. It's due for launch in July, so a great way to kick off our opening. It'll be a great option in the four-wheel drive marketplace and though the final specs and pricing are yet to be confirmed, it's likely to be very popular with the retro styling and features."

Whilst Kia's vehicles are available for immediate delivery without wait times, the new

Tasman will initially be limited but is available to pre-order. An assortment of accessories will also be available.

So where do Kia's stylish interiors and thought-out design come from? The likes of top automobile designers including former Audi designer, renowned for the TT, Peter Schreyer and Luc Donckerwolke of Bentley, Lamborghini, Skoda and Audi brands. Not to mention former designers of Mercedes-Benz and BMW now head Kia's design centres in Europe and China.

The Kia range will start to appear on site from this week with fantastic offers on all makes and models in time for the end-of-financial-year sales.

"We are also really proud of our family and friends referral program – anyone that refers a friend

or family member and buys a new or used car gets a \$250 Visa gift card," Warren explained.

The team are also proud of their strong commitment to supporting local community sporting groups and is excited to see the new branding rolled out across the region over the coming months.

"We're very supportive of the community," Warren said.

"We sponsor both the Phillip Island and Leongatha golf clubs, Wonthaggi Power, Leongatha's junior footballers, Inverloch Cricket Club, Bass Coast Breakers, and West Gippsland Football League, amongst others."

Versatility across the range, end-of-financial-year deals and no waiting times, what are you waiting for, step into the driver's seat and experience Kia – movement that inspires.

Test drive a Kia Sportage at Wonthaggi today

THE 2025 Kia Sportage continues its evolution as one of Australia's most popular mid-size SUVs, blending bold design, smart technology, and versatile performance.

Across the Pacific, the Sportage is Kia America's highest seller this year with 57,473 Sportages sold since January; 16,178 in April alone. Globally, 47,737 Sportage units sold in April and come July 1, Warren Stewart and the team at Wonthaggi Kia believe it will quickly become one of their biggest sellers in South Gippsland.

"It's a great little SUV," Warren stated ahead of the exciting launch of the new showroom in Wonthaggi last week.

"It's very popular, it's priced very well and represents excellent value for money."

With multiple powertrains – including a 2.0L petrol, a turbocharged 1.6L petrol, and a 2.0L turbo diesel – the Sportage caters to every type of



The Kia Sportage is expected to be one of the most popular models in the region ahead of the new dealerships opening.

driver, whether you're focused on efficiency or all-wheel-drive capability.

Across the range – spanning from the base S to the premium GT-Line – Kia delivers high levels of safety and technology. Standard features include Autonomous Emergency Braking with Junction Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, Blind Spot Collision Warning and Rear Cross Traffic Collision Warning. Even the entry-level models offer strong equipment, while the GT-

Line boasts high-end features like a 12.3" curved infotainment display, surround-view monitor, and a remote smart park assist (diesel variant only).

Inside, the cabin is spacious and thoughtfully appointed.

On the road, the Sportage impresses with Australian-tuned suspension, offering a composed and confident drive. Diesel variants provide up to 416Nm of torque, excellent for towing (up to 1,900kg braked). Fuel economy ranges from

6.3L/100km combined for the diesel to 8.1L/100km for the 2.0L petrol automatic.

The vehicle has also won numerous awards around the world including the 2024 Newsweek Autos Best Vehicle for Commuters, and rates five-star in the ANCAP safety system. The Sportage received high marks for child occupant protection, particularly in simulated crashes involving a six-year-old in a car seat.

With its refined styling, extensive features, and Kia's seven-year warranty, the 2025 Kia Sportage is a reliable and stylish choice for modern Australian drivers.

Whilst the new showroom doesn't open until July 1, Kia vehicles have already started appearing in Wonthaggi and are available to test drive today.

So what are you waiting for, test drive the Sportage today – visit James Chetcuti at 346 Bass Highway, Wonthaggi.

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2018 Kia Cerato S

17,990 DRIVE AWAY

72,599kms, 6 speed sports auto hatch
SN: W102083



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10,990 DRIVE AWAY

59,353kms, 4 speed auto hatch
SN: W102076



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2015 Ford Ranger XLT PX Mk II

24,990 DRIVE AWAY

205,939kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4
double cab SN: W102058



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2020 Toyota Hilux SR

46,990 DRIVE AWAY

68,596kms, 6 speed manual 4x4 cab
chassis SN: W102039



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Isuzu D-Max SX High Ride

28,990 DRIVE AWAY

109,472kms, 6 speed sports auto cab
chassis SN: W102090



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Kia Carnival S

27,990 DRIVE AWAY

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

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



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2015 Toyota
Landcruiser Prado GXL

39,990 DRIVE AWAY

224,465kms, 5 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: L101342



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2023 Mitsubishi Triton GSR MR

57,990 DRIVE AWAY

72kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab SN: L101328



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2019 Subaru Forester 2.5i-S S5

27,990 DRIVE AWAY

81,956kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: L101340



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Toyota
Landcruiser Prado GXL

64,990 DRIVE AWAY

36,729kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: L101339



DEMO

2024 Toyota
Landcruiser Prado Kakadu

112,990 DRIVE AWAY

3,087kms, 8 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: 11960338



DEMO

2024 Toyota Landcruiser GX

92,990 DRIVE AWAY

2,007kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
cab chassis SN: 12049641



DEMO

2025 Toyota Corolla Cross GX

41,990 DRIVE AWAY

2,051kms, CVT SUV SN: 11956614



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Ford Mustang GT FN

62,990 DRIVE AWAY

26,000kms, 6 speed CVT manual
coupe SN: L101345

Wonthaggi Toyota

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

Leongatha Toyota

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



Toyota Finance



Toyota Used Cars

OH WHAT A FEELING

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

Celebrating our everyday champions



Latrobe Community Health Service is in need of volunteers like Ian Anderson. Can you help?

“You receive so much more than you give”

LATROBE Community Health Service is urgently seeking volunteers to fill several roles across Gippsland, as the demand for community support services continues to grow. LCHS is on the lookout for transport drivers in the Latrobe Valley, Wellington, Bass Coast, and East Gippsland. LCHS is also looking to grow its Buddy Bears program – made up of volunteers who sew comfort bears for children who access LCHS services, local hospitals or community centres.

Transport driver Ian Anderson says that as a volunteer, he receives much more than he gives. “Volunteering allows me to give something back to my community. It provides a sense of achievement and purpose,” Mr Anderson said. “I love being a transport driver because there are hundreds of people that have health and transport issues. This service eases the burden of worrying about how they will get to appointments, while also providing an ear to clients who might not see or speak to other people for days. Clients are so appreciative of the service, but it is us drivers who appreciate being able to help them,” he added.



Bev accompanies residents on a delightful outing.



Volunteer Jo runs the footy tipping each year for staff and residents at Carinya.



Volunteer Jo Lomagno spends time with Connie Lomagno.

THIS National Volunteer Week, Carinya is proud to celebrate the incredible individuals who give their time, skills, and friendship to our community. Volunteers are at the heart of Carinya, enriching the daily lives of our residents and bringing our values of community connection, belonging, respect, and quality care to life.

Every chat over a cuppa, every card game, every garden bed planted is more than an activity, it's a moment of connection. For many residents, these simple acts become the highlight of their day. They bring joy, spark memories, and build relationships that create a true sense of home.

Our volunteers support a wide range of activities, from leading trivia and craft, to helping with bingo, bowls, or simply sitting alongside someone to share a story. Their willingness to offer their time allows our Leisure and Wellbeing program to flourish, ensuring residents stay socially, emotionally, and mentally engaged.

Vince, our Leisure and Wellbeing Assistant, sees firsthand the impact volunteers have.

“You can see the change in residents when volunteers are around. There's

laughter, conversation, and a real buzz in the room. They make people feel valued and heard, sometimes all it takes is a listening ear or a shared cup of tea to brighten someone's day.

Volunteers running individualised small group activities also help us achieve person-centred care.”

Joel Stevenson, Co-CEO Corporate Services, agrees:

“Our volunteers truly embody Carinya's values. Their contributions may seem small, but the ripple effect is immeasurable, enriching the lives of residents, families, and staff alike.”

Kate Billing, Co-CEO Clinical Services, adds:

“Volunteers bring a human touch that no program or service can replicate. They remind us that aged care is not just about care, it's about living with dignity, purpose, and joy.”

For volunteer Jo Lomagno, giving back is personal.

“I feel it's good for me as the younger generation to contribute to the community. By volunteering, I can support residents who may not have family close by.”

To recognise these wonderful contributions, Carinya held its Annual Volunteer Celebration Luncheon on Monday.



“Making a difference, one smile at a time”

We are looking for people who want to make a difference in the lives of the elderly and join a community not-for-profit organisation.

We Need Help With

- ☒ Cuppa & Catch-up
☒ Gardening Group
- ☒ Cards Group
☒ Craft Group
- ☒ Hoy/Skittles/Golf/Bowls
☒ Bingo & Trivia

& more...

For more information

03 5655 2125 | info@carinyalodge.com.au

35 Carinya Crescent, Korumburra

Filling backpacks for kids in foster care

THE CWA Mirboo North Night Owls formed about ten years ago and are a friendly, social and supportive volunteer organisation, open to women of all ages.

The group raises money through social events, craft days, exhibitions, stalls and other activities with all funds going back to local community groups and organisations.

The ladies' most recent efforts to raise money are going toward a project called My Backpack.

Members fill backpacks with new clothes, sleepwear, toiletries, toys and books for boys and girls between the ages of two to 16, so the kids have something of their own to take with them to their foster placements.

And they then also have a new backpack to take to school if they need it.

“We had seen that there were other groups doing a similar thing, so we decided to do one for this area. We do all of Gippsland, and whatever we raise stays within this area, it doesn't go anywhere else,” explained CWA member Anne Goranitis.

Seventeen backpacks, at a cost of about \$100 each, have been donated so far. Five of which were generously donated by a local woman who thought it was a wonderful idea.

The group have partnered with Quantum in



Mary Leech and Robyn Hoekstra of the CWA Mirboo North Night Owls have been helping to raise money to fill backpacks for kids in Foster Care. ob05_2025

Morwell for the project, who support Foster Children and Foster Carers.

“There's a huge need for this, and the problem too is that Quantum can't get any foster carers,” said Anne.

The ladies commented that the best thing about being part of the CWA Mirboo North Night Owls is being able to give back to the community, the enduring friendship and support, as well as the political influence the CWA as a whole can garner, such as swaying the vote to legalise gay marriage in 2017.

“When I was in my twenties, I wanted to join the CWA,” explained CWA member Robyn Hoekstra.

“One of the reasons I wanted to, was the political

clout that the CWA had. They present things to the government yearly, which all the group vote on – it's not just their head office in Melbourne – choices are put to us as a group. So those kinds of things are really important to achieve social justice things. It's not only a group where you get together and enjoy yourselves and meet great people. We don't just make scones. It goes well beyond that.”

The CWA Mirboo North Night Owls always welcome new members and they meet every second Monday of the month, 7pm at St Mary's, Ridgway, Mirboo North.

To donate towards the backpacks or for more information email cwamirboonorth@gmail.com.

Volunteers make life easier at GSHS

FROM tending gardens to playing piano or taking people to appointments, volunteers at Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) are making life easier for residents, patients and staff.

GSHS is this week celebrating the contribution of more than 30 regular volunteers working in areas such as transport, aged care, gardening and cardiac rehabilitation.

Volunteer coordinator Vicki Riley says the contribution of volunteers is great for the health service and the volunteers themselves.

People volunteer for many different reasons.

“Some want to give back to the service that has just helped a loved one or they may have recently retired and are looking for something to do,” Ms Riley said.

Some people have also noticed a need and decided to do something about it.

“The gardeners saw the gardens and thought they could contribute to their beautification, and transport drivers have noticed people in the community that can’t get to their medical appointments, so they volunteer to help,” Ms Riley said.

“They say it puts a smile on their face to be helping others. They get more out of it than they expected.”

It also helps the health service and enriches the lives

of residents.

“Our volunteers do an amazing job supporting our medical and nursing staff, and it’s really helpful when people visit the aged care facilities because it gives residents extra contact and someone who will listen to them.”

Having a bigger volunteer pool would mean even more care and support. Ms Riley would like to have a concierge service and visiting mini-library service to the wards.

Leongatha volunteer Dick Lester has felt the positive benefits of public service all his life.

Now helping in gardening services following his career with the local council, Mr Lester says public service is to long term security, health and wellbeing.

“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.”

Ken Caithness began volunteering at Koorooman House and Hillside Lodge about six years ago, initially playing violin and more recently piano – both self-taught.

The former farmer and machinery specialist – who also built his own plane – has made a heartfelt connection with residents and his presence brings great joy and

music memories.

Ken volunteers twice a week with GSHS.

Husband and wife team Cheryl and Terry Purcell have been dedicated volunteers at GSHS for just over a year; Terry as a valued member of the maintenance gardening team and Cheryl at Koorooman House helping with bingo and busy making pancakes.

For Cheryl, volunteering is close to her heart. Her mother spent time in an aged care facility, and now she finds joy in giving back and making meaningful connections with residents.

Kath Welsh began volunteering at Hillside following the passing of her mother. Deeply touched by the care her mother received, Kath felt compelled to give back. What started as a gesture of gratitude has become a passion – she now volunteers at least four days a week and is a beloved part of the Hillside team.

She assists the Diversional Therapists with various activities and often spends valuable one-on-one time with residents, bringing joy, comfort, and connection.

National Volunteer Week is being held from May 19-25 to celebrate volunteering in Australia. People interested in volunteering at GSHS can contact volunteer coordinator Vicki Riley on Vicki.Riley@gshs.com.au or 5667 5664.



Kath Welsh volunteers four days a week at Hillside.



Ken volunteers twice a week at Koorooman House and Hillside Lodge playing the piano and violin.



National

19-25 MAY 2025

Volunteer

Connecting Communities Week



#NVW2025

“From all of us at South Gippsland Shire Council, we want to say thank you to all the fantastic volunteers in South Gippsland.

Each volunteer contributes unique talents and skills, making a difference and supporting our community in countless ways.

Thank you for your dedication and generosity to our region!”

- Mayor John Schelling



Empowering children for the digital future

PRIMARY students in Wonthaggi and Dalyston will be among the first to benefit from a national digital skills program that aims to increase digital safety and address the online skills gap between regional young people and their city-based peers.

Around 60 Year 5 and 6 students at Wonthaggi North Primary School and Powlett River Primary School will participate in Digital Futures workshops run this week by not-for-profit Project Rockit, Australia's youth-driven movement against bullying, hate and prejudice.

The initiative is part of a \$1.5 million partnership with the Telstra Foundation, and follows research released last year (Australian Youth Digital Index) that showed regional young people lagged behind urban students on a range of measures regarding their engagement with technology.

"This program not only increases students' tech skills but also builds their digital confidence and resilience. It's set to make a significant impact for regional young people, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of participating in the digital world," said Telstra Foundation CEO Jackie Coates.

"By empowering young people through digital citizenship, online safety, and cyberbullying prevention, and offering free access to digital education and support, the Digital Futures program will help to create a safer and more inclusive online environment for students in these communities."

The Australian Youth Digital Index, launched by Telstra Foundation last year, provides a comprehensive snapshot of young Australians' digital lives. It shows young people in regional and remote areas score lower in digital skills compared to their urban-based peers, and also highlighted wellbeing concerns.

While nearly two-thirds (63 per cent) of respondents outside cities said social media was overall a positive experience, a third said they feared missing out when they were not online, and a similar proportion acknowledged a negative impact of technology use on sleep.

The Index, built on responses from over 4700 young people aged eight to 25, showed young people from regional/remote areas in Australia (50 per cent) are less likely than young people from major cities (67 per cent) to agree that they receive good training at university to use technology, or to have been taught how to code at school (major cities: 52 per cent, regional/remote: 44 per cent).

Digital Futures will deliver in-person digital citizenship workshops to 30,000 students in regional communities across Australia, provide online digital citizenship resources to reach an additional 250,000 young people, and will improve community digital citizenship literacy by engaging 900 parents and community members through online seminars.

Recognise early educators, and teachers

NOMINATIONS for the Victorian Early Years Awards are now open, and it's time for Victorians to nominate their most innovative, inspiring and dedicated early years teachers, educators, organisations and programs for improving outcomes for children in their critical early years.

Victoria's entire early years sector, from maternal child health services to playgroups, early childhood initiatives and everything in between, are eligible for awards.

All winners will receive \$15,000 to further develop their initiatives and share the learnings of their approaches, or to support their professional development. Finalists from the nine categories will also be considered for the prestigious Minister's Award, selected by Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn.

Nominations for the Victorian Early Years Awards close on Thursday, June 12, with finalists announced in August. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit vic.gov.au/victorian-early-years-awards.



Current Chair Mr David Jobe celebrates the unveiling of the Chairs of the Board of Governance Honour Board with past Board Chairs Mr Greg Price, Mrs Pamela Cameron and Mr Kevin Johnson, after the Foundation Day all-school assembly.

Newhaven College Celebrates Foundation Day

LAST week, the Newhaven College community gathered for the all-school Foundation Day Assembly to celebrate the College's 45th anniversary. From the youngest Prep students to valued Life Governors, the event brought everyone together in a shared recognition of Newhaven College's proud past, vibrant present, and promising future.

The College was honoured to welcome back Life Governor inductee Simon Manning and alumni Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands. Also in the audience were a number of College Life Governors, College Board members, early teachers at the school, the College leadership team, staff, students and families.

College Principal Tony Corr said, "Connecting within our local community is only one part of how we build our community here at Newhaven. It is also in acknowledging where we have been as a school and the efforts of those who have gone before us. Which is why Foundation Day is so important and it is wonderful to have so many guests who have contributed to our school over the decades in attendance."

Proceedings commenced with the induction of Mr Simon Manning as Life Governor. Mr Manning was applauded by current Chair Mr David Jobe, as an integral part of the team who helped make Newhaven College the incredible school it is today, during

his tenure as Treasurer of the College Board.

Mr Jobe thanked Mr Manning, "On behalf of our school community, thank you Simon, for your financial acumen, your leadership and your years of volunteer service to our College."

Special guest speaker, College alumni Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands enthralled all those in attendance with his story of discovering his gift of combining innovation and creativity to develop prosthetic hands and arms. His work has assisted over 20,000 people worldwide. He explained how the recipients' smiles and gratitude motivate him and his team every day. His passion and dedication were applauded by the entire school community.

Student leaders presented to the assembly, with College Captains Grace Howlett and Gabe Di Falco running proceedings, and Abby Pappas and Isaac Savona reflecting on their Year 12 journey so far in 2025. They expressed their appreciation for the generous donations made already for this year's College Charity, Bali Children Foundation.

Middle School Captains Lucy Thompson and Indi Maloney presented to those present about Middle School initiatives.

Junior School Captains Peyton Rhee, Venus Herath Mudiyanse, Nate Kondorios and Dallas Latham presented thank you flowers to guest

speaker Mat Bowtell.

At their first ever all-school assembly, the Preps were formally welcomed to the College community when student leaders awarded them with their House badges, introducing them as Class of 2037! For the youngest students of the school, standing on a stage in front of the entire assembly was quite daunting.

Proceedings were punctuated by musical performances by our Junior School and Combined Choirs, and a rendition of 'Xanadu' by the cast of last month's School Production, led by Year 12 students Cecily de Gooyer and Archie Robson.

Following the assembly, Life Governors and special guests – including Executive General Manager Sholto Bowen OAM and Executive Officer Louisa Warnock from Ecumenical Schools – gathered in the College Board Room for the unveiling of a new Honour Board. The board proudly displays the names of all Chairs of the Board of Governance since founding Chair W.G. Papworth. The unveiling was conducted by Mr Kevin Johnson, who served as Chair from 2000 to 2002.

Newhaven College's annual Foundation Day Assembly was a celebration of all that the school holds dear – its rich history, strong leadership, community involvement, spirit of encouragement, and vibrant musical talent.



Guest speaker and Newhaven College alumni, Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands, was thanked for his presentation by Junior School Captains Nate Kondorios, Venus Herath Mudiyanse, Peyton Rhee and Dallas Latham, with College Captain Gabe Di Falco.



Year 5-6 entry from last year's National Water Week poster competition.

Calling all young water heroes in South Gippsland

SOUTH Gippsland Water's (SGW) National Water Week poster competition is back for 2025, with entries now open to all pre-schools and primary schools across the service region.

For the 2025 competition, students are encouraged to create a poster reflecting this year's theme, Water Heroes: Save Every Drop.

SGW Managing Director, Robert Murphy, said the competition was a great opportunity for students to show their creative side and how they care for the environment at the same time.

"We're encouraging all local students to get creative and enter a poster for this year's competition. You can draw, you can paint or use some other materials, including digital technology to create an A3 or A4-sized poster," Mr Murphy said.

"Each year, we are blown away not only by the talent and creativity of our local students but also by their ideas for water saving and caring for our water resources."

The poster competition is open to all primary schools and pre-schools across Victoria, with prizes up for grabs valued up to \$100 for individuals and up to \$500 for schools for each of the following categories: early learning/kindergarten, prep, year one and two, year three-four and year five-six.

Local winners will be announced in October during National Water Week (October 20-26), and all entries will be on display in the National Water Week poster exhibition. First prize winners from SGW's local competition will automatically be entered into the state competition.

To learn more about the categories, prizes and how to enter, visit nationalwaterweek.com.au.



Assistant Principal Toby Mahoney and Education Support Team members Molly Turner and Katie O'Neill have joined the staff at WNPS.

North welcomes new teachers

WONTHAGGI North Primary School would like to officially welcome three new members to our school community for 2025 – Toby Mahoney, Molly Turner, and Katie O'Neill.

Toby has joined us as our new Assistant Principal and is looking forward to working with students, staff, and families to continue making WNPS a great place to learn and grow.

Molly and Katie are now part of our Education Support Team, supporting teachers and students in the classroom to create a positive and engaging learning environment.

With Term 2 in full swing, we are also excited to open our school for tours at your convenience.

Please contact the general office to arrange a time to meet our new staff and see our wonderful school in action.



Encouraging mindful posture while using technology

OVER the years, computers and other screen devices have been gradually impacting my patients in many ways.

I was never comfortable with a device that emulated certain levels of brain activity, but as well as this, physical symptoms began to present resulting from incorrect or overuse of smart-phones, tablets, computers and other electronic devices. These symptoms include headaches, neck, shoulder and upper back pain, with the severity of symptoms often equivalent to the amount of time spent on these devices.

With the insight of learning the scientific model that environment is responsible for biological function, I began to ask the basic questions of how and why.

With over 34 million mobile phone connections and 95 per cent of Australians accessing the internet via a smartphone, the focus of the Australian Chiropractors Association's (ACA)

annual national Spinal Health Week is preventing 'Tech Neck', also known as Tension Neck Syndrome.

As screen time has grown in our increasingly digital world, 'Tech Neck' has become a growing health concern affecting a significant portion of our population. A study in 2019 from the University of South Australia identified issues with unsuitable head, neck, trunk and leg postures among device users that can amount to musculoskeletal disorders.

Since environment plays such a huge role in our biological function, positive adaptations to that involvement are essential.

With over 5.3 million Australians suffering 'Tech Neck', regular movement, stretching, changing posture and the way we use our devices can help prevent Tech Neck, and maximise spinal health. Whether using a laptop or a desktop at home, school, university or at work,

it's essential for workstations to be ergonomically correct.

ACA President Dr Billy Chow said, "During national Spinal Health Week, we're encouraging all Australians to adjust their thinking on how they use smart-phones, tablets and computers by joining the movement to help prevent persistent, aggravated head, neck and upper back injuries which impact productivity at home, school and at work."

"Every week, over 400,000 chiropractic healthcare consultations help create well-adjusted Australians as ACA chiropractors play an important role in improving the spinal health of everyday Australians."

So, the message today is to be aware of your posture while using your technology.

With prevention the best protection, we are here to help.

To book an appointment contact Dr Norman Vradenburg at South Gippsland Chiropractic Services.



Dr Norman Vradenburg encourages better posture and regular movement to help prevent 'Tech Neck' this Spinal Week.

ACA's Top Ten Tips for Tech Neck Prevention

SIT with comfortable upright posture with shoulders relaxed and feet flat on the floor.

STOP BENDING the neck to look down at a phone or tablet. Hold the device at eye level.

LIMIT the time spent using a phone to 2 hours per day, especially during leisure time.

USE BOTH HANDS or alternate between left and right when typing on a smartphone.

DON'T WALK LOOKING DOWN at a phone. Hold your head up straight and engage with the world.

TAKE REGULAR MOVEMENT BREAKS to look away from your device, move your neck from side to side and stretch every 10 minutes if using mobile devices and every 30 minutes if using computers.

ENSURE COMPUTERS are ergonomically set up correctly so the monitor is at eye level.

USE AN ADJUSTABLE ergonomic office chair so the knees are slightly lower than the hips.

EXERCISE REGULARLY to maintain a healthy spine and overall health and well-being.

CONSULT AN ACA CHIROPRACTOR to limit and treat spinal health problems including tech neck.

For parents, it's also recommended that parents and carers limit screen time in accordance with the Australian Institute of Family Studies guidelines and keep children and young people active to maximise their physical and mental development, spinal health and overall health and well-being.

Winter is the perfect time to try reformer pilates classes

EVERYONE has heard of Pilates, but have you heard about reformer Pilates? Nope, well let me indulge you in a little history first.

Pilates is a low-impact form of exercise that focuses on controlled movement, deep core strength, and full-body conditioning. Inspired by yoga, callisthenics and ballet, it improves flexibility, posture, balance, muscle tone, and body awareness. Developed by Joseph Pilates in the 1920s to support rehabilitation in injured athletes and dancers, the method has since evolved to suit a wide range of people – from elite athletes to beginners, seniors, pregnant women and those recovering from injury.

Pilates can be performed on a mat using body weight or on specialised equipment such as the reformer, which adds spring resistance to movements. It involves precise, low

By Chloe Kent

repetition exercises done over 45 to 90-minute sessions with attention to breath, alignment, and muscle control. While not typically a high-sweat workout, it builds deep strength and endurance, particularly in the abdominal, back, and pelvic muscles – commonly referred to as the body's core.

There are many proven health benefits of pilates including improved spinal stability, muscular balance, coordination, lung capacity, and injury prevention. It can also aid stress management, enhance concentration, and support rehabilitation from musculoskeletal conditions.

So how can reformer Pilates make a difference?

I've long suffered from chronic back pain, knee issues, and a raft of other niggles. I discovered reformer Pilates whilst living in London and was initially

intimidated. It was intense – it was rhythmic cycling to a regular spin class, think high-energy music, fast-paced, sweating, fun until the next day burn. But I loved it and went back every week.

Since coming home, and finally seeing reformer studios pop up in Bass Coast (thank you!) I've since discovered that most reformer pilates classes are slightly slower-paced than I was initially introduced to, and offer multiple levels for all abilities.

Now jumping on a reformer may not be for everyone, but I highly recommend you give it a go, at least three times, once to get over the new, a second time to learn the flow and a third time to see whether you actually like it or not.

Three months after jumping back on a reformer, my body is far more mobile, I have more energy, my back pain flares up less and I feel my posture is

better, and in turn, I'm seeing my healthcare professionals less regularly to manage my conditions.

I love that there are different levels offered, and movements build up. I might be able to jump straight into a full plank with pikes and crunches on the footbar, but lunges and squats require a lot more work. But that's okay, because under expert guidance I'm given choices.

Personally, I also find I have fewer problems with my wrists and knees in reformer pilates than I do in mat pilates.

Whether you're stuck at a desk all day, dealing with tech neck, or just need to stretch and reset, give reformer Pilates a try. Like anti-gravity/aerial yoga, it only looks completely overwhelming from the outside.

As always, consult a healthcare professional before beginning any new fitness program.

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Download our Cor Pilates App and take advantage of our intro offer - \$20 for your first class.

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Francis Alan Rutherford offers expert legal advice helping families plan for the future with confidence and care.

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Francis Alan Rutherford BJuris, LLB (Monash) is a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, admitted to practice in April 1978. Based in Pakenham, Francis offers a wide range of legal services with a focus on clear communication, professionalism, and affordability.

Francis was recognised with the APAC Insider Legal Award for Best in Family Law Property Settlements – Victoria in both 2016 and 2017, acknowledging his dedication to client-focused legal solutions. One of his key areas of expertise is Family Law Property Settlements, governed by Section 90 of the Family Law Act.

"In the situation where husband and wife or parties in a relation split up Section 90 of the Family Law Act becomes a very important section in dividing property acquired by the parties during the relationship," Mr Rutherford explained. "The parties agree with their lawyers to enter into a contract/agreement known as a Family Law Property Settlement Agreement. The agreement generally covers the house, any vehicles, monies in the bank and superannuation.

"The agreements also contain a schedule itemising the items to be retained by the parties and the respective values.

"The lawyers role, apart from preparing the agreement, is to sit with their client and go through the agreement ensuring that the client's fully understands the agreement before signing in accordance with the Act."

Once signed by the parties, the document becomes an enforceable contract, like any contract, and if a party breach the contract, it can be enforced through the Family Court.

"Section 90 has become a very popular section which minimises legal professional costs of dealing with lawyers," Mr Rutherford continued.

Specialising in conveyancing, business law, magistrates court appearances in criminal matters including offences under the road safety act, commercial agreements, wills/powers of attorney, and family law property settlements contact Francis Alan Rutherford on 0418 569 566.

Trusted, local and here to help

OAKLEYS White is a well-established legal practice based in Foster, proudly serving the South Gippsland region for approximately three decades, with the firm led by partners Clive White and Fiona Baxter.

"We are committed to delivering professional, reliable legal services and value the strong relationships we have built within our local community," Fiona said.

Clive began practising law in the 1980s and operated Oakleys White as a sole practitioner for many years.

Over the decades, he has served generations of local families and takes pride in building long-term client relationships.

Fiona joined the firm in 2012 as a junior clerk and, inspired by her hands-on experience, commenced studying law.

Following her admission to practise, she joined Clive as a partner in 2022.

Together, they bring a depth of experience and a commitment to accessible, down-to-earth legal support.

Whether you are buying or selling a home, planning your estate, or needing advice for your business, Oakleys White is here to help with



The team at Oakleys White Lawyers are committed to professional, friendly and accessible service, with Angela Smith, Yvonne McNeal, Clive White, Fiona Baxter, Karen Dorling and Tara Hollier pictured and Jenna Zuidema absent.

professionalism, care, and a commitment to service.

The team includes five dedicated clerks who play an essential role in supporting the firm's operations and delivery of services to clients.

"We are incredibly proud of our team: they are hard-working, reliable, and bring

a wealth of local knowledge and professionalism to everything they do," Fiona said.

The business provides accessibility for older clients or those with mobility challenges, offering home visits where needed and happy to make flexible arrangements to meet clients' needs, including visits to aged care

facilities or hospitals in the surrounding area.

Telephone and video meetings are also available.

With those at Oakleys White priding themselves on being approachable, dependable and deeply connected to the local community, the firm has many long-term clients.

Liza Pearce brings her criminal law expertise to Gippsland

LIZA Pearce opened her law firm in Mirboo North almost a year ago specialising in criminal law, intervention orders and family violence related matters.

Having been a Solicitor for about 19 years, Liza began her own practice 12 years ago in Melbourne, Liza Pearce & Associates, and when an opportunity arose to expand her business into Gippsland, she decided to take it up.

Being a sole practitioner with a wealth of experience under her belt and a personable nature comes with some great advantages for Liza's clients.

"I believe it is very important to respond promptly to client enquiries, to display empathy and sensitivity and to really listen to my clients – so that they feel heard and

understood," said Liza.

"Going to court, particularly for a criminal matter, is a confronting and often frightening experience, so I am very mindful that the options and outcomes are explained clearly that my clients understand the process, and that this gives them a sense of reassurance and confidence."

On any given day Liza will be in a courtroom for her clients, in Korumburra, Wonthaggi, Morwell, Sale or even Bairnsdale.

"I love being in court. It's very hands-on, and, you are often assisting people at a pretty difficult and emotional and stressful time in their life, so that's very satisfying."

Liza Pearce & Associates specialise in criminal law, traffic and driving offences that

come under criminal law, intervention orders and family violence related matters, as well as intervention order breaches.

"I also pride myself on trying to be reasonably affordable, so that people can have a private lawyer without the massive, huge expense," said Liza.

Expanding her practice into Mirboo North has given Liza the opportunity to see more of the region and she adds that when she's not working or reading a good book, she loves exploring the natural beauty of Gippsland.

Liza can meet clients in her Mirboo North office or anywhere across Gippsland, as well as in her Melbourne office in William Street and the first phone consultation is free of charge.



Liza Pearce & Associates specialising in Criminal Law, Intervention Orders and family violence now has an office in Mirboo North and can see clients right across Gippsland.

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- Small business & commercial matters
- General legal advice

Serving the community

Jess Luff is making legal help more human at Bass Coast Legal

FOR Jess Luff, Principal Solicitor at Bass Coast Legal, the law isn't just about documents and deadlines – it's about people.

"More than anything, we want clients to feel heard and understood," she said.

"That's the most important part."

Based in Inverloch, Bass Coast Legal is the successor to Ian Symonds and Associates, continuing a legacy of more than 40 years of legal service in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland region. But while the history is long-standing, Jess is focused on building something new – a warm, approachable firm grounded in empathy and efficiency.

Her own journey into law reflects that balance. After studying legal practice and working as a law clerk, Jess raised four young children while completing her law degree online. She later joined the team at Ian Symonds and Associates with the intention of taking over the practice, and from there, Bass Coast Legal was born.

Today, she and her small team provide assistance across a wide range of legal areas, including everything



"We're here to help" – Jess Luff of Bass Coast Legal is changing how people experience legal support in Bass Coast. W02_2025

except criminal law. Some of the matters they most commonly help clients with include wills and estates, family law and divorce, property conveyancing, probate and estate administration, and business law. They also offer advice on guarantor documents, reverse mortgages, binding financial agreements, debt recovery, and retirement village contracts.

Being based in the community is a big part of what

sets Bass Coast Legal apart. Jess says having local knowledge means clients don't have to explain everything from the beginning – she already has an understanding of the places and people involved.

"Conveyancing and property matters really benefit from that local understanding," she explained.

"It also helps in family law situations. People feel more at ease when they know

they're speaking with someone who understands their world."

That compassion shows up in the way the team works. Whether someone is going through a separation, dealing with the loss of a loved one, or navigating a complex legal issue, Jess and her colleagues prioritise creating a comfortable, safe space for clients to ask questions and get support.

And with Law Week approaching, she hopes more people feel empowered to seek legal advice, even if they've been putting it off.

"There's this idea that seeing a lawyer will be stressful or too expensive. But it doesn't have to be. We do our best to keep things cost-effective and transparent, and to make the experience as easy as possible."

Her message to anyone feeling unsure about reaching out?

"We don't bite," she laughs.

"We're here to help. That's the only reason we do what we do."

To make an appointment or learn more, contact Bass Coast Legal on 5674 2644 or visit their website.

Learn more about the law during Victorian Law Week

THE law can intersect with life in many ways. It can be to do with your home, work, relationships, where you are or what you buy.

Sometimes it's easy to deal with, or it can be difficult. It can feel distressing or help you feel safe.

We all need information about our legal rights and responsibilities. Whether it's for us, our families or the people we support.

Victorian Law Week is an opportunity to identify where the law can help and learn how to act on it.

With events running across the state this week, from May 19– 25, Victorian Law Week is a time to learn what to do when the law meets your life, where to get help and find out

more about the law.

There is a great range this year and a strong overall program, with more events being added to the program every day.

Whilst there is only one event happening in our region to come this week, another was held yesterday in Corinella there are a number of live and on demand events worth a look.

To check out the program and find out more head to viclawweek.org.au.

Free information session for Law Week in Foster

MANNA Gum Community House in partnership with the Gippsland Community Legal Service is hosting a free information session on Wills,

Power of Attorney and disaster preparedness in Foster today (May 20) as part of Victorian Law Week.

With support from the Family Law Pathways Information Kiosk, lawyers from the Gippsland Community Legal Service will present legal information sessions from 11am.

The Family Law Pathways information kiosk will provide essential information for separating couples and families, offering information about intersecting support services to help connect you to the right resources and guide you through your options.

The free event at Manna Gum Community House is part of a program of more

than 150 events around the state for Victorian Law Week designed to help people find legal answers to everyday problems, get legal help and learn more about the law.

Similar sessions are being held across the Neighbourhood House Network in Central Gippsland including the Bass and South Coast.

Experts in community and legal assistance willingly make themselves available at these events in-person and online to help identify where the law can help in everyday life.

Please call Manna Gum Community House on 5682 1101 for bookings and information.

For more information on Victorian Law Week go to viclawweek.org.au.

What's on this Law Week?

How to identify legal needs in communities impacted by disasters

ONLINE: Tuesday, May 20, 1pm-2pm.

EMERGENCY recovery workers are invited to a crucial session exploring the complex legal challenges faced by communities affected by disaster today. Led by Clint Westig from the Federation of Community Legal Centres and Dr Andrew Clarke from Ballarat and Grampians Community Legal Service, this is an opportunity for anyone working in disaster recovery and community support to understand the legal dimensions and support of rebuilding lives.

This online session will unpack the legal problems that often arise in the aftermath of disaster and highlight how community legal centres can support those most impacted. Whether you're on the front line or providing long-term recovery support, this event will give you the knowledge and practical tools to better assist individuals navigating legal systems during times of crisis.

To book head to viclawweek.org.au/program/how-to-identify-legal-needs-in-communities-impacted-by-disasters.

Why every woman needs a will

ONLINE: Wednesday, May 21, 10.30am-11.30am

LINDA Hart, Principal, Accredited Specialist Wills and Estate will provide insights into the importance of having a will, and why women in particular need a will and what could go wrong without a will.

The webinar is aimed at women who are between 30 and 50 years old, who are less likely to have a will than older age groups. You'll discover the importance of a will, and hear of real-world examples of what can go wrong if you do not have one in place.

This can include your inheritance not passing to your chosen beneficiary, increased risk of estate dispute, and not having a say in who cares for your children or pets if something happens to you.

Take a quick break from your day to ensure your wishes will be protected!

Head to viclawweek.org.au/program/your-will-your-way for details.

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ME034

What's on this Law Week?

Can you spot a scam?

ONLINE: Thursday, May 22, 3pm-4pm

WANT to learn how to protect yourself from scammers? Register now for this free online presentation to develop your digital skills and increase your scams awareness.

Learn how to keep safer online and use technology with confidence. Hosted by the eSafety Commissioner as part of the Be Connected initiative, this event will provide information on common scams, how to spot them, what to do and what not to do, and where to go for help.

Be Connected is a joint initiative between the Department of Social Services, eSafety Commissioner and Good Things Foundation to increase the confidence, digital skills and online safety of older Australians.

The four elements of murder

THE Supreme Court of Victoria has been sitting in Morwell since Tuesday, April 29, hearing the triple murder case where Leongatha mother of two Erin Patterson has been accused of the murders of three of her in-laws and the attempted murder of another.

The trial is now into its fourth week and is expected to run for five or six weeks.

Mrs Patterson has pleaded not guilty to all charges, saying what happened at her home on Saturday, July 29, 2023, when she prepared a lunch of poisonous Beef Wellington for herself and four guests was a tragedy and a terrible accident.

Only what happens within Court Room 4 of the Latrobe Valley Law Courts, in front of the jury of 14, can be reported while the trial is in progress, however, as was noted by Colin Mandy SC for the defence, everyone is well aware that the media is fascinated by the case.

The daily routine in Court Room 4 is for the jury to be ushered into the room at about 10.30am, with the accused, Erin Patterson, already seated in the rear of the court, clearly visible to the judge, Justice Christopher Beale, and the jury. The day concludes at 4pm Monday to Thursday, with a half day on Friday.

Representing the Department of Public Prosecutions, the lawyers with the responsibility of supporting the charges with evidence, are Dr Nanette Rogers SC, Sarah Lenthall and Jane Warren, and for Erin Patterson's defence Colin Mandy SC and Sophie Stafford.

So far, there has been a steady stream of witnesses including family members, healthcare workers, police, toxicology and mycology experts, and others with information that may be relevant to the case.

Prior to the commencement of the trial proper, on Wednesday, April 30, Justice Beale gave instructions to the jury about how they should reach their decision. He said there were four key elements to consider.

In order for them to return a guilty verdict on the murder charges, the prosecution had to prove the following four elements beyond reasonable doubt:

1. The accused caused the death of the deceased by serving the deceased a poisoned meal (the alleged conduct); and

2. The accused's alleged conduct was conscious, voluntary and deliberate; and

3. At the time of the alleged conduct, the accused intended to kill or cause really serious injury to the deceased; and

4. The accused killed the deceased without lawful justification or excuse.

He stressed the prosecution needed to prove all of those elements beyond reasonable doubt and that it was cumulative, they needed to be able to say yes before moving on to the next element.

He went on to explain the meaning of each element in detail and did the same for the attempted murder charge.

The trial continues in Morwell this week.



Dr Nanette Rogers SC is leading the case for the prosecution.



Colin Mandy SC is leading the case for the defence.

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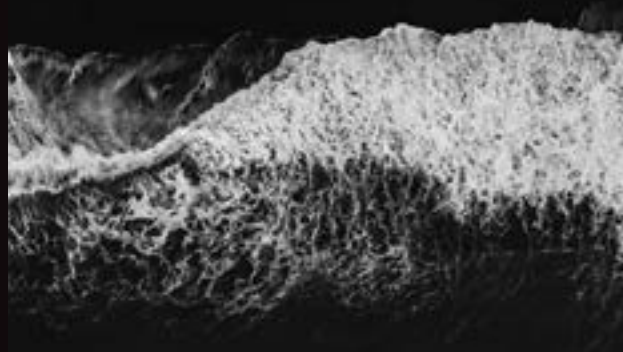
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Cowes VIC 3922

Grantville
Shop 4/1524 Bass Hwy,
Grantville VIC 3984



Homegrown legal expertise you can count on

WHEN it comes to navigating legal matters, having someone in your corner who genuinely understands your needs and your community can make all the difference.

For Jenny Garnham of J Garnham and Associates, that connection runs deep. Born and raised on a farm in Wonthaggi, Jenny attended the local high school and worked in local law firms for nearly two decades before heading to Melbourne, where she gained extensive experience working in top-tier city firms. But ten years ago, she returned to her roots – bringing with her an abundance of legal expertise.

“It was an opportunity to come back and support my ageing parents, and to work in the community I grew up in,” Jenny said.

“People know my name and my face, and they know they can trust me to help them.”

Today, J Garnham and Associates provides professional, reliable, and personalised legal services to clients across Wonthaggi and the surrounding region. The firm’s warm, approachable feel is what sets it apart. It’s a small team with big experience, offering a unique kind of service.

At J Garnham and Associates, every client is treated with respect, care, and genuine support. Whether you’re buying your first home,



With a career spanning over 40 years, Wonthaggi’s very own Jenny Garnham offers legal guidance to the Bass Coast community. W01_2025

managing a loved one’s estate, or planning for the future, Jenny and her team are committed to making your experience as smooth and stress-free as possible.

“We’re very mindful of what people are going through,” Jenny said.

“We understand that legal matters can be emotional, confusing, or even overwhelming. That’s why we take the time to explain things clearly and compassionately, and to guide people through the process step-by-step.”

Jenny regularly goes above and beyond – making hospital, nursing home, and home visits to clients when needed. Her door is always open, and her mobile number is even printed on her business card for after-hours support.

With more than 40 years of experience, including 20 years working at senior levels in Melbourne firms, Jenny brings a deep understanding of property law.

“I’ve worked with specialists and partners in Melbourne firms, trained junior lawyers,

and managed high-level property matters,” she said. “Now, I get to use that knowledge to help local people with their property and commercial needs.”

Jenny has experience with property law and commercial matters in all conveyancing and property dealings. She also has experience with wills, powers of attorney, probate and estate matters, as well as lease agreements, sales of business, and retirement village arrangements.

The firm’s reputation is built on being available, approachable, and dependable. From the moment a new client walks through the door or picks up the phone, they’re met with a friendly team ready to listen.

“We do our best to make legal help as user-friendly and accessible as possible,” Jenny said.

“Phone calls are returned, appointments are flexible, and we always do our best to find a time that works for our clients.”

As Law Week approaches – a time focused on making legal help more accessible – Jenny sees her firm’s work as part of that bigger mission. “We’re here for our community. That’s what matters most.”

J Garnham and Associates can be found at 63 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi, and can be contacted on 5672 2144.

What’s on this Law Week?

From the forest floor to the courtroom

ONLINE: Wednesday, May 21, 6pm-6.55pm

JOIN Environmental Justice Australia’s co-CEOs Nicola Rivers and Elizabeth McKinnon for a live webinar, exploring how communities are using the law to protect the places and species that they love.

Through real case studies and legal insight, they’ll demonstrate the power of public interest litigation for protecting nature, climate, and achieving justice. Whether you’re a citizen scientist, conservation volunteer, student or simply curious about how the legal system can hold power to account and stop destruction, this session is for you.

You’ll learn what environmental justice is, why it matters, and how you can get involved.

The session will also include a live Q&A with the co-CEOs – your chance to ask questions and deepen your understanding.

Head to viclawweek.org.au/program/from-the-forest-floor-to-the-courtroom-achieving-community-driven-environmental-justice for more information and to book.

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Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

Well played Dalyston

THERE seems to be a fair amount of bad news about the place at the moment.

And it's likely to be a case of "do you want the good news or the bad news" on Tuesday this week, when the Victorian Government hands down its budget around lunchtime today, followed by the Reserve Bank of Australia telling us whether they are dropping the interest rates at 2.30pm.

Seems the banks have already priced in a cut of 0.25% with another reduction to come, which is good news for mortgage holders, but not so much for retirees.

And it appears that the State Government has prepared us for what is expected to be a tough budget, by making some positive announcements ahead of the big reveal, allocating almost \$1 billion for road and bridge maintenance and free public transport for children and teens.

Honestly, most people would be happy to pay for public transport so long as the service is on time, safe, good value and clean and tidy. The same goes for camping in state-owned parks.

But there's no point adding to the bad news this week.

Instead, we'll focus on the efforts of the Dalyston Football Netball Club to highlight the need for more funding and more research into Motor Neurone Disease (MND) by staging their own version of the Big Freeze Slide before the main game on Saturday and at half time.

Recent research into the cause and effects of MND, a disease that weakens the nerves that allow you to move, swallow, talk and breathe, indicates promising developments in treating the affliction including new drug development and advancements in drug screening technologies.

Dalyston FNC continues to punch well above its weight in the positive impact it has on the community, not only in providing a healthy, character-building, social outlet for its players and supporters but also by taking on various public health promotion and community causes including their fantastic efforts on the weekend.

And that goes for all our football netball clubs, and indeed all our other sporting and social clubs, providing an outlet for the energy and exuberance of youth and turning out good citizens along the way, hopefully to some success on the field.

Well done Dalyston, and well done to all the volunteers of our sporting clubs who play such an important role in maintaining the fabric of our community.

On that score, it's high time the authorities gave the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, an organisation that's bursting at the seams trying to provide an outlet to the youth of the Island, with a way forward and a timeline for the opening up of some new playing fields on the shire-owned 'Carnival Land' in Cowes.

A hoot of a time

I AM one of the hundreds of local citizens who volunteered to help on Deb Leonard's campaign. It's a pity she didn't win but I'd like to tell everyone what a joy and a privilege it was to get involved.

Since March I've put a corflute outside my house, done a lot of door-knocking, and spent hours handing out how-to-vote cards at the Wonthaggi pre-poll booth as well as on election day. Then I watched the votes being counted at the San Remo booth on election night and spent the last two weeks at the AEC's ginormous vote counting warehouse in Warragul, scrutinising the vote count and crunching the numbers.

The more I did on the campaign, the more impressed I was with Deb Leonard and her team. Monash has missed out on an incredibly hard-working, passionate, dignified, energetic and smart woman to

Vox Pop

Are you planning a winter getaway?



Jean Carnell

"No, I have lots of activities locally, including croquet, choir, Probus, RSL knitting and South Gippsland Seedbank."



Zac Timpano

"No, I have just got back from a holiday to England, so have nothing more planned."



Stella Cannata

"Hopefully so; I would love a winter getaway up in Queensland, on the Sunshine Coast, where we hope it will be sunny."



John Hulls

"I'd love to but I can't afford to with a young family."

represent us. She would have been great. Hopefully, Mary Aldred has half Deb's capabilities and doesn't get chewed up and spat out by the Liberal Party.

I also realised that this electorate is full of lovely people – even those who clearly didn't support Deb – who are all concerned about similar problems and are sick of feeling neglected by their Federal representative. Maybe too many dogs for my liking, but I didn't encounter much negativity while out campaigning.

I don't have much time for the policies of Pauline Hanson, but the chaps handing out the One Nation how-to-vote cards at the pre-poll were a hoot. Very friendly and entertaining.

You don't need to be born and brought up in what now constitutes Monash to be an active participant in its body politic. Everyone who lives here has a stake in the region's future and Deb's campaign showed that getting involved is really worthwhile – for personal well-being and the good of the broader community.

It's been fun, energising and we very nearly succeeded in getting her elected.

Whoever stands as a community independent for Monash at the next election, even if it's not Deb Leonard, will have a huge army of dedicated volunteers to help them on their way, me included!

Catherine Eldridge, Wonthaggi

A little empathy goes a long way

I HAVE had a nightmare three years trying to liaise with the Bass Council Planning Dept with a planning application.

It started when I rang the planner in charge of my application with a few questions and she refused to listen to my questions or to discuss the issues.

Then followed requests for documents that were not needed under the regulations and months of waiting for replies and advice.

The final frustration came after I was issued with the Planning Permit because three weeks later I received notification that the Planning Dept had failed to complete the 'objection process' and that they were withdrawing the approval. I then had to go through a VCAT process that took four months to complete, so I lost four months of my two years.

I asked the planning dept to extend my time by the four months I had lost. Back came the answer, pay an application fee of \$400 and put in an application for an extension. I was flabbergasted but not surprised.

A senior member of the Planning Dept then contacted me and gave me advice on how to proceed. I submitted an application for an exemption to the application fee and also an extension to the time period for sale, both were granted. It just shows what can be achieved when a person has a little empathy and good customer liaison skills.

I must say that my day-to-day dealings over 16 years with the Planning Dept have been great, they have returned calls and emails promptly with helpful information and advice, however the experiences from the above lengthy process brought my high regard for the Planning Dept down a few notches.

Phil Mackenzie, Kilcunda

Our toxic relationship with government

THE Allan Labor government have demonstrated what they think of Victorians, particularly country Victorians.

We have a state Labor government that hurts with one hand through exorbitant new taxes because the government won't curb their reckless spending and focus on core essential services only.

They have wasted so much and can't dig their way out of their mess (literally their illustrious tunnel) of debt by more taxes which are sending businesses, families and farms into even more financial stress.

Then concurrently with the other hand the Allan government offers farmers mental health support. In a domestic situation, someone who bashes their partner and then buys them flowers is called a toxic abusive relationship. How is this any different?

Did the government consult with farmers directly or the VFF in their drought policy? No.

Did they listen to the CFA and volunteers? No.

Did they come and ask shire councillors such as myself what we think of their new taxes? No. In fact we and other councils came out strongly opposed but they ignored us.

It has passed the upper house through some sort of deal with the Greens, Animal Justice and Legalise Cannabis parties, that we obviously don't have full disclosure of. Our rates notices should clearly indicate that it is a state tax and that questions should be directed to your Labor MPs (Jordan, Harriet and Tom – none of who have made any attempt to communicate with us about it) who voted to hurt their constituents.

Meg Edwards, Inverloch and Fish Creek

Progress on housing and homelessness?

HOUSING Matters Bass Coast (HMBC) wrote to all Bass Coast councillors and Jordan Crugnale (member of the Legislative Assembly), sharing our concerns regarding housing and homelessness, a summary of which is the attached letter.

Our vision is: "An end to homelessness and affordable housing for everyone!"

We are waiting on a response from the Bass Coast council that addresses questions raised in this report. The questions relate to some of the key issues outlined as follows.

We want council to adopt an "Advance to Zero" policy, to reach a 'functional zero'

within a specified time frame in cooperation with the Australian Alliance to end homelessness. This time frame will require specific actions that relate to and address the concerns we have with the lack of progress to date in what have been clearly defined policy and funding commitments nationally and state-wide.

The Bass Coast Council must lobby for mandatory inclusionary zoning so a fixed proportion of housing built in Bass Coast is affordable and published for people on the Victorian Housing Register's waiting list.

The Big Housing Build is one example of a commitment that has to date failed to deliver to this region.

The initial allocation of funds to the Bass Coast Shire was \$25m, of which \$19m is so far allocated. According to The Homes Victoria website there are 10 active projects, which have 28 dwellings 'underway' and nine 'completed'. Yet, on Sunday, January 19 and Monday, January 20, 2025 a visit to the six sites made available by the Bass Coast Shire Council showed that no work had been started. On all the Wonthaggi and Cowes sites the only thing that has happened in the two years since these parcels of land have been identified is that the lawn has been mown short.

We request an explanation from the Council as to:

- What is actually happening here and how is this situation to be remedied?
- What are the plans going forward and the relevant timeframes?

In addition to the above the Victorian Government established in July 2023 a \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund to deliver 1300 social and affordable homes across regional and rural Victoria. Council will make three sites in Wonthaggi available to Salvation Army Housing and one site in Wonthaggi along with two sites in Cowes available to Community Housing Limited. Questions to the Council include:

- Has the Bass Coast confirmed with the Government details of the anticipated \$9.3m additional funding?
- Will available housing be part of the Victorian Government's Ground Lease Model? This was initially announced as a 40-year lease term. Is there a difference?
- Will all the dwellings resulting from these developments be suitable to the needs of very low and low income households currently classified as 'high need' applicants in the VHR or will there also be a proportion of the Victorian government's Big Housing Build 'affordable housing' earmarked as 'non-social housing' i.e., 'affordable' for the private rental market, to be let at 100 per cent of the median rental market for the area?

HMBC believe that the rent parameter established by the BHB's 'affordable housing' is not genuinely affordable to those households in the lowest income quintiles who need it, and any housing procured through government subsidies should not be a substitute for market housing that should be provided by the housing industry.

Housing Matters Bass Coast

Mary Patricia Pickersgill (nee Jones)

29.05.1929 - 21.04.2025



Mary had a great love for animals and spent most of her life happily taking care of them.



Mary sacrificed her own luxuries to make sure her family were all provided for, even breaking open the farm piggy bank just to spoil her children and grandchildren.



Mary will be remembered for her generosity, her kindness and the way she touched the hearts of everyone around her.

MARY Pickersgill died in Alchera House, Korumburra, aged 95 after a short illness. She was a remarkable person; mother to 15 children, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother to a multitude. But that was only a fraction of her story. A talented teacher, a skilled and hardworking farmer, President of the Citizens Advice Bureau and the 1993 Shire of Woorayl Citizen of the Year.

Mary was born the eldest of six children to Sydney and Mary Ellen Jones, Welsh and Irish immigrants, and lived her early life in Port Melbourne.

She was an incredibly gifted student who was offered a scholarship to the Teachers College in Sydney after completing Grade Eight.

The Japanese had just bombed Darwin, and her parents decided it was too risky to let her go away from the family.

Instead, Mary went to a nearby Brigidine convent and then to Teachers College in Melbourne.

Mary's first rural placement as a teacher was at Berrys Creek Primary School.

She met a returned soldier Herbert (Bert) Pickersgill and married him on July 2, 1949.

They were completely different personalities.

Bert had been a soldier since the outbreak of war in 1939 and amongst other placements, had spent two years in the secret bush commando unit nicknamed Curtin's Cowboys after the Prime Minister of the time.

He loved activity and challenges and found it difficult to settle into the twice daily routine of milking cows and feeding pigs.

Mary was the perfect foil to him, and they raised a large family of 15 children, although tragically their first son, John, died at just three days old.

Bert was successful in being allocated a soldier settler's farm, part of the Rowe estate in Mt Eccles.

It wasn't an easy farm with steep hills and chronic water shortages.

Bert had to work off the farm to make ends meet.

Mary took control of the pigs, becoming well known for the quality of her porkers and the occasional baconer that formed an integral part of the family diet.

She was also renowned for her cooking, especially the homemade soups and stews. She churned her butter, baked bread and rolls and made jam from any fruit she had on hand.

She tutored her own children, quite often at the same time as she milked the cows.

Mary insisted that all her children had to receive a good education no matter how tight the money supply was.

One of her children joked (not without foundation) that pigs paid their boarding school fees.

Bert loved teaching sports and was a VicSwim instructor for many years.

Mary always went with him and made sure that everything went smoothly because administration was definitely not one of Bert's strengths.

Mary always said they made a good team as long as Bert realised she was in charge.

In 1986, one of her sons came back home, buying the farm next door and combining both properties into a family partnership.

At the age of 57, faced with 21 per cent interest rates, low milk prices and with three children still at home, Mary set about making the farm a success.

Her son worked full time off the farm and Mary took control while he was absent, milking the cows, rearing calves, shifting the electric fences twice a day and generally keeping the farm moving along.

She had control of the farm finances and knew to the cent how much money they had.

In addition, she cultivated her large vegetable garden and orchard, ran a big flock of hens and still found time to work in the Citizens Advice Bureau, especially with Tax Help and training, as well as volunteering to tutor children at St Laurence's

Primary School, and working in the church.

These were hard years, money was tight with none available for small luxuries, there were always more jobs to do – and Mary maintained that these were the best years of her life.

She thrived as the business grew, suggesting and supporting innovation, proud of the farm and milking herd.

She thought outside the box.

The farm was incredibly cold in winter, windswept and exposed.

The tree planting program was in its infancy and, no matter how much the cows were fed, they were constantly battling the elements.

Mary had brought a cow rug for a sick cow which promptly recovered and started grazing happily out in the worst weather, oblivious to the wind and rain.

Mary suggested that they put rugs on all the cows, much to the amusement of the district.

She calculated that each cow paid for its rug in 10 days with the increase in milk production.

The rugs lasted many years, and she painted each cows' number on their rug, so she knew which cow got which.

Detecting heat in cows was a constant problem for artificial insemination.

Mary read in Hoards Dairyman about a revolutionary new heat detector developed in the US and promptly ordered a supply from the States.

They were an instant success and when they became available in Australia two years later, Mary said that she should take the credit for their introduction since she had told everyone how great they were.

When the farm shifted over to beef, Mary walked the farm every day checking on the cattle, ensuring they had water and feed.

She was always accompanied by her retinue of dogs, most of who were waifs and strays she had taken in over the years.

She kept on with her volunteer work and was incredibly

proud of her large and ever-growing family, hosting grandchildren over the holidays and at weekends.

A couple of her children decided to build her and Bert a house on an excised section of the farm, making them comfortable as they got older.

The old house might have been full of memories, but it was past repair.

She promptly enlarged the size of the vegetable garden and planted another orchard.

She also discovered beekeeping and had six hives.

Mary loved all creatures and was renowned for the number and variety of animals she rescued over the years.

From an obnoxious cockatoo to a pig with no ears, blind cats and abandoned dogs brought home by her soft-hearted children, she took them all in.

She had no time for people who mistreated animals and wasn't shy about saying so.

As life got that bit easier, Mary could indulge in some of the small luxuries denied to her most of her life.

She drank a small dram of single malt 18-year-old ('my whiskey has to be old enough to vote') most nights, was supplied with chocolate by her children and grandchildren ('why should I buy it when they know what I like anyway'), went away on trips accompanied by her daughters ('if I waited for the boys to take me, the only place I'd get to go to would be the saleyards') and attended the Edinburgh Tattoo when it came to Melbourne.

She also made more than 30 Christmas cakes every year for her children and close friends, unashamedly raided the farm bank account to buy gifts for grandchildren and great grandchildren, and supported the Fred Hollows Foundation, Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project and Peter Mac.

After Bert died in 2007, she stayed in the house until 2022 when ill health forced her to move to Alchera House.

She died surrounded by family and loved by all who knew her.



1958 Goliath Station Wagon, this model is the last one of two in Australia.

Ray downsizing his motoring collection

LIONS Club President and Grantville resident, Ray Willis, is retiring from business and auctioning off his paddocks and sheds of motoring and farming memorabilia.

Ray studied mechanical engineering, founded Grantville Garden Supplies, and is the current and past decade president of the Lions Club – Bass Valley.

The Lions thank Ray for his commitment, sharing that he spins a good yarn about his 43 years living in the Bass Valley.

John O'Keefe said Ray has seen a heap of changes and rolls with the technical advancements in his Garden Supply business.

"I'll be staying with the Lions, but there comes a time when it's time to part with a few items," said Ray.

"Now, it's time for a change as retirement is on the horizon, so Ray has decided to auction almost everything on his property. And what a collection," said John.

"From early model Holdens to workshop tools, Ray remembers the day he took delivery, to the time he updated to the latest model. Ray has amassed a mini museum of historical motoring, caravans and farm equipment."

• FAITH FACTOR

Remember to look up

By Pastor Jeff Robertson, Connections Church Inverloch & Foster, Australian Christian Churches

A LOT has been going on over the last couple of months. There's been Easter, school holidays, the election (who's glad that's over?!), Mother's Day, plus whatever else is going on in your world.

Many of those things seem really important at the time, and they do impact our lives in one way or another. But a few weeks later they can be easily forgotten as we move on to the next thing vying for our attention.

When we're in the midst of something, it can take a lot of our attention; but with hindsight, we might wonder why we got so stressed about it?

Sometimes it helps to take a step back and look up.

Have you ever been driving through somewhere new and focused so much on the road and where you're going that you miss the scenery? Or walking in a beautiful part of the world when you realise you've been staring down at your feet and missing the views?

There are plenty of things in life that need our attention. But many of them just aren't so significant when we look back a month later.

One time when Jesus helped to bring perspective was when Martha was stressed by household preparations while her sister Mary was sitting and listening to Jesus. He said, "Martha... you are worried and upset about many things... Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42).

What Martha was doing was important. But she also needed to step back for a moment, look up at the bigger picture, and realise that there were more important things going on.

Whatever is going on in your world, don't forget to step back, look up, and reset your perspective. And who better to look up to than Jesus – the One who has the ultimate perspective, and the wisdom to guide us through everything we face.



Wonthaggi Theatrical Group
proudly presents...



A lifelong love for theatre

FOR life and committee member Anthea Donohue, being part of Wonthaggi Theatrical Group is a much-loved family affair.

Being involved with the group since the 1980s, Anthea has loved being able to bond with all ages and see her children participate as well.

"You've got all ages, my son is in this year's show and my daughters have been in other years, it's a great family-community organisation," she said.

Anthea will be playing Marie Antoinette as part of the 'dance sisters'.

"I just love to dance and it's such a high standard of theatre we have here," she said.

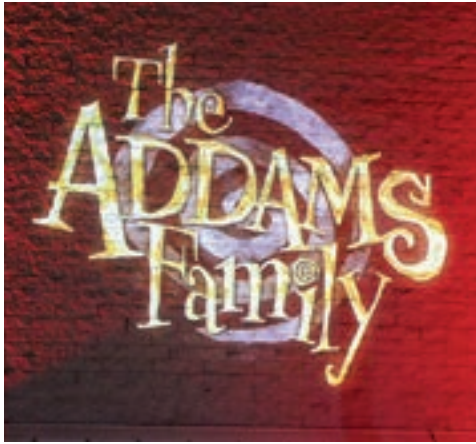


Photo: Trevor Foon



Jay's in the spotlight

JAY Nelson has taken on one of the top roles starring as 'Gomez' and is looking forward to the challenge.

"Arguably, it's one of the most involved roles in the show," he said.

"It's a role a lot with more sincerity and heart, everything about this character exudes love and passionate dedication to his wife and kids."

Having starred in almost a dozen musicals since first joining Wonthaggi Theatrical Group in 2012, it isn't his first time in the spotlight.

While he greatly enjoys being part of the group's community, he especially loves nurturing up-and-coming talents.

"For me, it's largely about community and connecting with people that you otherwise wouldn't get the chance to connect with, and helping one another to achieve something, especially working with some of the young kids, helping them teach them what they can do and what they can be capable of."

"That's something I'm quite passionate about."



Bec's ready to soar

PLAYING the role of an Addam's family ancestor, Bec Slavin is thrilled to be part of her first musical ever.

Bec will be part of the ensemble group, whose character is a flight attendant.

"We sort of 'run amok' where we can for a little bit," she shared.

Bec is looking forward to embracing the role and having fun with it, as this will be her first time performing with Wonthaggi Theatrical Group.

"This is my first one, I've never done a musical before," she said.

"My partner did one last year and I've always secretly wanted to do one and never really had the courage to do it."

"But then seeing how welcoming everyone was to my partner showed me it's ok to give it a go and I love The Addams Family!"



WONTHAGGI THEATRICAL GROUP PRESENTS

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to JUNE 8

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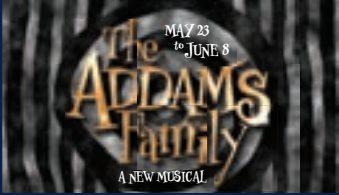
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The journey is all worth it

SID Mullens sure doesn't mind driving long distances, even if it means coming all the way from Northcote to be part of the show.

Despite living in Melbourne's inner suburbs, Sid makes the trip back for rehearsals and loves being part of the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group.

"It's such a family community, it's like a second family and I love it," she said.

Sid will play 'Alice' the mother of Lucas who marries Wednesday.

"Not to give away too much but she's a little kooky and the whole premise is Wednesday makes a big deal about only getting married to a normal boy when they're really not normal."

Sid has had various roles and parts with the group previously, with this being her biggest one so far.

She has a deep passion for theatre and acting, being part of drama classes all throughout high school and after graduating attending drama school.

Sid can't wait to perform with what she called an 'all-star' lineup.

"I'm very excited and proud of the whole show."



Wonthaggi Theatrical Group
proudly presents...



Behind-the-scenes action of the upcoming The Addams Family musical.

It's showtime in Wonthaggi

WITH an incredible record of delivering outstanding musicals, Linda Hamilton is back again choreographing this year's Addams Family.

She has previously choreographed 'Kinky Boots' for Leongatha Lyric Theatre and 'Dusty' and couldn't be more excited to be tasked with this year's production after being approached by the director, Raf Pyker.

"He's got such a vision; his aesthetic and the vibe, he sold it on me," she said.

"It's been really nice to work with Raf, he's really hands-on with everything.

"He's been really collaborative and being a first-time director, it's been really nice to mentor and support him as well."

The musical has been in the works for almost a year, with a mammoth task going on behind the scenes to get everything into place.

"You've got to get the team together, present it to the committee, get the rights, there's

lots of working parts to come together," she said.

Linda's role is to guide all the dance numbers and songs. "We always say with the director, they get a script. With the musical director, they get a score, but the choreographer gets nothing, so you really are going from the ground up.

"I like to try to have our own flavour. But working with Raf in that collaborative state he's really open to ideas but he's very passionate about the vision he wants to get through.

"And the cast are amazing; they couldn't have been any other character than what they are.

"So we've been so lucky to have talent that consistency comes back to the group."

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group can't wait to present The Addams Family and are busy preparing for their opening night this coming Friday.

Performance dates are from May 23 – June 8, be sure to book!

Win a family pass (four tickets) to see The Addams Family as they take to The Union Theatre, plus a centenary gift pack. To win, email your name and contact number to news@sgst.com.au, entries close Wednesday, May 21.

Don't want to wait, then secure your tickets for The Addams Family today.

Competition details: The winner of The Addams Family family pass and centenary gift pack will be drawn at random by the Sentinel-Times on May 22 and contacted by telephone and email. The winner's name will be published on social media. The tickets will be for use for shows from Friday, May 30, excluding sold out shows.

Should the winner be uncontactable by May 26 a new winner will be drawn at random.



Photo: Trevor Foon

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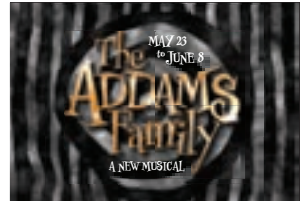
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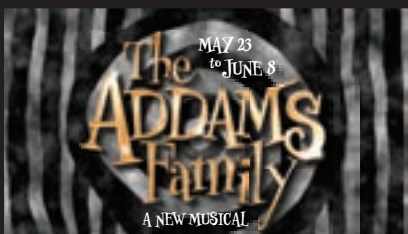
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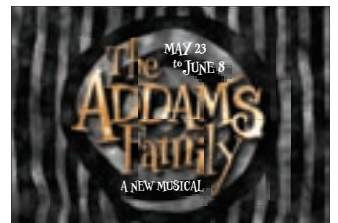
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A morning of stories for National Simultaneous Storytime

NATIONAL Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is a fun annual event where thousands of libraries, schools and early learning centres across Australia read the same picture book at the same time. It's all about celebrating the joy of books and reading with young children and will take place on Wednesday, May 21, from 10.30am until 11am.

This year's title is *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel. A lovely story about a curious cat who finds a new home in the back of a truck, and the adventures that follow as the truck travels through busy towns and quiet countryside.

Join in the fun at Inverloch Library, Wonthaggi Library and Waterline Community Library (Grantville).

Wonthaggi Library has invited Cr Jan Thompson as their reader. Inverloch Library will host Stephanie Hume, a member of the Inverloch Friends of the Library group, and Waterline Library has invited Kimberley Dunstan from Phillip Island Nature Parks to come along.



Join the musicians of Orchestra Victoria for a bold and moving program on June 14 for an Evening with Jacinta Parsons and Orchestra Victoria.

Bringing the power, passion, and poetry of music to Gippsland

PREPARE for an unforgettable evening on June 14 as Orchestra Victoria takes centre stage in Gippsland, offering a rich program that spans the full spectrum of human experience – from fate and chaos to joy, reflection, and nostalgia.

Guiding you through the performance with warmth and insight will be the vivacious and thoughtful Jacinta Parsons, beloved host of *The Friday Revue* and *Saturday Mornings* on ABC Radio Melbourne. Jacinta will share the stories and people behind the music.

The evening begins with the thunderous opening of Verdi's *Overture to The Force of*

Destiny – three explosive notes that push you back in your seat. Verdi weaves a restless, dramatic soundscape, each new theme bursting in before the last has a chance to settle. Soaring melodies, short pizzicato accompaniments and dramatic changes in character, from solemn to cheerful and jubilant. It's a brilliant, theatrical way to launch the night.

This tension and intensity finds its foil in *Release* by Australian composer Ella Macens. Written as a musical exhale, *Release* invites listeners to reconnect with themselves amid life's chaos. Macens describes it simply: "Release is about letting go".

Next comes the sultry, infectious rhythm of Arturo Márquez's *Danzón No. 2* – one of Mexico's most loved orchestral works. Beginning with a smouldering clarinet solo, the piece builds into a swirling celebration of culture and connection featuring solos for oboe, piano, violin, double bass, French horn, trumpet, flute and piccolo. It evokes smoky nightclubs, Old Hollywood film scenes, and bustling cities, all pulsing with the irresistible energy of dance.

Bringing the program to a poignant close is English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No. 5*, composed between

the World Wars. It's a moving, introspective journey filled with aching nostalgia, rising from a distant call to a deeply personal musical meditation – eventually returning to the quiet from which it came.

Under the baton of one of Australia's most dynamic young conductors, Carlo Antonioli, sit back and experience an hour and a half of evocative orchestral storytelling.

Don't miss your chance to experience Orchestra Victoria, live in Gippsland. To book your tickets head to orchestravictoria.com.au/performances/an-evening-with-jacinta-parsons-and-orchestra-victoria.

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An evening with
Jacinta Parsons and Orchestra Victoria



The vivacious and thoughtful **Jacinta Parsons** (host of *Friday Revue* and *Saturday Mornings* on ABC Radio Melbourne) will guide you through the music and introduce you to the people and stories behind the music you hear.

Orchestra Victoria are proud to be taking centre stage in Gippsland to help you experience the full spectrum of musical expression. Conducted by the dynamic **Carlo Antonioli**, don't miss an unforgettable evening of music making.



Gippsland Performing Arts Centre

Saturday 14 June 2025
6:00pm

Tickets: Adult \$39 / Concession \$29

New musical director brings passion and expertise

NATALIE Pollard was eight years old when she started playing the piano and 12 years old when she joined a brass band. Now decades on, she is the new Musical Director for the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

The now accomplished musician grew up on a farm outside Beaufort in the Wimmera.

Joining the Beaufort Municipal Band as a kid Natalie started playing the cornet, which she quickly grew bored of, and picked up the tenor horn, playing this for a few years before transitioning to a baritone horn.

Taking on the baritone horn gave Natalie the opportunity to play more challenging parts within the band.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to play in a brass band as a kid, and it's always instilled a sense of humility within my music journey. Knowing that I've come from the humble beginnings of a country brass band without the privilege of private schools and fancy music colleges to begin my music education in, but I still got a really high-quality music upbringing in a small country brass band."

This informal yet thorough education eventually led Natalie to audition for the Navy to play euphonium, while in her final years of Secondary College.

"I could have gone to university, but farming was really tough during that period, and my parents were struggling, the same as every other farmer in the district, and I didn't want to give them the added pressure of supporting me through uni," explained Natalie.

"So, joining the Navy was a really good way for me to become independent and successful as a professional musician, by getting paid right from the word go and not having to incur all the debt that you get from going to uni."

For the next 14 years, Natalie stayed with the Navy Band as a Euphonium and Trombone player, also performing on piano and percussion, as well as composing and arranging



Accomplished musician Natalie Pollard has a passion for country brass bands and seeks to strengthen the South Gippsland Shire Brass band as their new Musical Director.

music.

She has toured Australia and the Asia Pacific region, performing for royalty, heads of state, large audiences, and on national TV.

She then transferred to the reserves, doing a further twelve years there, where she was still classified as a musician, but undertook other roles outside of the Navy Band.

Natalie has continued to pursue music through community bands and education, is a senior instructor at the Wimmera Bands Group Music School and has experience conducting concert bands, brass bands, and string orchestras, but it's supporting country brass band communities where her passion burns bright.

"Over the last couple of decades, a lot of country brass bands have struggled, and it's always been an important thing for me to be able to give back to that community, whether it's up near Beaufort or down in Leongatha, to be able to help those bands rebuild and regain some of the strength that they had a couple of decades ago."

Alongside getting to know band members and forming relationships, this is what Natalie intends to do with the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

"My vision is for the band to essentially grow to full capacity, which, at the moment we're at about half capacity, or maybe a little better. They're a very strong core bunch, but

we essentially need more members to have a full ensemble.

"Whether that be through recruiting established players or recruiting juniors and developing them up to the point where they can join the senior band and also to improve the ability of the players that we already have."

Natalie has started offering free lessons prior to band meetings for any players who want one-on-one tuition.

"Watching their eyes light up when you teach them something new or explain something a little bit differently, which helps them understand the concept a bit better, to me, that, is just the most pleasurable thing about the job."

The vision to create a stronger unit to have capacity as an ensemble is also one which has an impact on the wider community.

"We're there to serve the community and to be a fulfilling place for members of the community to come to share their love of music and to get all the benefits that come with playing music, whether that be mental health benefits or a sense of belonging to a community organisation, or the mentorship that we can provide juniors, there are so many good reasons to be part of this community."

The South Gippsland Shire Brass Band would love to hear from anyone who can play a brass instrument or percussion or who would like to learn.

Dale Ryder to rock out in Inverloch

THE enigmatic Boom Crash Opera vocalist, Dale Ryder will be rocking out at the Inlet Hotel in Inverloch this June to help raise awareness for veteran suicide, homelessness and addiction.

The Young Veterans project is a cause close to Ryder's heart, as one of his best friends, Glen Coburn, an Inverloch local, is a veteran himself and a big part of the organisation.

The Young Veterans are a volunteer-run organisation started by veteran mates who recognised there was a gap between recent veterans and those of past conflicts, connecting comrades through various activities and events.

When Glen asked Ryder to perform locally, to help raise money and awareness for the cause, he didn't hesitate.

"Basically, when Glen explained things to me, I was like, you know, anybody that's willing to sacrifice their lives for us – for my freedom – I'm willing to give something, a little bit back," said Ryder.

"I just think that the vets' need all the support they can get and I'm willing to help."

Helping out and giving back has always been part of the lead singer's modus operandi, even during the peak of Boom Crash Opera's success.

"I used to be what's called, the patron of Challenge (supporting kids with cancer), back in the 80s."

"I like helping people when I can. It's not a stretch to help people when you can; and it was disheartening working with Challenge cancer, because they lost so many children that I personally met and got friendly with. It was kind of heartbreaking for me, but we raised quite a bit of awareness."

Boom Crash Opera burst on to the Australian music scene in 1984 and had a number of hits; and while Ryder has promised to deliver some of these at the Inverloch gig, he said they will also be playing a range of other covers of both old and new songs.

"It's basically sit there, sing along, if you can, otherwise, have a couple of drinks and have some fun."

Playing alongside the accomplished vocalist at this acoustic gig will be talented guitarist Tristan Ross.

"I love the man, because he's very talented, and he makes my work really easy."



Dale Ryder from Boom Crash Opera will be performing an acoustic gig with Tristan Ross on guitar at the Inlet Hotel, Inverloch on Sunday June 15.

I just use my personality. He does all the hard work, which is awesome," said Ryder.

In March this year, Boom Crash Opera also released their first new single in 28 years, Latest Hustle, which may also be played at the gig.

Ryder said the single was a bit of fun, and there's no pressure for the song to reach the charts, as they did in the eighties with their slew of hits, starting with debut and highest charting single Great Wall, followed by Hands Up In The Air, Onion Skin, Get Out Of The House and The Best Thing, to name just a few.

"We were touring and we thought why not? We'll give the tour something to hang on and we've been touring since then, and we're going to tour to the end of November," explained Ryder, who added the single may be the precursor to a new EP.

Having recently toured with the Models and with Roxette, Ryder will head to Bali for a well deserved rest and to take care of other business, before heading back in June to light up the stage at Inverloch.

"Just come on down, because it's going to be good fun and you're spending your money on a good cause," said Ryder.

Dale Ryder and Tristan Ross will be supported by Eric Collier, on Sunday June 15 at The Inlet Hotel, Inverloch, at 2.30pm, raising awareness for veteran suicide, homelessness and addiction. Entry is by donation at the door.

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

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Pat and Lee Caffery popped along to show their support for farmers recently. C16_1925



Former Breaker's player Bec Slavin and Eliza Lot at the Breaker's Pride Match on Friday evening. C02_2025



Stu Edden and Adrian Murphy were cheering on the Breakers from the sideline on Friday. C03_2025



Reece Plumbing's Geoff and Jay were cheering on their Breaker's work colleagues on Friday. C04_2025



Coral and Vicki were proud to be part of the LDNA's 60th anniversary.



Lee and Cheryl were looking forward to the evening.



Life members Yvonne Brown and Noreen Williams celebrate 60 years of the LDNA.



Luke and Narelle were proud to be part of the celebration.



Alex and Taliah were ready for the night ahead.

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the Bass Coast Breakers Pride Match, Leongatha & District Netball Association 60th anniversary and Wonthaggi Theatrical Group's Addams Family rehearsal.



Carla, Erin, Tanya, Dianne and Maddie enjoyed the night's celebration.



Jude will be playing 'Pugsley' while Lachlan is part of the ensemble crew.



Sid, Ronan and Andrew can't wait to star in the upcoming musical.



Life members of Wonthaggi Theatrical Group Alex and Ann.



Scott can't wait to play the role of 'Uncle Fester' for the upcoming Addams Family musical.



Danielle and Tamara made the most of the night.



The menu looked great according to Susie and Fay.



Rebecca, Julie and Jeff were all smiles.

Sentinel-Times

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Timeless charm meets modern comfort

STEP into timeless elegance with this beautiful cottage style family home located just a stone's throw from the shops and cafes, offering the perfect blend of character, space and modern comfort.

Boasting stunning 14-foot ceilings adorned with ceiling roses, tall skirting boards and a beautiful archway, this home immediately captivates with its sense of grandeur and timeless charm.

Upon entering, you are welcomed by a spacious and wide hallway before the versatile front room offers a spacious bedroom or second living area, complete with reverse-cycle air conditioning and a ceiling fan.

As you make your way down the hall you will find the further three bedrooms all with built in robes included and ceiling fans to two of the rooms before leading into the spacious open plan living, kitchen and dining area.

The well-appointed kitchen features an electric oven, gas stove, dishwasher and a large walk-in pantry, seamlessly connecting to the dining and living area, where a cosy wood heater and reverse-cycle air

conditioner ensure year-round comfort.

The renovated family bathroom exudes luxury with floor-to-ceiling tiles, a free-standing bath, a large double walk-in shower and a double vanity for everyday practicality.

Outdoor living is a dream, with a large undercover entertaining area fully enclosed by all-weather blinds, complemented by an outdoor bathroom with a toilet and shower for added convenience.

A separate bungalow/rumpus room sits just off the outdoor area, complete with a wood heater and ceiling fan, providing the perfect space for a teenage retreat, home office or guest accommodation.

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For Sale

26 Callaway Crescent, Leongatha

ENTERTAINERS PARADISE!

- Stunning views over neighbouring reserve
- Well appointed galley kitchen
- Outdoor entertaining deck
- 9m x 6m shed with concrete floor, power

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$690,000

For Sale

12 Allison Street, Leongatha

PRIME POSITION!

- Generous 924m² block
- Easy walk to Leongatha CBD
- Spacious living with reverse cycle A/C
- Single garage with storage/workshop

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$500,000 - \$520,000

For Sale

12B Bruce Street, Leongatha

PREMIUM TOWNHOUSE

- Low-maintenance luxury close to shops
- Light-filled open plan living
- Kitchen boasting premium finishes
- 4 bedrooms all with walk in robes

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$695,000

For Sale

945 Meenyan-Mirboo Nth Rd, Dumbalk

PRIVACY & SPACE IN DUMBALK VILLAGE!

- Flat 4.94 acre lifestyle property
- Central living with a lovely outlook
- Good sized shed/workshop & 'man cave'
- 2 main paddocks for horses or sheep

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$870,000

For Sale

38 Brumley Street, Leongatha

TIMELESS CHARM ON LARGE BLOCK!

- Close to schools and the main street
- On a generous 1,047m² approx block
- Updated t'hout, fully renovated kitchen
- 9m x 15m shed, power & laneway access

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$549,000



‘Bundaleer’

NATURE on your doorstep, beautiful birdlife, echidnas and the smell of eucalyptus, if this sounds appealing then come explore, ‘Bundaleer’ to discover this home amongst the trees.

Situated under 10 minutes from Leongatha, this four-bedroom home is set on 3.5 acres* of pristine native bush, lawn and garden.

The home and shedding cater for families or retirees wanting the space to create, explore, and enjoy peace and quiet, all with the added benefit of being close to town.

The north facing home is completely off the grid, with solar, batteries and backup diesel generator assuring you always have power, and at a minimal cost. The two-storey Coldon-built home features:

- Entering downstairs on the floor level, you find the open plan kitchen, dining and living room, one bedroom along with a bathroom and laundry.
- The kitchen has a Glem oven/cooktop (dual electric and gas), and dishwasher, with good storage space and soft close drawers.
- The living space enjoys the Nectre wood heater, complete with wetback, providing additional hot water heating in winter.
- The front entrance provides a beautiful outdoor entertaining area under the pergola, with its stunning ornamental grape that colours your world from the front of the home, sweeping out to the back!

- Upstairs on the top level, is a bright spacious living room, with views out to the treetops.
- Three further bedrooms, all with built-in robes and fans, opening out on the front north-facing deck.

- An upstairs bathroom, with additional extra spacious linen storage.

Externally, let's go explore:

- The shed: 18 metres x 9 metres providing room for cars, trucks and creative projects.
- An additional 4.5 metre x 9 metre lean-to provides additional storage space.
- 100,000-litre concrete tank water storage plus a smaller garden tank of 5000 litres.
- Solar panels (21) Batteries 12X2 volt, diesel generator for backup, solar hot water.
- Enclosed vegetable garden with raised beds, chicken house and yard.
- The pristine bush on the property has wide spacious tracks to explore, walk the dog, run and hide, along with plenty of firewood for your own use.

This much-loved property with its spacious, yet cosy home, the fantastic shed and the low maintenance acreage provides peace and quiet, low cost of living and all just minutes to Leongatha.

For further information and to arrange a personal inspection, please call Irene Walker at SEJ Real Estate 0429 045 632.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist

*denotes approximately



4 | 2 | 4 1.4ha

150 Reilly & Allens Rd, **Nerrena**
For Sale \$980,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
Irene Walker 0429 045 632



Your local
Real Estate &
Livestock Specialists
www.sej.com.au

ANDREA ADAMS
0429 822 801
aadams@sej.com.au

FOSTER
Ph 5682 2800



IRENE WALKER
0429 045 632
iwalker@sej.com.au

LEONGATHA
Ph 5662 4033



SANDY POINT



- Gentle rise, views to Shallow Inlet
- Open plan living out to a deck.
- 3 bed, central bath, separate w.c.
- Low maint, LU shed, & parking

\$750,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

TOORA



- A minute's walk to Main St café, on approx. 461m² fully fenced block
- Open plan living upstairs with wood heater and RC/AC, opens to deck
- Modern kitchen with dishwasher, under bench oven, and breakfast bar
- 2 BRs and gleaming bathroom upstairs, 3rd BR and 2nd bathroom below
- Easy care gardens, screened alfresco, carport with drive through access
- An ideal investment with current tenant in place until September

\$399,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

MARDAN



- Highly productive 52ha/130ac
- Absolute water security
- Springs, Toomeys Creek
- 14 paddocks, stock yards & sheds
- Lovely updated 2 bed cottage

\$1,640,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

LEONGATHA



- Family Home on spacious block
- 4 bed, 2 bath, 2 car
- Open plan plus separate lounge
- Big back yard with side access
- New carpet, ready to move on in!

\$649,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

FISH CREEK



- Set on a generous 1843m² approx. with easy access to everything in town
- Natural light and views over farmland to the hills beyond and fully fenced
- Open plan living, dining, and lounge with ducted RC/AC & wood heater
- Central modern, spacious kitchen with dishwasher, plenty of storage
- Five fitted BRs, master with ensuite and WIR. Family bathroom with spa
- Covered access to downstairs workshop, solar & mains power

\$885,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

RANCEBY



- 23ha/60 acres (approx.)
- Undulating hill country
- Ideal turnout block, close to town
- 5 paddocks, inc hay paddock
- Good quality steel yards

\$660,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

The Mountain View

ELDERS Rural Services Australia is pleased to present for sale 75 Hoy Road, Mountain View, a property displaying all the qualities the region has to offer, productive land, spectacular views and perfectly positioned at the end of a no-through road.

This 160 acre* property features a well presented north facing home with stunning views, the hilly to undulating land offers excellent water supply from dams and a water well, with convenient pad-dock access via a central laneway.

The residence has three bedrooms all with built-in-robos and the spacious bathroom includes a walk-in shower, large corner spa bath and vanity with separate toilet.

The kitchen offers plenty of storage and includes a large freestanding gas cooktop and electric stove, double sink and dishwasher. The dining room is off the kitchen and has sliding doors lead-ing out to the back decking where you can enjoy the magnificent views.

Comfort is guaranteed all year round with a fireplace in both living areas and ducted split system air conditioning into all rooms.

Working improvements includes barn with attached lean-to, calving shed, feed shed, horse shelter, quality cattle yards on concrete with vet crush and forcing yard.

There are 18 paddocks with troughs or dams in all paddocks and electric fencing. There is approximately 50 acres that can be used as hay paddocks. Water supply is guaranteed with 10 dams and a water well and approx. 100,00 litres of rainwater storage.

Ideally located 23 kilometres* south of Warragul, 23 kilometres* north of Ko-rumburra, 127 kilometres* south east of Melbourne CBD. For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487.

** Denotes approximately*

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist.

3 1 6 160* acres

75 Hoy Road, **Mountain View**
For Sale \$1.3 Million
Agent Elders
Ben Townsend 0400 594 487



Real Estate

Over 40 years' experience

eldersrealestate.com.au

Mardan4.74 Acres
Amazing Rural Views

- 2-bed, 2-bath home
- Open plan living
- Undercover entertaining area

Web ID: 300P134454**\$895,000**

Leongatha150m²
Appealing 2 Bedroom Unit

- 2 bed unit with BIR's

Dalyston518m²
Unit with Private Setting

- Modern kitchen with electric appliances

Korumburra - 2 Units

- 3-bed, 2 Bath
- Spacious backyard
- Newly built

BEN TOWNSEND
Licensed Estate Agent
0400 594 487

SHARON TURTON
Sales Consultant
0447 604 796

HELEN ARESTIA
Sales Support
03 5662 3523

NATALIE RES
Property Manager
0439 383 091

Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025 | 41

Dual residence on 2.5 acres bush setting



LOCATED in the beautiful hills of Boolarra, on a sealed road frontage, just minutes from the town centre, and central to Mirboo North and Latrobe Valley, this amazing property features a main three-bedroom residence plus a separate two-bedroom cottage on a private 2.5-acre allotment with an added 21.34 acre shared common property bush block.

The main home features:

- Three bedrooms, master with ensuite and walk-in robe (plus access to the deck)
- Main bathroom with toilet and shower over bath
- Large lounge with direct access to the outdoor entertaining area
- Large kitchen with walk-in pantry, gas cooktop and electric oven, dishwasher and loads of cupboard storage and bench space
- Reverse cycle split system plus cosy wood fire (plus ceiling fans)

The cottage includes:

- Two bedrooms
- Open plan lounge and kitchen (electric oven, gas cooktop plus dishwasher)
- Bathroom with shower, toilet and laundry
- Cosy wood fire, plus split system and ceiling fans

Other infrastructure includes:

- Lock up shed with workshop
- Carport
- Garden shed/pottery shed
- Four water tanks (approx. 120,000 lt)
- Various fruit trees and more

The property adjoins a 21.34-acre reserve of common property which includes walking tracks through beautiful native bushland full of native wildlife and a large, cleared area for the kids to play.

This lovely home and cottage are extremely well presented and sitting on the large under-cover deck area soaking up the tranquillity will instantly wind you down from the hustle and bustle of today's busy life.

This property would make a great permanent residence and will also suit a weekend retreat and a fantastic holiday rental accommodation (STCA).

5 | 3 | 5 2.5 acres

45 Bunderra Drive, **Boolarra**
For Sale \$890,000-\$910,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299



Own the historic red brick church

LOCATED in the very heart of Lang Lang's charming main street, this iconic red brick church offers a rare and exciting opportunity to own a piece of local history. Set on a spacious 689m² allotment and surrounded by the warmth of a close-knit community, this beautiful heritage property is rich in both character and potential.

Inside, you're greeted by classic high-pitched ceilings, ornate timberwork, and glorious stained-glass windows that bathe the interior in colourful, natural light. The building's solid construction and elegant proportions make it a stunning canvas for adaptive reuse. Whether you wish to revive it as a place of worship, convert it into a striking residence, or transform it into a unique commercial (STCA) or creative space – the choice is yours.

Just steps from Lang Lang Primary School and only metres to cafés, local shops, and the town's business hub, the property is ideally positioned for a variety of uses. The South Gippsland Highway is a quick three-minute drive away, allowing seamless access north to the M1 and south to coastal destinations including Phillip Island and Inverloch. Whether you're drawn to its location, architectural charm, or zoning flexibility, this property

ticks all the boxes for a wide range of visionary buyers.

Zoned Neighbourhood Residential Zone 1 (NRZ1) within the Shire of Cardinia, the property lends itself to numerous potential uses (STCA), including but not limited to:

- Bed and Breakfast or Private Dwelling
- Home-Based Business or Professional Office
- Medical Consulting Rooms or Allied Health
- Café, Convenience Store, or Boutique Retail
- Art Studio, Market, or Community Space

This sale includes part of 46 Westernport Road, Lang Lang. For full planning guidelines and zoning details, visit: cardinia.vic.gov.au.

With its unbeatable location, timeless architecture, and broad development potential, this beloved Lang Lang landmark is ready to be reimagined. Bring your creativity and vision – opportunities like this don't come along often.

Prior offers accepted.

NB. Please note the property is in a Neighbourhood Residential Zone – (NRZ1) and has potential for development to include additional bedrooms and bathrooms, subject to council approval.

Call Alex Scott & Staff Grantville on 5678 8433 to arrange your private inspection.



689m² – Zoned NRZ1

Lot 1/46 Westernport Road, **Lang Lang**
Auction Sat. May 31 at 10am
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Grantville office 5678 8433



MIRBOO  520 Clear Creek Road • Grazing property, multiple income potential • 231 ac approx. with beautiful homestead • 25 mins from VLE, 12min to Mirboo North Expressions of Interest Contact: Leongatha Office	KORUMBURRA NEW LISTING  3/37 Princes Street • 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhouse • Low maintenance • Great investment \$469,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	CORONET BAY PRICE REDUCED  5 Rue De La Pai • An artist's haven by the sea • 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom • Side access for a caravan or boat \$699,000 - \$725,000 Contact: Grantville Office	WONTHAGGI NEW PRICE  1/7 Baillieu Street • 2 bedroom • Close to town • Quiet position \$345,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
MIDDLE TARWIN  591 Buffalo Tarwin Lower Road • Country living on 5 ac in convenient location • 4 bed, 2 bath home with open plan living • Ample shedding for storage or business use \$990,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	KORUMBURRA NEW LISTING  1/4 Ruddville Avenue • Great investment • 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom • Fully Furnished \$430,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	CORINELLA  1 Hughes Street • Nothing but trees between you and the bay • 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom • Rare opportunity \$775,000 Contact: Grantville Office	WONTHAGGI  2/5 Cameron Street • Modern unit • 2 bedrooms • Close to hospital \$445,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
LEONGATHA  8 Silverback Place • Dual living design over two storeys • Walking distance to schools and main street • Exceptionally designed and maintained \$1,195,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	KORUMBURRA NEW LISTING  5/6 Ruddville Avenue • Modern 1 bedroom apartment • Fully furnished • Nothing to spend \$400,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	KOO WEE RUP  11 Townley Road • Modern living in prime location • 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, double garage \$725,000 Contact: Grantville Office	WONTHAGGI  2/4 Merrin Crescent • 3 bedrooms • 2 bath, 2 car • Modern unit \$479,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
POUND CREEK  61 Ti Tree Road • 202 ac grazing parcel in two titles • Central laneway, shedding, 22 paddocks • Convenient location, priced to sell \$8,990 per acre Contact: Leongatha Office	KORUMBURRA  23 Bridge Street • Grand period home • Prime corner location • 3 bedroom, 3 living \$675,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	LANG LANG  Lot 1/46 (Part Of) Westernport Rd • Lang Lang Church – A new chapter begins Auction - Sat, 31st May 2025 at 10am – If not sold prior Contact: Grantville Office	WONTHAGGI  4/26-28 Graham Street • 2 bedroom unit • Modern features • Close to shopping \$449,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA

5662 0922

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299

Tony Giles 0407 528 192

Dan Huther 0418 334 801

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

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

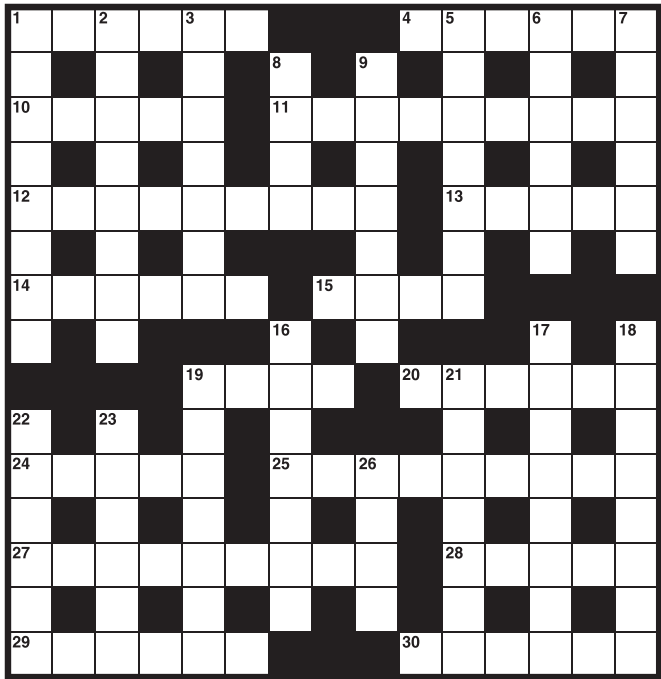
Phil Hanley 0417 140 508

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025 | 43

HM11682424

CROSSWORD

No. 281



- ACROSS
- 1 Daze; stupor (6)

4 A gathering (4-2)

10 Hinge (5)

11 Social exclusion (9)

12 A large group of instrumentalists (9)
- 13 Strong thread (5)

14 Spice; kick the ball between an opponent's legs (6)

15 Sole (4)

19 Formerly (4)

20 Movable shelter (6)

- 24 Stink (5)
- 25 Painting of the countryside (9)
- 27 Funeral or burial rites (9)
- 28 Barack – (5)
- 29 Burrow (6)
- 30 Land surrounded by water (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Tropical storms (8)

2 Recommend (8)

3 Reflective road marker (3'1, 3)

5 Precisely (7)

6 Inconsequential things (6)

7 Inflated (6)

8 Black deposit (4)

9 Struggles; filters (7)

16 Cheering (7)

17 Data about data (8)

18 Hot (2,6)

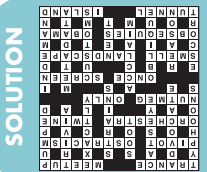
19 Slanting (7)

21 Traditions (7)

22 Accompany (6)

23 Logic (6)

26 Hatchling (4)

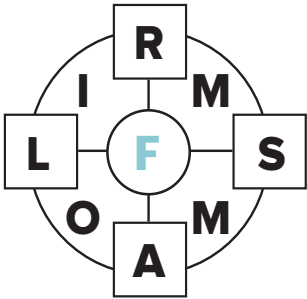


9-LETTER

No. 281

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:
- 13 words: Good
- 20 words: Very good
- 27 words: Excellent



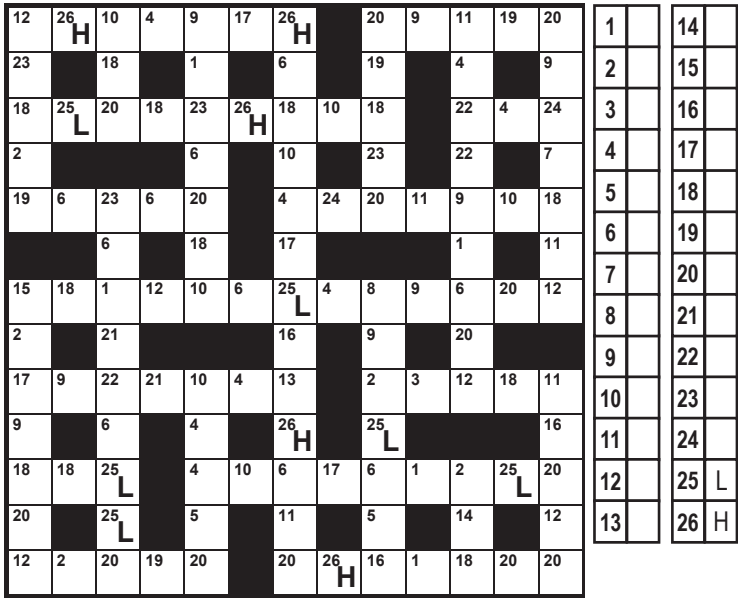
SOLUTION

loafs, sofa, forms, trail, from, loaf, formal, formalism, foams, foil, foils, form, foal, foals, foam, firm, firms, flair, flora, farms, fero, film, films, fail, fails, fair, farm,

CODEWORD

No. 271

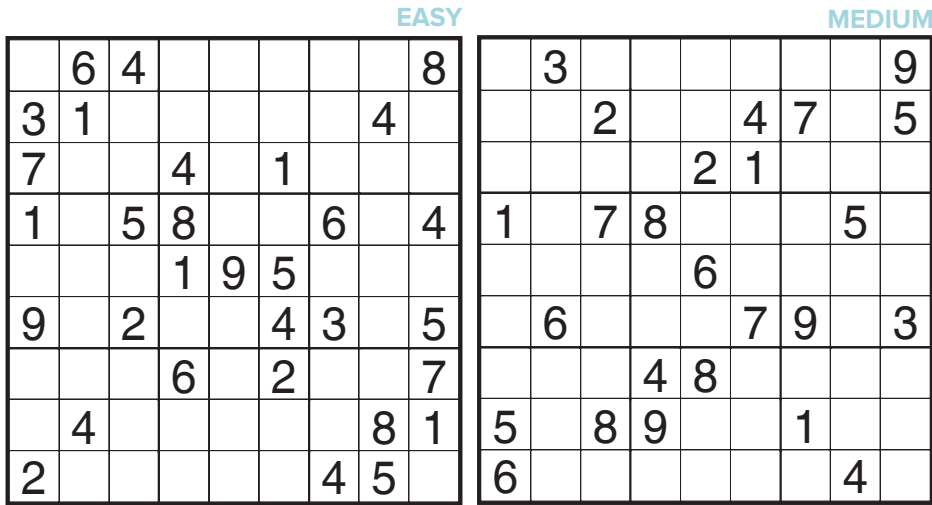
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

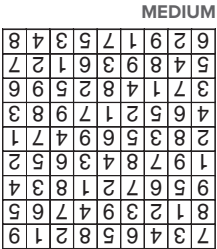
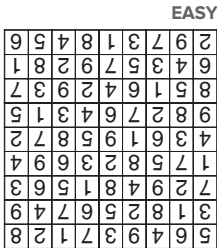
No. 280

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.



1605 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. Who wrote the novel *A Cuppa Tea And An Aspirin*?

2. The Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, UK, is home to which annual tournament?

3. In Norse mythology, what is the name for the world tree?

4. Elizabeth Barrett Browning was an English a) poet, b) singer or c) actress?

5. What does the phrase 'per contra' mean?

6. In what year did the division of Korea take place?
7. *The Jazz Singer* (1927) starring Al Jolson was the first of what kind of movie?

8. Which famous gem was extracted from the Kollur Mine in Guntur, India in the 17th century?

9. What is the name of the town in the Netflix TV series *Stranger Things*?

10. Karen Gillan (pictured) plays which character in the Marvel cinematic universe?



ANSWERS: 1. Helen Forrester 2. World professional snooker championships 3. Yggdrasil 4. a) poet 5. On the contrary 6. 1945 7. First talking picture 8. The Hope diamond 9. Hawkins 10. Nebula

WORD SEARCH

No. 191

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



- ASSIGNMENT
- BIOLOGY
- CALCULATOR
- CAMPUS
- CHALK
- CLASS
- COURSEWORK
- DIPLOMA
- DISSERTATION
- EXAM
- FACULTY
- GRADES
- GYM
- HISTORY
- LECTURE
- NOTEBOOK
- PENCIL
- PHYSICS
- QUIZ
- RECESS
- REPORT CARD
- RESEARCH
- SCHOLARSHIP
- SEMESTER
- SPORT
- STUDENT
- STUDY
- TERM
- THESIS
- TUTOR

SECRET MESSAGE: All school and no play makes Jack a dull boy



Milk challenges as opening prices near

By Andrew Palocz

WHILE an opening price above \$9 per kilo of milk solids is considered likely, many dairy farmers face the ongoing challenge presented by the sustained dry period.

Without nominating a specific figure, Krowera dairy farmer Andy Thomas expressed confidence the price will be up a bit on last year.

"The problem will be feeding and watering the cows," he said, noting the widespread lack of hay and water impacting farmers, 120 acres of his farm currently without water, being about a quarter of the property.

Some of the other dams supplying the cattle are running low.

"We're using it as an opportunity to clean our dams and look for next year rather than this year," Andy said, having had an excavator at work on that project for three weeks.

Current conditions are the driest he's seen for the middle of May.

"We've got to April and it's been like this, but not in the middle of May," Andy commented.

He observed that a fair bit of rain is needed to grow grass, and it is likely that by the time it arrives conditions will be too cold for that to happen.

The widespread lack of rain and associated impact on feed suggests it will be difficult for farmers to provide the overall amount of milk producers require.

With both dairy and beef farmers having to reduce herd sizes due to lack of feed and water, Andy forecasts there'll



Andy Thomas, pictured on his Krowera farm in greener times, is hopeful of an improved milk price but concerned about ongoing dry conditions. A11_2025

be insufficient numbers of cattle to meet needs when the feed and water situation improves.

Rabobank Senior Analyst in Dairy and Consumer Foods Michael Harvey believes average opening prices above \$9 per kilo of milk solids are increasingly likely.

"Our expectation is that minimum prices for new season milk, particularly in southern Australia, will be higher than what they probably finish this season," he said, noting he is

referring to the southern export pool of milk.

Michael attributes that sentiment to the fact commodity prices for the main manufactured products have rallied over the course of the last 12 months.

"On a US Dollar basis, they're certainly sitting a lot higher than what they were this time last year," he said, adding that the lower Aussie Dollar compared to then is a positive in terms of the appeal of our exports to overseas

markets.

Michael explained the need for caution, given not all Australian milk goes into commodities, with a big white milk market as well.

"But the confidence is there that you've got these higher returns to provide higher minimum prices and then it'll be a question around if the market conditions hold at current levels for a longer period of time into the new year when the milk production starts to flow and when sales of those products occur, then you've got some upside to come," he said.

While labelling likely higher farmgate prices as positive during the current dry conditions impacting many dairy farmers, Michael outlined the challenge for dairy companies in setting minimum prices.

"You're probably at the peak of the market in terms of where commodities are at and you've got to price in some downside risk that might come through over the next 12 months and allow for some correction in all that," he said, describing it as a "balancing act".

Bendigo Bank expressed a conservative view on opening prices in its dairy market update for May.

"Tight local supply, stabilising global prices and improving demand should see farmgate prices rise in the coming season; 2025/26 farmgate milk price offerings have every chance to reach \$9 per kilo of milk solids at some stage, but processors are likely to open cautiously with estimates around \$8.70-\$8.90kg MS," it states.

Autumn calving cows need plenty supplementary energy

By Dr Hannah Manning
Agriculture Victoria, Colac

AS AUTUMN calving continues, there are many areas of the state where calves are being born onto paddocks with little valuable feed available.

This means cows will be reliant on meeting their energy requirements from supplementary feed.

Lactating cows require a significant amount of energy to produce milk, therefore straw or hay alone will not provide adequate energy.

When animals have an energy deficit diet, they will lose condition and reduce their ability to lactate, which will affect calf growth.

If cows lose too much condition, it will also reduce their fertility and ability to get back in calf the following season.

A drop in condition can be hard to spot just by looking at your calving cows, which is why it's important to score your stock regularly.

The target condition score for autumn calving cows is ideally three, no lower than 2.5, and no lower than two at the start of mating.

It is far more expensive to put condition on stock than to maintain their weight, so getting supplementary feed right at the start will save money in the longer term.

Feed budgets are a highly informative management tool that can assist with decision making and can provide significant financial and animal health benefits by ensuring your cows are receiving an adequate diet for both quality and quantity.

Cows with suckling calves 1-4 months old will require an energy intake of 100 – 148 MJ ME/day or greater, and is dependent on the cow weight, with a crude protein of 10 per cent and a dry matter intake of 2-2.2 per cent of their body weight.

Hay quality can vary, and while it's a good fibre source it may not provide enough energy to support a lactating cow.

A feed test is crucial to knowing what value your hay offers.

Supplementation with a higher energy and protein source such as grain or pellets may be a good option.

For more information on feed budgets or animal health, visit the Feeding Livestock website.

If you are in an eligible area for drought support, please click here for more information on a one-on-one drought consultation.

For more information about drought and dry seasonal conditions support, head to agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186.

Strengthening action against invasive weeds and pests

THE state government is helping community groups protect their local environments, industries, and cultural heritage from biosecurity threats through another round of the Partnerships Against Pests grants program.

Minister for Agriculture, Ros Spence, announced the opening of round four of the \$5 million program on Wednesday, 14 May, which will help community led organisations build the skills and resources

to manage invasive species in their area.

Grants of \$10,000 up to \$50,000 are available for projects focused on managing established weeds and pest animals.

"The Partnerships Against Pests grants show how local communities can lead the way in tackling weeds and pest animals at a grassroots level," said Spence.

"Everyone has a role to play in protecting Victoria from

biosecurity threats, and this program continues to invest in community-driven solutions that deliver long-term benefits."

This new round of funding totalling \$637,000 will allow groups to develop and deliver community education programs and action for up to two years, and can include up to \$10,000 for capital items.

Capital items can include monitoring technology, and weed and pest management

equipment, such as monitoring cameras to track feral pigs, hoes to eradicate serrated tussock or bait laying equipment to manage rabbits.

Equipment for demonstration and education such as projector screens may also be eligible for funding.

Applications for this grant round will close on Friday, July 4.

For more information and a full list of previous recipients, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au.

MIXING THE DIET OF CHAMPIONS

Every change you make on the farm needs to pay back and a **KEENAN diet feeder** enables you to make the changes you want for consistency, improved herd health and yield.

NEW MECHFIBER+ RANGE



KEENAN
an Alltech company

Contact us today
Donal Blackwell 0408 377 304
Alltechlienert.com.au/keenan



Good season in some parts of Gippsland

IN CONTRAST to those in dry parts of Gippsland who are having to offload cattle, Willung beef farmer Melissa Ainsworth is enjoying such a favourable season she hung onto cattle for a month longer than she usually would.

Her two pens of steers fetched excellent prices at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, a testament to their excellent breeding and condition and quiet nature.

Healthy rainfall in January and February prompted the decision to put extra weight on the Angus steers before selling, her agent Michael Foote of Elders persuading her to do so despite her initial reluctance, advice she's glad she listened to.

"It's inspiring to see how much those cattle have put on weight in the last month that I've held them; I normally sell cattle at about 350 kilos," Melissa said, with one of her pens on Thursday containing 21 steers averaging 412 kilos.

That pen went for \$1760 a head at \$4.27 per kilo.

Her other pen of steers also contained 21 animals,



Melissa Ainsworth is pleased with the prices paid for her steers at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A10_2025

weighing an average of 365 kilos, with those cattle going for \$1600 a head at \$4.38 per kilo.

She is delighted with the prices, particularly given the tough season many are dealing with.

"I'm relieved because we've been in a little oasis where we live, and it's not until you drive around that you see how hard people are doing it," Melissa said, explaining she bought a bull in Mirboo

North a couple of months ago and was shocked to see how dry it was there.

She outlined why her cattle tend to appeal to repeat buyers and are renowned for being easy to manage.

"Good genetics, nutrition is a big factor, and I do a lot of handling, so I think having them not stressed is a big help," Melissa said.

"A lot of our repeat buyers buy them purely because of their temperament and

they're very good doers."

Having a horse background, Melissa said she has been breeding cattle for only 20 years, joking that still qualifies her as a beginner.

She and her husband run about 130 head, all Angus, on their 350 acres of which around 280 acres are suited to grazing, the rest being shelter belts and remnant vegetation.

The couple run Gippsland Natural Fertilisers, which ties in with their approach to farming.

"We're big on healthy pastures, no weeds, which is important when you've got limited acreage and you want to run maximum numbers," Melissa said.

While delighted with the prices paid for her steers, her agent prepared her not to have such high expectations for the 30 heifers awaiting sale on Thursday.

"I don't think people are thinking breeding, with the conditions," she said, adding "You win some, you lose some," a sentiment that describes farming perfectly.

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...



Another large store offering

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded another large yarding of just over 4000 head at Thursday's VLE Leongatha store sale in another mostly good offering with more plainer bred and Xbred and dairy types yarded.

With worsening conditions across the south of the country many producers have opted to continue to sell with another 20,000 store cattle offered this week between Yea, Leongatha, Mortlake and Ballarat again along with thousands of store types being sold in the fat markets everywhere.

For vendors it has been a saviour that the season is good in the north with thousands of light weight cattle heading over one and two borders along with the ongoing strong demand from feedlots buying the heavy ones as local competition remains limited until some rain falls and seasonal outlook improves.

The market remained about firm for a few outstanding pens offered but general eased 10 cents for the better Angus cattle and a little more for the coloured cattle.

Secondary, plainer lighter weights and dairy cross types not suitable for northern orders were discounted with prices easing 30 - 40 cents.

A few agents commented that it was a satisfactory result overall considering the seasonal conditions and all cattle found new homes.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, May 15, 2025

Steers			
Malanik Farm 13 Angus	596kg	\$3.77	\$2250
MG Harrison 14 Angus	523kg	\$3.82	\$2000
F & S Hedrick 18 Angus	518kg	\$3.66	\$1900
SJA AMC Holdings 27 Angus	518kg	\$3.52	\$1830
JA & RC Foat 10 Angus	513kg	\$3.58	\$1840
S Rand 11 Angus	508kg	\$3.77	\$1920
J & C Triantafyllou 11 Hereford	503kg	\$3.69	\$1860
Julie K Livestock 14 Angus	491kg	\$3.74	\$1840
JS Chambers 10 Angus	486kg	\$3.29	\$1600
H Pruy 14 Angus	470kg	\$3.40	\$1600
B & L Rayner 12 Angus	464kg	\$3.74	\$1740
JJ Lee 13 Angus	457kg	\$3.30	\$1510
Vuiller Shorthorns	448kg	\$3.43	\$1540
M & J Diston 16 Angus	445kg	\$4.01	\$1790
M & J Dyer 14 Char	442kg	\$3.12	\$1380
R & P Davis 13 Brangus	436kg	\$3.13	\$1370
Bayview Farm 14 Angus	427kg	\$3.79	\$1620
Mirawah P/L 17 Angus	426kg	\$3.80	\$1620
B & L Taylor 18 Angus	423kg	\$3.66	\$1550
J & A Benetti 12 Angus	420kg	\$3.80	\$1600
B Rinaldi 16 Angus	404kg	\$3.93	\$1590
DL Hollonds 15 Angus	378kg	\$3.78	\$1430
J & M Ainsworth 21 Angus	365kg	\$4.38	\$1600
Watermill Pastoral 21 Angus	365kg	\$4.16	\$1520
J Gibson 16 Speck	360kg	\$2.91	\$1050
Annzell Holdings 11 Angus	345kg	\$3.56	\$1230
S & E Girgis Nominees 21 Ang	344kg	\$4.15	\$1430
M Hughes 14 Angus	342kg	\$2.83	\$970
GS & J Tuckett 27 Angus	332kg	\$4.39	\$1460
S Barwick 12 Angus	330kg	\$3.63	\$1200
RB & KM Fleming 26 Angus	327kg	\$4.15	\$1360
P & G Wildes 10 Angus	320kg	\$3.37	\$1080
JCB & CM Penfold 14 Angus	314kg	\$3.81	\$1200
Ridgeline Ag 22 Angus	278kg	\$4.17	\$1160
A White & C Wilson 13 SQ Meat	278kg	\$2.65	\$740
Yellow Tail Ridge 12 Angus	274kg	\$2.60	\$720
DE & SR Ashdown 13 Angus	268kg	\$3.35	\$900
RL McPhie 18 Angus	267kg	\$3.88	\$1040
N Reeves Livestock 11 Angus	251kg	\$3.82	\$960
N Ireland 21 Angus	240kg	\$4.29	\$1030
Woodstock Properties 21 Ang	238kg	\$3.31	\$790
DC McGrath 20 Angus	236kg	\$3.37	\$800
McCooks Family Trust 26 Ang	235kg	\$4.00	\$940
C Jeffrey 24 Hereford	234kg	\$2.64	\$620
Allnutt Family Trust 23 Angus	233kg	\$3.21	\$750
BJ & NM Bannigan 18 Speck	230kg	\$3.04	\$700

Heifers			
J & C Triantafyllou 16 Hereford	451kg	\$3.52	\$1590
R Wight & Sons 12 Angus	441kg	\$3.53	\$1560
Annelenore P/L 16 Angus x	420kg	\$3.59	\$1510
H Pruy 17 Angus	414kg	\$3.37	\$1400
M & J Dyer 14 Char Heifers	400kg	\$2.82	\$1130
Monics Farm 10 Angus	375kg	\$3.09	\$1160
S & S Raso 12 Char	374kg	\$3.41	\$1280
DJ & SJ Mitchell 25 Angus	373kg	\$3.69	\$1380
GT Cummaudo 11 Char	355kg	\$3.23	\$1150
J & M Ainsworth 15 Angus	353kg	\$2.83	\$1000
D & D Blum 16 Angus	341kg	\$2.93	\$1000
Watermill Pastoral 17 Angus	325kg	\$3.28	\$1070
C Jeffrey 25 Hereford	321kg	\$2.98	\$960
GD Crawford 13 Angus	320kg	\$2.34	\$750
J & M Ainsworth 14 Angus	316kg	\$2.56	\$810
Argyle Farmstead 10 Angus	314kg	\$2.54	\$800
HH & DE Brown 18 Angus	313kg	\$2.55	\$800
Bergamin Past.Co 17 Hereford	305kg	\$2.48	\$760
J.E.S. Industries P/L 10 Angus	300kg	\$2.46	\$740

XBred & Friesians			
JJ Lee 14 Angus X	406kg	\$2.73	\$1110
SJA AMC Holdings 15 Friesian	530kg	\$2.07	\$1100

Drought conditions are hurting eastern Victorian farmers

DROUGHT conditions are impacting Gippsland with local farmers fearing the worst.

Speaking in state parliament, The Nationals' Melina Bath outlined the concerns of Bass Coast, West and South Gippsland primary producers.

"Paddocks are sparse, and with the scarcity of fodder statewide, farmers are anxious about their livestock and livelihoods.

"Water is critical as soil moisture declines and dams dry up.

"One Inverloch farmer spoke

of the pain of having to de-stock, leaving the farm with limited breeding cows and calves, which he relies on for annual income.

"Every day Labor fails to deliver drought assistance; farmers must make impossible decisions to keep livestock alive.

"Saleyards are receiving an oversupply of cattle, and prices are flagging.

"Meanwhile, the government is using water from the Wonthaggi desalination plant to supply gardens in Melbourne and Geelong, but our farmers

are high and dry.

"The cost of carting water is unsustainable, and some producers will walk away due to financial stress."

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) drought report identified that between February 2024 and April 2025, parts of Gippsland and Bass Coast recorded severe rainfall deficiency, with a pocket receiving the lowest on record.

Ms Bath said instead of providing drought support, the state government is ramming through its emergency services

tax, which will increase the burden on farmers by 189 per cent.

"During a cost-of-living crisis and drought conditions, it is unthinkable that Labor is further taxing farmers.

"Targeted assistance, such as subsidised fodder, feed and water supply, is needed, along with financial assistance and mental health counselling.

"If Labor fails to deliver timely support to our primary producers, it will further increase the cost of food on our supermarket shelves and hurt all Victorian families."



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Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
WARRAGUL		David Holden	0428 749 390
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	PAKENHAM	
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
		Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

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Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
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Thieves break in and steal copper stolen from a farm for a paltry sum

“WE’VE been here since 1947 and nothing is safe anymore.”

Brian Trotman is referring to the Leongatha South farm that has been in his family for nearly eighty years and was robbed last Thursday night, for the very first time.

Thieves entered the cow shed and disconnected the hot water service which was used for the sheds.

They then cut the entire tank open to remove every single piece of copper they could find.

Leaving a debris of insulation, and parts of the tank strewn around the shed, which Brian and his brother Tony, who lives on the farm, discovered on Friday morning.

“And then they’ve gone around the cow shed and cut pieces of copper off other bits and where it runs into the different rooms, and they’ve just hacked it off with bolt cutters and taken it,” explained Brian.

Thieves also took a heavy duty 30 metre extension cord that Brian would use for welding and a range of other activities, but it’s the sentimental value of the item, more than the replacement cost that irks Brian.

“They wouldn’t have made one of these for 50 years.”

“It’s more the sentimental thing, because of the simple reason that it’s so good, but also, my dad bought it, paid



Thieves cut open a hot water service on a farm in Leongatha South to remove all the copper, and Brian and Tony Trotman (pictured) want to warn people about it happening.

five pounds for it at a clearing sale in 1958. It’s been one of those things that we’ve used since 1958 extensively, and you just can’t buy one that heavy-duty or that good,” said Brian.

“And the other thing about it is that they’ll just strip it, and the small amount of value they’ll get out of stripping it and getting the copper wire out of it, compared to what use it is to people, it’s chalk and cheese.”

“Who would believe that they’d come in and take a bit of extension cord?”

According to local metal recyclers, depending on the purity of the copper, market conditions and worldwide demand, scrap copper can sell for between about \$6 to

\$11.80 per kilogram.

While insulated copper wire – like that from the extension cord - will fetch between \$0.80 and \$3.40 per kilogram. A typical domestic hot water system would have between 10 to 15 kilograms of copper in it, according to Heater Advisor, leaving the thieves to cash in the copper for anywhere between \$60 and \$180.

While it will cost Brian a few thousand dollars to replace the hot water system, piping and extension cord, he said he really just wants to warn other people that this is happening

“Maybe we all should get security cameras, which is a bloody shame,” added Brian.

Non-toxic weed control to boost crop production

A NON-TOXIC, environmentally friendly method of controlling weeds and pests in horticultural crops that has already proved successful in the United States and Europe will now be tested in Australia through a \$4.74 million project led by La Trobe University.

Supported by funding from Hort Innovation, with co-investment by La Trobe University and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Northern Territory, the five-year study will offer Australian growers sustainable alternatives to chemical-based approaches to weed management.

The project, led by Dr Ali Bajwa, Senior Lecturer in Weed Science and Agronomy in the Department of Ecological, Plant and Animal Sciences and the La Trobe Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and Food (LISAF), will investigate the usefulness of Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation (ASD) technology in Australia.

ASD involves the use of plant-based carbon sources, moisture and plastic soil coverings to create an oxygen-deprived – or anaerobic – environment that is hostile to weeds and soil-borne pathogens, causing them to die.

Once weeds are controlled, the soil microbiome can be returned to an optimal, oxygen-rich aerobic environment for growing crops, enhancing harvest quantity and quality.

ASD is in use in other countries but has not been trialled in Australia.

In the US, it has seen a significant reduction in weed and disease pressure in horticultural crops and is being widely adopted.

The study will draw on this experience through a collaboration with researchers from Clemson University in South Carolina.

The project will analyse the effectiveness of ASD on several target crops grown on plastic mulch such as strawberries, capsicums and melons in Victoria and the Northern Territory, and determine the most effective carbon sources, treatment durations and application timing for the Australian environment.

Dr Bajwa said ASD was a low-cost yet sustainable, eco-friendly way of controlling weeds and soil-borne pathogens that had the potential for farmers to reduce weed infestations without the use of damaging chemicals.

“Fumigation with nasty chemicals is the main approach for controlling

certain weeds and soil-borne pathogens in plasticulture-based horticulture crops in Australia at the moment,” Dr Bajwa said.

“As more of these damaging chemicals get banned for use in horticulture due to environmental safety concerns, we will need a reliable alternative weed control approach that is good for the environment and achieves circular economy benefits by putting farm byproducts to great use.

“Our project will investigate the use of a broad range of carbon sources, including biowaste products such as chicken manure, rice bran, sugarcane molasses and cottonseed meal to create the anaerobic conditions needed for effective weed seed destruction.”

LISAF Director Professor Tony Bacic said the University was delighted to be partnering with Hort Innovation Australia to introduce innovative new solutions to horticultural production systems.

“This program offers the opportunity to utilise sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions to weed control, as well as enhancing the profitability of growers by reducing input costs of production,” he said.



Brendan Fletcher of Agora Livestock noted a sharp drop in cow prices at Tuesday’s Prime Sale. A12_2025

Softer market conditions

TUESDAY’S Leongatha Prime Sale featured 3930 head of cattle, Brendan Fletcher of Agora Livestock describing it as “a cheaper market in places”.

“Quality declined, with finish lacking throughout and cows representing over half of the sale,” he said in his market report.

“The cow sale weakened as it ran to average 45 to 90 cents cheaper under the weight of numbers, processors loading cows for an estimated 335 to 527 cents a kilogram carcass weight.”

Prices lifted up to 20 cents for finished trade lots, while secondary types suited to feed and restockers slipped up to 40 cents, Brendan noted.

“Grown steers and bullocks sold firm, manufacturing steers eased 10 to 25 cents and finished heavy heifers sold firm,” he said.

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, May 12, 2025	
Jersey & Jersey x	\$10 to \$32
Friesian Bulls	\$32 to \$56
Beef Bulls	\$38 to \$325
Beef Heifers	\$32 to \$350
Friesian Heifers	\$32 to \$60
Number of Calves: 302	
Number purchased to rear: 50	

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GROWN STEERS

A/c Ivy Park, Buffalo (SEJ)
70 Angus steers, 20-22 mths, Pathfinder blood
A/c Woorra Park, (SEJ)
60 Angus steers, 18 mths, GF, ABF
A/c L & L Chown, Trida (SEJ)
50 Angus steers, 20-22 mths, East Gippsland Bred, GF & ABF
A/c P & A Van Kuyk, Foster (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus steers, 20-22 mths
A/c Kennington Park, Koonwarra (SEJ)
30 Angus steers, 14-15 mths, All Sired By Top Lawson Blood Bulls, VB, GF, ABF
A/c BJ Silvey, Foster (SEJ)
17 Hereford steers, 24 mths
10 Angus steers, 18 mths
A/c PJ & DM Fowles, Bena (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 20 mths
A/c D Jerram, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
6 Angus steers, 18 mths, Millah Murrah/Rennylea blood, EU & NE Accred, GF, ABF, VB, Fully Vacc, Drenched & Multi Min 3/5
A/c A & A Missen, Woodside (NUTRIEN)
6 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

WEANERS

A/c Dryburgh Ag, Neerim (SEJ)
100 Angus steers, Aug / Sept 24 drop, by Bowman Angus bulls, weaned, VB, GF, AF, drenched Cydectin Platinum
A/c J Giliam 'Ashdale' Dumbalk (SEJ)
'ANNUAL DRAFT'
80 Angus steers, 7-8 mths by Dunoon Stud Bulls, Drenched, vaccinated and weaned, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred, very quiet
A/c S Bare', Hallston (SEJ)
25 Angus steers, 11 mths
25 Angus heifers, 11 mths
2 X 5in1, Battersby blood
A/c M & S Hunt, Boisdale (NUTRIEN)
20 Hereford steers
20 Hereford heifers
12 mths, Newcomen blood
A/c Breeder, A Abrahams, Kilcunda (ES&B)
40 Angus steers, 8-9 mths, by top Banquet Bulls, Te Mania and Barwidgee blood cows
A/c D & S Burns, Ryanston (SEJ)
12 Angus steers
20 Angus heifers
10-11 mths, Millah Murrah blood lines
A/c P O'Mara, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
30 Hereford mixed sex, 10-12 mths
A/c MM & MB Lee, Bundalaguah (PHC)
16 Angus Steers 12 months
8 Hereford Steers 12 months
"Mawarra" Blood, Weaned,
A/c Armstrong & White, Johnsonville (NUTRIEN)
22 Angus weaners, Mawarra bloodlines, NE Accred
A/c J & F Glover, Lang Lang (SEJ)
11 Angus steers, 12-13 mths, By Wattlewood Angus Bulls

COWS & CALVES

A/c M & J Chatfield, Toora (PHC)
11 x 11 Poll Hereford heifers, 2.5 yo, 1st CAF.
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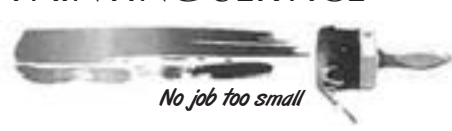
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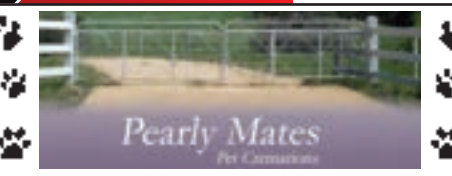
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DEATHS

BONGERS
(nee McDermott),
Marjorie Patricia
(Marg):

30.12.1936 - 16.05.2025.

Loved wife of Piet, and
the late Bruce Sinclair.

Loved mother of Patsy
(dec.), Marty and Julie,
Gary, Sam and
Jo-Anne, Heather
and Jim.

Loved “Granny Mac” of
3 granddaughters and
7 great grandchildren.

*Forever in
our Hearts.*

JOHNSTON

**(nee Bolding),
Gail Frances:**

Passed away
unexpectedly and
peacefully at home on
May 13, 2025.

Loved wife of Phillip.

Loving mum and
mother-in-law of
Nathan and Jacinta,
Adam and Heidi.

Adored nanna to
Patrick, Alex, Madi,
Louisa, Jake and
Samara.

Loved sister and
sister-in-law to Ron
and Helen.

Forever in our hearts.

For funeral details go
to [www.handleyand
andersonfunerals.
com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au)



MILLER, Alan:

Vale Alan Miller. The
members of Wonthaggi
RSL Sub-branch
extend our sincere
condolences to the
family of Alan on the
passing of our dear
committee member,
Veteran, friend, and
mentor Al.

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DEADLINE
12 NOON
MONDAYS

DEATHS

SUCKLING
(nee Priestley),
Gwenda Joyce:

15.09.1938 - 15.05.2025.

Loved wife of John
(dec.).

Loving mother of John,
Kerry, Julie, Wayne,
Michelle, Colin, Peter
and Stephen.

Nan to all her
grandchildren and
great grandchildren.

*Forever in
our hearts.*

TAYLOR,
John Lewis:

18.07.1936 - 08.05.2025.

Dearly loved
husband of June.

Adored dad of Colin
and Janet, Jenny and
Peter and Tricia
and Alex.

Cherished pop of
Adam and Brea, Ben
and Jessie, Cameron
and Renee, Ryan,
Lachlan, Ainsley and
Chris, Jared and
Melissa, Ellen and Tim
and Callum and
Annalisa.

Treasured ‘Poppy Jack’
of Jack, Nolan, Riley,
Lance, Charlotte,
Hazel, Angus, Celeste,
Audrey, Hattie
and Alfie.

*Celebrating a
life well lived.*

FUNERALS

BONGERS:
A Memorial Service to
Celebrate the Life of
Mrs. Marjorie Patricia
(Marg) Bongers will be
held at the Uniting
Church, Ridgway,
Mirboo North, on
Monday, May 26, 2025,
commencing 2pm.



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LEONGATHA &
WONTHAGGI

CUTTRISS:
A Memorial Service to
Celebrate the Life of
Kevin Michael (Kev)
Cuttriss will be held at
The Dalyston Football
Netball Club Rooms,
20 Tulloch Street,
Dalyston on Saturday,
May 24, 2025,
commencing at 11am.
For live-streaming go
to [www.handleyand
andersonfunerals.
com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au)

FUNERALS

SUCKLING:
An Informal Gathering
for Mrs. Gwenda Joyce
Suckling will be held at
the Graveside,
Wonthaggi Cemetery
on Thursday, May 22,
2025, commencing
at 11am.



TAYLOR:
A Celebration of the
Life of Mr. John Lewis
Taylor was held at St
John’s Anglican
Church, Raglan Street
Port Albert at 1pm on
Friday, May 16, 2025,
followed by burial in
the Yarram Cemetery.



IN MEMORIAM

**FERRIER,
Violet May:**
Passed 24.05.1982.
Love and memories
forever.

Son John and
grandson Peter.
R.I.P.

BEREAVEMENT
THANKS

HAMILTON, Bob:
Sue and family would
like to thank everyone
for their love, support,
cards and flowers on
Bob’s passing.

Thank you to Rose
Lodge staff and
Doctors for their
kindness and care they
provided Bob.

Special thanks to
Scott, Sharon and staff
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Bob’s wonderful
send off.

We are all very
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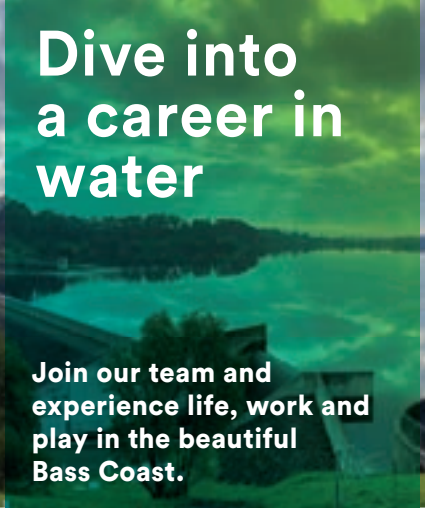
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For a Position Description go to southcoastfm.au/jobs.

Applications to manager@southcoastfm.au,
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JAC2008

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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



Winter Stocks

By Meg Viney

Chicken stock

THIS is a repeat, because I have learned that many readers still buy chicken stock. So expensive and very inferior, so I am repeating this in the hope that you can give this a really good try

If you have a slow cooker, so much the better. The stock is cooked for about 24 hours by which time the flavour is wonderful, and the stock has a natural gelatine in it (great for thickening cold soups).

Ingredients:

- 500gm chicken thighs
- 2 carrots, chopped roughly
- 2 ½ litres of water
- 1 tsp salt

Method:

Place all ingredients in the slow cooker, cover and put on high for an hour, then onto low and cook for 24 hours.

Strain the stock, and remove the thighs to a bowl to cool, then remove the meat, discard the bones and treat your dog or cat to the meat. They adore it!

The stock can be frozen in smaller portions or use the lot to make minestrone soup (previously published).

Beef Stock

A bit more complicated than chicken stock, but if you have ever had really good French onion soup, you will be willing to have a go.

Ingredients:

- 750gm meaty beef bones/oxtail/ossobuco
- 2 onions, cut into 6 segments
- 1 carrot, chopped into chunks
- 2 sticks celery
- 2 sprigs each parsley and thyme
- 2 bay leaves (optional)
- A dozen peppercorns
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- 2 ½ litres water

Method:

In a baking pan, spread the beef bones, onions and carrot.

Drizzle with a little olive oil and brown in a 220 oven for 30 minutes. It will be brown.

Transfer to a stock pot and deglaze the baking pan with water, scraping up all the brown bits.

Add 2 ½ litres water, celery, herbs, peppercorns and salt.

Bring to the boil, then turn the heat to very low, cover and cook for 24 hours (may be done in slow cooker).

When cool, strain off the stock and discard the solids.

This may be frozen.

French onion soup next week.

Photo: KamranAydinov on Freepik.



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View Clubs seek support for Winter Appeal

INVERLOCH and Wonthaggi View Clubs are urging the local community to give generously to The Smith Family's Winter Appeal this year, to support thousands of children and young people experiencing disadvantage with their education.

It comes as The Smith Family's latest Community Attitudes Survey (CAS) of the Australian public shows four out of five respondents (83 per cent) believe that tackling childhood poverty should be a top national priority.

The Smith Family's CEO Doug Taylor says, "Poverty shouldn't limit a child's potential", which is why the charity is launching its Winter Appeal. The Appeal aims to raise almost \$8 million by the end of June 2025 to support students experiencing disadvantage by providing access to proven out-of-school educational programs.

"The results of our Community Attitudes Survey show Australians recognise poverty has an impact on a child's education," Mr Taylor says. However, what many people don't see are the hidden impacts of disadvantage and the incredible emotional, social and academic toll that can have on students during and after their schooling.

"But the right educational support at the right time through The Smith Family's evidence-based programs can make all the difference to those students and give them the tools and resources to fulfil their potential.

"By donating to the Winter Appeal, Australians can help young people most in need by giving them access to extra learning tools, so they can get the most out of their education and create better futures for themselves."

The Smith Family's student2student is a one-on-one program that brings an older and younger student together to read once a week.

Learning clubs are a free, after-school-hours support program that offers tutoring and helps students with homework and assignments.

VIEW is also the largest community sponsor of students on The Smith Family's Learning for Life program, with Inverloch Club supporting 10 students and Wonthaggi supporting six students throughout its fundraising activities.



Crews worked together to extricate and treat a patient from a gas leak in the mine.

Wonthaggi emergency services practice mine rescue

EMERGENCY services from Wonthaggi headed to Wonthaggi State Coal Mine on Tuesday, May 13 for a multi-agency training session. Coordinated by the Parks Victoria team Wonthaggi SES, CFA, Bass Coast Ambulance Victoria paramedics and Bass Coast Shire MERO turned out for the gas leak patients needing extrication scenario alongside State Coal Mine volunteers.



Korumburra Secondary College debutante ball. Top, from left, Archer Curtis, William Dowell, Jack Fincher, Chase De Grandi, Toby Zuidema, James Barry, Fraser Shaw, Jules Bennett, Jayson Kirkbride, Thomas Walker, Owen Maskell. Third row, Billy Wilson, Zachary Shearer, Clayton Quaife, Xavier Nicholls, Ruby Hussey, Bree Reid, Molly Boulter, Mikayla Dundas, Bryce Broadmore, Gavin Monson, Thomas Geary, William Asmus. Second row, Shane Gray (dance teacher), Ruby Jobling, Lily Jacobs, Erica Begg, Georgia Kyle, Layla Cecil, Amber Chapman Wright, Natalie Churchill, Maia Whiteside, Lily Hanily, Chloe Fildes, Naomi Pether, Heather Powell (Dance Teacher). Front row, Jessica Lynch, Emma Gardiner, Frankie Fowles (flower girl), Dr Lynn Huguenin (special guest), Dr Phil Huguenin (special guest), Sheree Duran (special guest), Roger Kyle (page boy), Isabel McNaughton, and Nyah Gilliatte.

Korumburra Secondary College 42nd Debutante Ball

ON SATURDAY night the Korumburra Secondary College Community Engagement Group were proud to hold the 42nd annual Debutante Ball at the Korumburra Recreation Centre, it was a fabulous evening which saw 19 couples presented to Dr Phil Huguenin, Dr Lynn Huguenin and Sherre Duran, all local medical professionals who

have represented our wonderful nurses and doctors in our community.

Our debutantes and partners danced nine wonderfully choreographed dances and should be proud of themselves for nailing it on the night. We had some much needed rain in the evening but the sound on the roof of the Rec Centre was welcomed by all that attended.

The basketball stadium was again transformed into a beautiful space where nearly 400 locals enjoyed the event and watched the kids elegantly entertain the crowd for three hours, creating lifelong memories for all.

The special person dance is always a highlight, from mums, dads, grandparents, and special persons all

getting the chance to dance with our debutantes to an acoustic version of Sweet Child of Mine was a beautiful moment and everyone did so well despite there being 78 people on the crowded dance floor.

If you are interested in participating in the Korumburra Debutante Ball in 2026, please contact Sam Norrey on 0407 051 221 to secure your place.

~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

LAST Wednesday, Milpara hosted a fabulous afternoon tea to celebrate Neighbourhood House Week and allow our volunteers, members and staff to share their love of the Milpara Community.

We had participants from Singing, Mahjong, Bookclub, Games and Giggles, Men's Shed and the Hospital Community Gardens, as well as people new to town, all chatting over cuppas and cake in the foyer of our home, the Korumburra Community Hub.

If you are interested in joining in some of our many activities, please check out

our Term Program online at milparacommunityhouse.org.au or pick one up at the Milpara Community House Office.

"Living at Home for Longer" Our health needs change as we age, but one thing stays the same: our desire to remain living in our own home. Milpara will be hosting a free information session, delivered by Latrobe Community Health Service on Thursday, May 29, 11.30am – 12.30pm.

You can hear service experts explain how you can access government funding to help you continue living in your

own home – well into your senior years. Tailored for those aged 65 years and older. The seminar also provides advice on navigating the 'My Aged Care' system. The seminar covers eligibility, Available programs, and costs. Our Customer Service officer will endeavour to answer your questions and assist if required to help you access these programs.

If you would like to attend this Living at Home for Longer seminar, please let us know. We are taking bookings for this information session now.

Laura Corbert from Latrobe

Community Health Service will also be available at Milpara Community House one day each month to personally guide you through the My Aged Care registration process. Making it easier than ever to get the help you need, when you need it. The first session will be Tuesday, June 10, 10am to 2pm.

Bookings are essential. Phone Milpara on 5655 2524.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

THE current housing market has left a lot of people – particularly those under 40 – thinking they'll never be able to afford their own home. What if we told you this might not be true?

This Wednesday, May 21, BCAL will be presenting a financial literacy session in partnership with the Bass Coast Community Foundation. Called Centsible, the presentation will cover many areas of financial literacy including budgeting, banking, and how to buy a house!

We all deal with day-to-day expenses but increasing your financial literacy can help

increase your security, no matter what your income level may be.

And because it's all about making your money work harder for you, the session is free! What have you got to lose?

■ WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

New garden members have been busy planting cool season vegies and herbs. They have chosen broccoli, garlic, lettuce, coriander and Asian greens.

It's a welcome sight for regular volunteers to see plots coming to life after a long dry spell over late summer and

early autumn.

The Bass Coast Children's Centre's garden is also flourishing, with a lovely show of mixed lettuces and flowers coming on.

Volunteers extend a warm welcome to Connecting 2 Australia's gardeners, and Tuk. And say a fond farewell to Joan, who inspired the gardeners with her very productive plot over more than five years.

■ WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

The Woodies' reference library, mentioned a few weeks

ago, is now completed.

New shelves have been installed, the books have been arranged, and they are all being put into a computerised catalogue.

The publications provide an invaluable resource for woodworking techniques, and also ideas for members looking to try something new and different.



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

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE CLUB

TEAMS Championship results – May 16 at Inverloch Angling Club:

The Johnston team comprising Debbie Anglim, Clive Hope and John French came home with a wet sail from third place after week one to win the event with 148 points.

The Stiles, Loughran, Martin and Sands team on 141 were second.

Third place, on 140 points the Sund, Gibson, Rowlands and Currier team.

Many thanks to the two directors Mary Brewis and Neville Chapman who ensured the competition's smooth running over the two-week event.

May 13 at Wonthaggi RSL: Nationwide Pairs' Event.

First: Mike Dooley and Bronwyn Sund 60.94 per cent average board score. Second: Ruth Harvey and Susan Edwards 56.48. Third: Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 54.69. Fourth: Nev and Philip Chapman 53.65. Fourth: Kathy Dowd and Anne Somerville 51.04.

LEONGATHA SMALL BORE RIFLE CLUB

2025: 50m Bench Pennant - Section A:
Round 1: FPTRC A 745.41 defeated Leongatha A 745.037. David Garrett: 250.12. Kenneth Hart: 249.15 Christopher Sargent: 246.10. Jack Sargent: 244.09.

Round 2: Leongatha A 746.37 defeated Albury A 736.32. David Garrett: 249.13. Christopher Sargent: 249.12. Jack Sargent: 248.12. Kenneth Hart: 238.05

Round 3: Leongatha A 745.38 defeated Ballarat East 1 738.32. David Garrett: 249.18. Christopher Sargent: 249.12. Kenneth Hart: 247.08. Jack Sargent: 245.10.

Round 4: Leongatha A 747.45 defeated Benalla 742.33. Kenneth Hart: 250.11. David Garrett: 249.16. Christopher Sargent: 248.18. Jack Sargent: 248.17.

Round 5: Leongatha A 748.38 defeated Kyabram A 735.29. Jack Sargent: 250.12. Christopher Sargent: 249.14. David Garrett: 249.12. Kenneth Hart: 245.13.

Ladder: FPTRC A 20, Leongatha A 16, Benalla 12, Ballarat East 1 8, Albury A 4 and Kyabram A 0.

2025: 50m Bench Pennant - Section D:
Round 1: Leongatha B 727.36 defeated FPTRC C 721.20. Bradley Hall: 247.15. Peter Gallus: 247.13. Allan Ross: 233.08. William Ross: 231.01. Cameron Davidson: x216.03.

Round 2: Wangaratta 2 730.23 defeated Leongatha B 726.23. Bradley Hall: 246.08. Peter Gallus: 245.09. William Ross: 235.06. Allan Ross: 231.06. Cameron Davidson: x223.05.

Round 3: Sale B 733.35 defeated Leongatha B 722.22. Bradley Hall: 247.09. Peter Gallus: 244.08. William Ross: 231.05. Allan Ross: 204.01. Cameron Davidson: x224.01.

Round 4: Leongatha B 735.25 defeated Kyabram B 718.18. Bradley Hall: 248.11. Peter Gallus: 248.08. William Ross: 239.06. Allan Ross: 230.03.

Round 5: Leongatha B 730.31 defeated Numurkah B 642.10. Peter Gallus: 249.15. Bradley Hall: 246.10. William Ross: 235.06. Allan Ross: 229.05.

Ladder: FTTRC C 16, Leongatha B 12, Sale B 12, Wangaratta 2 12, Kyabram B 8 and Numurkah B 0.

The club shoots on Friday nights at 8pm at the rifle club on the Leongatha Recreation Reserve. Any inquiries, please call R. Spratt 5664 2358.



Group photo of under 15/17s boys with principal Tony Corr and Steve Scott.

Newhaven College shines in Schools MTB Series

NEWHAVEN College Mountain Bike Team made a powerful statement at the opening round of the 2025 Aus-Cycling Victorian Schools XC MTB Series, with an impressive 40 student competitors representing the school at the Dromana College-hosted event.

Riders ranging from Prep to Year 10 made the journey from the Bass Coast to compete in the cross-country mountain biking event under sunny skies and ideal conditions. The large contingent from Newhaven included a strong mix of returning athletes and enthusiastic first-time competitors, all cheered on by a supportive crowd of family,

friends, and coaches.

Among the standout performances was Hamish Dakers-Hock, who made a strong return to racing with a third-place podium finish in the Under 17 Boys category. His determination, race experience, and physical fitness were on full display.

Also continuing her strong form was Lucy Thompson, securing first place in the Under 15 Girls Novice. Known affectionately within the team as "Miss Consistent", Lucy once again proved her dominance on the course and continues to be a positive role model for younger riders.

Evelyn McCabe gave a gutsy performance to

earn third place in the Under 13 Girls Novice, while Eden Bennett, racing for the first time, took a commanding first place in the Under 11 Girls Novice – a fantastic result that highlights the depth of talent emerging from Newhaven's junior female riders.

Additional commendable performances included Will Walker, who narrowly missed the podium with fourth place in the Under 11 Boys Novice, and Maxen Mills, who also placed fourth in the Under 15 Boys Novice category.

The next round of the series will take place at Lysterfield Mountain Bike Park on Sunday, June 22, 2025.



Graeme Burgan (2nd Over 60/70 Men, State Overall 2nd); Sian Adnam (1st Over 60/70 Women, State Overall 1st); Jacquie Chambers (1st Over 50 Women, State Overall 1st); Natalie Van Der Heyden (3rd Over 40 Women); Ebony Maier (3rd Open Women, State Overall 2nd). Photo: Andrew Lidsey @bunpix.

PIBC Longboard State Titles

THE Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) Longboard crew delivered an outstanding performance at the Surfing Victoria Longboard State Titles, held over the weekend of Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18 on the west coast at Point Impossible.

Competing in sizeable and contestable surf, the

team brought home an impressive five division trophies and secured four podium finishes in the overall state rankings.

Congratulations to all the competitors who made the journey, and a special shout-out to team mascot Earl!

Results:
Open Women: 3rd –

Ebony Maier. State Overall: 2nd

Over 40 Women: 3rd – Natalie Van Der Heyden

Over 50 Women: 1st – Jacquie Chambers. State Overall: 1st

Over 60/70 Men: 2nd – Graeme Burgan. State Overall: 2nd

Over 60/70 Women: 1st – Sian Adnam. State Overall: 1st



Winner of the John Stewart Memorial Singles Championship David Healey with runner-up David "Scotch" Kennedy.

Veteran Healey holds off young guns in classic darts final

A PACKED house and a vibrant atmosphere set the stage on Monday evening as 28 top players competed in the highly prestigious John Stewart Memorial Singles Championship.

The annual 501 best-of-three knockout tournament has become a significant event on the league's calendar, and this year's edition exceeded expectations.

Exhibiting pride, precision, and passion, the night featured nail-biting finishes, outstanding performances, and an impressive three 180s.

The audience erupted when Will Kennedy, one of the league's most promising talents, secured the night's first 180. Subsequently, the seasoned player Dave Healey achieved two maximums in later rounds, demonstrating that experience and skill continue to dominate at the oche.

In a dramatic final, it was Healey who emerged triumphant, narrowly defeating "Scotch" Kennedy in a closely contested match.

The encounter was a thrilling conclusion to an evening that showcased everything from comeback victories to high-checkout drama.

"Every player gave their utmost effort, but Dave found an additional level when it mattered most," league enthusiast Tony Fallon said.

"It was darts at its finest."
The evening not only celebrated darts but also emphasised community spirit.

Congratulations are extended to Shannon and Grummo, who won the popular San Remo Butchers meat tray, maintaining their reputation as a formidable duo.

The league expresses sincere gratitude to its generous 2025 sponsors San Remo Butchers, Woolworths, Boutique Tails, Creative Blinds and Awnings, Garth Lisle Property Consultants, and Bendigo Bank, whose continued support enables events like this to occur.

Bridge pairs battle it out

THIS week saw the second round of the Club Pairs Championship, won by Anne Gibson and Anne Ferrari on 60.19 per cent. Eleven pairs competed.

Second place went to first round winners Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour on 55.83 per cent.

The third and final round is next Monday, May 19. On Wednesday, the Nationwide Pairs duplicate bridge session saw Marnie Myall and Albert Thomas as local club winners with 63 per cent.

Twelve pairs attended the day, and runners-up were Diane Coleman and Moya Crowley with 60.67 per cent.

Anyone interested in joining the club can contact Caroline on 0418 369 557.

No experience necessary – the club runs lessons, supervised, and duplicate games.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM
PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks,
Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape
Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45,
Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY May 20
▲ 4.19am 1.42m
▼ 10.07am 0.46m
▲ 5.18pm 1.62m
▼ 10.48pm 0.79m

WEDNESDAY May 21
▲ 5.02am 1.40m
▼ 10.45am 0.51m
▲ 5.59pm 1.57m
▼ 11.28pm 0.76m

THURSDAY May 22
▲ 5.55am 1.38m
▼ 11.30am 0.59m
▲ 6.43pm 1.53m

FRIDAY May 23
▼ 12.14am 0.72m
▲ 7.00am 1.37m
▼ 12.24pm 0.69m
▲ 7.31pm 1.49m

SATURDAY May 24
▼ 1.09am 0.65m
▲ 8.19am 1.41m
▼ 1.28pm 0.80m
▲ 8.26pm 1.47m

SUNDAY May 25
▼ 2.13am 0.57m
▲ 9.41am 1.50m
▼ 2.41pm 0.90m
▲ 9.24pm 1.46m

MONDAY May 26
▼ 3.21am 0.47m
▲ 10.54am 1.61m
▼ 4.00pm 0.95m
▲ 10.25pm 1.48m

Email us your
fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au



The winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group this week were Derek Fenn (2), Robyn Coulson (3), Enid Johnston (L) and Vern Elliott (S).



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's runner-ups were Andrea Levey (L), Laurie Bell (3), Rob Jeffrey (S) and Pauline McWilliams (2).



Carol Thorn and Natalie Bright were the winners on Green 1 after Inverloch Bowling Club's night bowls.



Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls' Tuesday winners were Ed Henry, Pat Smith and Allan Ireland.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners were Rod Beech, Ray Saunders and John Hill.



Wendy Pownall (3), Mark Hanrahan (S), Lou Capsalis (L) and Chris Coulson (2) were the best one game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group.



Rob Dowling, Mal Marshall (skip), Joyce Arnold and Darryl Floyd were the social bowls winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



The night bowls winners on Green 2 were Keith Cousens and Arthur Moule at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



Judy Sweetnam, Jenny Bakker and Lia Smith enjoyed a win at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Friday.



Marj Ford, John Stewart and Linda Newman won at Breakaway Bowls on Monday.

BREAKAWAY

ANOTHER wonderful day of bowling was had by the dedicated members. The winners were Marj Ford, John Stewart and Linda Newman. They combined to win with a respectable score of +15 – well done. There was no Breakaway Bowls on Friday.

FOSTER

WINTER can be very quiet at the club. The club only has it's once a month Triples, but members are planning to keep the club more active over winter by utilising the great facilities.

Are you looking for something to do on a Wednesday night? The club is looking at running Carpet Bowls, and will be holding a 'Come and Try Carpet Bowls' session to put the feelers out. The first night is Wednesday, May 28 with a 7pm start. Turn up or phone names in to the club by 6.30pm – phone 5682 2061. For further information, give Bev a call on 0408 369 298.

INVERLOCH

A FULL moon supplemented the lights for the Tuesday night bowls this week with the weather conditions crisp and clear. At the end of an enjoyable evening on the greens, the club had four, two game winners on each green. On Green 1, the ultimate winners were Carol Thorn and Natalie Bright whilst on Green 2, Keith Cousens and Arthur Moule took home the prize money.

With two weeks to go in the competition, the club is looking at a tight finish for the top honours in both sections. Thursday social bowls saw 35 bowlers bowl in fantastic weather. Five fours and five triples played for honours. The hard luck story was the team of Reg Varty, Di Selby, John Cook and Sue Floyd. Runners-up were Bill Selby (skip), Steve Snelling, Paul Davis and Ross Henderson.

The only two game winners for the day were Mal Marshall (skip), Joyce Arnold, Rob Dowling and Darryl Floyd. The annual Bowl Over Cancer Day is scheduled for Thursday, June 12. Please put your name down on the list in the clubroom.

MIDWEEK

RAIN greeted the group as the bowlers turned up to Lang Lang on Thursday to once again fight it out for the team of the week. They were welcomed to the club by Pauline, Bev and Vern as Peter arranged to teams. It is always a pleasure to turn up and play at any and all of the Thursday events.

A big thank you to Peter, Pauline, John as well as Bev and Vern for all the time and effort they put into the game each week. The group could not have these great Thursdays without all the help from the wonderful volunteers. Once the teams were prepared and the player draws were completed, the bowlers took to the green. The rain had stopped, never to return for the rest of the day. There was some excellent bowling by some excellent bowlers, with a few wild shots from time to time. There weren't too many wrong-bias bowls, but donations are still being added to the Royal

Children's Hospital tin. A fair amount of friendly banter, as well as a lot of laughter, could be heard across the green, which makes the day so much fun for all. It was fantastic to see such happy bowlers on such a great day. The winners on a superb score of 39 were Derek Fenn (2), Robyn Coulson (3), Enid Johnston (L) and Vern Elliott (S).

Runners-up on a score of 37 this week were Andrea Levey (L), Laurie Bell (3), Rob Jeffrey (S) and Pauline McWilliams (2). Best one game winners on a score of 19 were Wendy Pownall (3), Mark Hanrahan (S), Lou Capsalis (L) and Chris Coulson (2). Next week, the bowlers will be playing at Corinella Bowls Club. Please be on time as the numbers are getting very close to a full house and if you are in after the books are full then you may have to miss out.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another good week at the club. Last Monday evening, the club held its annual general meeting. A very good number of members were there to see all positions filled. One of the highlights of the night was the presentation of the Rex Rees Memorial Shield – Club Person of the Year. This year, the award went to Trevor and Karen Teer. The night was a success, followed by a lovely supper. Wednesday saw a perfect day for bowls to greet 40 bowlers. Teams of three and four were the order of the day over two games of 10 ends.

There were three teams that were two-game winners, with the team of Kathy Heaphy, Rod Vawdon, Frank Cimino and John Duscher being the unlucky team. The runners up were Charlie Wright, Lyn Tagell and Norm Evans with a score of two wins and 33 points. The winners were a team of three – Rod Beech, Ray Saunders and John Hill – with a score of two wins and 35 points.

Saturday started with six teams of triples. During the second game, the weather gods decided that enough was enough. The cards were fanned to decide the winners after the raffle. Friday night went off well with Roger Lee winning \$100 in the member's draw. Shirley, Steve and Dennis were happy meat tray winners. Bowls this week: Wednesday: Social bowls at 12.30pm. Friday: Coaching at 10am. Saturday: Social bowls at 12.30pm. Don't forget the Friday night members' draw plus the meat tray raffles at 6pm.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT WAS another enjoyable week of bowling with a total of 40 people enjoying one another's company. Tuesday's winners with a plus 15 were Pat Smith, Ed Henry and Allan Ireland. Runners-up on plus eight, winning one game only, were Teresa Ireland, Lia Smith and Robert McLaren. Friday saw two teams winning two games each. The winners on plus 18 were Judy Sweetnam, Jenny Bakker and Lia Smith – well done, girls. Runners-up on plus seven were Sylvia Mattock, Betty Huitema and Robert McLaren.



Winners of the Nancy Sperling 4BBB Par event Trish Owen and Janet Monk with Nancy Sperling at the Leongatha Golf Club.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, May 13. Stableford: 35 players. A Grade: Chris McConnell (19) 34 points. B Grade: Mick Bull (29) 42 points. Thursday, May 15: Stableford: 19 players. A Grade: Rob Gallagher (10) 34 points. B Grade: David Enbom (17) 35 points. NTPs: first Greg Wilson, seventh Rob Gallagher, 10th Chris McConnell and 13th Iain Riddell. Saturday, May 17: Sponsor: men's captain. Par: 35 players. A Grade: Iain Riddell (13) +2 B Grade: Brae Byrne (24) +1 NTPs: first Ian Morris, seventh Iain Riddell and 13th Neil Spargo.

Ladies

THE club enjoyed the fine weather with the women playing a Stableford game last Wednesday. Congratulations to all players. The club welcomed its newest member Leanne Thomson into the winners' circle. A Grade's winner was Johanna van den Heiligenberg (11) with 33 points. Runner up was Deb Wrigley (23) with 29 points on a c/b. B Grade's winner for the first time was Leanne Thomson (39) with 32 points on a c/b from Lorraine Knox (39). BDTL went to Karen Sorrell 31 points, Kerri Besley and Kim Enbom 29 points, and Lyn Leppin 28 points. NTP on the 10th green was Julie Brannaghan and on the 13th Leanne Thomson. On Friday, the club had seven women represented at the South Gippsland District Singles Championships at Meeniyan and it congratulated the Meeniyan women on winning all grades on the day. Well done to Korumburra girls Merrissa and Kerri for winning a BDTL. The club was also lucky to bring home some lovely raffle prizes. On Saturday, the club had a handful of women play the Stableford game in cold conditions. Well done to Aliesha Wrigley (20), winning with 27 points. Aliesha also had a nearest the pin on the first to win the Kelly's Bakery Voucher.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, May 13: Stableford. Tuesday's event was a Stableford event with 66 members/guests taking to the course. Overall winner: Adrian Smith (25) with a high score of the day of 41 points. A Grade winner: Josh de Groot (10) with a score of 38 points. A Grade runner-up: Jeremy de Silva (7) with a score of 37 points on a countback. B Grade winner: Patrick Mitchell (13) with a score of 37 points. B Grade runner-up: Colin Bear (14) with a score of 32 points on a

countback.

C Grade winner: Adrian Smith (25) with a score of 41 points. C Grade runner-up: Geoffrey McDonald (19) with a score of 34 points on a countback. NTP fifth second shot: Michael Thomas. NTP 14th: Geoffrey McDonald. NTP 16th: Kevin Michael. Thursday, May 15: Gentsomes Multiplier Event. Thursday's event was a Gentsomes Multiplier event with a field of 82 members/guests. Overall winners: 1. Matthew Pearce and Craig Scanlan from the Trafalgar Golf Club with a high score of the day of 93 points. 2. John Ryan and Josh de Groot with a score of 74 points. NTP fifth second shot: Dean Kellett. NTP 14th: Dean Kellett. NTP 16th: Peter Read. Saturday, May 17: Stableford. Saturday was a Stableford round with a field of 74 members/guests taking to the course. Overall winner: Rebecca Thomas (7) with a high score of the day of 38 points. A Grade winner: Rebecca Thomas (7) with a score of 38 points. A Grade runner-up: Alan Starkey (10) with a score of 35. B Grade winner: Gordon Morrison (13) with a score of 36 points. B Grade runner-up: Kent Hams (18) with a score of 35 points. C Grade winner: Antony Roberts (25) with a score of 34 points. C Grade runner-up: John Belli (20) with a score of 33 points. NTP fifth second shot: Simeon Foster. NTP 14th: Philip Edwards at 1.00m. NTP 16th: Derek Jury at 2.00m.

Ladies

THIRTY-EIGHT women enjoyed the continuing good weather to compete in the Nancy Sperling 4BBB Par. Nancy has been a member at Leongatha for more than 60 years and was awarded a life membership in 2015. She has sponsored this board event since 1990 when the format was slightly different, a knockout played over several weeks. Long time friends of Nancy, Dot Stubbs and Wendy Brown are continuing the sponsorship of this valued event. All the members were delighted that Nancy was well enough to attend the presentations this year. Captain Janet Monk and Trish Owen combined well to finish with +7. Shirley Welsford, winner of the event last year, with a new partner, Di Williams, were runners up with +5. This was on a count back from Glenyce McRobert and Joc Howson. New member Fran Kearney and Jill Steer won a ball down the line with +4. Nearest the pin on the 16th was Janet Monk, and second shot on the fifth went to Nan Meagher.



Winners of the qualifying round of the Doris Chambers statewide event were Geraldine Prentice and Yvonne Everitt, pictured with runners-up Simone Lindsay and Layla Robertson, at the Wonthaggi Golf Club.

MEENIYAN

THE May Medal sponsored by Tanya Thorson was won by Sue Hoskin with 71 net. Pam Erving was the runner-up with 74. Down the line balls went to Susan Straw 76 and Dot Christie 77. Dot won the putting with 26. Wednesday, May 14, was a 4BBB aggregate draw after play event sponsored by Louise Vuillermin. The winners on the day were Susan Straw 30 points and Sue Hoskin 29 with a total of 59. The runners-up were Jan Trease and Louise Vuillermin with 53 points. Friday, May 16, saw Meeniyan host the district Women's Championship, played in perfect conditions with the course looking fantastic. Congratulations to the District Champion for the 16th time Dot Christie. Dot also took out the A Grade net score. The B grade scratch champion plus net winner was Veronica Park and the C Grade scratch champion plus net winner was Sue Hoskin. Thank you to all the volunteers who work tirelessly in presenting the course in top shape. On Sunday, May 18, the club held its windup of the Championships and Pennant season. The format was a nine-hole two-person Mixed Ambrose with a twist, and that was you could only have four clubs each. The two captains Susan Straw and Mat VanBoven came out the winners.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, May 13: Stableford. A Grade: N. Whichello, (15) 33 points. B Grade: K. Wilburn, (31) 39 points. DTL: R. Hoskin 34, C. James 30 and D. Woodall 32. NTP: fourth M. Payne, sixth M. Tethington and 16th D. Woodall. Saturday, May 17: Stableford, round two Playoff Captain Trophy. A Grade: R. Scurlock (9) 37 points. B Grade: N. Whichello (15) 41 points. C Grade: L. McGaughey (36) 45 points. DTL: J. Robbins 38, and D. Woodall. R. Clark, S. Woodall and N. Bickerton 36. NTP: fourth B. Bradshaw, sixth N. Bickerton, 13th P. Draper and 16th D. Woodall. Birdies: fourth N. Whichello and S. Woodall, sixth S. Woodall and N. Bickerton, and 16th J. Woodall. J. Hughes defeated Tim Traill 6/4; R. Scurlock defeated P. Smart 2/1. Captain Trophy final: J. Hughes vs R. Scurlock.



Meeniyan's winners at the South Gippsland Golf Women's Singles Championship were Veronica Park (B Grade Scratch and Handicap), Dot Christie (South Gippsland Singles Championship and A Grade Handicap) and Sue Hoskin (C Grade Scratch and Handicap).

SG WOMEN'S SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

IT WAS a fine autumn morning at Meeniyan Golf Club last Friday for the running of the South Gippsland Women's Singles Championship. The course presentation was excellent, and the autumn tones were stunning in the morning dew. Not only was the Meeniyan course in fine form, so too were the Meeniyan women – the day evolved to be a 'purple patch' for the club. It would have to be a first, that all six events in the Singles Championship, were won by the one club. A Meeniyan Club Champion for many years, Dot Christie, won the South Gippsland Women's Singles Championship with a score of 85. Dot also won the A Grade handicap event with 85/11/74. She shared that her inaugural outing with her new 'wheels' – her golfing cart nicknamed 'Eric' after the previous owner – was now a very memorable one. Dot has won the Singles Championship sixteen times – a magnificent effort. The B Grade event, with 96 off the stick, was won by Veronica Park. Veronica also claimed the B Grade handicap event with 96/21/77. She was apparently unrattled by the fact that her playing partner was inadvertently locked in the on-course toilet until help arrived. The winner of the C Grade scratch event was Sue Hoskin finishing with 104. Sue had 33 Stableford points to win the C Grade handicap event. Sue came back from a serious car accident in September last year and so a wonderful achievement for her effort and perseverance. Balls down the line went to 82 net – Kylie Collins (Foster), Ada Anglin (Phillip Island), Irene Holm (Meeniyan), Bronwyn Debenham (Leongatha), Merrissa Cosson (Korumburra), Elly Berryman (Woorayl), Andrea Thorson (Meeniyan), Bec Thomas (Leongatha), Marg Johnson (Wonthaggi) and Kerri Besley (Korumburra). The nearest the pins were won by Kylie Collins (Foster) on the second, Merrissa Cosson (Korumburra) on the eighth, Jo McNaughton (Leongatha) on the 11th, and Dot Christie (Meeniyan) on the 14th. The South Gippsland Golf match committee would like to thank women's captain Susan Straw for her superb organisation in running this event with the support of her club members and Meeniyan Golf Club for its friendly hospitality and delightful lunch.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: May 15, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Stephen Kane 41. Runner up: Philip McCrimmon 37. BDTL to 35: Dale Burgess 36, Rod McBride 36, Andrew Hooton-Shandley 35 and Keith Ridout 35. Results: May 15, SR. 36. Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18. Winner: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 19. BDTL to 15: Secondo Tiziani 18, Ken Cuman 17 and Peter Magnussen 15. Results: May 17, S.R 71. Competition: 4BBB round two Ken Chisholm. Overall winners – Scratch: Michael Scott and Daniel Crellin 133 strokes. Overall winners – Par: Mat Johnson and Rohan Todd +14. Round two winners: Mat Johnson and Rohan Todd +9. Round two runner-up: Messy Chand and Manny Sahayam +7. Ball sweep: Stephen Judd and Grant MacKenzie +7, Secondo Tiziani and Mark Tiziani +7, Michael Scott and Daniel Crellin +6, Glen Turner and Stephen Kane +6, and Shaun Stirton and Ross Lovett +5. NTPs: Michael Scott second, Kevin Jamieson fourth, Michael Scott propin eighth, Mat Johnson 13th, and Doug Putt money hole 17th.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was the qualifying round of the Doris Chambers statewide event. This sees the winning pair eligible to play in the State Title Final in October. There were 16 pairs for Foursomes Stableford and several pairs returned great scores ignoring the "difficulty" of this format. The winning pair were Yvonne Everitt (19) and Geraldine Prentice (21) with a great 36 points. Runners-up by one shot were Layla Robertson (28) and Simone Lindsay (27) with 35 points. BDL went to Dawn Judkins and Bev Sloan 34, Irene Walsh and Carole Sartori 33, Marg Johnson and Merryn Dear 32, and Patsy Britt and Betty Bowmar 32. NTP claimed on second by Dawn Judkins and eighth Betty Bowmar.

WOORAYL

WEDNESDAY'S event was the first round of the Perrett Family Board Event. The game was Foursomes, sponsored by Leongatha Optometrist. Sixteen ladies played, enjoying the beautiful sunny day. The winners were Tracey Ryan and Ann Poole 75. Runners up were Linda Forrester and Sherrill Winkler 75.5. BDL: Kath Davis and Carol Johnson 77, and Anne Grist and Inge Giliam 78.



Sandra, Julia and Linda sing and dance in the rain.

Singing in the rain on the Grand Ridge trail

“IT MIGHT have been raining but we still enjoyed our parkrun Saturday” declared the Grand Ridge parkrun’s creative photographer Val Smith.

She captured the joy and fun of event #243 on May 17.

The rain started coming down early on Saturday morning, but that didn’t deter 35 people from gathering at the picnic table for their weekly parkrun event.

Five people visited for the first time, and hopefully not the last.

If you are into Facebook, be sure to check out the Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun page to see Val’s great video edit.

As always, the efforts of the volunteers were greatly appreciated, including Audrey Valentine who helped with the finishing tokens for the first time and the rest of the crew being Robert Gray, Julia Groves, Leon McDonald, Carmel and Steve Quirk, Marissa Shields, Val Smith and Linda Zhang.

Everyone is encouraged to join the runners next Saturday, rain, hail or shine, at 7.45am for an 8am start.

Double Fish fend off Radak at Wonthaggi Table Tennis

DOUBLE Fish defeated Radak three to two.

After Stiga’s Justin’s shock loss last week, Double Fish were aware that Justin’s usual fire and brimstone was going to be a level up.

When Justin, before the first point, crouched low, tugged his shorts and laser beamed a hard gaze across the net, Double Fish were doubly aware.

However Double Fish, prevailed due to a very tense doubles encounter that was one or two edges from flipping the result.

Butterfly defeated Nittaku three to two. With only two rounds to go before the finals kick off, Butterfly has emerged as a strong contender.

David and Warren’s trajectory is onward and upward, proving to be a formidable force in the doubles.

It’s great to see Andy stepping up as a fill-in for Nittaku and notching up a very creditable singles win.

Radak defeated Stiga three to two.

After a traumatic loss to Nittaku last week, Radak has been restored to title favouritism after a solid win over the boho brothers, Stiga.

Radak’s Mark D is back in for the father of Charley, Andrew D.

If anyone has seen Charley’s father in the last seven days, please call 1800 OMG-WhatJustHappened?

A Grade ladder: Radak 24, Butterfly 24, Double Fish 20, Donic 16, Stiga 8 and Nittaku 4.

Leading players: Justin 15, David 13, and Braden and Dirk 10.

Thursday night – B Grade: Smash defeated Edge three to two; Serve defeated Ball three to two.

Ladder: Serve 25, Bat 20, Ball 18, Smash 12 and Edge 4.

Leading players: 11 Trish, 10 Jay and Yeti, and 9 Shane.

LDCA Women’s Masters Cricket

OUR lady Lyrebirds travelled to Endeavour Hills to take on Eastern Dragons for a great match-up between first and second on the ladder in round two of the Women’s Masters Winter Competition.

Captain Jackie Newman (Inverloch) won the toss and elected to bat, it was openers Newman and Megan Krause (Wonthaggi) who got the Lyrebirds off to a patient start as they do best.

Krause fell victim to a low delivery in the fifth over and Newman was dismissed bowled in the ninth over.

Liza Burrows (Inverloch) tried her best to score freely but the Dragons bowling was tight, and Burrows’ wicket eventually fell to a catch at square leg with the team score at 2/26.

Kate Williams (Phillip Island) entered the game and showed her steady hand to become a mainstay with the bat.

Elyse Fisher (Kilcunda-Bass) and Jess McDonald (Inverloch) were not long after dismissed via catches but enter Nicole Creaser who batted beautifully and nudged the ball into gaps and ran hard.

In a game where boundaries were hard to come by due to damp conditions, Creaser and Williams steadied for the Lyrebirds until Williams was dismissed caught and bowled.

Tarryn Boden (Koonwarra L/RSL) was next in and tried her best but was soon dismissed as was Katrina Slidders (Inverloch).

Amy McRobert (Inverloch) entered the crease and supported Creaser well, both batters retiring after 35 overs with the team score at 8/94, batter in waiting Jan Hodgson (Kilcunda-Bass).

Lyrebirds turn to bowl and it was openers Williams and McDonald who did the damage ripping through the opening batters early and leaving the home team reeling at 3/5 after three overs.

Williams with two wickets in her first over and McDonald with a wicket in her first over, thanks to a great caught and bowled to Williams, and two catches to Creaser behind the stumps.

The tight bowling continued with Burrows and Krause in at the first change and they continued the wicket-taking each claiming one.

The Lyrebirds bowled and fielded tightly but the experience of the Dragons showed through as they steadied through the lower order to send the game down to the wire.

Catches to Burrows and Fisher at short mid-wicket and square leg were a highlight.

In pursuit of the Lyrebirds set score it all came down to the last over, thanks to excellent run outs by Newman and Fisher, the Lyrebirds needing one wicket and the Dragons needing a single run it was opener Williams with the ball in her hand.

Unfortunately, the result didn’t go the way of the Lyrebirds with the Dragons securing their last run to win the game two balls into the over, but it was a fantastic game of skill and grit by the Lyrebirds girls, never giving up until the end.

Wicketkeeper Nicole Creaser was awarded Player of the Match for 25 not out with the bat, and three catches and two assisted run outs behind the stumps.

The next match is in August against Willow Grove.



Player of the Match was Lyrebirds wicketkeeper Nicole Creaser.

Results LDCA Women’s Masters Cricket (Round 2)

- Nicole Creaser 25*
- Kate Williams 11
- Amy McRobert 8*
- Megan Krause 2/10
- Kate Williams 2/22
- Liza Burrows 1/9

Major milestone smashed at Inverloch parkrun

INVERLOCH parkrun ran its 500th event recently.

The milestone is a testament to the community-based event, which first arrived in Inverloch in 2014.

A total of 271 people finished the 500th run, aided by 14 volunteers.

A blue theme marked the occasion, and regulars and visitors alike turned out to enjoy the morning.

In Inverloch, parkrun has grown substantially over the years.

Founders of the Inverloch chapter hoped to see 40 people take part each week in the early days.

Since then, 9968 different people have finished the course along the foreshore a total of 56,296 times.

“At parkrun, we do have a lot of regulars, as well as tourists who come along. Some parkrunners like to participate in parkruns starting with every letter of the alphabet. Not a lot of towns start with the letter ‘I’, so we get quite a few who come to Inverloch,” run director and parkrun ambassador Tony O’Connell said.

Tony has been instrumental in starting up parkruns in different communities.

Inverloch’s parkrun was the 14th established in Victoria – the state now has 120 events running each week.

Tony has helped to set up 20 community parkruns, all with the ambition of providing a great fitness initiative and social outing.

“A lot of people will grab a coffee together afterwards and have a bit of a catch-up. It’s great for mental health,” Tony said.

“There’s a group of about 20 people who will meet at the Beach Box Café for breakfast after parkrun as



Inverloch parkrun celebrated its 500th event during the last week of April.

a way to continue enjoying their Saturday morning.”

A wonderful mix of ages can often be seen participating in parkrun.

“Children have to be at least four years old to register for a barcode, and we have seen a few participants as young as that. Some of our regular parkrunners are in their mid-90s. There’s no time limit – you just go at your own pace,” Tony said.

“We had a couple of girls who were aged around 12 who would finish the course rather quickly, and they would go back and finish the course again with a gentleman who was in his 80s, which would make his day. There are few other activities that encourage that sort of interaction between different people.

“We are also starting to see children growing up with parkrun. Their parkrun parents would’ve pushed them in the pram, and now they can start registering as well. There is such a community feeling at parkrun that some parents are given a breather to run the course themselves while other people they’ve become familiar with push the pram. It’s a very safe, welcoming and friendly environment.”

Inverloch parkrun was shutdown for a period during COVID, but the time away did not impact participation.

“There was some hesitation about being in a big group, but most people were excited to return. It didn’t take long for the numbers to get back up,” Tony said.

Inverloch parkrun has also had a positive impact on the local economy with tourists choosing to stay and enjoy the town for longer.

“In the early days, we had people come here just for parkrun and head home. Now we are finding more people are making a weekend of it,” Tony said.

“As one of the original founders, I love the feedback we get from visitors. It’s nice to hear they enjoy the friendly, welcoming environment with lots of cheering along the course.

“It’s all about getting involved and the social connections that can develop. We’ve seen big groups come along and only three will run the course while the rest walk and enjoy the getting out there and being active with like-minded people.”

A huge thank you was issued to the volunteers who donate their time to ensure a successful event each week.

“We have a core group of run directors who really are the heart and soul of our parkrun,” Tony said.

“We are also very grateful for the fact that we can confidently fill roles each week. All we have to do is ask and someone is willing to step up – it’s a great culture and we really do thank everyone who gets involved.”

Tony said parkrun is likely to keep growing, with the hope that more parkruns will be established across Gippsland.

Since Inverloch’s parkrun was introduced, parkruns have also started up in Phillip Island, Koonwarra, Mirboo North and Korumburra.

In Victoria, parkrun starts at 8am on Saturday morning and are always ready to welcome new participants.



Leongatha's captain Bernie Fitzgerald takes on Inverloch's midfielder Lucy in a contest for the ball.

Leongatha Lady Knights return to winning ways

LEONGATHA Lady Knights bounced back from a 4-1 loss to Drouin in round two, travelling to Inverloch on a cold, sunny day and leaving Thompson Reserve 4-0 victors.

The Knights responded well to the Drouin result, keen to get back on the pitch and work on their play.

Against Inverloch, Knights super striker Lisse Bath sent a composed shot into the back of the net early in the match to give Leongatha the advantage.

The Lady Knights worked hard to maintain composure against a strong Inverloch defensive line.

It was a scramble in the box which saw Leongatha's Lauren finish the second goal of the game for the Knights.

Composure in Leongatha's backline ensured that Inver-

loch had limited chances to attempt an attack on goal.

Full backs Jess Burrows and Zoe Harbris, in her debut for the Knights, were instrumental in shutting down attacks via the wing.

Another goal from Lisse Bath saw the Knights up 3-0 at halftime.

Inverloch came back in the second half with a stronger determination in defence, making it exceptionally difficult for the Knights to find the right combination to score.

Inverloch goalkeeper Sarah Cantwell, who was celebrating her 100th appearance for the club, had a strong game in goals.

It was a cross from winger Naomi that found the foot of right winger Emma Harvey to tap in that secured Leongatha's final goal for the match.



Leongatha's Stefan worked hard in the midfield in the U17 White team's draw against neighbours Korumburra.

Gippsland United FC's Under 12 boys show positive signs

UNITED dominated play from the get-go, and if it were a boxing match, it would have been called early in their favour. A number of opportunities were created, but they just couldn't find the back of the net.

Lynbrook didn't present much threat up front but made no mistake when they caught United on the break and put it away to take the lead one-nil.

United continued to show their dominance, and Jimmy Duncan slotted one in, only to be paid by the referee, and later disallowed in what can only be described as a highly controversial decision.

Time was against United, and the final whistle blew before they could claim any points.

Coach Steve Riess told the boys that "he's proud of the football they played, and that

they'd take the lessons out of the loss."

Under 14s: Gippsland United FC vs Port Melbourne Sharks SC

On Sunday, May 18, 2025, Gippsland United FC's Under-14 team put on a commanding performance against Port Melbourne Sharks SC at Latrobe City Sports Stadium in Morwell. From the opening whistle, the team played with intensity, showcasing one of their best starts of the season.

Defensively, Gippsland was solid throughout the match, especially in the second half. Harmon Bates and Isaac Sharp were standout performers, showing excellent positioning, physicality and timing to keep Port Melbourne at bay. In the final minutes, their composure helped ensure the clean sheet,

as they expertly shut down the Sharks' attempts to score.

A special mention must go to goalkeeper Sam Cuschieri, who delivered a fantastic performance between the posts. Cuschieri made several crucial saves, particularly during Port Melbourne's late surge. His quick reflexes and confident handling kept the opposition at arm's length, securing a vital clean sheet for the team.

In midfield, Blake Breheny and Aidan Izlemek controlled the tempo of the game. Both players worked tirelessly to break up play, dictate possession, and create attacking opportunities. Their vision and work rate allowed Gippsland to maintain momentum throughout the match.

In attack, Jonathan Sulyman, Hudson Riess, and Lewis Manzo formed a dynamic trio,

constantly troubling Port Melbourne's defence. All three were attacking well, using their physicality to create space and openings. Despite their best efforts, they were unlucky not to find the back of the net, as they came close on several occasions.

Overall, it was a great team performance, with every player contributing to the success. The spirit of support and encouragement between teammates was evident throughout the game, creating a positive atmosphere on the field. While it's impossible to name everyone, the collective effort was key to this strong performance.

Gippsland United's Under-14s will look to build on this result in their next match, scheduled for Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 12.20pm against Nunawading City FC at Mahoney's Reserve.

GIPPSLAND SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 4 results – Sunday, May 18

Senior Mens: Inverloch Stars 4 d Leongatha Knights 1, Phillip Island Breakers 2 drew Trafalgar Victory 2, Korumburra City 5 d Lang Lang United 2

Senior Womens: Phillip Island Breakers 7 d Trafalgar Victory 0, Mirboo North United 3 d Wonthaggi United 2, Leongatha Knights 4 d Inverloch Stars 0, Korumburra City 3 d Lang Lang United 0

Mens Reserves: Inverloch Stars 7 d Leongatha Knights 0, Drouin Dragons Maroon 10 d Korumburra City 0, Trafalgar Victory 4 d Phillip Island Breakers 2

Under 17 Mixed: Leongatha Knights Blue 5 d Inverloch Stars 2, Drouin Dragons Maroon 7 d Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 1, Wonthaggi United 6 d Mirboo North United 0, Leongatha Knights White 2 drew Korumburra City 2

Under 15 Girls: Drouin Dragons Yellow 4 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 3, Wonthaggi United 2 d Phillip Island Breakers 0, Korumburra City 3 d Leongatha Knights 0

Under 14 Mixed: Inverloch Stars 7 d Leongatha Knights 4, Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 6 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 2, Phillip Island Penguins 4 d Phillip Island Stingrays 1, Wonthaggi United 6 d Mirboo North United 3, Korumburra City 7 d Lang Lang United 1

Under 12 Girls: Inverloch Stars 6 d Leongatha Knights 1, Lang Lang United 8 d Korumburra City 6

Under 12A Mixed: Leongatha Knights Blue 3 d Inverloch Stars 2, Phillip Island Breakers 6 d Trafalgar Victory 0, Wonthaggi United 3 d Mirboo North United 2

Under 12B Mixed: Leongatha Knights White 9 d Inverloch Stars 3, Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 4 d Drouin Dragons Yellow 0, Phillip Island Penguins 2 drew Phillip Island Stingrays 2

Round 5 Fixture – Saturday, May 24 & Sunday, May 25

Senior Mens: Drouin Dragons Maroon v Trafalgar Victory, Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights, Lang Lang United v Wonthaggi United, Inverloch Stars Korumburra City

Senior Womens: Drouin Dragons Maroon v Trafalgar Victory, Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights, Lang Lang United v Wonthaggi United, Inverloch Stars v Korumburra City

Mens Reserves: Drouin Dragons Maroon v Trafalgar Victory, Inverloch Stars v Korumburra City, Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights

Under 17 Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow v Mirboo North United, Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights Blue, Leongatha Knights White v Wonthaggi United, Inverloch Stars v Korumburra City

Under 15 Girls: Drouin Dragons Maroon v Drouin Dragons Yellow, Wonthaggi United v Korumburra City, Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights

Under 14 Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon v Phillip Island Stingrays, Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow v Mirboo North United, Phillip Island Penguins v Leongatha Knights, Lang Lang United v Wonthaggi United, Inverloch Stars v Korumburra City

Under 12 Girls: Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights, Lang Lang United v Wonthaggi United, Inverloch Stars v Korumburra City

Under 12A Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon v Trafalgar Victory, Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights Blue, Inverloch Stars v Korumburra City

Under 12B Mixed: Drouin Dragons Yellow v Phillip Island Stingrays, Phillip Island Penguins v Leongatha Knights White, Drouin Dragons White v Wonthaggi United

MIRBOO NORTH

By Amy Symmons

ROUND six took us to Toora, the wind farm capital, where the netballers bought their own energy. A huge round for our club, with a clean sweep in the senior grades and strong performances across the board. Well done to all our players, coaches, and supporters on our first chilly day of the season!

A Grade: A dominant showing from the A grade squad, led by sharp attacking plays and disciplined defence, finalising the day with a closing win for the tigers.

Best on Court: Marley Wallace
Coaches Award: Chloe Hogg

B Grade: A composed win for B grade this week, showing control and structure across the whole court.

Best on Court: Rach Vansittart
Coaches Award: Maddi Knowles

C Grade: Strong defensive pressure and excellent team movement across all 4 quarters secured the first win on the board for the C grade side.

Best on Court: Amy Symmons

Coaches Award: Tylah Wilkins

D Grade: Win: A convincing win from D grade, excellent team movement throughout the game, confidently sitting second spot on the ladder.

Best on Court: Kirty Richardson

Coaches Award: Bridget Rush
17 & Under: Consistent pressure and strong connection with a fast-paced game from the under 17s.

Best on Court: Marley Wallace
Coaches Award: Shaelah Johnson

15 & Under: Despite the result, the girls fought hard and showed great resilience and effort across the court.

Best on Court: Amy Conlan
Coaches Award: Kyah Murtagh

13 & Under: A dominant game from the juniors, showing great energy and court awareness, beginning the day with a strong win for the club.

Best on Court: Jorge Chila
Coaches' Award: Clementine Stoertebecker

A massive congratulations to all our Best on Court and Coaches' Award recipients! Your hard work, teamwork and determination continue to make the club proud.

Next week we are chasing 7's. Bring on seven wins for round seven against Stony at home, let's go Tigers.



Mirboo North's Chloe Hogg earned the Coaches award in their A Grade win. Photo: Annie Holland.



Tigers' Rachael Vansittart shoots for goal in B Grade. Photo: Annie Holland.



Leongatha sends it down the line in the LDNA. Ns18_2025



Fish Creek's Ange Macri uses her reach to defend. Ns33_2025



Lara Stefani lines up her shot for Fish Creek. Ns30_2025



Tarwin's Laura Robins stands tall in the defence against Foster. Ns25_2025



Foster looks for an opening. Ns23_2025



Mirboo North's Anita Gourlay (GS) goes on the defensive in LDNA. Ns17_2025

MID GIPPSLAND

RESULTS

A GRADE	B GRADE	C GRADE	D GRADE	17 & UNDER	15 & UNDER	13 & UNDER
Foster 83 d Tarwin 32	Foster 63 d Tarwin 31	Foster 38 drew Tarwin 38	Foster 14 lt Tarwin 40	Foster 22 lt Tarwin 35	Yinnar 27 d MDU 7	Foster 28 d Tarwin 25
Yinnar 64 d MDU 40	Yinnar 50 d MDU 36	Yinnar 33 lt MDU 35	Yinnar 56 d MDU 15	Yinnar 37 d MDU 29	N-borough 30 lt Boolarra 39	Yinnar 46 d MDU 4
Thorpdale 33 lt Hill End 34	Thorpdale 28 lt Hill End 38	Thorpdale 10 lt Hill End 50	Thorpdale 4 lt Hill End 62	Toora 21 lt Mirboo Nth 33	Fish Crk 8 lt Morwell-E 26	Toora 5 lt Mirboo Nth 32
Toora 35 lt Mirboo Nth 65	Toora 43 lt Mirboo Nth 54	Toora 29 lt Mirboo Nth 41	Toora 20 lt Mirboo Nth 33	Fish Crk 35 d Morwell-E 18	Toora 38 d Mirboo Nth 12	Fish Crk 44 d Morwell-E 7
Fish Crk 65 d Morwell-E 33	Fish Crk 58 d Morwell-E 32	Fish Crk 41 d Morwell-E 26	Fish Crk 35 d Morwell-E 19	N-borough 17 lt Boolarra 74	Foster 38 d Tarwin 22	N-borough 18 lt Boolarra 22
N-borough 69 d Boolarra 42	N-borough 65 d Boolarra 23	N-borough 45 d Boolarra 26	N-borough 40 d Boolarra 24			

LADDERS

A GRADE	%	pts	B GRADE	%	pts	C GRADE	%	pts	D GRADE	%	pts	17 & UNDER	%	pts	15 & UNDER	%	pts	13 & UNDER	%	pts
Foster	290.97	24	Foster	191.95	24	Newborough	209.09	24	Newborough	179.31	24	Boolarra	282.11	24	Yinnar	283.15	24	Yinnar	545.45	24
Yinnar	137.50	24	Newborough	146.43	20	Yinnar	166.20	20	Mirboo North	158.46	24	Yinnar	180.99	22	Boolarra	221.67	24	Boolarra	227.50	24
Fish Creek	150.00	20	Yinnar	141.29	20	Foster	144.36	18	Yinnar	189.52	20	Mirboo North	160.45	18	Toora	262.32	20	Tarwin	304.17	20
MDU	142.98	20	Fish Creek	125.44	20	MDU	140.57	18	Tarwin	123.57	20	MDU	182.96	16	Hill End	217.24	20	Newborough	272.73	20
Mirboo North	142.12	16	Mirboo North	138.70	16	Tarwin	121.11	18	Hill End	187.96	16	Toora	149.64	16	Foster	98.43	16	Fish Creek	133.64	20
Stony Creek	131.09	16	MDU	119.57	16	Fish Creek	101.68	16	Fish Creek	117.29	12	Hill End	137.12	16	MDU	75.38	12	Foster	73.96	16
Newborough	112.20	16	Toora	108.87	16	Hill End	130.67	14	Toora	82.39	12	Fish Creek	78.80	12	Newborough	75.34	12	Hill End	101.14	12
Morwell East	110.51	12	Stony Creek	100.46	12	Boolarra	97.24	12	Morwell East	102.53	8	Newborough	39.73	12	Tarwin	85.81	8	Mirboo North	121.10	8
Toora	63.85	8	Morwell East	93.67	12	Stony Creek	85.88	12	Foster	88.81	8	Stony Creek	53.81	8	Mirboo North	67.80	8	Stony Creek	72.50	8
Tarwin	62.96	4	Hill End	73.09	8	Morwell East	83.17	4	MDU	86.39	8	Morwell East	40.48	8	Morwell East	40.96	8	Toora	16.84	4
Hill End	48.29	4	Thorpdale	65.45	4	Mirboo North	81.59	4	Stony Creek	70.39	8	Foster	37.57	8	Fish Creek	38.67	8	MDU	13.62	4
Thorpdale	42.90	4	Tarwin	59.86	0	Toora	70.28	4	Boolarra	73.58	4	Tarwin	40.80	4	Stony Creek	34.25	4	Morwell East	12.87	4
Boolarra	54.92	0	Boolarra	39.95	0	Thorpdale	12.33	4	Thorpdale	8.45	4	Thorpdale	0.00	0	Thorpdale	0.00	0	Thorpdale	0.00	0



As the rain came down, Kylie Wookey competes for possession in the Kilcunda Bass goal ring during B grade.



Kira Hamilton takes possession for the Panthers as her opponent attempt to avoid a contact call.



Caitlin Egan moves the ball out of defence for Kilcunda Bass.



Isabella Santorini lines up a shot for the Panthers during the B grade match against Cora Lynn.



Caitlin Stephens attempts an intercept as Cora Lynn delivers the ball into their goal circle.



Grace Rand looks to move the ball into the Kilcunda Bass attacking third during the A grade match.



Terri Chheang looks for an opportunity for Nyora.



Tiana Heylen lines up a goal for the Saints.



Jess King Poowong A Grade using both hands to propel the ball forward.
Photo: Jeff Tull

KILCUNDA BASS

A GRADE: The team had another tough hit out against Cora Lynn this week. The wet and slippery conditions proved to be a challenge, the girls worked hard each quarter to stay with Cora Lynn, but ultimately couldn't get over the line. Some exciting glimpses of netball, and some learnings to come from it. Looking forward to the next time we cross paths. Award: Caitlin Stephens.

B Grade: Facing a strong Cora Lynn goal shooter who rarely missed, our defenders had their work cut out for them. Lizzy stepped up, grabbing every chance to intercept the ball. Although we didn't get the win this week, we're incredibly proud of everyone's effort and teamwork. Next time we face Cora Lynn, we're confident we'll come out on top. Award: Elizabeth Crawford.

C Grade: Our C Grade team put up a spirited fight against the undefeated Cora Lynn side. Despite a few costly passing errors, the girls showed great resilience and determination throughout the match. Their defensive pressure and teamwork made it a much tougher contest than the scoreboard reflected. Award: Romy De Nardis.

D Grade: Our D Grade team faced a tough challenge coming up against a well-drilled Cora Lynn side. From the first whistle, their defensive pressure made it difficult for us to settle into our game. There were promising passages of play where our team adapted well and showed resilience under pressure. A special mention to Kealey Trewavis for playing in her first senior game.

Awards: Zoe Reiter and Miranda Eden.

17 & Under: The Under 17's knew it was going to be a challenging game against the undefeated Cora Lynn. The defensive end had their work cut out for them with very accurate shooters and great cohesion on court. Our attacking end also worked exceptionally hard. Overall, we are very proud of the girls efforts and don't feel that the scoreboard reflected how well they played as a team.

Awards: Alana Dakin and Hope Oats.

15 & Under: This game was always going to be one of our biggest challenges this season. Cora Lynn came out firing from the first whistle and from there they didn't put a foot wrong. We will shake this one off learn a lot from it and move on to next week against Garfield with a fresh game plan and mindset. Awards: Maya Andersen and Paige O'Brien.

13 & Under: Our U13 team had their first look at some wet conditions, and unfortunately one of our goalers fell victim to the slippery court surface in the first few minutes of the game. The team had to adjust in what was already a tough task of facing a polished, well drilled Cora Lynn outfit and we just didn't have the answers to match them. Well done to all players for showing up, giving it your best and smiling while doing so.

Awards: Asha Payne and Claire Feehan.

11 & Under: We took on the top team this week and it is fair to say Cora Lynn was far too strong for our developing team. The court was wet and slippery from the morning showers so it took the girls some time to settle in and feel confident enough to go in for the contests. The Cobras took the lead early in the game, so our plan was to let the kids try positions of their choosing.

Awards: Kalani Knaap and Molly Ritchie.

WEST GIPPSLAND

RESULTS				LADDERS			
A GRADE Kor-Bena 49 d KWR 31 Tooradin-Dal 54 d P-Island 45 K-Bass 30 lt Cora Lynn 39 Dalyston 58 d Garfield 31 IK 36 lt NNG 53				A GRADE Nar Nar Goon 145.49 24 Kor-Bena 145.14 20 Cora Lynn 124.70 20 Inverloch-K 97.21 16 Dalyston 119.34 16 Phillip Island 108.77 14 Garfield 83.59 14 Tooradin-Dal. 105.73 12 Kilcunda Bass 91.67 4 Warragul Ind. 54.70 4 Koo Wee Rup 67.23 0			
B GRADE Kor-Bena 45 lt KWR 53 Tooradin-Dal 59 d P-Island 35 K-Bass 29 lt Cora Lynn 40 Dalyston 55 d Garfield 37 IK 32 lt NNG 50				B GRADE Tooradin-Dal. 182.76 22 Dalyston 144.93 20 Nar Nar Goon 121.26 18 Cora Lynn 103.68 18 Inverloch-K 98.94 14 Kilcunda Bass 113.82 12 Phillip Island 106.94 12 Garfield 92.05 8 Koo Wee Rup 81.82 8 Kor-Bena 78.48 8 Warragul Ind. 32.49 0			
C GRADE Kor-Bena 24 lt KWR 36 Tooradin-Dal 29 d P-Island 17 K-Bass 21 lt Cora Lynn 33 Dalyston 16 lt Garfield 52 IK 43 d NNG 35				C GRADE Cora Lynn 163.64 24 Warragul Ind. 149.28 20 Garfield 147.59 20 Tooradin-Dal. 132.10 18 Inverloch-K 123.78 18 Nar Nar Goon 135.16 12 Kilcunda Bass 90.42 8 Phillip Island 64.33 8 Koo Wee Rup 61.33 8 Kor-Bena 57.71 4 Dalyston 55.31 4			
D GRADE Kor-Bena 27 d KWR 26 Tooradin-Dal 39 d P-Island 31 K-Bass 10 lt Cora Lynn 50 Dalyston 9 lt Garfield 42 IK 37 lt NNG 38				D GRADE Cora Lynn 239.74 24 Nar Nar Goon 165.19 24 Garfield 160.66 20 Kor-Bena 127.82 16 Kilcunda Bass 106.59 16 Tooradin-Dal. 112.78 12 Phillip Island 81.61 12 Koo Wee Rup 101.38 8 Inverloch-K 78.02 8 Warragul Ind 47.03 0 Dalyston 29.87 0			
17 & UNDER Kor-Bena 25 lt KWR 44 Tooradin-Dal 28 lt P-Island 47 K-Bass 7 lt Cora Lynn 67 Dalyston 39 d Garfield 19 IK 17 lt NNG 41				17 & UNDER Cora Lynn 200.00 24 Nar Nar Goon 144.32 24 Phillip Island 166.15 20 Warragul Ind. 183.33 16 Dalyston 117.95 12 Koo Wee Rup 105.41 12 Tooradin-Dal. 102.46 12 Inverloch-K 72.73 12 Kor-Bena 69.31 8 Garfield 49.53 4 Kilcunda Bass 26.99 0			
15 & UNDER Tooradin-Dal 44 d P-Island 15 K-Bass 12 lt Cora Lynn 64 Dalyston 16 lt Garfield 24 IK 13 lt NNG 58				15 & UNDER Nar Nar Goon 298.96 24 Cora Lynn 271.76 24 Tooradin-Dal. 203.42 16 Warragul Ind 95.93 16 Phillip Island 75.86 12 Kilcunda Bass 76.88 12 Koo Wee Rup 75.48 12 Garfield Stars 67.41 12 Inverloch-K 44.13 8 Dalyston 47.83 4 Kor-Bena 0.00 0			
13 & UNDER K-Bass 9 lt Cora Lynn 42 Tooradin-Dal 39 d P-Island 10 Dalyston 7 lt Garfield 37 IK 5 lt NNG 50 Kor-Bena 27 lt KWR 28				13 & UNDER Cora Lynn 340.36 24 Nar Nar Goon 345.61 22 Kor-Bena 215.71 20 Tooradin-Dal. 188.89 18 Garfield 182.02 16 Koo Wee Rup 86.39 12 Phillip Island 60.76 12 Kilcunda Bass 81.29 8 Warragul Ind. 49.67 8 Inverloch-K 27.57 4 Dalyston 12.60 0			
11 & UNDER Tooradin-Dal 16 lt P-Island 21 Dalyston 6 lt Garfield 36 K-Bass 2 lt Cora Lynn 44 IK 5 d NNG 0 Kor-Bena 8 lt KWR 15				11 & UNDER Cora Lynn 343.59 24 Garfield 343.59 20 Inverloch-K 229.41 16 Koo Wee Rup 185.48 20 Phillip Island 166.67 18 Kor-Bena 188.64 16 Tooradin-Dal. 86.29 8 Warragul Ind. 19.67 8 Nar Nar Goon 75.42 6 Dalyston 31.11 4 Kilcunda Bass 18.31 0			

ELLINBANK

RESULTS

A GRADE

Buln Buln 48 lt Longwarry 52
Lang Lang 44 lt Ellinbank 60
Catani 34 lt Trafalgar 60
Nyora 26 lt Bunyip 53
Poowong 33 lt Nil-Darn 62
Yarragon 26 lt Neerim Sth 63

B GRADE

Buln Buln 37 d Longwarry 35
Lang Lang 29 lt Ellinbank 74
Catani 50 d Trafalgar 40
Nyora 21 lt Bunyip 59
Poowong 41 lt Nil-Darn 59
Yarragon 23 lt Neerim Sth 56

C GRADE

Buln Buln 36 d Longwarry 28
Lang Lang 19 lt Ellinbank 48
Catani 39 lt Trafalgar 50
Nyora 6 lt Bunyip 56
Poowong 21 lt Nil-Darn 23
Yarragon 39 lt Neerim Sth 40

LADDERS

A GRADE	%	pts
Neerim South	196.00	24
Longwarry	164.36	20
Nilma Darnum	144.49	20
Ellinbank	134.02	16
Poowong	95.14	16
Trafalgar	112.05	12
Lang Lang	94.58	12
Catani	88.15	8
Yarragon	86.17	8
Bunyip	74.65	8
Nyora	51.78	0
Buln Buln	48.23	0

B GRADE

Ellinbank	162.30	24
Lang Lang	116.60	20
Neerim South	132.47	16
Catani	146.46	16
Poowong	130.16	16
Bunyip	119.44	16
Nilma Darnum	118.72	16
Yarragon	83.90	8
Buln Buln	79.25	8
Longwarry	86.03	0
Trafalgar	67.46	0
Nyora	34.51	0

C GRADE

Ellinbank	145.03	20
Buln Buln	124.23	20
Yarragon	156.94	18
Longwarry	150.32	16
Trafalgar	116.75	16
Neerim South	96.31	16
Catani	139.29	14
Nilma Darnum	96.98	8
Lang Lang	78.82	8
Poowong	98.81	4
Bunyip	80.29	4
Nyora	12.11	0

17 & UNDER

Buln Buln 26 lt Longwarry 41
Lang Lang 58 d Ellinbank 14
Catani 35 d Trafalgar 32
Nyora 13 lt Bunyip 31
Poowong 32 d Nil-Darn 29
Yarragon 47 d Neerim Sth 35

15 & UNDER

Buln Buln 16 d Longwarry 10
Lang Lang 31 d Ellinbank 12
Catani 45 d Trafalgar 11
Nyora 5 lt Bunyip 40
Poowong 19 d Nil-Darn 11
Yarragon 9 lt Neerim Sth 33

13 & UNDER

Buln Buln 27 d Longwarry 9
Lang Lang 50 d Ellinbank 7
Catani 9 lt Trafalgar 48
Nyora 1 lt Bunyip 52
Poowong 19 d Nil-Darn 15
Yarragon 9 lt Neerim Sth 33

17 & UNDER

Longwarry	172.11	24
Nilma Darnum	157.50	20
Trafalgar	132.04	16
Catani	116.86	16
Poowong	107.94	16
Yarragon	130.89	14
Neerim South	108.02	12
Lang Lang	139.23	10
Bunyip	77.13	6
Ellinbank	47.52	6
Buln Buln	72.31	4
Nyora	19.05	0

15 & UNDER

Catani	302.63	24
Neerim South	224.42	24
Poowong	212.82	20
Bunyip	155.86	20
Lang Lang	177.00	16
Nilma Darnum	105.83	12
Buln Buln	94.96	12
Longwarry	100.85	8
Yarragon	65.09	4
Ellinbank	62.84	4
Trafalgar	42.78	0
Nyora	7.34	0

13 & UNDER

Lang Lang	930.00	24
Trafalgar	239.19	24
Bunyip	296.92	20
Buln Buln	221.13	16
Longwarry	102.65	16
Poowong	85.19	12
Catani	70.63	12
Nilma Darnum	81.89	8
Yarragon	69.12	4
Neerim South	69.12	4
Ellinbank	32.35	4
Nyora	6.32	0

GIPPSLAND

RESULTS

A GRADE

Warragul 67 d Leongatha 42
Moe 74 d Sale 34
Wonthaggi 40 lt Bairnsdale 52
Maffra 40 lt Morwell 66
Drouin 52 d Traralgon 43

B GRADE

Warragul 34 lt Leongatha 55
Moe 62 d Sale 31
Wonthaggi 53 d Bairnsdale 29
Maffra 46 lt Morwell 49
Drouin 49 lt Traralgon 64

C GRADE

Warragul 26 lt Leongatha 49
Moe 33 d Sale 31
Wonthaggi 39 d Bairnsdale 35
Maffra 17 lt Morwell 58
Drouin 36 lt Traralgon 40

17 & UNDER

Warragul 35 lt Leongatha 40
Moe 45 lt Sale 48
Wonthaggi 22 lt Bairnsdale 64
Maffra 38 d Morwell 19
Drouin 32 lt Traralgon 67

15 & UNDER

Warragul 48 d Leongatha 38
Moe 39 lt Sale 48
Wonthaggi 6 lt Bairnsdale 56
Maffra 21 d Morwell 17
Drouin 22 lt Traralgon 59

13 & UNDER

Warragul 3 lt Leongatha 53
Moe 27 drew Sale 27
Wonthaggi 6 lt Bairnsdale 45
Maffra 42 d Morwell 31
Drouin 13 lt Traralgon 39

LADDERS

A GRADE	%	pts
Moe	200.00	24
Warragul	170.49	24
Morwell	125.62	20
Drouin	121.09	12
Leongatha	90.49	12
Bairnsdale	86.83	12
Wonthaggi	78.51	8
Traralgon	74.39	4
Sale	56.74	4
Maffra	60.10	0

B GRADE

Leongatha	175.39	24
Wonthaggi	173.12	24
Moe	158.41	20
Traralgon	120.08	16
Drouin	87.38	12
Warragul	94.31	8
Morwell	80.27	8
Maffra	74.14	8
Bairnsdale	58.02	0
Sale	57.67	0

C GRADE

Morwell	157.50	22
Leongatha	145.27	22
Wonthaggi	169.14	20
Bairnsdale	122.28	12
Traralgon	121.82	12
Drouin	98.26	12
Moe	89.66	12
Sale	85.94	8
Warragul	46.07	0
Maffra	45.35	0

17 & UNDER	%	pts
Traralgon	270.49	24
Bairnsdale	230.77	24
Sale	120.28	24
Maffra	89.52	12
Drouin	79.93	8
Leongatha	77.19	8
Moe	75.75	8
Warragul	68.66	8
Wonthaggi	76.47	4
Morwell	53.82	0

15 & UNDER

Traralgon	246.21	24
Sale	167.20	24
Warragul	129.63	16
Bairnsdale	132.10	12
Drouin	109.95	12
Moe	97.79	12
Maffra	83.07	8
Leongatha	77.29	4
Morwell	60.73	4
Wonthaggi	9.91	0

13 & UNDER

Leongatha	270.00	24
Sale	178.40	18
Traralgon	160.38	16
Bairnsdale	196.84	14
Moe	93.70	14
Morwell	88.51	12
Maffra	129.56	10
Drouin	74.85	8
Wonthaggi	33.64	4
Warragul	10.84	0

SPORT | NETBALL



Wonthaggi's Macie Gilmour was considered one of the best on the court in a strong win by Power's B Grade, here taking it to Bairnsdale's Sophie Bills in the midcourt.



Wonthaggi Power's Macie Gilmour stretches for the ball in the B Grade match against Bairnsdale on Saturday.



Wonthaggi Power's A Grade centre Macy Peterson challenges her opponent Paris Dunkley for the ball in an entertaining contest between Wonthaggi and Bairnsdale on Saturday.



Grace Green Poowong A Grade driving forward and jumping to catch the ball. Photo: Jeff Tull



Leongatha's Lacy Fennell was selected to compete in Victoria's U15 netball squad at the School Sport Australia Games, set to be held in Queensland at the end of July.

Netballer selected for nationals

LEONGATHA netballer Lacy Fennell will represent Mary Mackillop Catholic Regional College and School Sports Victoria in the upcoming School Sport Australia Games in Queensland.

Lacy was selected for the U15s Victorian netball team, which will compete from July 28 to August 1.

She was encouraged to trial for the Victorian squad by members of the Leongatha Football Netball Club, where she has played for the past three seasons.

Lacy described the selection process as hard, as she competed alongside and against quality school netballers and talent academy representatives at the State Netball and Hockey Centre.

A squad of 15 – including training partners – was announced on Monday, May 5.

Lacy said she was both excited and nervous when she found out she made the team.

Lacy is a versatile player out on the court and can comfortably jump from centre and wing defence to goal defence and goalkeeper, making her a valuable member of the Victorian team.

“I prefer centre because you can run everywhere and be on the ball a lot more, but you can take a lot of intercepts in goal defence, which is fun,” she said.

Lacy started her netball journey playing for the Meeniyan and District team in the Leongatha and District Netball Association (LDNA).

She played LDNA for one season before joining the Parrots.

She is a dedicated athlete, also committing herself to basketball.

Lacy is currently a member of Korumburra Basketball Association's U16 girls VJBL squad, which is competing in the highest level of the competition this season.

“It's a big commitment. We have sport almost every night with the kids and there's a lot of time spent in the car,” Lacy's mum Vanessa said.

“It's all worthwhile because it's always fun and enjoyable watching the people you love doing what they love. This is a fabulous opportunity for Lacy.”

Lacy will be competing in two games per day during the championship, with the hope of going all the way to the grand final.

She's also aiming to improve her skills and play as well as she can at a national level.

Lacy thanked her family and the Leongatha Football Netball Club for their ongoing support.



There were almost 200 guests in attendance. Ns15_2025

Sweet 60th celebrations

LEONGATHA & District Netball Association (LDNA) were proud to mark 60 years as hundreds came together to celebrate on May 17.

The evening was held at the Leongatha grandstand with almost 200 guests including dignitaries such as Melina Bath MP, South Gippsland Shire Mayor John Schelling and many life members.

Councillor Schelling highlighted it was an honour to celebrate the milestone and that 60 years was no “small feat”.

He touched on his wife’s and daughters’ involvement with the club and how it was a major part of their life.

“The association has been more than just a sporting body, it’s been a place where friendships are formed,” he said.

“Generations of players, coaches, umpires and supporters have passed through these courts, each leaving their mark and helping shape the legacy we celebrate today.



Wal Worsfold was master of ceremonies for the night. Ns13_2025

“Netball and team sports are deeply woven into the fabric of Leongatha and the broader South Gippsland region.”

He also thanked all the club’s dedicated volunteers.

The night featured an incredible menu topped off with a dazzling 60th birthday cake as well as the launch of a new book on the club.

Tune in next week for all the photos from the celebrations



Initiative launched to strengthen junior footy

AFL Gippsland is excited to announce the launch of the Gippsland Junior Football Retention Project.

Recognising the vital role junior football plays in the Gippsland community, this project will work closely with clubs, leagues, players, parents and coaches to develop and implement effective strategies for a thriving junior football landscape.

The vision is to create an environment where young players feel more connected, supported and passionate about the sport, leading to increased participation and a stronger overall football community.

The project will unfold in phases, starting with a crucial ‘Discover’ phase focused on gathering insights from the football community.

As part of this initial stage, AFL Gippsland is calling on all interested stakeholders to contribute their valuable perspectives through consultation sessions and surveys.

AFL Gippsland invites all members of the junior football community – players, parents and guardians, coaches, and club and league administrators

– to book a 60-minute on-line consultation session to share their experiences and ideas.

This is a fantastic opportunity to directly influence the future of junior football in Gippsland.

Book your consultation session at picktime.com/aflgippsland.

In addition to the consultation sessions, AFL Gippsland is also launching a series of surveys tailored to different groups within the junior football community.

These surveys will provide valuable data to inform the project’s direction.

All information regarding the Gippsland Junior Football Retention Project, including updates and survey links, can be found at aflgippsland.com.au/retention.

AFL Gippsland region manager Tim Cotter is leading the project and is enthusiastic about the collaborative approach.

“We believe that by working together with our community, we can ensure a bright future for junior football in Gippsland, fostering a lifelong love of the game for our young participants,” he said.

This project is supported by a dedicated team including Mid Gippsland Football Netball League junior development officer Ken Hutchinson, Combined Saints Junior Football Club president Damian Blackford, AFL Gippsland club development lead Nicole Bertuna, Moe Football Netball Club football operations manager Clinton Taylor, Lindenow Football Netball Club vice president James Blandford, Inverloch-Kongwak Junior Football Club committee member Luke Short, Waragul and District Junior Football League president Shara McAuley, Sale City Junior Football Club committee member Wayne Langford, and Southern and West Gippsland Junior Football Competition operations manager Bobbie Lee Blay.

“We urge everyone involved in junior football across Gippsland to engage with this project. Your input is crucial in helping us develop strategies that will ensure the health and sustainability of our clubs and leagues, and most importantly, a lifelong love of the game for all our players,” Cotter said.



John and Jenny Kerville and Anne and Rein Hermens combined to win the Victorian Rock ‘n’ Roll Dance State Championships title for Fours competition.

Gippsland foursome take out State Champs

JENNY and John Kerville of J&J Gatha Rock in Leongatha and Anne and Rein Hermens from Hooked on Rock in Traralgon danced their way to the Victorian State title in Fours competition at the Victorian Rock ‘n’ Roll Dance State Championships in Wantirna on the weekend.

The team performed to the song ‘It’s Late’ by Ricky Nelson.

“We had to choreograph a routine, changing partners and positions throughout,”

Jenny said.

“They mark on things like coordination, timing, presentation, and the flow of the moves.”

Each State has its own championships, with the Gippsland quartet having now qualified for the Nationals to be held in Queensland in August.

It’s too early to contemplate that opportunity yet.

“We’ve only just won this one; we haven’t even touched on the Nationals,” Jenny said.

That would require lots of work, with a new song and routine.

The foursome’s State triumph followed a winning performance at the Gippy Rocks event held in Sale during February.

For those keen to take to the dance floor, John and Jenny run Thursday classes at Leongatha’s Dakers Centre at 7.30pm, while Anne and Rein hold Monday night classes at the VRI Hall in Traralgon, also at 7.30pm.

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57

DANIEL CHETLAND

Western Bulldogs
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GWS
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Collingwood
Port Adelaide
Adelaide
Sydney
St Kilda

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



119 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1027



58

CARL LINDSAY

Geelong
Essendon
GWS
Hawthorn
Collingwood
Fremantle
Adelaide
Sydney
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



145 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1137



60

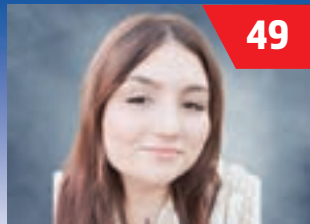
ALEX GEYER

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



Wonthaggi 5672 5522
Leongatha 5662 2941



49

JAE DAVEY

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



62-64 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
7051 0720



64

DARRYL MCGANNON

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



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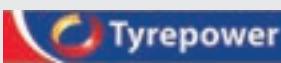


54

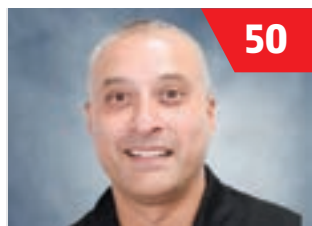
KRIS BAKER

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



78-80 Watt Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5760



50

RYAN SHANE

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Richmond
GWS
Hawthorn
Collingwood
Port Adelaide
Adelaide
Sydney
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



Leongatha Toyota

7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha
5662 2302



55

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DARREN TILE**

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



6/5 Cyclone Street,
Wonthaggi
Darren 0405 603 569
Craig 0415 641 845



60

ADAM WARE

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Essendon
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Hawthorn
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Fremantle
Adelaide
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



2/88-98 Watt Street,
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1800 358 131



62

JUSTIN CAPORALE

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Collingwood
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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



41 McCartin Street,
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5662 2529



50

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Aaron McGregor	61
Peter Fort	61
Phil Hardy	61
Adam Ware	60
Alex Geyer	60
David England	60
Liam Sawyer	60
Dylan Clark	59
Ben Fisher	58
Carl Lindsay	58
Warren Stewart	58
Daniel Chetland	57
Brad Hodson	56
Craig & Darren	55
Hayden Poppe	55
Kris Baker	54
Keith & Eddie	53
Brett Jacobs	52
Leigh Donohue	50
Ryan Shane	50
Jae Davey	49



58

WARREN STEWART

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Fremantle
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Wonthaggi
5632 3503



61

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



1 A'Beckett Street
Inverloch
5674 1432



60

DAVID ENGLAND

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Collingwood
Fremantle
Adelaide
Melbourne
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



3/45-61 McKenzie St,
Wonthaggi
5644 2080



61

PETER FORT

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Brisbane
Collingwood
Fremantle
Adelaide
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Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



47 Station Street,
Korumburra
0417 332 141



53

KEITH KELLY **EDDIE CHANDLER**

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Brisbane
Collingwood
Fremantle
Adelaide
Melbourne
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



54 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 1311



60

LIAM SAWYER

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Essendon
GWS
Brisbane
Collingwood
Fremantle
Adelaide
Sydney
St Kilda

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



16 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
5672 1007



61

AARON MCGREGOR

Geelong
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GWS
Hawthorn
Collingwood
Fremantle
Adelaide
Sydney
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



24 Inverloch Road,
Wonthaggi
5672 5906



56

BRAD HODSON

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Essendon
GWS
Hawthorn
Collingwood
Fremantle
Adelaide
Melbourne
Gold Coast Suns

LAST WEEK'S TIPS 4



15/17 Murray Street,
Wonthaggi
5672 5878



52

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 6



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55

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LAST WEEK'S TIPS 5



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OH WHAT A FEELING



Wilkie Edgelow searches for an opening. Ns39_2025



Fish Creek gets the better of the ruck. Ns40_2025

Inaccurate Fish Creek demolishes Morwell East

By Rob Popplestone

FISH Creek triumphed by 100 points against Morwell East, the Hawks facing one of the toughest challenges in the competition against the reigning premiers on the Kangaroos' ground.

The Hawks have appeared to be a shell of their normal selves, with this contest expected to give coach Paul Henry a look at how his men handle the adversity they are currently going through, but the result was perhaps not a true indication of the undermanned Morwell East's efforts.

Still, the margin could have been greater, an inaccurate Fish Creek winning 18-25-133 to 5-3-33.

"It was a solid win on the weekend against Morwell East, who from all reports have been struck down with a big number of injuries; credit to them for fighting the game out and hopefully they can get some numbers back soon," Fish Creek coach Jarrad Walker said.

He noted there is still a bit for the Kangaroos to work on, with skills and ball movement works in progress.

"We have a nice early bye next week before what will be a big month in shaping our season," Walker said.

While the Kangaroos are still working on improvements, the Hawks are focused on getting more soldiers on the park, and then on turning their fortunes around after a horror start to the year.

"We were undermanned coming into a game you don't want to be undermanned in," Morwell East coach Paul Henry said.

"We battled hard," he said, stressing that much of the scoring damage was inflicted late in quarters two and four.

Coach Henry defends his team, as he should, but this Hawks side needs to find something from somewhere, and they need to do it as soon as possible, as they seem to be a way off both where they were in 2024 and where they need to be this season.

Fish Creek on the other hand is cruising through the season doing what Fish Creek does.



Fish Creek's Jacob Lamers looks to upset Morwell East's mark. Ns38_2025

Tigers hold on as wayward Magpies let win slip

By Rover

was outstanding.

Jacob Blair and Taj Wilkins in defence and tireless ruckman, Patrick Lewis, also earned their stripes for the visitors.

Solid performers for Toora included Jonathon Pintus, Lachi Smart with two goals, Jordan French, Jack Weston and Lachlan Marr.

Although the Magpies delivered some magnificent foot passes around the ground, they struggled to kick straight in front of the big white sticks – as their score of 5.15 indicates.

At half-time, Toora had 2.7 on the scoreboard and at the last change, it was 3.13.

As the Magpies were finding:

peppering the goals is one thing; kicking the Sherrin through them, quite another.

Mirboo North's persistence broke the game open in the third quarter, when Archie Woodall snapped a clever goal – then two minutes later, he combined with playing coach, Damien Turner, for the Tigers' fifth major.

Soon after, Beau Peters passed to Ethan Woodall, who, aided by a 50-metre penalty, slammed through the Tigers' third goal in four minutes.

It was during this short period that Mirboo North was surer than Toora in its marking and purer in its pick-ups around the packs.

After several previous narrow misses, Weston's long

shot found the wide opening for the Magpies, that reduced Toora's deficit to nine points at the last change.

An early goal from the Magpies was matched by Kerr before Joe Brooks slotted a tight left-foot snap from the left forward pocket, that put the Tigers 14 points in front.

Late into time-on, came Toora's fifth goal, after which a behind from Josh Griffin saw the Magpies go down by eight points at the final siren.

After 20 scoring shots to the Tigers' 13, the disappointed Magpies knew they had kicked themselves out of the game.

This Saturday, Mirboo North is at home to Stony Creek, which is coming off a bye.

MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

RND
6

FISH CREEK FOOTBALL CLUB



134



33

FISH CREEK

MORWELL EAST

Fish Creek 3.6 8.14 10.20 18.26 (134)
Morwell East 2.0 2.1 4.3 5.3 (33)

GOALS, Fish Creek: D Berryman 4, L Williams, J Shaw 3, T Vuillermin 2, J Harry, B Shaw, B Mitchell, J Lamers, S McGannon, K Dorling 1 each

BEST: L Gale, B Shaw, T Vuillermin, J Shaw, J Kenny, J Hayes

GOALS, Morwell East: J Quinn 2, T Wilson, J Francis, B Evans 1 each

BEST: D Heyden, D Field, M Diaz, I Terrick, W Kennedy, D Cooper

RESERVES

Fish Creek 3.6 8.14 10.20 18.26 (68)
Morwell East 2.0 2.1 4.3 5.3 (27)

GOALS, Fish Creek: A Bright 3, O Bright 2, N Buckland, L Buckland, A Edgelow, P Mueller 1 each

BEST: L Cocksedge, O Schnoor, L Buckland, E Farrell, T Millton

GOALS, Morwell East: B Marks, B Atkinson, K Chapman 1

BEST: B Atkinson, T Scott, K Chapman, J Lansdown, M Williams, S Winmar

THIRDS

Fish Creek 0.0 0.1 3.4 3.6 (24)
Newborough 4.1 7.6 10.9 16.12 (108)

GOALS, Fish Creek: R Cicero 2, H Cocksedge 1
BEST: R Cicero, J Rysko, A Hamlett, T Taylor, O Bright, J Morgan

GOALS, Newborough: O Hanson 9, M Langdon 3, A Kora, C Hanson, A Daley, Z Daley 1 each

BEST: O Hanson, T McCabe, L Nelson, A Korab, Z Daley, J Gibbs

TOORA FOOTBALL CLUB

MIRBOO NORTH FOOTBALL CLUB



45



53

TOORA

MIRBOO NORTH

Toora 2.3 2.7 3.13 5.15 (45)
Mirboo Nth 1.1 3.4 6.4 8.5 (53)

GOALS, Toora: L Smart 2, S Frawley, J Griffin, J Weston 1 each

BEST: J Pintus, L Smart, J French, L Marr, J Weston, J Smart

GOALS, Mirboo Nth: E Woodall 2, A Woodall, D Turner, J Brooks, H Kerr, J Chila, R Oddy 1 each

BEST: J Chila, B Peters, A Woodall, R Oddy, H Mahoney, J Blair

RESERVES

Toora 1.0 2.3 2.3 4.6 (30)
Mirboo Nth 2.4 3.5 6.8 6.8 (44)

GOALS, Toora: J Cripps, A Vening, C Butinar, L de Boer 1 each

BEST: L de Boer, M Glowrey, A Walker, J Dows, Z Lewis, A Vening

GOALS, Mirboo Nth: D Pinneri 3, B Peters, J Hutton, T McGrath 1 each

BEST: T Kelly, L Poljak, D Pinneri, X Spaul, W Jacka, L Gervasi



Tarwin looks for an opening as Foster closes in. Ns35_2025

Foster shakes off competitive Tarwin

FOSTER may have comfortably accounted for most opposition to date but nevertheless had prepared for a fiercer contest in the shape of a Tarwin side on the rebound.

The Sharks have been competitive, but their long list of injuries has started taking its toll, and it showed, eventually defeated 7.5-47 to the Tigers 10.11-71.

“We were really challenged today, and they’ll beat teams and contend for a finals position if they stay healthy,”

By Rob Popplestone

Foster coach Sam Davies said after the Sharks’ competitive display.

He praised the way his side stood up to the challenge.

“We showed a lot of grit and just found a way to score and keep pressure on when we were up against it, so I’m really proud of the group,” Davies said.

Foster now sits atop the MGFNL ladder with five wins from as many matches; the

Tigers are good and getting better as we dive deeper into the season.

Tarwin however should not be forgotten in this contest as the Sharks at one stage looked as though they might steal the win.

“It was a tough loss to swallow on the weekend for us; we took the game up to them in lots of areas but a seven minute lapse after halftime proved costly and was probably the difference,” Tarwin coach Lachie Jones said.

“Good sides don’t have these lapses so we will focus some time on that in our review.”

Jones noted that while further injuries didn’t help the cause, Tarwin will keep persisting.

The Sharks are starting to loom as one of a few clubs capable of forcing themselves into the top half of the MGFNL ladder, something that this year is proving difficult to do.

In short, this competition is tough and tight and very exciting.



Tarwin’s Harrison Cumming contests the ruck. Ns34_2025

MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

RND 6

FOSTER FOOTBALL CLUB

TARWIN FOOTBALL CLUB



	FOSTER		TARWIN	
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Foster	4.2	5.3	9.6	10.11 (71)
Tarwin	3.2	4.3	6.5	7.5 (47)

GOALS, Foster: S Chaseling 4, J Best, M Cooke 2, J Rathjen, J Flavelle 1 each
BEST: S Chaseling, L Rathjen, M Allott, M Clark, D Williams, C Banbury
GOALS, Tarwin: D Brosnan 4, T Harley 2, T Vanderkolk 1
BEST: H Cumming, B Chalmers, D Brosnan, D Houston, M Williams, F Brosnan

RESERVES

Foster	0.1	0.3	1.5	2.10 (22)
Tarwin	3.2	8.4	11.4	13.6 (84)

GOALS, Foster: N Daldy, N Gundrill 1 each.
BEST: J Gay, B Smith, J Pryor, J Davy, J Lewis, T Daldy
GOALS, Tarwin: T O’Loughlin, B Senior-Gibson, L Anderson, H Watt 2, C Scott, J Osborne, N Tucker, D Windsor, N McRae 1 each
BEST: N McRae, C Scott, D Woolf, J Osborne, D Windsor, N Tucker

MDU FOOTBALL CLUB



	YINNAR		MDU	
--	--------	--	-----	--

Yinnar	4.1	6.2	13.4	15.6 (96)
MDU	6.1	7.4	9.5	15.9 (99)

GOALS, Yinnar: H McKay, K Grinstead-Jones 3, M Geary, N Hall 2, J Bugeja 1, C Mills 1, J Notman, W Robertson, S Famularo 1 each
BEST: C Mills, M Robertson, N Hall, B Van Der Meer, M Geary, J Bugeja
GOALS, MDU: N Nagel 6, S Walsh, T McRae 2, J Hickey, J Kennedy, L Wright, S Forrester, W Stewart 1 each
BEST: S Walsh, T Corry, S Wilson, A Battersby, B VanderZalm, J Leeden

RESERVES

Yinnar	2.2	2.2	2.3	4.3 (27)
MDU	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4 (10)

GOALS, Yinnar: N McCafferty, J Garlick, K Elphick, L Pollard 1 each
BEST: J Findlay, D Yates, T Hutchinson, L Pollard, D Webster, M O’Toole
GOALS, MDU: B Tomada 1
BEST: H Cumming, B Chalmers, D Brosnan, D Houston, M. Williams, F. Brosnan

THIRDS

Yinnar	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3 (21)
MDU	4.1	7.6	10.9	16.12 (124)

GOALS, Yinnar: H McCulloch 2, B Durea 1
BEST: B. Beecher, H Bugeja, G Ryan, H Berechree, H McCulloch, I Krizanac
GOALS, MDU: A McInnes 7, L Hamilton 4, J Cleator 3, A Hulshof 2, H Scrimshaw 1
BEST: A McInnes, J Cleator, L Hamilton, C Amor, A Hulshof, C Harrison

IN OTHER GAMES...

SENIORS

Newborough	8.13.61	d Boolarra	4.11.35
Thorpdale	11.21.87	d Hill End	4.14.38

RESERVES

Newborough	17.11.113	d Boolarra	2.2.14
Thorpdale	8.9.57	d Hill End	5.5.35

MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE LADDERS

ROUND 6

SENIORS	W	L	%	pts
Foster	5	0	262.56	24
Fish Creek	4	1	213.30	20
Yinnar	5	1	174.52	20
MDU	5	1	152.88	20
Thorpdale	3	2	97.86	16
Newborough	3	2	94.14	16
Stony Creek	2	3	87.11	12
Mirboo Nth	3	3	80.99	12
Boolarra	3	3	80.82	12
Tarwin	2	4	92.84	8
Toora	0	5	57.64	4
Morwell East	1	5	49.59	4
Hill End	0	6	44.97	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Nick Nagel (MDU)	33
Kane Grinstead-Jones (Yinnar)	28
Jake Best (Foster)	18

RESERVES	W	L	%	pts
Yinnar	6	0	265.70	24
MDU	5	1	356.16	20
Newborough	4	1	217.00	20
Morwell East	4	2	200.45	16
Tarwin	4	2	139.84	16
Fish Creek	3	2	67.74	16
Stony Creek	2	3	98.54	12
Foster	1	3	61.71	10
Toora	1	4	107.85	8
Hill End	2	4	77.25	8
Mirboo Nth	2	4	65.44	8
Thorpdale	1	4	29.95	8
Boolarra	0	5	27.85	2

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Jarryd Garlick (Yinnar)	23
Brendan Tomada (MDU)	20
Ethan Hubbard (Hill End)	12

THIRDS	W	L	%	pts
MDU	4	1	291.36	20
Yinnar	3	1	162.83	20
Newborough	4	1	150.56	20
Hill End	2	2	79.78	16
Mirboo Nth	2	3	93.31	12
Tarwin	1	3	69.77	12
Fish Creek	0	5	30.41	4
Stony Creek	0	0	0.00	0
Toora	0	0	0.00	0
Boolarra	0	0	0.00	0
Thorpdale	0	0	0.00	0
Morwell East	0	0	0.00	0
Foster	0	0	0.00	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS

Tobias McDuffie (Mirboo North)	24
Angus McInnes (MDU)	24
Oscar Hanson (Newborough)	19

Tigers of old, ready to roar

A BIG football reunion is planned for Saturday, June 14, at noon in the Wonthaggi Power clubrooms.

A big crowd is expected to turn out for the celebration of the 1975 Wonthaggi Rovers Senior Premiership side under legendary coach Colin McRae, the 1995 Premiership team coached by Greg Hosking, and the 1965 thirds team coached by Joe Robson, who notched up seven premierships in eight years, an incredible performance.

The Rovers were the winners of the last premiership in the old Bass Valley Football League, and with the disbanding of the League, the remaining seven clubs moved into the Alberton Football League.

This reunion looks back over 60 years with the Thirds, 50 years with the 1975 team, and 30 years on for the 1995 team.

Former Secretary and player John Duscher said he was looking forward to catching up with teammates, officials, life members, and supporters to celebrate the success of these teams.

"We had a great time last year when we got

together to celebrate the wins of 1974 and 1994, and we should do it more often."

Football has always been a wonderful part of this community and an important part of the town's sporting history. The Wonthaggi Rovers were a great family group, and lifelong friendships were made.

A proud, passionate, and very competitive club, Rovers was formed in 1956 with the amalgamation of East Wonthaggi and Shops Assistants Football Clubs. At the end of 2004, a new club was formed, Wonthaggi Power, with the amalgamation of the Wonthaggi Rovers and Wonthaggi Blues.

The stories just keep getting bigger and better with age, sharing the sweetness of success, the highs and lows, the joys and disappointments, the great marks and goals, and intense rivalry.

It will be a day to remember and a day not to be missed.

"It would be great to see you there," said John.

"Tell your old teammates, family and friends and put it in your diary!"

Bridgenorth Parrot lines up for Leongatha

AS PREVIOUSLY reported, Tasmania's Bridgenorth is the only footy club in Australia to share Leongatha's nickname, the Parrots, the bonds between the two flocks continuing to strengthen, and the relationship progressing on Saturday when Bridgenorth's Logan Wright became the first player to represent both clubs.

He pulled on a Leongatha jumper for the Parrot's thumping 85-point Reserves win over Warragul.

Previously, representatives of both clubs have visited each other, checking out the other Parrots in action.

Wright was keen to play for Leongatha last year but missed the clearance period so couldn't get a permit to do so.

On Saturday he started on a halfback flank, being moved forward in the final term.

"He led out and took a good mark low to the ground and had a shot for goal and just missed," Leongatha committee member Trevor Riseley said.

While Wright went ok, it proved a little challenging not knowing the names of many of his new teammates, but he prepared as best as possible by arriving in time for Thursday's training.

Unfortunately, Saturday's match was an away contest in Warragul, Riseley explaining that things haven't fallen into place with the fixtures for the two clubs this season, Bridgenorth's weekend bye not coinciding with a Leongatha home game.

Bridgenorth committee member Marcus Byard also travelled over from Tassie for Saturday's match, having been over every time since visits between the clubs began four years ago.

While it's not yet known if a Leongatha player will pull on a Bridgenorth jumper, the Tasmanian side has made it clear it would be happy to give the likes of Tom Marriott or Tallin Brill a run.

Bridgenorth plays in the Northern Tasmanian Football Association, having just one Senior win this season from five games, albeit with a trio of close losses.

Reserves player Wright has played four games for Bridgenorth this year, the side unbeaten after five rounds and sitting on top of the ladder with a whopping percentage of 334.72, the Leongatha Seconds similarly placed with five wins and a loss and only behind top-placed Traralgon on percentage.



The Breakers Pride match team ahead of Friday night's clash at the Nest. Photo: Bold Photography.

Breakers play with pride

A BIG crowd turned out for the Breakers fourth annual Pride match with the ground suitably adorned with rainbow 50 metre arcs painted by Bass Coast Shire, rainbow lights and array of Pride flags.

The home side also unveiled their new Pride jumpers which were designed by the players.

In perfect conditions the contest started off quite even with both teams defence doing a great job. This resulted in the ball spending a lot of time through the centre and few scoring opportunities for either team.

In the second quarter the Breakers came out firing with a clean clearance from the first ruck contest sending them into attack.

Quick hands from Tess Angarane out to Tayla Stahl finally broke the stalemate giving the Breakers the first goal of the match.

With scores hard to come by and the ball getting slippery the second half was another good contest.

Chloe Booth and Katie

Cornish continued to repel everything at half back with great second efforts and driving the ball forward.

Breakers ruck Ellen Williams was giving her team first use of the ball with Jenna Russo and Molly Conroy active all over the ground.

The Breakers work rate remained high and they surged forward from a contest with Gina Luru at the end of a chain of handballs to score her first ever goal.

Carly Heislars continued to work hard on the wing, positioning well and creating a contest to limit Tyabb's run.

Tyabb dominated the play in the last quarter however the Breakers defence once again held up strong, with great talk and safe play.

Final score: Breakers 2.1-13 def Tyabb 0.5-5

Goals: Tayla Stahl, Gina Luru

Best: Ellen Williams, Jenna Russo, Cloe Booth, Molly Conroy, Carly Heislars

This week the Breakers take on Mount Eliza away on Saturday at 12pm.



Breakers' Gaby Hynes and her Tyabb opponent over-run the football as they competed for possession in last Friday night's Pride match at the Dalyston Recreation Reserve.

Leongatha dominance over Warragul not reflected by score

A FLURRY of Warragul goals approaching three-quarter time brought an uncompetitive match to life, slashing Leongatha's lead from nine goals late in the third quarter to five at the last change, but a Jenson Garnham major soon after play resumed snuffed out thoughts of a Gulls' comeback.

Leongatha's eventual winning margin of 47 points didn't reflect the level of control the Parrots enjoyed, with Warragul's accurate nine goals and three behinds helping to somewhat gloss over the Gulls' deficiencies in other areas.

Garnham dominated in the second half, booting four goals, managing five for the match.

He and other Leongatha forwards enjoyed ample opportunities due to the Parrots' dominance for most of

the day.

While Warragul started brightly with the game's first goal, the Parrots quickly took control and set the pattern for much of the rest of the day.

That involved patient build-ups, Leongatha willing to chip the ball around the backline to loose men until opportunities arose further up field, then moving the footy quickly and efficiently into attack and often reaping the rewards on the scoreboard.

Were it not for the determined and assured marking of Warragul's top performer, Sean Masterson, the Leongatha forwards would have savoured a greater feast.

Despite last week's injuries to Sean Westaway and Mitch Bentvelzen, the Parrots' backline continued to work efficiently together, Cade Maskell and Tim Sauvarin again solid contributors,

along with the efforts of others such as Travis Nash and Ben Harding.

Harding continued to prove his worth, winning contests all over the ground and creating opportunities for teammates, being deservedly named the Parrots' best.

Coach Trent McMicking declared it Harding's best game for Leongatha.

"He played on a wing, held his width and was a massive part of us getting so many inside 50 entries," McMicking said.

Aaron Heppell again showed why he was missed while off exploring the world last season, being a dominant force around the ball and kicking three goals.

Luke Bowman was right behind Harding on the best players list for the winning side, again being a tenacious ball winner and using the Sherrin effectively, Nash also

recognised among the top performers.

Tallin Brill and Patrick Ireland each finished with a couple of majors.

Riley Senini continued to fight hard for the outclassed Gulls and gave the Warragul forwards opportunities with his positive play, finishing with a couple of goals of his own.

Sam Whibley soldiered on determinedly in the ruck and did some good work around the ground, while Tom Hobbs was another who could hold his head high for the beaten team.

The comfortable victory has Leongatha sitting third, just a percentage separating it from top-placed Moe.

The Parrots return to their nest to host winless Drouin after a week off due to a split round, while Warragul looks to bounce back at home this Saturday against Maffra.

Wonthaggi Power celebrates 20th birthday in style

THE Wonthaggi Power grandstand had the perfect view when Ryan Sparkes hit a boundary side tap from Cooper McInnes at full pace and slotted through one of the sweetest goals from the angle you'd ever hope to see. The shot started left, from the grandstand side boundary, and curved right with a well-measured banana kick and sailed right through the middle, into a stiff sou'wester.

Recognising a moment of brilliance, 10 or a dozen players got around him while the Power faithful, some of them who had returned to the fold for the club's 20th birthday celebrations, were initially dumbstruck before breaking into rapt applause. That's why you go to the footy!

The sublime strike started a run of three goals in a row by Sparkes, 10 minutes into the third quarter, that put the result in the match beyond doubt after what had been an arm wrestle with the visiting Bairnsdale Reg-legs team to that point in the game.

You were always going to back him moments later in a one-on-one up forward when McInnes again forced the ball forward for Sparke's next one and a reversed free kick and 50-metre penalty, straight out of the centre, brought up his third goal in three minutes.

When Blake Cornelis got involved soon after, passing to McInnes, on to Sparkes again, he had a chance for four in-a-row but it wasn't to be.

The runs of goals broke Bairnsdale's resolve, however, turning an eight-point Power lead at half time into a 44-point win at the end, Sparkes finishing with five on the day.

But as good as he was, initially on the ball, and then after going forward, he couldn't have done it without the fine games by Kaj Patterson at the stoppages and young Jasper Shone in the ruck against a mobile Jack White, with a number of others also taking up the slack on the ball including Josh Bates and Kyle Yann, and the likes of Noah Anderson, Harry Dawson, Isaac Chugg, Jakeb Thomas, Ethan Dickison, Kyle Reid, Jai Williams

and the coach himself, Jar-ryd Blair, all strong contributors on the day.

As much as Wonthaggi Power won the third quarter on the scoreboard, kicking 4.4 to 0.4 to set up the result, it wasn't that clear in general play with 15 Power clearances to 13, 14 ground-ball gets to 13 and Bairnsdale actually winning the inside 50 count, 12-9, on the back of 10-minutes' domination at the start of the term.

Blair said the way the team stood up to the pressure in that initial period after half-time was the most pleasing aspect of the game for him.

"They had the ball buried on their forward line, but we stuck our tackles, held it up and went from contest to contest because we had to until we finally got into the clear," he said at three-quarter time.

It was a very pleasing win, according to Blair after the game, especially so with the number of forced changes the club has had to make to its Senior side most weeks this season.

Into the side this week came Beau Ransom for his first senior game, playing an accountable role in defence, chasing up strongly as required and competing well for the loose ball.

Blake Cornelis and Kyle Yann also came in, being singled out for praise by the coach in the rooms afterwards.

Out went Tom Murray, Fergus O'Connor and Connor Macmillan.

The team looks like losing Brodie Mabilia again with a hamstring injury while Jack Blair is closer to making a return to training.

Blair congratulated the club on its 20th birthday, praising the players, officials, volunteers and supporters of the club who had gone before for "an enormous amount of work" but also saying Wonthaggi Power was in as good a position as any time in its 20-year history right now.

He noted they'd won three out of four football matches on the day with the Senior team setting the standard with their resolve, commitment and leadership enabling them to perform despite constant changes to personnel.



Wonthaggi Power ruckman Jasper Shone gets spectacularly airborne to take the tap ahead of his Bairnsdale opponent Jack White.



Despite the winning margin at the end, the contest for the ball at ground level was even for much of the day, with Blake Cornelis managing to find some clear air.

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

RND 6

LEONGATHA FOOTBALL CLUB

57 104

WARRAGUL	2.0	3.2	7.2	9.3 (57)
Leongatha	5.2	8.6	11.8	15.14 (104)

GOALS, Warragul: B Fowler 2, R Senini 2, L Carter 2, T Hillard 1, T Hobbs 1, T Stern 1
BEST: S. Masterson, R. Senini, I. Wallace, S. Whibley, A. Phillips, T. Hobbs
GOALS, Leongatha: J. Garnham 5, A. Heppell 3, P. Ireland 2, T. Brill 2, Z. Lamers 1, T. Hall 1, H. Lindsay 1
BEST: B Harding, L Bowman, J Garnham, A Heppell, C Maskell, T Nash

WARRAGUL	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2 (8)
Leongatha	4.0	7.4	10.5	14.9 (93)

GOALS, Warragul: S Kelly 1
BEST: H Cant, J Casson, S Kelly, C MacLean, X La Frantz
GOALS, Leongatha: B Fort, C Watson 3, J Stewart 2, K McGrath, C Rump, N Fixter, B Davidson, J Cochrane, D Kratzat 1 each
BEST: N Fixter, B Grabham Andrews, B Fort, J Cochrane, I Fox, B Davidson

WARRAGUL	2.1	2.2	4.3	5.4 (34)
Leongatha	1.0	5.0	6.2	10.2 (62)

BEST, Warragul: L Moore, X Olsson, T Ward, T Logan, J Boote, C Leighton
BEST, Leongatha: A Logan, S Bradley, T McKenzie, E Berryman, F Donohue, I Bolge

WARRAGUL	3.3	6.3	7.3	9.3 (57)
Leongatha	1.0	2.1	4.5	5.8 (38)

BEST, Warragul: J Strating, J Boote, F Aubrey, H Dennis, N Young, C Leighton
BEST, Leongatha: F Livingstone, S Kreutzberger, J Bolge, N Cameron, N Bradley

WONTHAGGI FOOTBALL CLUB

87 43

WONTHAGGI	3.4	6.4	9.8	13.9 (87)
Bairnsdale	3.1	5.2	5.6	6.7 (43)

GOALS, Wonthaggi: R Sparkes 5, J Williams 3, C McInnes 2, B Cornelis, J Bates, J Blair 1 each
BEST: R Sparkes, K Patterson, H Dawson, J Blair, E Dickison, J Shone
GOALS, Bairnsdale: B. McCarrey, T. Rees, K. Frith, L. Byrne-Jones, E. East, B. Vickery 1 each
BEST: W Mitchell, R Tatnell, H Longbottom, J Lando, E East, C Harvey

WONTHAGGI	2.2	3.3	6.5	8.9 (57)
Bairnsdale	2.2	4.3	6.3	6.4 (40)

GOALS, Wonthaggi: T Davey 3, A Busana, C Krause 2, C De Alwis 1
BEST: J Lewis, J Williamson, E Joma, C Krause, C Brown, T Davey
GOALS, Bairnsdale: C Crofts 1, M Hamilton 1, M Falls 1, S O'Kelly 1, B Froud 1, E Thomas 1
BEST: T Scott, H Cook, M Hamilton, C Crofts, D Eastman, E Thomas

WONTHAGGI	0.0	1.3	2.4	5.5 (35)
Bairnsdale	4.5	4.9	7.12	9.14 (68)

BEST, Wonthaggi: L Lidstone, H Smith, J Burns, J Brouwers, B Dockery, O Feather
BEST, Bairnsdale: D Ashby, R Hargreaves, C Cook, M Neate, R Cullinan, X Lane

WONTHAGGI	2.0	5.3	6.3	8.6 (54)
Bairnsdale	1.2	3.3	6.6	7.7 (49)

BEST, Wonthaggi: Robert Hullick, Blake Eden, Ryder Tack, Jaxon Tack, Billy Wyhoon, Archie Luke
BEST, Bairnsdale: Harley Young, Oscar Baylis, Caleb Kelly, Cedric Taylor, Archer Crawley, Daniel Martin

IN OTHER GAMES...

SENIORS
Traralgon 28.15.183 d Drouin 8.1.58
Morwell 7.8.50 d Maffra 7.5.47
Moe 15.14.104 d Sale 10.10.70

RESERVES
Traralgon 35.13.223 d Drouin 0.0.0
Maffra 11.10.76 d Morwell 2.5.17
Moe 13.14.92 d Sale 6.3.39

THIRDS
Traralgon 7.10.52 d Drouin 6.3.39
Maffra 7.10.52 d Morwell 1.7.13
Moe 11.11.74 d Sale 0.4.4

FOURTHS
Traralgon 16.16.172 d Drouin 2.3.15
Maffra 10.3.63 d Morwell 3.9.27
Moe 10.17.77 d Sale 4.3.27

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE LADDERS

ROUND 6

SENIORS	W	L	%	pts
Moe	5	1	199.71	20
Wonthaggi	5	1	160.91	20
Leongatha	5	1	134.70	20
Traralgon	4	2	142.51	16
Morwell	3	3	133.43	12
Bairnsdale	3	3	96.21	12
Warragul	2	4	81.19	8
Maffra	2	4	73.97	8
Sale	1	5	66.83	4
Drouin	0	6	41.34	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS	
Ben Crocker (Moe)	35
Brandon McDonald (Morwell)	18
Jenson Garnham (Leongatha)	18

RESERVES	W	L	%	pts
Traralgon	5	1	375.96	20
Leongatha	5	1	340.00	20
Wonthaggi	5	1	206.01	20
Moe	5	1	177.17	20
Maffra	4	2	180.83	16
Sale	2	4	92.76	8
Bairnsdale	2	4	85.89	8
Morwell	1	5	74.66	4
Warragul	1	5	34.83	4
Drouin	0	6	5.49	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS	
Oliver Haberl (Traralgon)	16
Caleb Crofts (Bairnsdale)	14
Tom Davey (Wonthaggi)	13

THIRDS	W	L	%	pts
Leongatha	5	1	184.07	20
Traralgon	4	1	180.48	18
Bairnsdale	4	1	119.11	18
Moe	4	2	238.22	16
Warragul	3	2	209.26	14
Maffra	3	2	172.77	14
Drouin	2	4	91.62	8
Sale	2	4	46.42	8
Wonthaggi	1	5	51.08	4
Morwell	0	6	15.46	0

LEADING GOAL KICKERS	
Rylie Baker (Drouin)	20

FOURTHS	W	L	%	pts
Traralgon	6	0	1016.88	24
Warragul	5	1	128.48	20
Maffra	5	1	128.31	20
Moe	3	3	125.44	12
Sale	3	3	96.17	12
Bairnsdale	3	3	86.69	12
Wonthaggi	2	3	69.76	10
Leongatha	1	5	53.79	4
Morwell	1	5	35.38	4
Drouin	0	5	45.22	2

LEADING GOAL KICKERS	
Bill De Araugo (Warragul)	24
Ford Gore (Traralgon)	19
Fraser Aubrey (Warragul)	17

ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE RESULTS

RND 6

POOWONG FOOTBALL CLUB



POOWONG			NILMA DARNUM	
Poowong	0.1	4.3	7.5	7.7 (49)
Nilma Darnum	3.6	3.7	7.8	7.12 (54)

GOALS, Poowong: Alex Henshall 3, Jarvis Brown, Matthew Cozzio, Zac Gray, Tyran Lord 1 each
BEST: Jarvis Brown, Zac Gray, Alex Henshall, Aaron Damon, Mitch Molloy, Conor Cunningham
GOALS, Nilma Darnum: Ben Campbell 2, Liam Harman-Dorney, Sage Tapner 1 each
BEST: Jake Barnard, Nathan Campbell, Thomas Young, Ben Campbell, Sage Tapner

POOWONG				
Poowong	0.3	3.4	7.4	8.4 (52)
Nilma Darnum	1.1	1.3	3.5	4.6 (30)

GOALS, Poowong: Brandon Butler 3, Jake Lewis, Daniel McDonald, Bryce Moyce, Bryce Townsend 1 each
BEST: Mitchell Gowland, Rory Gilliatte, Connor King, Toby Moyce, Bryce Townsend
GOALS, Nilma Darnum: Rob Campbell, Blake Jones, Nicholas Philp 1 each
BEST: Christopher Cupples, Ethan Carlile, Riley Feil, Rob Campbell, Lochie Shaw, Matt Cheyne

POOWONG				
Poowong	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.5 (17)
Nilma Darnum	5.1	8.5	8.6	10.9 (69)

GOALS, Poowong: Gavin Monson, Zachary Sherar 1 each
BEST: Gavin Monson, Marty Cook, Lachie Moriarty, Bryce Broadmore, Hayden Hessels, Aaron Damon
GOALS, Nilma Darnum: Riley Stock 4, Lucas Dalton 2, William Bremmer, Levi Fisher Albert McAuley, Nate Young 1 each
BEST: Miller Ireland, Patrick Brown, Ethan Stirling, Connor Wettenhall, Nate Young, James Demicoli

POOWONG				
Poowong	2.2	5.2	8.6	11.10 (76)
Nilma Darnum	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.1 (19)

GOALS, Poowong: Cruze Deal 5, Lachie Moriarty 3, Daniel Waide 2, Luke Niewwerth, Kade Zealley 1 each
BEST: Lochie Wilson, Kade Zealley, George Edwards, Dylan Canavan, Cruze Deal, Dylan Watson
GOALS, Nilma Darnum: Nicholas Meggetto 2, Louis McAuley 1
BEST: Noah Tweddle, Nicholas Meggetto, Jackson Marx, Lachlan Huston, Brodie O'Leary, Louis McAuley

NYORA FOOTBALL CLUB



NYORA				
Nyora	1.2	5.4	9.5	10.8 (68)
Bunyip	3.4	3.7	7.9	9.13 (67)

GOALS, Nyora: Caleb Crestani, Paul Delaroche, Dylan Heylen, Callum McNiff, O'Pili Paora 2 each
BEST: Aaron Coggins, Jesse Heylen, Caleb Crestani, Paul Delaroche, Dylan Heylen, Lewis Kennedy
GOALS, Bunyip: Ned Ashton, Nathan Carver 2, zach Gallahar, William Grummisch, Timothy Henschel, Matthew O'Halloran, Riley Simpson 1 each
BEST: Ned Ashton, Tahj Murphy, Ben Stewart, Kai Jones, William Grummisch, Samuel Hughes

NYORA				
Nyora	1.2	1.3	1.3	3.3 (21)
Bunyip	1.1	6.1	9.2	11.3 (69)

GOALS, Nyora: Hunter Cairns 2, Tyson Shiell 1
BEST: Andrew Dike, Brodie Templeton, Tane White, Jye Shaw-Remy, Luke Forscutt, Lincoln Brock
GOALS, Bunyip: Shane Smith 4, Nick Buckland 2, Daniel Exposito, Jamie Hallpike, Jeb McLeod, Jason Midwinter 1 each
BEST: Darby Craven, Josh Collins, Jeb McLeod, Nick Buckland, Max Hanks, Dean Lont

IN OTHER GAMES...

SENIORS				
Buln Buln	11.9.75	d	Longwarry	11.1.67
Lang Lang	10.9.69	d	Ellinbank	8.12.60
Neerim Sth	28.15.183	d	Yarragon	5.3.33
Trafalgar	10.9.69	d	Catani	3.7.25

RESERVES				
Longwarry	19.13.127	d	Buln Buln	0.0.0
Lang Lang	14.7.91	d	Ellinbank	5.5.35
Neerim Sth	16.19.115	d	Yarragon	4.2.26
Trafalgar	8.13.61	d	Catani	2.1.13

THIRDS				
Longwarry	5.6.36	d	Buln Buln	5.5.35
Ellinbank	10.9.69	d	Lang Lang	5.9.39
Neerim Sth	8.11.59	d	Yarragon	5.2.32

FOURTHS				
Longwarry	11.8.74	d	Buln Buln	5.4.34
Ellinbank	11.8.74	d	Lang Lang	2.3.15
Yarragon	15.11.101	d	Neerim Sth	4.2.26
Trafalgar	7.10.52	d	Catani	4.4.28

Historic day for Poowong as reserves break three-year drought

By Geoff Wyatt

POOWONG welcomed Nilma Darnum players and supporters on Saturday in overcast conditions, with the ground in good condition, and a big crowd resulting in some interesting results.

Poowong reserves were beaten by 240 points last round, winners today by 22 points giving them their first victory in three years. A 262 point turn around this created a lot of excitement, the first club song in years sung with gusto, fantastic for the club.

The day started with the fourths winning 11.10.76 to 3.1.19. The Under 18's went down to Nilma Darnum 10.8.68 to 2.5.17, netball Poowong won u13's, u/15's and u/17's losses in A, B and C.

To the senior game with two teams on the same level, unfortunately Poowong had four changes out Mitch Cochrane, Josh Chiavaroli, Jack de Kock and Conner Ives replaced by David O'Neill, Donald McDonald, Tyran Lord and Troy Niewerth in for his first senior game up from the U18's.

Poowong kicked to the Nyora end, Nilma were first off the mark, Poowong had a couple of chances, Nilma led the way at quarter time 3.5.23 to



Poowong's Mitch Molloy tucks the ball under his arm and takes off on a run in the tight senior contest. Photo: Jeff Tull

Poowong 0.1.1. Henshall kicking his second from the boundary, Nilma managed a point before Tyran Lord kicked Poowong's fourth to go in at half time with a two-point lead Poowong 4.3.27 to Nilma Darnum 3.7.25. Light rain started after half time with the game in the bal-

ance play was moving up and down the ground, it would come down to which team could make the most of their opportunities. Nilma kicked the first goal of the term followed by two more before Poowong lifted with Zac Gray goaling. Nilma replied to open up by 19-points leaving Poowong with a job ahead, after a couple of chances Jarvis Brown goaled from CHF and Alex Henshall kicked his third from the boundary to reduce the gap at three quarter time to three points Poowong 7.5.47 to Nilma 7.8.50.

Both coaches urged the players to work hard, they both had opportunities to score the result, Nilma added four points with Poowong two points, leaving Nilma Darnum to take a five-point win in a tight game. Poowing 7.7.49 to Nilma Darnum 7.12.54.

Best Players Jarvis Brown, Zac Gray, Alex Henshall, Aaron Damon, Mitch Molloy and Connor Cunningham.

So close to our first win, unfortunately with six or seven injuries, great for the club is the experience our Under 18 players are gaining. Next week off to Neerim South, the long trip all the best to everyone.

Once again to the reserves "Wow what a win!"

Nyora survives late surge from Bunyip in nail-biter

NYORA clung on to steal a one-point victory from Bunyip on Saturday.

The Saints were going in blind against the new to the league Bulldogs, but the result was an excellent match-up with a nail-biting fight to the finish.

Conditions were wet and muddy at the Nyora Recreation Reserve, with rain impacting the game on and off throughout the day.

Bunyip got the jump on Nyora, amassing a 14-point lead in the first quarter.

Nyora replied by sending big-bodied Will McGindle back into the defence to take on Bunyip's top goal kicker Nathan Carver.

McGindle was playing up forward in the first quarter, nursing an injury.

However, the move to the back line worked a treat, as Carver was limited to two goals for the game.

Nyora regained the lead and was up by nine points



It's a tussle for the ball as Jordan Anderson and Dante Di Pietro close in on their Bunyip opponent.

heading into halftime.

The game levelled off in the third quarter and Nyora stayed ahead.

The skill level across the ground remained high,

despite the persistent rain.

For Nyora, Aaron Coggins and was instrumental on the half back line and Jesse Heylen was once again a dominant presence in half

back flank.

Paul Delaroche was a force in the midfield and new recruit Caleb Crestani proved to be an asset, displaying great speed and accuracy.

A showdown developed in the fourth quarter.

Nyora had the opportunity to kick a goal, but the umpire made a holding call, which sent the ball back down to Bunyip's forward line.

Bunyip kicked a goal and changed the game, leading to a frantic finish.

The spectators were on their feet, cheering on their respective teams, as Nyora held onto the win.

Nyora will be playing Trafalgar at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve this Saturday.

This will be the third premiership contender Nyora has played in the last six weeks, but the Saints are looking forward to a good run through the middle of the season.

ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE LADDERS

ROUND 6

SENIORS	W	L	%	pts	RESERVES	W	L	%	pts	THIRDS	W	L	%	MR	FOURTHS	W	L	%	MR
Neerim South	6	0	371.30	24	Longwarry	6	0	1143.75	24	Ellinbank	6	0	285.85	100.0	Bunyip	5	0	457.14	100.0
Trafalgar	5	1	257.02	20	Lang Lang	4	1	660.00	20	Longwarry	3	1	135.86	75.00	Poowong	5	0	241.33	100.0
Longwarry	5	1	222.55	20	Neerim South	4	1	469.85	20	Neerim South	4	2	198.07	66.66	Ellinbank	5	1	142.67	83.33
Lang Lang	5	1	171.18	20	Ellinbank	5	0	282.25	20	Nilma Darnum	4	2	138.63	66.66	Trafalgar	4	2	233.51	66.66
Ellinbank	3	3	144.08	12	Trafalgar	4	2	159.82	16	Lang Lang	3	2	180.1	60.00	Yarragon	3	2	165.76	60.00
Buln Buln	3	3	113.45	12	Catani	3	3	86.72	12	Buln Buln	3	3	200	50.00	Lang Lang	3	2	78.48	60.00
Yarragon	3	3	77.72	12	Bunyip	2	3	64.71	10	Poowong	2	2	82.04	50.00	Buln Buln	2	4	69.55	33.33
Catani	2	4	101.46	8	Yarragon	2	3	95.93	8	Trafalgar	1	4	46.15	20.00	Catani	1	4	70.07	20.00
Nyora	2	4	61.01	8	Buln Buln	1	4	46.03	6	Yarragon	0	5	34.52	0.00	Longwarry	1	4	66.02	20.00
Nilma Darnum	2	4	42.61	8	Nyora	1	5	22.71	4	Bunyip	0	5	10.57	0.00	Neerim South	1	5	59.57	16.66
Bunyip	0	6	35.74	0	Poowong	1	5	11.88	4	Catani	0	0	0.00	0.00	Nilma Darnum	0	6	13.98	0.00
Poowong	0	6	31.49	0	Nilma Darnum	0	6	14.15	0	Nyora	0	0	0.00	0.00	Nyora	0	0	0.00	0.00
LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS				
Jason Wells (Longwarry)				45	Bradley Blazevic (Longwarry)				25	Charlie Armour (Ellinbank)				16	Hudson Grujic (Trafalgar)				17
Mason McGarrit (Neerim South)				35	Toby Bayne (Neerim South)				24	Charles Kilmartin (Buln Buln)				14	Cruze Deal (Poowong)				16
Marc Holt (Lang Lang)				30	Kurt Batt (Lang Lang)				19						Dylan Strating (Neerim South)				15



Timothy Gunn was the Panthers' leading goal scorer with three majors for the game.



Jack Soroczynski controls the ball on the fly.

Panthers stumble against the Cobras

KILCUNDA BASS started strong but ultimately conceded defeat to Cora Lynn.

Playing at the Bass Recreation Reserve, the Panthers jumped out of the box quickly to put three goals on the board to Cora Lynn's three behinds.

The first quarter was played on the Panthers' terms and the home side felt it had given itself some breathing room ahead of the first siren.

However, there was a bit of a breeze down Kilcunda Bass' kicking end, offering an advantage.

The Panthers would need to brace themselves for the second quarter, with Cora Lynn hungry to use the wind advantage to even things back up.

A bit of a drizzle began at the end of the first quarter.

Cora Lynn regrouped at quarter time and came back swinging, hitting its targets to gain the lead.

Regardless, Lochlan Scott played a sensational game in the backline.

Playing on leading goal kicker Nathan Gardiner, Scott's performance kept his opponent to just four goals for the game.

The game changed in the second half.

The conditions became slippery and both sides resorted to a scrappier style of play.

Both teams were also

dealing with injuries, creating tricky situations for both coaches.

Back from injury, Jack Soroczynski played a strong game for the Panthers, providing another brilliant onballer to take back a bit of control.

Kilcunda Bass didn't take its chances and Cora Lynn proved to be more reliable with the ball.

Cora Lynn adjusted to the new conditions quicker and managed to play a much cleaner game.

Scores were fairly even through the second half, but Cora Lynn managed to retain its lead.

Despite the result, Kilcunda Bass took some positives from the game, and is taking note of where it sits in the scheme of the competition.

Going forward, Kilcunda Bass will be looking to continue putting points in the bank and keeping its percentage sound for the opportunity to compete with the best come finals.

Kilcunda Bass will play Garfield at Garfield next round.

Garfield has a nice, open ground, which has proved taxing on the Panthers' legs in the past.

However, the Panthers are expecting this ground to suit their style of play and are looking forward to seeing how it goes.



Nathan Foote is gang tackled by two Cobra midfield opponents. Photos: Anna Carson

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION RESULTS

RND 6

KILCUNDA BASS FOOTBALL CLUB



KILCUNDA-BASS	CORA LYNN
---------------	-----------

K-Bass	3.3	3.3	5.5	7.5 (47)
Cora Lynn	0.3	4.8	7.12	10.17 (77)

GOALS, K-Bass: Timothy Gunn 3, Brody Connolly 2, Ned Bradley, Jack Soroczynski 1 each
BEST: Jack Soroczynski, Lochlan Scott, Steven Scott, Jack Rosenow, Nathan Foote, Timothy Gunn

GOALS, Cora Lynn: Nathan Gardiner 4, Jaxon Briggs 2, Heath Briggs, Harrison Paul, William Stephenson, William Thomas 1 each
BEST: William Thomas, Jordan Butera, Heath Briggs, Jaxon Briggs, Gus Da Costa, Nicholas Pastras

RESERVES

K-Bass	3.1	3.1	4.3	4.4 (28)
Cora Lynn	1.4	6.5	6.10	14.11 (95)

GOALS, K-Bass: Sam Dickinson 2, Dylan Susic, Peter Tucker 1 each
BEST: Sam Dickinson, Brodie Simpson, Gavin Boyd, Dylan Susic, Brodie Gude, Blake Baker
GOALS, Cora Lynn: Josh Black 4, Jacob Percy, Liam Taylor 3, Jake Boccari, Christopher Cotton, Dylan Ross, Josh Wilson 1 each
BEST: Josh Black, Jacob Percy, Liam Taylor, Dylan Ross, Jake Boccari, Logan Fox

INVERLOCH-KONGWAK FOOTBALL CLUB



INVERLOCH-K	NAR NAR GOON
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Inverloch-K	1.1	2.2	5.4	5.4 (34)
Nar Nar Goon	2.3	3.6	4.8	10.10 (70)

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Nicholas Baltas, Augustus Finsterer, Harry McInnes, Tate Short, Joe Soumilas 1 each
BEST: Jayden Sullivan, Joseph Nowell, Joe Soumilas, Jarvis Pryor, Ashton Hewitson, Tate Short

GOALS, Nar Nar Goon: Dermott Yawney 5, Jacob Keyzers, Max McGreal, Jed Murphy, Kyle O'Sullivan, Aidan Picipelli 1 each
BEST: Jake Smith, Trent Armour, Nate Picipelli, Flynn Parker, Dermott Yawney, Jacob Keyzers

RESERVES

Inverloch-K	1.1	2.3	5.4	6.4 (40)
Nar Nar Goon	2.5	3.8	3.11	4.11 (35)

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Rem Dal Pozzo 3, Mitch Hewitson, Matt McCaughan, Maxwell Scott 1 each
BEST: Adam Holland, Malachy O'Flynn, Clinton McCaughan, Dale Lawton, Emmet Taranto, Robert Taylor
GOALS, Nar Nar Goon: Billy Williams 2, Nicholas Bransgrove, Jack Murphy 1 each
BEST: Jonathan Dai, Ben Bishop-Schoff, Harrison Waters, Zac Smith, Nicholas Bransgrove, Chace Parker

THIRDS

Inverloch-K	2.1	3.2	4.3	5.4 (34)
Nar Nar Goon	0.0	2.1	3.2	4.4 (28)

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Jasper Cousins 2, Jesse Dugard, Noah McLennan, Mitchell Ward 1 each
BEST: Maxwell Scott, Patrick Dwyer, Rhys Newman, Andot Mankhong, Frolely Anderson, Andrew Nowell
GOALS, Nar Nar Goon: Tarrant Millar 2, Will Airdrie, Ryan Fox 1 each
BEST: Dean Bailey, Archer Radings, Oliver Ratten, Kaelen Henry, Todd Lester, Oliver Ockwell-Payne

FOURTHS

Inverloch-K	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5 (11)
Nar Nar Goon	1.1	1.2	2.3	3.6 (24)

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Finn O'Halloran 1
BEST: Cooper Newman, Zeb Anderson, Noah McLennan, Xavier Bertacco, Chase Bergmeier, Hayden Bell
GOALS, Nar Nar Goon: Tristan Crema, Toby Holland, Evan Loomes 1 each
BEST: James Cross, Toby Holland, Flynn Stephens, Jai Hall, Aidy Patterson, Charlie Tyler

Sea Eagles concede at final hurdle after late surge by Goon

INVERLOCH-KONGWAK held its ground against the formidable Nar Nar Goon side, but a late surge in the fourth quarter cost it the match.

Both teams headed to the Inverloch Recreation Reserve backed by a strong supporter base, which was rewarded with an exciting game.

There was a little bit of drizzle throughout the day, but otherwise, the conditions remained dry.

The battle was on from the first bounce.

Nar Nar Goon got a couple of goals on the board, but a late goal to Inverloch-Kongwak

closed the gap going into the quarter time break.

Inverloch-Kongwak was happy with its performance going into the second quarter, as the game was still in the balance.

Augustus Finsterer made his Seniors debut for the Sea Eagles, and kicked his first goal in the second quarter, which elicited a big celebration from his team.

Another level quarter was played and Nar Nar Goon only had 10 points of breathing room at halftime.

The third quarter was the Sea Eagles' best, kicking three goals to Nar Nar Goon's one.

Jayden Sullivan played a great game down back for the Sea-Eagles and has proven to be a solid defender over the last few weeks.

Joseph Nowell also gave a solid performance in the ruck and Joe Soumilas was a crucial presence in the midfield.

Inverloch-Kongwak was able to deliver some excellent passages of play whilst stopping Nar Nar Goon from doing any more damage.

However, the tide turned in the fourth quarter.

A couple of early goals to Nar Nar Goon saw Inverloch-Kongwak lose momentum.

Nar Nar Goon played its best quarter for the game, kicking six goals and securing a 36-point win.

Inverloch-Kongwak is a young side that's still learning and doing the work to put in a full four quarter effort.

It doesn't get any easier for the Sea Eagles, who will be tasked with playing Phillip Island in the next round.

With a number of players injured, the Sea Eagles will be taking the opportunity to give their younger players more exposure to senior football to continue to develop their skills.

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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

Nar Nar Goon 10.10.70 d Inverloch-Kongwak 5.4.34
Tooradin-Dalmore 11.4.70 d Phillip Island 9.14.68
Cora Lynn 10.17.77 d Kilcunda Bass 7.5.47
Koo Wee Rup 11.14.80 d Korumburra-Bena 6.7.43
Garfield 7.13.55 d Dalyston 7.9.51

The floor you've been searching for

Looking good!

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WEST GIPPSLAND
COMPETITION
RESULTS

RND
6

PHILLIP ISLAND FOOTBALL CLUB

70

68

TOORADIN-DALMORE	PHILLIP ISLAND
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Tooradin-Dal. 6.1 8.2 11.2 11.4 (70)
Phillip Island 1.1 2.5 7.12 9.14 (68)
GOALS, Tooradin-D: Andrew Dean 4, Piva Wright 3, Shane Savage 2, Logan Downe, Xavier Shinnars 1 each

BEST: Lewis Hill, Cooper Shipp, Piva Wright, Liam Adams, Cooper Bassett, Jehi Esler

GOALS, Phillip Island: Max Walton 4, Charlie Bruce, Hayden Bruce, Brady Ross, Billy Taylor, Jack Taylor 1 each

BEST: Charlie Bruce, Max Walton, Daniel Pearce, Hayden Bruce, Jaymie Youle, Cameron Pedersen

RESERVES

Tooradin-Dal. 3.1 3.3 5.8 5.9 (39)
Phillip Island 1.0 1.3 2.3 5.6 (36)

GOALS, Tooradin-D: Jake Sheeran 2, Ray Lengyel, Ben Sellings, Ben Wragg 1 each

BEST: Danyon Blew, Luke McKenna, Mitch Forgiarini, Liam Hill, Jack Denereaz, Ben Sellings

GOALS, Phillip Island: Jack Huther 3, Ethan Michaelides 2

BEST: Oliver Hibbert, Jack Opitz, Ben Taylor, Jack Keating, Beau Davies, Blake Thompson

THIRDS

Tooradin-Dal. 3.3 (21)
Phillip Island 9.7 (61)

GOALS, Tooradin-D: Chayse Campbell, Jack Gillespie, Hudson Rogers 1 each

BEST: Mason Sorenson, Kasy Deren, Taj Darose, Reece Cooper, Harrison Hardy, Vasili Papas

GOALS, Phillip Island: Oliver Duggan 4, Max Taylor 2, Benjamin Chihotski, Charles O'Garey 1 each

BEST: No best players have been selected

FOURTHS

Tooradin-Dal. 2.1 3.2 4.4 5.5 (35)
Phillip Island 2.1 3.6 5.8 8.8 (56)

GOALS, Tooradin-D: Charlie Burgess, Thomas Corrie, Connor Hudson Sibilla, Tylah Seger, Archer Swinburne 1 each

BEST: Darcy Freeman, Beau Fazzino, Connor Hudson Sibilla, Jack Alexander, Archer Swinburne, Jacob Cameron

GOALS, Phillip Island: Caleb Cantwell, Sam O'Garey 2, Levi Addison, Felix Bathgate, Kai Cashman, Lew De Faxio 1 each

BEST: Felix Bathgate, Archie Williams, Caleb Cantwell, Levi Addison, Lewis De Fazio, Jack Mascaros

THIS WEEKEND'S DRAW

SATURDAY, MAY 24

ELLINBANK ROUND 7

Lang Lang v Buln Buln
Longwarry v Ellinbank
Neerim South v Poowong
Yarragon v Nilma Darnum
Trafalgar v Nyora
Catani v Bunyip

GIPPSLAND (Split Round) ROUND 7

Traralgon v Wonthaggi
Warragul v Maffra

MID GIPPSLAND ROUND 7

Boolarra v Thorpdale
Mirboo North v Stony Creek
Morwell East v Toora
Tarwin v Newborough
Yinnar v Foster
Hill End - BYE

WEST GIPPSLAND ROUND 7

Nar Nar Goon v Warragul Industrials
Inverloch-Kongwak v Phillip Island
Cora Lynn v Korumburra-Bena
Koo Wee Rup v Tooradin-Dalmore
Garfield v Kilcunda Bass
Dalyston - BYE

Tooradin-Dalmore holds off Island charge



Phillip Island's Jordan Patullo kicks under pressure during the Bulldogs' narrow loss to Tooradin-Dalmore. Photos: Carol Ratcliff.



Max Walton marks for Phillip Island just ahead of his skipper Jack Taylor, while Tooradin-Dalmore's Jack Flannery fails to get the necessary elevation.

PHILLIP Island's senior team nearly pulled off one of the comebacks of the season but fell just short by two points in a thriller against Tooradin-Dalmore.

After a sluggish start that saw the Bulldogs trail by 30 points at quarter-time and 33 at the half, the side rallied in the second half with a renewed intensity and cleaner ball movement, despite three goals to the Seagulls during the third term.

The margin was cut to 14 points by the final break, and the Bulldogs surged in the last quarter but were left to rue missed opportunities, finishing with 14 behinds for the day.

Max Walton led the scoring with four goals in a best-on-ground display, while Charlie and Hayden Bruce, Daniel Pearce, Jaymie Youle, and Cameron Pedersen all had influential games.

Walton and Jack Taylor booted a major each in the thrilling final term in which Tooradin-Dalmore was kept goalless.

For the triumphant Sea Eagles, Andrew Dean booted four goals, Piva Wright three, with a couple to Shane Savage, and singles to Xavier Shinnars and Logan Downe, while Lewis Hill was named the winner's best.

The narrowly beaten Bulldogs showed great heart and will look to carry that energy into next week's key match-up against Inverloch-Kongwak, a side that sits just one spot below the Bulldogs on the ladder and a win behind.

Reserves:

PHILLIP Island's Reserves side fell agonisingly short in a tight tussle with Tooradin-Dalmore, going down by just three points in a low-scoring and fiercely contested match.

The Bulldogs had their chances late but couldn't quite find the winning goal.

Jack Huther was impressive with three majors, and Ethan Michaelides chipped in with two.

The midfield worked tirelessly all game, with standout efforts from Oliver Hibbert and Jack Opitz, while Ben Taylor and Jack Keating stood tall around the ground.

Despite the loss, there were plenty of positives to take into next week's clash at Inverloch.

Under 18s:

PHILLIP Island's Under 18s produced a dominant performance on the road, cruising to a 40-point victory over Tooradin-Dalmore.

The Bulldogs set the tone early with relentless pressure and clean ball use, keeping their opponents to just three goals for the match.

Key forward Oliver Duggan was damaging up front, bagging four goals, while Max Taylor (2), Ben Chihotski (1), and Charles O'Garey (1) added to the scoreboard in a well-rounded team effort.

The Bulldogs' midfield controlled the contest, giving their forwards plenty of opportunity and keeping the ball locked in their half for large stretches.

This commanding win continues the strong form of the U18s as they build momentum into the mid-point of the season.



Kurt Thomas finds front position in the marking contest.
Photos: Michelle Chisholm.



Dalyston's Will Clarke was busy in their backline as Garfield made a last quareter surge.

Magpies suffer four-point loss

DALYSTON came agonisingly close to a win but surrendered to Garfield by four points on Saturday.

A festive atmosphere set the stage for the Seniors, with the U16s coming off their first win for the season and the club hosting its MND Day.

Local representatives braved the slide in the chilly conditions and, between donations and merchandise, \$13,000 was raised.

Garfield went into the Seniors match with a full list, while Dalyston still has three key players out.

This didn't stop the Magpies from starting strong and getting an early lead in the first quarter.

The side was functioning as a cohesive unit across the ground, but not making the most of its opportunities, which would hurt it later on.

Showers began during the second quarter, which made the game slippery.

The wet conditions dampened skill levels, and Garfield took advantage to get back on top going into halftime.

Dalyston regained the lead in the third quarter, but it was an arm wrestle.

Having missed a week, Blake Carew was back on deck and gave a good target up forward.

Dalyston's midfield was particularly strong with Kyle Hutchinson, Brad Tilley and

Angus Rosenow making their presence known.

Hutchinson has been Mr Consistency all season and is constantly running and present in every contest.

Tilley also keeps going from strength to strength and has played an exceptional season.

Still eligible for Thirds, Rosenow played in his second Senior game and demonstrated his impressive ability to read the play.

Coach Mitch Hallahan continued to lead by example, showing his versatility and playing different roles throughout the game.

Fraser West was a reliable defender, who stifled some of Garfield's chances.

However, both sides didn't do enough to convert their opportunities.

Dalyston had an eight-point lead going into the fourth quarter, but lacked the winning attitude required to take it all the way to the finish.

The Magpies needed to go up another gear to stem the Star's finishing burst but it wasn't to be and they conceded the points.

Dalyston will have a chance to recuperate this week with a bye, before coming back to play Phillip Island in the next round.

This will be another tough contest, but Dalyston is hopeful it will have its full list back.

Giants under pressure in tough clash against Koo Wee Rup

KORUMBURRA-Bena competed in a tough contest against Koo Wee Rup on Saturday.

The Giants made a statement at its home ground with the first goal of the game going to Kodie Walker.

However, Koo Wee Rup started hitting its targets, as Korumburra-Bena's defenders struggled to keep up with their opposition.

Koo Wee Rup was allowed to

get a few easy ones through, but the Giants' effort was present.

The Giants came back strong again with the first goal of the second quarter going to Jayden Deas.

Korumburra-Bena kept up the pressure throughout the quarter but was unable to stop Koo Wee Rup's forward thrusts.

The home side was down by three goals at halftime.

After the break, the rain started to set in, making the ball and ground slippery.

The Giants had a lot of the ball in their forward, but unfortunately couldn't score any goals against the ongoing pressure Koo Wee Rup applied.

Overall, coach Josh Hopkins was pleased with his team's four-quarter effort and discipline.

However, Hopkins knows

there is still much to improve on and rated the game 5/10.

Korumburra-Bena's best players were Guy Dickson, Tyler Newton, Deas, Jordan Creppi, Matthew Borschman and Evan Allaway.

Korumburra-Bena will nest take on Cora Lynn.

Cora Lynn is fresh off a win against Kilcunda-Bass and will be another threatening match-up for the Giants.

WEST GIPPSLAND
COMPETITION
RESULTS

RND
6

DALYSTON FOOTBALL CLUB

51

55

DALYSTON				
Dalyston	3.2	3.4	6.6	7.9 (51)
Garfield	2.2	3.9	4.10	7.13 (55)

GOALS, Dalyston: Blake Carew 5, Robert Davey, Jaxon Foon 1 each
BEST: Blake Carew, Kyle Hutchison, Fraser West, Bradley Tilley, Angus Rosenow, Mitch Hallahan
GOALS, Garfield: Ding Dieng, Mitch Johnson, Jake Van Den Berghe 2, Jack Barnes 1
BEST: Ding Dieng, Matt Rennie, Brody Turner, Angus Emery, Jack Tenace-Greenall

DALYSTON				
Dalyston	1.3	1.3	3.5	3.7 (25)
Garfield	1.3	3.7	6.8	6.12 (48)

GOALS, Dalyston: Trevor Douglas Braid, Brad Hender, Dean Wylie 1 each
BEST: Shannon Coldebella, Dean Wylie, Brad hender, Trevor Douglas Braid, Matrix Chisholm, Shaun Silver
GOALS, Garfield: Joshua Murphy 2, Liam Bow, Lachlan Fernandez, Noah rogers, Scott Simpson Brewer 1 each
BEST: Will Pickering, Liam Bow, Matthew Bow, Noah Rogers, Finn Hower

DALYSTON				
Dalyston	1.0	2.3	2.3	4.3 (27)
Garfield	3.0	5.0	7.5	8.8 (56)

GOALS, Dalyston: Bailey Anderson, Will Chisholm, Jack Howell, Jake Hughes 1 each
BEST: Riley Brinkman, Tom Humphris, Ziggy Bowman Kissane, Luke Franks, Riley Pearson-rutland, Cooper Shepherd
GOALS, Garfield: No goal scorers listed.
BEST: No best players have been selected.

DALYSTON				
Dalyston	1.6	3.6	4.11	6.13 (49)
Garfield	0.0	2.0	2.0	3.3 (21)

GOALS, Dalyston: No goal scorers listed.
BEST: Riley McRae, Roy Humphris, Heath Hender, Brodie Magro, Bailey Ext Stainsby, Hamish Bell
GOALS, Garfield: No goal scorers listed.
BEST: Makai Maroney, Ethan Densley, Justin Braumann-Hall, Jex Taylor, Heath Serong, Tristan Davitt

KORUMBURRA BENA FOOTBALL CLUB

43

80

KORUMBURRA BENA				
Kor-Bena	1.1	3.1	4.5	6.7 (43)
Koo Wee Rup	4.5	6.8	8.10	11.14 (80)

GOALS, Kor-Bena: Evan Allaway, Zachary Barrett, Nicholas Besley, Jordan Ceppi, Jayden Deas, Kodie Walker 1 each
BEST: Guy Dickson, Tyler Newton, Jayden Deas, Jordan Ceppi, Matthew Borschman, Evan Allaway
GOALS, KWR: Dale Alanis 3, Timothy Miller 2, Joshua S Bateman, Tyler Evans, Brendon Head, Samuel Kors, Seth Lawler, Matthew Voss 1 each
BEST: Nathan Voss, Matthew Voss, Nathan Muratore, Dale Alanis, William Battams, Joshua S Bateman

KORUMBURRA BENA				
Kor-Bena	2.1	3.1	3.4	4.6 (30)
Koo Wee Rup	0.2	2.4	4.6	4.9 (33)

GOALS, Kor-Bena: Codie Anderson, Jake Fowles, Jasper Macri 1 each
BEST: Tarkyn Walker, Jordan Grabham, Lachlan Smith, Jed Harris, Boyd Robertson, Nash Beavis
GOALS, KWR: John Ramos 2, Matthew Cameron, Troy Miller 1 each
BEST: Ryan Wilby, Bailey Perry, Nick Booth, Cody Miller, Ethan Neill, Charles Taylor-McKain

KORUMBURRA BENA				
Kor-Bena	0.0	1.1	1.1	1.2 (8)
Koo Wee Rup	2.4	3.7	9.8	12.13 (85)

GOALS, Kor-Bena: Clayton Quaife 1
BEST: Jayson Kirkbride, Jesse Gollop, Caleb Turton, Clayton Quaife, Jake Kelly, Brendan Brown
GOALS, KWR: Kynen Dore-Wilson 3, Jacob Battams, Luke Briganti, Bailey Robson, Matthew Simpson 2, Fletcher Pittard 1
BEST: Matthew Simpson, Fletcher Pittard, Campbell Wood, Luke Briganti, Callum Carey, Jacob Battams

KORUMBURRA BENA				
Kor-Bena	2.0	5.3	5.3	5.4 (34)
Koo Wee Rup	1.0	3.0	5.1	6.1 (37)

GOALS, Kor-Bena: Tyler Dole 2, Evan Belvedere, Ryder Skeen, Harley Storr 1 each
BEST: Evan Belvedere, Zac Fowles, Billie Wrigley, Tyler Dole, Harley Storr, Ryder Skeen
GOALS, KWR: Jaxen Wood 2, Zach Ducasse, Cooper Parr, Aaron Sands, Kaiden Shrapnel 1 each
BEST: Cooper Parr, Zach Ducasse, Sonny Giles, Vijay Orsino, Kaiden Bertone, Shannon Filarski

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION LADDERS														ROUND 6					
SENIORS					RESERVES					THIRDS					FOURTHS				
	W	L	%	pts		W	L	%	pts		W	L	%	pts av		W	L	%	pts av
Nar Nar Goon	6	0	267.37	24	Tooradin-Dal	5	1	247.88	20	Nar Nar Goon	5	1	235.20	3.33	Warragul Ind	5	0	651.09	4.00
Tooradin-Dal	5	1	114.94	20	Inverloch-K	4	1	371.43	16	Inverloch-K	3	1	339.22	3.00	Nar Nar Goon	5	1	258.02	3.33
Cora Lynn	4	1	148.33	16	Nar Nar Goon	4	2	218.05	16	Warragul Ind	3	1	214.29	3.00	Phillip Island	3	2	202.84	2.40
Warragul Ind	4	1	105.62	16	Cora Lynn	4	1	195.21	16	Phillip Island	3	1	212.40	3.00	Kilcunda Bass	3	2	72.38	2.40
Kilcunda Bass	3	3	123.81	12	Phillip Island	3	2	207.69	12	Koo Wee Rup	4	2	200.00	2.66	Koo Wee Rup	3	2	56.06	2.40
Koo Wee Rup	3	3	92.84	12	Koo Wee Rup	3	3	76.22	12	Tooradin-Dal	3	3	75.62	2.00	Inverloch-K	2	2	122.48	2.00
Phillip Island	2	3	106.24	8	Garfield	2	3	84.62	8	Dalyston	2	3	69.72	1.60	Tooradin-Dal	2	3	103.17	1.60
Inverloch-K	1	4	73.06	4	Kor-Bena	2	3	65.59	8	Garfield	1	4	61.65	0.80	Kor-Bena	1	4	44.19	0.80
Dalyston	1	5	57.17	4	Kilcunda Bass	2	4	48.80	8	Kor-Bena	0	4	17.28	0.00	Dalyston	1	4	42.40	0.80
Garfield	1	4	56.07	4	Warragul Ind	1	4	38.15	4	Cora Lynn	0	4	14.1	0.00	Garfield	0	5	12.30	0.00
Kor-Bena	0	5	51.89	0	Dalyston	0	6	25.74	0	Kilcunda-Bass	0	0	0.00	0.00	Cora Lynn	0	0	0.00	0.00
LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS					LEADING GOAL KICKERS				
Nathan Gardiner (Cora Lynn)				24	Lauchlan Gregson (Tooradin-Dal)				14	Augustus Finsterer (Inverloch-K)				15	Ky Bannister (Warragul Ind)				20
Dermott Yawney (Nar Nar Goon)				20	Brady Ross (Phillip Island)				11	Tarrant Millar (Nar Nar Goon)				14	Sam O'Garey (Phillip Island)				15
										Luke Briganti (Koo Wee Rup)				12	Evan Loomes (Nar Nar Goon)				11

Icy conditions suit MND Freeze

RIGHT on cue for the Dalyston Football Netball Club's Big Freeze MND Day on Saturday, the weather turned icy cold, where there's hardly been a cloud in the sky for months.

And it was a freezing little penguin, former Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, who emerged from the ice bath at the end of the Big Freeze Slide gasping for air.

Even after a hot shower in the football club rooms afterwards, he was still cold to the bone.

"I'm still frozen," he said

as he emerged from the rooms.

"But it was for a good cause."

A steady stream of sliders followed Brett down the slippery slide including the likes of Alex Scott director and auctioneer Greg Price dressed as an island surfer, club legend John Walsh in his North Melbourne gear, netball operations manager Ricky McNaughton in a netball dress, club volunteer Emma Harris dressed as a nun and many more.

All combined to raise in excess of \$17,000 at last count, including

merchandise (still available at the Merch Shack), sponsorships and donations.

Past president of the Dalyston Football Netball Club Paul Dunlop hosted the event, thanking the sliders, the organisers and those who had contributed financially to the success of the awareness day for MND.

"Let's find a cure but along the way, if we can take the lead from the Daniher family, we've got to make sure we have a bit of fun along the way, watching other people's pain, all for a good cause," he said.



SEN's Ian Dougherty, Emma Harris, Brett Tessari and Ricky McNaughton were the first group to brave the icy slide. Photo: Michelle Chisholm.



DFNC President Dave Bell, club legend John Walsh, Jack Dunlop and Alex Scott's Greg Price ready to take the plunge. Photo: Michelle Chisholm.



Dalyston FNC volunteer Emma Harris lands in the ice bath on MND Big Freeze Day at Dalyston on Saturday.

Insert: West Gippsland operations officer and former Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Tessari hit the ice bath at the bottom of the Dalyston Football Netball Club's MND Big Freeze event on Saturday.

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