



FINALS FEVER KICKS IN

FINALS fever hit South Gippsland with gusto at the weekend, with sporting contests on for young and old right across the region, and beyond.

At Yinnar, Foster overcame their archrivals and perennial flag favourites Fish Creek in a contest for the ages and the Meenyan-Dumbalk netballers continued their dominance of the competition in back-to-back wins.

The Ellinbank grand

finals attracted a massive crowd at Trafalgar and in North Gippsland, Woodside repeated the dose by going back-to-back.

This weekend, it goes up a notch with the Leongatha Parrots taking on the might of the Latrobe Valley in a repeat of last year's grand final match-up against Traralgon at Morwell, with eight local teams, Leongatha and Wonthaggi, featuring in seven of the day's

10 grand finals.

While at Garfield on Saturday, the Korumburra-Bena A Graders get a shot at immortality on the big West Gippsland league stage, not forgetting the all-Bass Coast matchup in the Under 18 football. Phillip Island's 17 and Under netballers take on Cora Lynn, while on the field, the Eagles fourths will see to the Dusties.

And it doesn't stop there,

with nine Gippsland Soccer League premierships to be decided at Wonthaggi this Sunday.

It's a celebration of country sport and local communities at its very best, and we're all invited to witness history being made. Pictured: Lauryn Eyre-Walker, Pallas Lamers, Lillyca White and Shari Harris celebrate back-to-back MDU A Grade premierships!

C15_3725

Can't do this, can't do that

BASS Coast Shire Councillors, and they're not on their own here, are already highly restricted in what they can do and say.

Now there's a new set of rules coming their way as the shire's administration proposes changes, after a review of the council's governance policies, to be tabled at this Wednesday's council meeting.

Some of the issues to be covered by the changes include:

- That overseas travel cannot be booked without a resolution of Council
- That confidential Council information can only be saved onto the Council provided devices and not on any personal devices
- That a Council resolution is required for any discretionary Professional Development opportunity valued at \$5000 or greater
- That no Councillor will be eligible to undertake the AICD (Australian Institute of Company Directors) course in the final year of the Council term
- There's also clarification around the lodgement of Councillor requests, how they will be handled and who will respond, but not when
- There's also clarification on the approval process for payment or reimbursement of attendance at conferences, events and functions.

However, while council watcher, Graham Jolly supports some of these changes, including the need for councillors to be well-informed about local government processes and responsibilities, he's just as concerned about what the council is leaving in its Governance Policies as what it is proposing to alter.

"You've already got the situation where individual councillors don't feel they can talk to people about what the council is doing, because there's a rule about refraining from making public comment that might be seen as comment on behalf of the council," said Mr Jolly.

"We've got some questions, for example, about what's being proposed for the Cowes Streetscape, but we can't get anyone to talk about it.

"The same thing happened with Beninnet," he said.

Continued page 3

Leongatha prepare for the big dance

Grand final preview in sport.



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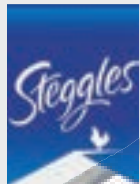
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Why a ‘lucky’ crash victim attracted media interest

A 19-YEAR-OLD Fish Creek man, who rolled his ute multiple times on Savages Road, Fish Creek in May this year, on his way home from helping a mate pull a tractor out of the mud, was told by Judicial Registrar, Anthony Gwynne, at the Korumburra Magistrates’ Court last week that he’s lucky to be alive.

Tyson Delbridge was facing three charges arising from the incident: one of careless driving, one of driving over the legal limit (0.062), and another of driving an unregistered vehicle.

According to a summary read for the court by police prosecutor Leading Senior Constable Tim Cavanagh, Delbridge was ejected from the vehicle on impact before it was completely consumed by fire.

“At approximately 12.30am on May 28, 2025, the accused was driving his vehicle, a white 1999 Ford utility, east on Savages Road, Fish Creek. The accused lost control of his vehicle, resulting in the vehicle rolling over multiple times, causing the accused to be totally ejected from the vehicle.”

LSC Cavanagh said the man Delbridge had been assisting with his tractor, Jake Bland, drove past the scene and found the driver slumped next to his car.

“At this time, the accused vehicle was on fire. By the time the CFA members arrived, the vehicle was fully engulfed and destroyed,” said LSC Cavanagh.

“The accused was transported by Ambulance Victoria to the Traralgon hospital, where a



Several media outlets and representatives of local wildlife groups turned out at the Korumburra Courthouse last Wednesday to question a Fish Creek man, Tyson Delbridge, about his alleged involvement in the deaths of wombats at Venus Bay in February this year.

sample of his blood was taken at 3.25am.”

The sample later revealed a blood/alcohol concentration of 0.062, where it should have been zero.

During an interview at the Foster Police Station on August 5, Delbridge admitted drinking but said he couldn’t recall much about the crash.

“Just young and dumb, I guess,” was his explanation at the time.

Speaking to the Judicial Registrar in court last Wednesday, Delbridge said he hadn’t planned to drive that night but was simply helping a mate. He said

he shouldn’t have been driving and was sorry for what he’d done.

Mr Gwynne asked Delbridge if he realised how lucky he was to be alive.

“You’re incredibly lucky to be here today,” he said.

“You were lucky you were thrown from the vehicle, before it was engulfed by fire, as a result of that, you’re lucky not to have sustained any serious injuries.

“And you’re lucky you had a friend who came past at the time.”

Delbridge replied: “Yeah, I know. Very lucky.”

Prior to fixing a penalty, Mr Gwynne asked about his financial situation and whether or not he had a job.

Delbridge said he was an apprentice ‘sparky’ and would rent a house closer to his work as a result of losing his licence.

He fined the teenager \$1000 and cancelled his licence for six months.

“Take your luck with you, you’re free to go,” said Mr Gwynne.

The judicial registrar also remarked that there appeared to be some media interest in the case as a result of three media outlets applying for the charge sheet, summary and photos of the incident.

Citing the principles of open justice, LSC Cavanagh offered no objection to the release of the material.

It soon became clear outside the court afterwards why there was additional media interest in the case with reporters and animal activists questioning Delbridge over the deaths of up to nine wombats in Venus Bay in February this year.

Delbridge is set to appear in the same court on Thursday, October 2, facing charges relating to the wombat incident.

Asked by the Sentinel-Times if he intended to plead guilty to the charges, Tyson Delbridge made no comment, but a family member responded later saying: “None of this crap is proven.”

The charges are being brought by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.



Centenarian Avis Tilley is celebrating 100 years of life in Korumburra today.

Avis Tilley turns 100 today

AVIS Tilley was born 100 years ago today on September 16 and is celebrating this remarkable milestone with friends and family in Korumburra today.

A life lived across an entire century cannot go by without its ups and downs, tragedies and joys, and the still spritely Ms Tilley has endured her fair share of both.

Born in Murrumbena, Ms Tilley lost her mother, who died in childbirth, when she was only four years old.

She went with her father to live in Orbost, where she was soon riding ponies, but getting bucked off too.

In 1932, when Ms Tilley was aged seven, the family moved to Korumburra, where she worked hard on the family farm.

As an adult, Ms Tilley worked at all three pubs in Korumburra.

She became a mother to two daughters and later to a step-daughter and stepsons and grandmother to seven grandchildren, with one sadly passing away from cancer.

During the intervening years, Ms Tilley moved around, living in different places, including Sydney and Brisbane, before returning to Korumburra in 2003.

She joined Legacy while living in Wagga Wagga and has always supported the local RSL.

In Korumburra, Ms Tilley has been an active member of the Garden Club and the Korumburra Senior Citizens for 20 years, enjoying the fun, social, community aspect of these clubs.

Happy Birthday Avis!

Councillors can’t do this, can’t do that

From page 1

“And they tell us they have to go through an approvals process just to meet with us,” he said, citing an email he received from Cr Meg Edwards, as follows:

“As one of your elected representatives on Bass Coast Council I welcome listening, reading and understanding your views and concerns on council issues and look forward to assisting you where possible. While I personally welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your group in person, Bass Coast Council has a policy that requires any

invitation to a Councillor, be put via Councillor Support who can be contacted via the following email address.”

“I’m also concerned with the rule that the administration only has to distribute meeting papers five days before a council briefing,” said Mr Jolly.

“The councillors aren’t full-time employees, they’re paid an allowance and can’t be expected to drop everything at short notice. I’m concerned that they simply aren’t reading all of these documents.”

The changes to the governance rules also cover council’s

‘Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy’.

- All Councillors, Council staff and members of committees are accountable in declaring any offers of gifts, benefits or hospitality by completing and submitting a gift declaration form to Governance within 14 days of the offer and in accordance with this policy. The gift declaration form must be completed whether accepted or declined. The Governance department will maintain a gift register that will be publicly available on Council’s website as outlined in Council’s Public Transparency Policy

(threshold \$500).

- Any gift, benefit or hospitality that may be perceived or constitute a bribe must be declined and immediately reported to the Manager Governance and Communications. A gift declaration form must be completed and submitted to Governance for entering into the gift register.

Mr Jolly said there needs to be some clarification about what councillors can talk about, and to whom, and also that they should be able to respond to invitations to meet, on their own behalf.

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CONTACT

OFFICE: 47 McBride, Avenue,
Wonthaggi, VIC, 3995
HOURS: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
PHONE: (03) 5672 1888
EMAIL: news@sgst.com.au
EDITORIAL & LETTERS
news@sgst.com.au
ADVERTISING
ads@sgst.com.au
ACCOUNTS
accounts@sgst.com.au

MANAGING DIRECTOR: Michael Giles
michael@sgst.com.au
OPERATIONS MANAGER: Jim Akers
jim@sgst.com.au
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Holly McMaster
holly@sgst.com.au
EDITOR: Chloe Kent
JOURNALISTS: Andrew Paloczi
Bruce Wardley
Courtney O'Brien
Nicole May
Tayla Kershaw

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6 Day
Weather
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SOUTH
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 TUE Sept 16 Showers easing. Wind AM: NW 20-30km/h Wind PM: NW 20-30km/h 11° 18°	 WED Sept 17 Showers. Wind AM: NW 25-30km/h Wind PM: W 25-35km/h 8° 15°	 THUR Sept 18 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: NW 20-30km/h 6° 19°	 FRI Sept 19 Showers increasing. Wind AM: N 20-25km/h Wind PM: NW 20-30km/h 13° 21°	 SAT Sept 20 Showers. Wind AM: W-NW 25-40km/h Wind PM: W-NW 25-40km/h 5° 15°	 SUN Sept 21 Showers. Wind AM: W 25-35km/h Wind PM: W 25-35km/h 6° 14°
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IN BRIEF

Fodder production
in a tough season

AGRICULTURE Victoria is hosting a workshop in Foster to help producers make informed decisions around this season's fodder production. Agriculture Victoria Regional Manager for Meat and Wool, Brad Costin, is encouraging producers to attend one of the fodder field days across Victoria to hear from well-known expert Frank Mickan, to help get the most out of their pasture hay or silage this spring. Gippsland: Thursday, September 18, Foster Exchange Hotel, 43 Main Street, Foster book at trybooking.com/DFDMI.

Energy network upgrades
on Phillip Island

AUSNET has been working to improve the energy network and power reliability across Phillip Island, Venus Bay and surrounding areas. On Wednesday, September 17, AusNet will be undertaking planned works and network upgrades in Cowes, Rhyll and Ventnor. AusNet will need to turn the power off from 8.30am to approximately 4.30pm. "In addition to our regular inspection program, we have also identified several additional jobs, such as part replacements, which will also be completed on the day, to minimise community disruption," AusNet general manager network operations and delivery, Ross Young said. "These works will also help with bushfire preparedness to protect the community ahead of summer." Life support customers should be ready to activate their emergency plan and can call AusNet's priority line any-time on 1800 818 832.

Spring holiday program

THE Bunurong Coast Education are once again running their popular Holiday Discovery Program during the September school holidays. From Sunday, September 21,

until October 5, join in on Dinosaur Discovery at The Caves to learn all about the dinosaurs that once roamed the Bass Coast and join the hunt for dinosaur fossils. Take part in the Rockpool Ramble to learn about marine life, exploring the rock pools of the Bunurong Coast at low tide. With several locations and so much to learn, join the Bunurong Coast Education team this Spring holiday. All attendees, including adults and infants, require a ticket. Tickets for children under five are free. Full details, FAQs and tickets are available at Humanitix.

From Clicks to
Connections

THE upcoming Gippsland Tourism Forum will focus on helping tourism businesses grow in a digital world by providing practical tools and education. This year's theme, "From Clicks to Connections: Empowering Gippsland Tourism Through Technology," explores how digital innovation can transform online engagement into meaningful visitor relationships while strengthening the visitor experience, boosting business efficiency, and driving long-term growth across the region. The forum will take place on Tuesday, October 21, at The Stables in Sale from 11.30am – 3.30pm, bringing together tourism professionals, business owners, and industry stakeholders from across Gippsland. Register at eventbrite.com.au/e/gippsland-tourism-industry-forum-21-october-tickets-1627018228319?aff=oddttdcreator

A discounted ticket rate is available for businesses listed on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW).

Island rabbits 'out of
control', says Cr Bauer

YOU get some interesting subjects covered at Bass Coast Shire Council meetings and among the items on the agenda this Wednesday, September 17

is the "rabbit plague on Phillip Island". Island Councillor Ronnie Bauer has given notice that he intends to move a motion at the meeting calling on officers to "provide a report for the eradication of the rabbit plague on Phillip Island". As background, he says the rabbit population on the Island is "out of control" and the shire won't have to look far past its cultural Taj Mahal of Bernin-neit to see one active colony in action.

"The destruction of the flora due to the rabbit population is causing 1000s and 1000s of dollars' worth of damage, especially to resident's gardens," according to Cr Bauer.

Not council's job? You may ask. Council officers already work in collaboration with Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Landcare Network to develop innovative approaches for rabbit control on Phillip Island, while minimising risk to native wildlife.

\$1.2 million contract
for Kilcunda Bass
netball pavilion

THE Kilcunda Bass Netball Club looks set to have a new netball pavilion by the end of 2027, with Bass Coast Shire Council about to award the construction contract to Allchin Commercial Builders of Warragul. With support from the Federal Government's Play Our Way program, the single-storey pavilion will feature a limestone exterior with two change rooms and associated amenities, umpire duty and change room and amenities, first aid room, kitchenette, office, accessible toilet and a storeroom.

The project will be included in Council's 2025/26 and 2026/27 Capital Works Program. The total value of the contract is \$1.2 million however internal project management costs and provision for contingencies lifted the total contract sum to \$1.4 million.

Awards for
West Gippy stars

WEST Gippsland Football Netball Competition celebrated its top achieving athletes as the 2025 season draws to a close. Top honours went to Phillip Island's Hayden Bruce and Korumburra-Bena's Gemma Dixon, who were the Senior and A Grade best and fairest winners. Bruce soared above the rest, eight points ahead of second-placed Ryan Bromley from Nar Nar Goon. Dixon was two points ahead of Renee Pilkington from Inverloch-Kongwak. Nar Nar Goon's Trent Armour and Cora Lynn's Jaxon Briggs were also named captain and vice captain respectively of the Senior Team of the Year. The best and fairest winners were as follows: Seniors: Winner Hayden Bruce; runner-up Ryan Bromley. Reserves: Winner Finlay Cousins (Phillip Island); runner-up Zac Smith (Nar Nar Goon). Thirds: Winner Oliver Ratten (Nar Nar Goon); runner-up Ben Chihotski (Phillip Island). Fourths: Winner Blake Eden (Kilcunda-Bass); runner-up Alex Ingam (Warragul Industrials). A Grade: Winner Gemma Dixon; runner-up Renee Pilkington. B Grade: Winner Melissa Filarski (Koo Wee Rup); runner-up Hayley Verboon (Dalyston). C Grade: Winner Moesha Griffin (Cora Lynn); runner-up Skye Lennon (Warragul Industrials). D Grade: Winner Jaydee Miller (Koo Wee Rup); runner-up Kyra Roberts (Garfield). U17: Winner Aisha Hibbert (Phillip Island); runner-up Miley Schade (Cora Lynn). U15: Winner Annabel O'Hara (Koo Wee Rup); runner-up Isabel McCarthy (Cora Lynn). U13: Winner Holly Dyker (Garfield); runner-up Isabella Hand (Cora Lynn). U11: Winner Deborah Abela (Cora Lynn); runner-up Ayla Langley (Tooradin-Dalmore). **Check out next week's edition with all the B&F's announced**



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Coastguard can't even get their boat started

NATIONALS Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, revealed a personal interest in getting the Port Welshpool Volunteer Coastguard a new ocean-going rescue boat. It was one of his first jobs as a new MP, 11 years ago, to help the coastguard get their present vessel, a second-hand Noosa Cat, already 14 years old, from the water police at Paynesville. "So, it came as a bit of a shock to hear that they were in need of a new one, and it reminded me how long I have been around," Mr O'Brien told State Parliament last week.

Speaking during the Adjournment Debate on Tuesday, September 10, Mr O'Brien again raised the issue of Port Welshpool's failing rescue boat and whether or not the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery, Vicki Ward, could find \$2 million for a new one or even identify where a suitable used ship might be found. Commander of the Port Welshpool Volunteer Coastguard, Robin Street, is most appreciative of Mr O'Brien's ongoing support, and will also be welcoming Labor's Member for Eastern Victoria, Tom McIntosh, to Port Welshpool this week for a visit.

"Danny has been fantastic," said Commander Street. "Yes, he helped get us this 25-year-old boat quite a few years ago, but it's in for repairs at Paynesville again now, as we speak. "There's something wrong with the electrics, which means we can't get it started sometimes, but it's just too old now, working under the conditions we work in, down around the Prom and further out. "It's out in Bass Strait after all," he said. The Port Welshpool Coastguard responds to upwards of 40 emergency calls a year, many of them life and death circumstances for boats and ships using the local waterways.



Port Welshpool Coast Guard members, including Commander Robin Street and Deputy Commander Mike Bland, met with Danny O'Brien, the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services recently to present a detailed business case for a replacement vessel for its aging CG20 'Noosa Cat', which has been in service for 25 years.



Port Welshpool Coastguard's 25-year-old Noosa Cat, a castoff from the water police at Paynesville has passed its used-by date, and is presently in for major repairs and off the water. It leaves a long section of the treacherous South Gippsland coast without a rescue response nearby.

"It's such a long way for anyone else to respond," said Commander Street. What they are ideally looking for is a boat similar to the 12-metre boat just in the process of being delivered to the Queenscliff Coastguard, a Rescue203 boat designed by Chris Tucker Marine Design Pty Ltd, and built locally, at Inverloch by Alumarine, to Vic Emergency and Queenscliff specifications. "We're looking at \$2.1 million to \$2.2 million for something like that, but we're getting

pretty desperate now," said Commander Street. The group, which boasts 25 active volunteer members, made a submission to the Emergency Services Minister earlier this year and will be reinforcing the points of their submission when they meet Mr McIntosh next week. "Hopefully when he sees the situation first-hand, we'll be able to convince him of the situation here." Here in part is what Danny O'Brien had to say:

"The action I seek is for the minister to provide funding for the replacement of the Port Welshpool coastguard vessel. "I have previously written to the minister and have more recently provided a business case for the replacement of the vessel to the minister, but I want to impress upon her the need for this. "I met with the coastguard last week. The Port Welshpool coastguard provides coastguard services within Corner Inlet and down to the tip of Wilsons Prom. "There is not a replacement or an alternative option between, basically, Port Welshpool and the water police at Paynesville. "There is the Port Albert coastguard, but it does not have a boat that can do the same work that the Port Welshpool guys can. They are a fantastic crew of volunteers who undertake quite a number of rescues and other options every year. "Unfortunately, their current vessel is now 25 years old and last year was out of action for about 60 per cent of the time due to maintenance issues." See more on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au.

National Police Remembrance Day in Korumburra



NATIONAL Police Remembrance Day is a solemn occasion dedicated to remembering and honouring the courage, commitment and dedication of police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities. The day serves as a reminder of the risks that police officers face and the dedication they show in protecting the public. A service will be held at the Korumburra St Paul's Anglican Church on Monday, September 29 at 10.30am. The service provides an opportunity for the community to pay their respects and reflect on the sacrifice made by these individuals. **LEFT: Senior Sergeant Brad Steer, Senior Constable Rob Burn, Reverend David Atkinson and Sergeant Mick O'Brien at St Paul's Anglican Church in Korumburra, where a service will be held on National Police Remembrance Day.** A06_3725

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Mushroom murders no joke, they say

SOCIAL media, no stranger to tasteless remarks, has nonetheless reacted to comments on the popular Channel 7 football commentary show, The Front Bar, during the week, drawing a connection between the penalty handed down to “the mushroom lady” and some high-profile footballers.

Among the comments were: “Sick sense of humour.” “People died, not funny. No respect.”

But also, critical of the Sentinel-Times for highlighting the remarks. “If you were that appalled by the comments, you wouldn’t re-publish them.”

Also, on Google Maps, an apparently approved administrator of that site posted the location of two restaurants in Gibson Street, Leongatha – one called ‘Erin’s Mushroom Restaurant’ and ‘Erin’s Mushroom Diner’.

Here’s what comedian Mick Malloy and his offsidiers Sam Pang and Andy Maher had to say:

“The biggest story of the week has to be some of the penalties handed down. I think some of these are the biggest ever, yeah, I mean 33 years to the mushroom lady, I mean wow, that is... were you expecting that?” asked Malloy.

“Well, it’s a big suspension. I think she was a bit hard done by. You know why Andy? Go on, Sam. Everything looks worse in slow motion, but in the heat of the action, she had a split-second decision to make. But anyway...” said Pang.

“Do you think she’ll appeal it?” asked Malloy.

“Well, I don’t think she’ll appeal it because she risks getting another week,” said Pang.

“She can’t appeal it because she went straight to the MRO, the Mushroom Review Office,” said Malloy.

Daughter of Ian Wilkinson, the only lunch guest to survive the poisonous meal of Beef Wellington, laced with death cap mushrooms, served up by Erin Patterson, referred to the damaging media coverage of the tragic incident in her Victim Impact Statement.

“The intense media coverage has left me second-guessing every word I say, worried about who I can trust with my thoughts and feelings. It is particularly revolting to experience our family’s tragedy being turned into entertainment for the masses and to know that people are using our family’s trauma for their own personal gain.”

Someone at Google is listening, though. After highlighting the issue on the Sentinel-Times’ website last week under the heading “How even Google is mocking Leongatha’s mushroom murders”, the bogus restaurant posts have been deleted.

Road closures, as work underway on the Cowes Foreshore Precinct

EXPECT traffic snarls and changes to pedestrian traffic along Thompson Avenue and The Esplanade in Cowes as work gets underway on the Cowes Foreshore Precinct.

Local residents have been warned Thompson Avenue North and The Esplanade between Bass Avenue and Warley Avenue will be closed to traffic from September 29.

Pedestrian access will be maintained via the foreshore path until the work is completed.

According to Bass Coast Shire, the upgrades are a vital step in bringing the Cowes community’s long-term vision to life, creating safer, greener and more connected spaces that locals can be proud of and visitors will love to explore.

The total project will be done in seven stages and is expected to be completed in 13 months, subject to weather and unforeseen construction delays.

Stage 1 of the project is expected to be completed by December 2025. The first



Project updates for the Cowes Foreshore Precinct Project will be available on Engage Bass Coast once the project commences.

stage will focus on upgrading essential services and creating the foundations for a safer and more welcoming precinct, including renewing water and sewer mains, upgrading stormwater drainage, and reconstructing the road and pavement to better support outdoor dining

spaces and a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

The works upgrade will also deliver new kerb and channeling, upgraded public lighting, and fresh landscaping.

A permanent change to one-way eastbound traffic along The Esplanade will also be introduced to improve safety

and create more space for people to walk and cycle.

“As construction gets underway, Council will continue to support businesses through the ‘Trading through Transformation’ campaign, which will promote Cowes as a welcoming destination during the works, encouraging the community and visitors to shop local, dine out, and continue to enjoy everything the township has to offer.”

The community has been told to expect civil and landscaping works, including the construction of new footpaths, landscaping, and road realignments, the use of heavy machinery resulting in some noise, vibration and dust, temporary traffic management measures that may cause occasional delays, and limited access to some roads and footpaths.

More information on the Cowes Foreshore Precinct Project can be found at basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/news-listing/notice-of-upcoming-works-cowes-foreshore-precinct.

Two platypuses killed in illegal traps in Gippsland

FISHERIES Officers are appealing to the public for information about any illegal use of fishing nets in local waterways after two platypuses were found dead in illegal fishing traps in Gippsland.

The deaths have reignited calls for stronger awareness and enforcement, as these unique creatures face mounting pressures in their fragile habitats.

In the first incident, a platypus was discovered drowned in an enclosed crab pot set in the Tarra River near Yarram. Shortly after, a fish researcher found remains of a platypus in an old opera house yabby trap that had been left in Hazel Creek near Nilma. Both traps were found by members of the public.

Director of the Australian Platypus Conservancy, Geoff Williams, said that these deaths were highly disturbing as use of enclosed yabbing and fishing nets, including opera house traps, has been totally banned in Victoria since mid-2019.

“It is of great concern that some people still seem to have not got the message,” noted Geoff.

“All platypus populations in



A ‘platypus-friendly’ open-top yabbing net, which allows platypus to escape.

Gippsland are officially considered Vulnerable. Any deaths in traps can potentially threaten the survival of the species in some waterways.”

Based on anecdotal reports collected by the Conservancy, West Gippsland appears to be one of the worst “hot-spots” for illegal trap usage and platypus deaths.

Significant fines can be imposed for illegal use or possession of traps, and a prison

sentence may apply for killing native wildlife. The incidents are currently under investigation by Victorian Fisheries Authority officers with officers increasing targeted patrols along Gippsland streams following the discovery in the Tarra River and Hazel Creek.

“Most fishers do the right thing when fishing for yabbies, by using drop nets that prevent platypus being trapped. Opera house nets are illegal in all Victorian

public waters,” Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO Travis Dowling told the Sentinel-Times.

“We encourage people who see or suspect illegal fishing to call 13FISH (133474) to speak directly to a Fisheries Officer.”

It’s understood the deceased platypus from the Tarra River was delivered to Healesville Sanctuary for research purposes. All persons undertaking fishing or yabbing are reminded to check Victorian recreational fishing regulations to ensure that the equipment they are using is legal in Victoria in order to avoid both heavy penalties and the risk of potentially killing platypus and other aquatic wildlife.

Apart from the traditional technique of capturing yabbies by dangling a chunk of meat (tied to a length of string) in the water, various types of lift nets and open-top pyramid traps are permitted.

In addition, anglers must ensure that they follow all rules and never leave lines unattended – something that recently resulted in the death of a platypus hooked on an abandoned/unattended setline in Middle Creek.

Danny O'BRIEN_{MP}
State Member for Gippsland South

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Four gold, five silver and three bronze for Paul the Pieman

WITH a stunning win of four golds, five silver and three bronze, Paul the Pieman in Inverloch took home an oven full of awards from the Great Aussie Pie Competition.

They won gold for their brisket and Jack Daniels pie, Korean pork pie, meat pastie and their beef, jalapeno and cheese sausage roll.

They got silver for their plain mince pie, chunky beef pie, beef, caramelised onion and cheese pie, scallop and fennel pie and pepper pie.

The bronze awards went to their sausage roll, surf and turf pie and Tuscan chicken pie.

"To come back with four gold medals is pretty good," said pastry chef, Mitchell Woods.

"Last year, we only got one gold medal in this competition. The one in July, which is run by the Baking Association, we didn't get a gold medal; we just got all silvers. So, everyone's pretty proud to achieve that."

Mitchell said the team are especially happy to have won an award for their meat pastie, which requires more preparation than the pies.

"We've never done a good competition pastie. It takes a little bit more time."

It's also a good test to see if they are hitting the benchmark or punching above their weight with their pies, pasties and sausage rolls, commented Mitchell.



Mitchell Wood, Pastry Chef from Paul the Pieman in Inverloch, won twelve awards, including four gold at the Great Aussie Pie Competition. ob05_3725

"The reason we go into it is we want to make sure our quality is at a high level. So, for us, if we win all these awards, we know that what we're doing is correct and of a high standard."

"One hundred per cent to win awards is always nice."

With the national competition being held in Sydney, the team individually bake, freeze and box up four of each of their 12 entries and freight them overnight to the judges.

Once there, each product is judged when it's both cold and hot on a points system, where a gold medal is given for those with a score of more than fifty points.

Pies are judged on how well the pastries have been cooked, pastry thickness and puffiness, how well its baked and how full the pie is.

The pie is then heated up and tasted, judges also take in the aroma and consider how inventive the recipe is.

"I think it's good for our industry to show that pies aren't what they were say 20 years ago, there's a lot more to it now. It's easy to make a pie, but it's not always easy to make a good pie, and that's probably what we've found, is that once you get the recipe to make a good pie, we can try a lot of other different types," said Mitchell.

What the customer wants also drives the team to keep creating new and exciting recipes such as their brisket, mac and cheese pie, scallop and fennel pie, prawn and garlic sauce pie and the reef and beef pie.

"We've gotten a little bit more seafood, because, especially when it comes to summertime, that's why a lot of people come to Inverloch. So, we've been able to incorporate that."

Now that the competitions are over, Mitchell and the team will start thinking about the range of pies they'll do for the next competition in six months' time.

"It's stressful, but it's also fun. It's fun to do something a little bit different as well," said Mitchell, who emphasised the competition pies are the same as those they sell in store.

"We try to keep everything the exact same as what we put in the shop as well. We don't change any ingredients or do a better product or anything like that. It's the exact same."

Consultation opens for Cowes–Ventnor shared path

PLANS are underway for a new shared path that will provide a continuous off-road link between Cowes and Ventnor.

The Ventnor Road Shared Path will include the design and construction of two kilometres of new concrete pathway, linking the existing shared path. This will deliver a 4.5-kilometre connection between the townships, making walking, cycling and other forms of active transport safer and more enjoyable for the community, according to Bass Coast Shire Council.

The new link will tie directly into the Phillip Island Road Shared Path, which, in the long term, will go all the way to Inverloch.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, said the project responds directly to the strong community demand for safer active transport options and was an action from the Tracks and Trails Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-29.

"This project is all about closing the missing gaps and giving people a safe and accessible path all the way from Cowes to Ventnor. It will make a big difference for locals and visitors who want to walk or ride between townships without relying on their cars. By creating these connections, we're building a healthier, more sustainable and more connected community," Cr Halstead said.

The shared path will be a two- to 2.5-metre-wide concrete trail constructed within service roads and the road reserve along Ventnor Road.

The project is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Active Transport Fund and Bass Coast Shire Council, each contributing \$980,000.

The shared pathway replaces the coastal route pathway proposal between Cowes and Vennor that saw a motion of notice placed at the February 2025 council meeting to no longer pursue that option due to the vulnerable coastline.

Community consultation is now open through the Engage Bass Coast website.

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Sandra Mvura (Radiographer/Sonographer) and Christopher Hodges (Clinical Support Manager for Fujifilm) with the ultrasound machine at Bond Radiology in Leongatha. A100_3725

Early signs you shouldn't ignore

AS WE age, our bones naturally lose mass and therefore become more prone to certain osteal (bone-related) conditions. One of the most common problems experienced by older people is a condition called osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis is not a rare disease by any stretch. In fact, approximately 1.2 million Australians have an osteoporosis diagnosis, with a further 6.3 million experiencing low bone density.

The disease aids the deterioration of bone tissue, causing a decrease in bone mass and a higher risk of fracture and pain. It most commonly affects over-50s but has been known to be present in younger populations too.

As with many diseases, early diagnosis and treatment help you to manage the disease more effectively, maximising quality of life and minimising discomfort.

Unfortunately, osteoporosis is known as a 'silent disease'. Many people don't experience early symptoms or even realise they have the condition until after their first fracture. In some cases, the fracture itself can cause the disease.

It is therefore imperative that you remain proactive in understanding the subtle signs of osteoporosis and go for screening regardless of whether you have symptoms or not.

What are the signs?

The most obvious sign of osteoporosis is a fracture. This might occur from simply knocking yourself on a hard surface or tripping over. It could be that you've even had a fracture without realising it, and experience discomfort and pain without understanding the root cause.

Another subtler sign of osteoporosis is a change in posture or a shortening in height. Therefore, measuring yourself regularly and assessing your posture in the mirror is helpful. If a family member mentions you're walking or standing differently, it's important that

you listen to them and take action.

A vitamin D deficiency is also a sign that you might have osteoporosis. If you have been told by a health professional to take vitamin D supplements, this should act as a warning sign that you are at higher risk of developing the condition.

Of course, general pain and discomfort, or problems getting up from a seated position, are also signs of osteoporosis.

Who needs screening?

Typically, older people are most affected by osteoporosis, and so if you are over the age of 65, you should go for routine screening. During this screening, your bone density is measured, and a qualified expert will tell you whether or not there is cause for concern. If you have experienced a fracture and are over the age of 50, you should also go for routine screening, as a fracture itself can cause osteoporosis. Other risk factors include being postmenopausal and Caucasian, or if you are taking a medication that can increase the risk of developing osteoporosis (e.g. some cancer treatments).

The diagnosis and treatment

Bone-strengthening medications can be given to a person living with osteoporosis. But environmental changes can be helpful too. For example, your home may need adapting slightly to reduce the risk of falling and fracturing a bone. Your diet may also be looked at to ensure you are getting enough bone-nourishing micro-nutrients.

The most crucial thing is that you know you have osteoporosis. A failure to diagnose osteoporosis is more likely to result in more serious injury, such as hip fracture, requiring surgery.

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Students and staff with Mary Aldred MP at the Country Universities Centre Bass Coast. From left: Carolyn Simonds, Sarah Bourke, Mary Aldred MP and Alex Charlton, along with student ambassadors Vic, Kasey and Aimee. W01_3725

Mary Aldred backs CUC Bass Coast as growth sparks funding questions

THE Bass Coast Country Universities Centre is becoming a cornerstone for regional higher education, following its rapid growth, which was on display during a visit from Federal Member for Monash, Mary Aldred, on Wednesday, September 10.

Since opening its doors in 2021, the centre in Wonthaggi has supported more than 520 students across a wide range of study areas. The Centre provides academic mentoring, technology, and a supportive environment for regional students who may otherwise find higher education out of reach.

Centre Manager Sarah Bourke told Ms Aldred that the organisation has experienced significant growth, well beyond original expectations. The Centre currently supports 208 students, a number that is 35 ahead of enrolments at the same time last year. This also includes 68 nursing students.

"Originally the forecast was for around 90 students," Ms Bourke said. "Now we are more than double that, and it keeps increasing. The community has embraced the Centre and the partnerships we've built." This is especially the case with organisations like Bass Coast Health, as since 2021, more than 37 of their staff have graduated through CUC.

Board member Carolyn Simonds said while the growth is a source of pride, it is also creating pressure under the

current funding model.

"The forecasts were for 90 people. Now there are over 200. The issue is that the funding model does not adjust when student numbers grow," she said.

"That is where there is an opportunity to rethink how these centres are funded, so that students can continue to benefit as the demand grows."

Students themselves shared with Ms Aldred how the Centre has supported them. Paramedicine student Vic recalled first finding the Centre when they and a friend needed a place to study after the library had closed. Journalism student Aimee and marine science student Kasey also spoke about the resources and sense of connection the Centre has provided.

Local PhD student Mary-Clare described the Centre as a "circuit breaker," offering not just quiet study spaces but also a community of like-minded people who motivate one another.

That sense of connection was echoed by Ms Aldred during her visit. "Country Universities Centre Bass Coast is a wonderful example of a community-led hub supporting people to undertake higher education right here in the region," she said.

"In Gippsland, 40 per cent of our communities are towns with fewer than 1000 people. That makes access to higher education a real challenge, which is exactly why having the Centre here is so important. I

passionately believe that your postcode should never determine your access to education. CUC Bass Coast is breaking down those barriers."

While Ms Aldred commended the achievements of the Centre, she also acknowledged the challenges ahead. When asked what support would make the biggest difference, Ms Bourke said the growing student numbers had highlighted the need for additional breakout spaces.

"It would be really nice for students to be able to book a room and not be on top of one another," she said.

"The more things I am asked, the more I see we just do not have the resources."

Ms Aldred said she would take those concerns forward.

"What we might do is put something together to put to the Federal Government early," she said.

"It is good to see an uptick in numbers, and I think we can continue to see them go up. I want to do everything I can in my position to support the students, the campus, and the region."

For Ms Simonds and the board, the focus remains on ensuring the Centre is sustainable long-term.

"The growth has been extraordinary," she said.

"Now the challenge is to make sure the funding reflects that reality, so the Centre can keep meeting the needs of local students for years to come."

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The rush is on 1000 new Marinus Link jobs for South Gippsland

By Bruce Wardley

AN EXPECTED mid-year start-up for the Marinus Link power and data connector is expected to create an explosion of job opportunities for South Gippsland and beyond. Up to a thousand jobs will be created by Marinus Link directly and indirectly.

Recently appointed Marinus Link CEO Stephanie McGregor said the undersea cable project is now fully funded and expected to start by the middle of next year.

“It’s real, it’s happening,” said Ms McGregor.

Ms McGregor said there would be great opportunities for Gippsland businesses in the supply chain as well as direct employment with Marinus Link and its contractors.

The project will be mobilised gradually with an expected start in the second half of 2026.

“A number of local suppliers will be engaged as early as February,” said Ms McGregor.

“Now is the time for potential suppliers to start engaging. We’re on the journey to getting this project built.”

In addition to civil, construction, marine and electrical engineers, Marinus Link expects hundreds of jobs will be created in ancillary services for cleaners, labourers, food services, office jobs, finance, HR, legal services and external relations.

“We hope this lays the foundation for the skills in offshore wind energy,” said Marinus Link communications and engagement specialist Justin White.

Accommodation for the large workforce is also a priority for Marinus Link.

“We’re working closely with all our leading contractors to determine peak construction timeframes and opportunities for locally sourced supply and contracting.

“We’re looking for every type of accommodation we can get,” said Mr White.

“Rental homes, Airbnb’s, B&B’s, motels and hotels, we understand the accommodation available in the area and want to minimise disruptions to our local communities.”

Discussions are also underway for a Marinus Link local office in South Gippsland.

Stephanie McGregor described Marinus Link as a turning point for renewables.

“The next phase is finalising contracts. We’re very familiar with the area and our engagement and communications team has been connecting with local community groups for several years now.

“I’m familiar with Sandy Point’s e-bus,” said Ms McGregor.

“What a fantastic community



Marinus Link CEO Stephanie McGregor and Communications and Engagement Specialist Justin White at the 2025 Gippsland New Energy Conference. B02_3725

initiative and such a vital service for its members.”

Ms McGregor said Marinus Link was undertaking a fulsome engagement process to determine what community benefit schemes might potentially look like.

“The team is discussing community benefits, aspirations and opportunities.

“It’s about what communities are after in terms of sustainable development.”

Just five months into the top job at Marinus Link, Stephanie McGregor said her first priority was to finalise contractual negotiations and make sure the principal contractors had firmed up their local supply chains and social outcomes.

“We will then work on how the roll-out will happen in practice.

“All the contractors need to be aligned.”

Proud of her Gippsland heritage, Ms McGregor said she grew up in Lang Lang.

Ms McGregor’s experience in the energy sector includes national-level energy consulting, transmission projects for TransGrid and AusNet, and Director for Offshore Transmission for the United Kingdom’s energy regulator.

“I saw the U.K. go on the journey offshore and onshore,” said Ms McGregor.

“It’s a big journey and it takes time, energy and patience.”

Ms McGregor said Marinus Link was an opportunity to learn from overseas.

“The U.K. is still on their journey with the biggest offshore energy sector in the world. Our market will benefit from the latest technology.”

The major civil and construction contract for Marinus Link has been

awarded to TasVic Greenlink, a joint venture of DT Infrastructure and Samsung C&T Corporation.

The contract with TasVic Greenlink will cover the construction of converter stations and the installation of equipment and land cable civil works from Waratah Bay to Hazelwood.

Ms McGregor said it signalled significant opportunities for local businesses.

“The successful tenderer will need strong local business capability to deliver on this massive construction campaign, and we’ve set targets to incentivise this.

“TasVic Greenlink is keen to engage with potential subcontractors and suppliers during this next stage of the tender and into construction,” she said.

“Earlier this year, we invited local businesses to connect with our initial shortlisted bidders in Burnie, Morwell and Leongatha, and nearly 600 people turned up.

“We’ve already passed on the details of over 500 subcontractors and suppliers who registered on the Industry Capability Network gateway.”

Specially designed trenches will be used for the 90 kilometres of underground cables running from the shoreline west of Sandy Point to the Latrobe Valley.

In areas of sensitive habitat, open trenches will be replaced with underground tunnels by using a technique called horizontal directional drilling.

“It’s quite a thin drilling technique,” said Justin White.

A small telecommunications hut will be located at Sandy Point, but the main power converter station for Victoria will be located at Hazelwood.

The \$3.89 billion Marinus Link project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2030.



State Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio has expressed strong support for offshore wind energy in South Gippsland. B04_3725

South Gippsland the new kid on the power grid block

OFFSHORE wind energy is slowly gaining traction across South Gippsland, including tentative support from a group strongly opposed to overhead power lines.

According to Energy and Resources Minister Lily D'Ambrosio, Victoria's offshore wind industry will provide jobs and career pathways for thousands of workers and boost local businesses through manufacturing and supply chain development.

Ms D'Ambrosio said the State Government was giving industry the certainty it needs to invest and start building the renewable energy Victoria needs to push down energy bills.

Chair of Better Transmission Gippsland (BTG) Kirra Bott welcomed Minister D'Ambrosio's strong support for offshore wind energy but said it must be matched with the right transmission infrastructure.

Speaking at the 2025 New Energy Conference in Traralgon, Ms Bott said the Minister is right to highlight how critical offshore wind is to Victoria's energy future.

“South Gippsland has the potential to be the new Latrobe Valley, powering the state for generations, but it will only succeed if we get the connections right and that means building transmission underground, so it is reliable, resilient and built to last.”

Better Transmission Gippsland warned that persisting with overhead transmission lines risked

undermining the very opportunity the Minister was celebrating.

“It’s an extraordinary irony,” said Ms Bott.

“We’re building renewable energy to fight climate change, but connecting it with infrastructure that fails in the very storms, fires and heatwaves climate change is driving.”

Ms Bott pointed to an increasing incidence of transmission tower failures.

“Overhead belongs to the past; every outage costs businesses and families.

“Offshore wind deserves the best connections. Do it once, do it right,” she said.

“We are here to make sure that this once-in-a-generation project delivers what all of us want: affordable, reliable, climate-resilient power.

Releasing the State Government's Offshore Wind Energy Implementation Statement earlier this year, Minister D'Ambrosio said the confidential Registration of Interest (ROI) auction process would be the next step towards building two gigawatts of offshore wind energy capacity.

“Successful proponents will be supported through a contract-for-difference and availability payment providing investment certainty and energy security,” said Ms D'Ambrosio.

Ms Bott remained sceptical.

“Gippsland is ready to deliver; the question is not if, but how.”

The first contracts for offshore wind energy are expected to be awarded in 2026.

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South Gippsland Shire Council News

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Join in Australia's biggest second-hand treasure hunt across two weekends in November (Saturday 8 to Sunday 9 and Saturday 15 to Sunday 16). For those looking to host, this is a fantastic opportunity to declutter your home and earn some extra cash. When you take part in the Garage Sale Trail, you're helping your community, the environment and even your hip pocket

Last year, nearly 300,000 people took part at more than 13,000 sales and markets nationwide. Together, they kept 418 tonnes of items in use, saving them from landfill, while sellers earned more than \$3.9 million for themselves or local community groups.

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For more information, visit:
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COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 September 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:

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BENA ROAD KORUMBURRA - LONG LOTS

Council is considering options for how land on the northern side of Bena Road could potentially be subdivided and is seeking feedback from local residents.

For more information and to provide your feedback, visit:

yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

Date: Tuesday 23 September

Where: Korumburra Community Hub

When: 2.30pm to 4.30pm

For more information on other sessions or to book, visit:

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Eat Drink Play Gippsland is a vibrant one-day (and night!) festival that celebrates the very best of our region's food, drink and music in one unforgettable event.

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Draft plans for Bena Road subdivision released by Council

A DRAFT plan for the subdivision of land into 112 residential lots on the northern side of Bena Road in Korumburra has left some locals questioning Council plans.

The potential subdivision from 8A to 62 Bena Road would impact approximately 20 landowners with existing dwellings on lots sized between about 2000m2 and 8000m2.

Under the current plan, these general residential zoned blocks would be diced up into long and narrow lots of between 500m2 and 700m2.

However, there is no specified minimum size.

One South Gippsland local was horrified to find that her dream acre block of land would disappear if these plans were realised, and even more horrified it wasn't detailed in the vendor's paperwork.

"I was interested in buying number 44 Bena Road, which would be a road under the plan drawn up," stated Elizabeth Hatch.

While Ms Hatch understands that the South Gippsland Shire Council



A subdivision of 112 lots on Bena Road, Korumburra have been drafted in Council plans. ob04_3725

(SGSC) is in the early stages of illustrating how a coordinated development could take place over the next 20 to 30 years, she is questioning their decisions.

"But it still doesn't make sense to do it when across (the road) there is ample, clear land the farmer wants to develop."

Ms Hatch is referring to an application for a large development at 99 Bena Road, Korumburra, which councillors rejected in May 2024, citing a number of concerns.

Despite SGSC seeking feedback from local residents and consulting with existing landowners on the current subdivisions, Ms Hatch has decided to walk away because of the potential development and astronomical costs.

"Even though I love the block, we looked at a house in Leongatha North on five acres, pool, for less than it would cost to build a smaller house with a smaller pool."

Other locals have questioned how flows from the

creek and potential flooding risks will be managed, with Council stating the plan considers appropriate stormwater flow paths and drainage solutions and seeks to minimise impacts on existing sewerage infrastructure crossing the area.

Council state these plans are consistent with State Government policy to encourage efficient use of existing urban zoned land in township boundaries and this area was identified as having the potential for subdivision a few years ago.

Some landowners on Bena Road have also approached Council with inquiries on how they can subdivide their individual blocks.

SGSC also state they fear that without a coordinated strategy for future subdivision, there is a risk of ad hoc development that could compromise the character of the area.

Community consultation will occur until 5pm on Wednesday, September 24 and an information session will be held at the Korumburra Community Hub on Tuesday, September 23 from 5pm.

Mayor's Message



South Gippsland Shire Council



Cr John Schelling

Gippsland New Energy Conference

LAST week, I had the opportunity to attend the Gippsland New Energy Conference in Traralgon alongside fellow Councillors and Council staff. It was encouraging to hear from key industry leaders and reassuring to see that South Gippsland is well-informed and actively engaged in the energy transition. However, it's clear that we still have significant work ahead — particularly in building strong partnerships with State and Federal Governments to prepare for the future of offshore wind.

Melbourne Cup in Stony Creek

Over the weekend, I was honoured to welcome the Melbourne Cup trophy to Stony Creek. The Meeniyan Town Hall was one of just 35 destinations on the Cup's national tour, and it was fantastic to see our community come together to celebrate this iconic event.

Mirboo North Fire Brigade Awards Night

I also had the pleasure of attending the Mirboo North Fire Brigade Awards Night on Saturday. These individuals give their time and energy to protect our community, and it was a privilege to celebrate their service and commitment.

Onam Festival

Councillor Sarah Gilligan represented Council at a local Onam Festival last week, hosted by South Gippsland's largest group of non-English first language residents — 30 families who speak Malayalam, the primary language of Kerala, India. Cr Gilligan was honoured to attend and shared how vibrant and welcoming the event was. A special thank you to Matthew Thomas, the group's secretary, for keeping culture and tradition alive in our region and facilitating such a joyful celebration.

Garage Sale Trail

Registrations are now open for the Garage Sale Trail, a nationwide event that promotes sustainability, community connection, and waste reduction. It's a great way to give pre-loved items a second

life and keep them out of landfill. To get involved, visit: www.garagesaletrail.com.au

R U OK? Day

Last week, we also recognised R U OK? Day, a national reminder to check in with those around us. Mental health and well-being are vital, and sometimes a simple conversation can make a big difference. I'd like to encourage everyone to keep these conversations going — not just on R U OK? Day, but every day.

Physical Action as Thinking Form Exhibition

We officially opened the TWOONE Exhibition at Coal Creek last week. Councillor Bron Beach spoke at the launch, which featured stunning works by renowned artist TWOONE and creative pieces from local young artists who participated in his workshop. It's wonderful to see our youth engaging with the arts and expressing themselves through creativity.

Rural Road Safety Month

September is Rural Road Safety Month, and I want to remind everyone that driving on rural roads comes with unique risks. Whether you're behind the wheel or a passenger, we all share the responsibility to stay alert and drive safely.

Eat, Drink, Play Gippsland

The countdown is on for the Eat, Drink, Play Gippsland Festival — now just one month away! Gather your family and friends and join us at the Leongatha Railway Precinct for a full day and night celebrating our region's incredible produce and producers. It's going to be a fantastic event, and you can purchase tickets: drinkplaygippsland.com.au

September Council Meeting

Finally, a reminder that our September Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 September. Everyone is welcome to attend in person at the Council Chambers [Michael Place, Leongatha], or tune in via the live stream. www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Branches cut and concerns grow in Tarwin Lower

A TARWIN Lower resident has spoken out after a number of trees in her street were heavily cut back.

Lynette Lane of Tamarama Close said she was shocked to see branches removed in her court, particularly because of the birds and koalas that rely on the trees.

"I feel as though initially there was no consideration for the birds that might be using them," she said.

"Though the trees weren't completely removed, they had a lot of branches and things taken away from them."

Ms Lane, a retired primary and secondary school teacher, said the clearing began about a month ago. Workers told her the job was carried out because rubbish trucks had difficulty reaching bins.



Recent tree trimming in Tamarama Close has raised questions from some residents. W02_3725

But she believes the issue could have been solved in a different way.

"People living in the court could've been instructed to put their rubbish bins on the street onto the road, rather than on the grass to avoid the branches," she

said.

She also worries about the potential long-term impact on wildlife.

"Native birds, visiting birds, all sorts of birds use those trees," she said. "Koalas come and go, too."

Ms Lane said she hoped

the council would consider animals and habitat more carefully before making similar decisions in the future.

"As human beings, I think we have a right to love animals and birds and to provide them with the best environment that we can," she said.

"If I could say something directly to the council, it would be to look after animals when they go cutting things down and doing things. It's a country area, a long way from the city, and animals are more prevalent here. They need to be allowed to survive, and I'm sure that others who live locally love animals too."

The Sentinel-Times contacted South Gippsland Shire Council for comment, but a response was not received by print.

Mirboo North protection area declared as new Conservation Park

AFTER years of campaigning by local groups, new legislation will see the Mirboo North Immediate Protection Area permanently protected as a new Conservation Park.

The welcome change came as part of the new Parks and Public Land Bill introduced by Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos into the Victorian Parliament last Thursday.

The new status of the area will allow people to explore, relax and play in this unique remnant of highly vulnerable forest while ensuring the park is maintained for future generations to enjoy.

Classification of the area into a Conservation Park was part of a recommendation from the 2021

response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Investigation Final Report.

But local groups, such as Preserve our Forests Mirboo North (POFMN) had been advocating for many years prior to this to have the area properly classified.

"For the community group Preserve our Forests Mirboo North, this is a significant victory in our campaign to protect this small, yet vital forest habitat that is home to so many native species — many endangered or vulnerable," said Marg Thomas, Convenor of POFMN.

"After an eight-year campaign, supported by the Mirboo North community

and people from far and wide sharing their expertise, skills and dollars, we can finally celebrate this achievement. The designation of Conservation Park for the IPA will be a balance of conservation and recreation."

The Conservation Park will continue to be accessible with the community able to use the area to get into nature and do the things they love, including bushwalking, horse riding, dog walking, fishing, seasonal deer hunting and more.

Victoria's iconic native flora and rare and threatened species like the Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Swift Parrot and Southern Greater Glider will be protected

under this new status.

"We're still digesting the news but are quite ecstatic to have reached this stage, however, this means more work ahead when a management plan is developed jointly with our community, Traditional Owners and Land Managers," explained Marg.

"There are so many people to thank, Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists, Victorian National Parks Association, South Gippsland Conservation Society, South Gippsland Branch ALP, South Gippsland Shire Council, local media, and our own Preserve Our Forests committee, just to name a few. Well over 50 people volunteered."

Another offshore project falls

ON THE eve of an announcement by the Federal Government about its 2035 emissions reduction target comes news that another Gippsland offshore windfarm project is off the agenda, at least for now.

A joint venture between Origin Energy and global renewables developer, RES, the Navigator North offshore windfarm project of up to 110 wind turbines has been put on ice, and will not take part in the first round of state auctions, bidding for government support.

The 1.5GW project was to be located off Victoria's Gippsland coast, 34 km from the shore at its closest point near Golden and Paradise Beach, 38 km from Lakes Entrance and 48 km from Seaspray.

An Origin spokeswoman said the company had not abandoned the Navigator North project, but confirmed it did not intend to bid in the auction as it no longer planned to be operational by 2032.

"The Origin X RES Joint Venture intends to continue to progress development activities on the Navigator North project, and awaits details on future auctions for the 2035 and 2040 delivery timelines for offshore wind," the spokeswoman said.

Another company, BlueFloat Energy, has already withdrawn from the Gippsland zone since the government handed out its feasibility licences.

When Navigator North recently ran community consultation events at Toora, Loch Sport and Woodside in late July, it was full steam ahead, but less than two months later, the future of the huge project is uncertain.

Energy experts have now warned that unless the state and federal governments expedite the rollout of the industry, other investors and suppliers might follow.

Community input required for Climate Change Action Plan

SINCE the adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030, Bass Coast Shire Council and the community have worked together to make real progress towards a more sustainable future.

Key achievements so far include:

- Powering all council operations with 100 per cent renewable energy.
- Installing more than 310 kW of solar panels and 120 kWh of battery storage on council facilities, boosting community resilience.
- Progressing the transition to electric vehicles in council's fleet, supported by new public charging stations soon to come online.
- Supporting households, businesses and community groups through climate action grants and partnerships.

Now halfway through the plan, council is upholding its commitment to review and refresh it.

The review will strengthen efforts to support community-led climate action leading up to 2030.

Community feedback will directly shape the refreshed Climate Change Action Plan and guide future priorities.

Community pop-up sessions will be held at the following venues:

Grantville Transaction Centre: Thursday, September 18, from 10.30am to 1.30pm.

Inverloch Hub: Tuesday, September 23, from 10.30am to 1.30pm (school holidays).

Berninnet, Cowes: Thursday, September 25, from 10.30am to 1.30pm (school holidays).

Wonthaggi Library: Wednesday, October 1, from 12pm to 2pm (school holidays).

Berninnet, Cowes: Thursday, October 9, from 10.30am to 1.30pm.

Find more information at Engage Bass Coast.

Wonthaggi goes purple to support LGBTIQ+ young people

HEADSPACE Wonthaggi was awash with purple on August 29 as young people, families, and community members came together to celebrate diversity and show support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQ+) young people on Wear It Purple Day.

The national awareness day, held annually on the last Friday in August, encourages schools, workplaces, and community organisations to create safe and inclusive environments where young people can thrive. This year's theme, "Bold Voices, Bright Futures", was brought to life in Wonthaggi through vibrant displays, creative decorations, music, and shared stories at the headspace centre.

More than 40 community members attended the event, enjoying face painting, guest speakers, music, and a walk through the town centre, culminating in a shared morning tea. Young people shared personal messages about the importance of acceptance, while local organisations stood alongside them in solidarity.

headspace Wonthaggi is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all young people to



headspace Wonthaggi proudly supported the recent Wear It Purple Day and showed up in a bright array.

access services and support, with its establishment and operations informed by a Youth Advisory Group (YAG).

One of the centre's YAG members, Cailey, said that Wear It Purple has been running for 15 years now, and that this year's theme was particularly impactful.

"It feels like now more than ever is the time to let

yourself be heard, to speak up for yourself, your loved ones, what you believe in, and to be authentically yourself," Cailey said.

"We are so proud to see our community come together to support young people. Wear It Purple Day is about sending a clear message to every LGBTIQ+ young person – you are valued, you are

supported, and you belong," said Daaman Singh, headspace Wonthaggi Centre Manager.

"More than a third of the young people who use our services identify as LGBTIQ+, and so we know how important it is for young people to feel safe, supported and accepted, both by services and in the general community," Mr Singh added.

Meeniyan IGA gets sustainable upgrades

MEENIYAN IGA was needing some upgrades recently and owner Kaelene Shervell chose to go with environmentally friendly, sustainable solutions.

With open fridges that proved to be uneconomical, that also dropped the temperature of the store to frigid, Kaelene had been wanting to change them for a while.

When an incentive from the government came along in the form of a rebate to change to sustainable energy use in the fridges and freezers, the IGA owner jumped at the opportunity.

"The business that I use for my fridge maintenance, they helped me put it all together and voila. It's been awesome.

"They're all up and running and just really present nicely – all the products – and the extra products because of the extra space we've been able to gain."



Kaelene Shervell of Meeniyan IGA celebrates new and more sustainable fridges and shopping carts in the store. ob03_3725

The shop is also now noticeably warmer, which all the staff are grateful for.

"We're taking off the extra layers that we were needing to wear. It's been a remarkable difference. We noticed that the next day, when we opened the shop, how much warmer

it was."

The IGA also has new shopping trolleys, which Kaelene found from eco-plastic company, Super Cart, which designs them from recycled plastic.

The company upcycle the equivalent of 74 two-litre milk

bottles for their mini trolley and 152 two-litre milk bottles for their mid trolley.

To date, they've upcycled the equivalent of more than 34 million two-litre milk bottles, that's over 1.4 million kilograms of plastic.

"Their goal is just to reuse and that really appealed to me. I thought that was amazing that they've been able to work something out to reduce the plastic that we're putting in our landfill."

"Being such a little store, there are only 10 trolleys. But every little bit counts," added Kaelene.

"The trolleys are just a lot lighter and easier to manoeuvre as well, which is nice for our elderly citizens."

Kaelene expressed her gratitude to all her customers for their patience and support through the transition.

"It made it easier and took the stress off," she said.

Mary Aldred's mobile office hits Wonthaggi

FEDERAL Member for Monash Mary Aldred visited Wonthaggi on Wednesday, September 10, as part of her ongoing series of mobile office meetings across the electorate. The initiative, which originally began during her election campaign, is designed to give locals the chance to meet with their representative without needing to travel long distances.

Ms Aldred said she wanted to make sure community members had an open door to raise issues that matter to them.

"It is a big electorate and it's a diverse electorate, so I've

been really keen to continue this now that I'm elected," she said.

"People shouldn't have to travel a long way to be able to talk to their local representative. If they need to access help and support from my office, I want to make that available. I'm going to continue to regularly do these mobile offices, advertise them and invite people to come and talk to me about whatever they'd like."

She said the meetings often bring in a wide range of people, from individuals wanting a simple chat over coffee to community groups and veterans

seeking more formal support.

Across her travels, one theme continues to stand out. "Definitely cost of living," Ms Aldred said.

"Wherever I go across the electorate, the price of groceries, energy, housing, they're really continuing to bite, and people are struggling. But also assistance with NDIS, homecare packages, Department of Veterans' Affairs issues, they're all regularly raised as well."

She added that local infrastructure, roads and support for sporting clubs were also frequent topics of conversation.

While Ms Aldred acknowledged that surveys and phone

calls are useful, she said nothing compares to meeting people in person.

"Nothing beats having a face-to-face conversation with someone, understanding their journey and their story and why an issue matters to them," she said.

Her message to residents remains simple.

"I'm here to help. Come and talk to me about any issue that is important to you, either at a national level or if you're struggling with a government service and you're just not getting through. Please reach out to me, I'm here to help."

Medical students gain experience in South Gippsland

FIVE Monash Rural Health medical students are currently immersed in general practice placement in South Gippsland, gaining hands-on experience and forging deep connections with the local community.

Based in towns like Wonthaggi, Leongatha and Foster, these fourth-year medical students are not only developing clinical skills – they’re discovering the heart of rural medicine.

Among them is Samiha Arulshankar, who is completing her placement in Wonthaggi.

For Samiha, the experience has been transformative.

“The highlight for me has been the culture and community,” she said.

“From trivia nights, team dinners and road trips with students and staff, it’s been such a warm and supportive environment.”

Beyond the camaraderie, the clinical exposure has been exceptional.

Students are entrusted with procedures such as excising skin cancers, draining cysts and managing continuity care – following patients from antenatal visits through to childbirth and paediatric follow-up, all under the supervision of experienced general practitioners.

“That kind of continuity as a student is quite unique to rural placements and deeply fulfilling,” Samiha said.

“You genuinely feel part of the community.”

Jennie Casey, lecturer at Monash Rural Health, underscored the significance of these placements.



Matthew Pham, Jack Chapman, Jennie Casey, Hannah Nguyen, Basma Qadeer and Samiha Arulshankar advocate for Monash Rural Health's rural placement program.

“Rural GP placements offer students unparalleled opportunities to develop clinical confidence, cultural competence and a deep appreciation for community-centred care. These experiences are essential to shaping a future health workforce that is skilled, compassionate and ready to serve where they’re needed most,” she said.

The students’ time in South Gippsland is also enriched

by mentorship from local clinicians who invest in their growth, both professionally and personally.

Late-night study sessions are balanced with beach trips after class, gym workouts and shared meals.

Samiha’s passion for rural health continues beyond the clinic.

In October, she will be presenting her research at DRIVERS, Monash Rural Health’s

annual conference celebrating innovation and leadership in rural health.

“It’s such a great opportunity to hear from inspiring keynote speakers, connect with other students and clinicians, and see the passion for rural health across so many specialties. I’m excited to be inspired by people who are so passionate about their work and about advocating for their patients,” she said.

Auxiliary calls on community to keep helping

GIPPSLAND Southern Health Service’s Lyrebird Auxiliary has been giving to the local community for nearly 40 years – now it’s time for the community to step up and help.

The auxiliary was formed in 1987, replacing an earlier group that disbanded when the members decided they were too old to continue the fundraising activities.

A younger group of women in their 40s took on the challenge at the time, but now they are reaching the point where they need to step back and help a new generation of volunteers to step up and support their local hospital.

The youngest auxiliary member is 67, and the oldest 79, and treasurer Lyndy Elliott says it’s time for some new blood.

“As older members, we’re quite happy to support new and younger members, but we don’t want to stay in the office bearer positions,” Mrs Elliott said.

Mrs Elliott joined the auxiliary in 1990 and has been treasurer for 25 years. President Lyn Yeomans has been in her role for 15 years.

The auxiliary has been reduced from more than 20 to about 15 members and today mostly relies on donation tins in Leongatha and Korumburra shops to raise money, though that is usually limited to \$500-\$700 a year.

“We haven’t got the people on the ground now to hold big events,” Mrs Elliott said.

“We need new blood and want to encourage younger people to come in.”

One of the auxiliary’s biggest jobs was selling the contents of a house that had been bequeathed to the hospital in 2021.

Along with funds raised from other events, the auxiliary has contributed \$4000 for SOZO machines for lymphedema sufferers, helped to establish the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, purchased five trampolines for physiotherapy, televisions, knee rugs, fusion pumps, chemotherapy furniture, mannikins, large wheelchairs, and helped with upgrades to hospital gardens, among other donations.

Individual members also knit soft toys such as trauma teddies for urgent care and bonnets for premature babies.

While Mrs Elliott admits fundraising these days is hard work, she says there is a sense of pride and community spirit from their volunteer contributions.

“Joining and contributing gives people a sense of belonging to a community,” she said.

“It’s our hospital. People can’t complain if it doesn’t have things if they’re not prepared to raise funds to help out. I’m not talking about big items – I’m talking about little items like mattresses and comfort items.

The auxiliary also fosters ongoing friendships.

“We still have social catch-ups. That’s what it’s all about – the camaraderie and friendships that are formed through the auxiliary, plus it’s the people you meet in the community when you’re selling raffle tickets. You get to be known as the hospital auxiliary.”

There’s also the occasional lighter moment.

“We came up with the name Lyrebird hospital auxiliary – then someone said, ‘I didn’t know we had a hospital for lyrebirds down here’.

Anyone interested in joining the auxiliary can contact president Lyn Yeomans on 0419 565711, lynyeomans1@gmail.com or treasurer Lyndy Elliott 0409 623650 or lyn-grae@dcsi.net.au.

Memorial unveiled for former GSHS staff member

FORMER long-serving Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) Sue Ritchie has been honoured for her contribution to the health service and the Lyrebird Auxiliary.

Earlier this week staff, residents, family, friends and members of the Lyrebird Auxiliary gathered at Hillside Lodge to honour the life and contribution of Ms Ritchie.

Ms Ritchie dedicated 25 years as a GSHS staff member and was an active member of the auxiliary since 1989. She passed away last December after a snake bite.

GSHS CEO Lou Sparkes said Sue’s commitment to care,

warmth, and her trademark efficiency left a lasting mark on both colleagues and community.

“Sue inspired deep respect and affection and the health service and the wider community has felt an ongoing sense of loss felt since her passing,” Ms Sparkes said.

As a tribute, the Lyrebird Auxiliary commissioned a handcrafted clock from the Korumburra Men’s Shed. It is now hanging in the main reception of Hillside Lodge.

“This special piece will stand as a daily reminder of Sue’s dedication and keep alive her memory,” Ms Sparkes said.



Lyrebird Auxiliary and Gippsland Southern Health Service have honoured the late Sue Ritchie. Insert: The late Sue Ritchie.

Leongatha S.C. state finalists in Science and Engineering Challenge

STUDENTS from Leongatha Secondary College recently competed in the state final of the secondary schools’ Science and Engineering Challenge in Ballarat.

The students were grateful to have received funding from Regional Development Victoria and Leongatha Rotary to provide significant financial support for their camp.

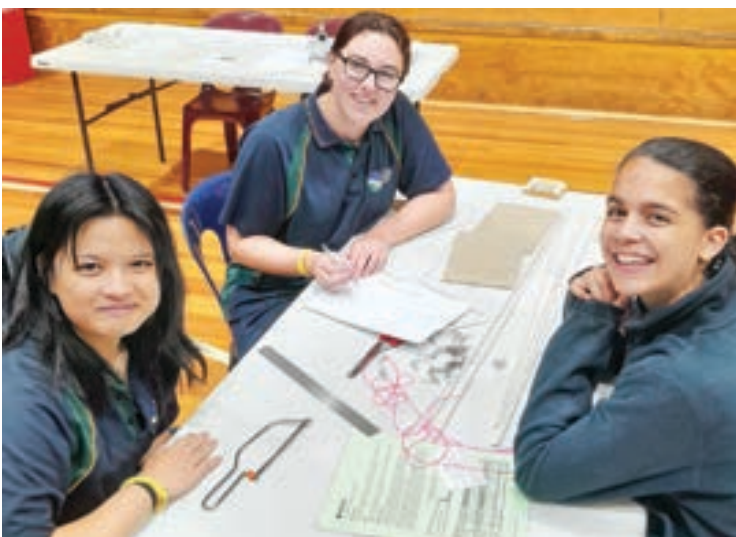
Leongatha S.C. won the South Gippsland section of the Science and Engineering Challenge earlier this year and were excited about exploring further scientific concepts with students from around the state.

The school also greatly appreciated the work of Newcastle University and the amazing work of the Rotary Volunteers of Ballarat.

After a great day, Leongatha was placed sixth amongst a very competitive cohort.

Congratulations to Auburn Secondary College from Hawthorn, who won the title and will compete at the National Title in Newcastle in October.

RIGHT: Ghun Phokaphol, Ava Boyd and Charlotte Lawler enjoyed the activities of the state final of the Science and Engineering Challenge in Ballarat.





Tarwin Football Netball Club received \$5390 thanks to the Community Bank Inverloch.



Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club boosted by \$7000 grant from Community Bank Inverloch.



The Community Bank Inverloch and District team recently joined forces raising awareness for R U Ok? Day. From left, Carolyn, Penelope, Koren, Rhiannon and Liam.

Community Bank continues to share its success



Inverloch Historical Society celebrated a \$5000 Community Bank grant at the awards night.



The State Coal Mine Rescue Station Arts received \$2000 as part of the community grants event.



Bass Coast Board Riders will put a \$3745 Community Bank grant towards upcoming projects.

THE Community Bank Inverloch and District, situated in Williams Street Inverloch is a long-term partner of the community – its people, its businesses and the many local groups it has supported throughout the past 19 years.

A dedicated staff of five, the bank is overseen by a Board of Directors, all who are volunteers, and all who carry a strong connection to the region.

Chairman Mark McCormack said he was very proud to be a part of such a critical business within the community and to lead a Board of volunteers who all possessed a variety of skills which served the bank well.

“Everyone is dedicated to making the bank the best possible version of itself and to continue to grow the customer base so in turn we can continue to support the community. Our doors are wide open, and we welcome new business from across the region”, he said.

Mark added that the bank was now the only bank represented in Inverloch with a full banking service.

“It is also your bank, owned by many in the community and we look forward to the continued support of our customers, shareholders, and the community to enable us to retain this position,” he said.

Director Louise Litchfield, who has lived in Inverloch for more than 40 years, explained that she joined the bank board two years ago, with the sole purpose of maintaining the bank’s relationship with the community, while



Koren and Penelope, part of the friendly Inverloch Community Bank team.

using her expertise to help the bank grow.

“Our bank is a community bank which means every customer and every dollar which comes into the bank makes up the sum of the parts which go back out to the community for programs, projects and vital works which would otherwise not be undertaken without our help”, said Louise.

Bank Manager, Penelope Rowe, added that the bank was very much like a part of a bigger family, being able to draw on the expertise of the Corporate Bendigo Bank while at the same time service the customer in a local and personal manner.

“We all live in the community and therefore we know and understand the community and its needs. We continue to grow our customer base and in doing so we continue to be able to give back to the sporting groups, schools, and other organisations such as the local historical society.

“It is very rewarding knowing that by doing your job well you are also

helping the community”, she said.

Penelope also added that as an employer of local staff in times when unemployment was high, was very satisfying.

“Employing local people who then go on to even bigger and better positions within the global bank is such a wonderful achievement, and it is a reflection on how our bank is managed and how our customers are treated”, she said.

To date the bank has given more than \$675,000 to the community for various projects and sponsorships.

As the bank continues to service Inverloch and the region it is now calling for its second round of grants and sponsorships for 2025.

Applications open on September 23 and close on October 23. Successful participants will be notified prior to the Board’s Annual General Meeting at the end of November.

To apply contact 5674 2800 or search Bendigo Bank Inverloch, bendigobank.com.au.

Community grants program

When you partner with us, good things happen. Your organisation gets funding, and your banking helps support the community.

Applications open 23rd September, 2025 and close 23rd October, 2025.

Find out more. Call 5674 2800 or search Bendigo Bank Inverloch.

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MotoGP around the corner

THE Australian Round of the MotoGP is only around the corner, heading to the Island next month from October 17 to 19.

But it was a passionate weekend overseas as Marc Marquez held off Bezzecchi in a tense duel at Misano.

Having held off a heap of constant pressure from Marco Bezzecchi (Aprilia Racing) in the second half of the Grand Prix, Marc Marquez's (Ducati Lenovo Team) title-winning comeback is drawing ever closer after the #93 clinched victory on a fascinating Sunday in Misano. It means we head to the Japanese GP knowing Marquez can be crowned MotoGP World Champion if results go his way, and the only rider who can stop that from happening was third-place finisher Alex Marquez (BK8 Gresini Racing MotoGP).

Lap 21 saw Marc Marquez set the fastest lap of the race, which saw the gap rise to 0.495s between Marquez and Bezzecchi. Was that the warning shot? Was it the hammer blow? It was certainly a statement, but Bezzecchi responded by going slightly faster on the next lap – but it was only by 0.010s. The Italian was digging in, but would it be enough?

It wasn't. Marquez's advantage rose to 0.6s with four laps to go, but then Bezzecchi threw in the fastest lap of the race. 0.3s in one lap, had Bezzecchi saved his best until the last three laps? But in response, the six-time MotoGP World Champion threw another stinging punch to set the fastest lap and go 0.5s clear.

The gap heading into the last lap? 0.415s. The penultimate lap was Bezzecchi's personal best of the Grand Prix, but it didn't look like it would be quite enough. And unfortunately for the Italian, it wasn't. A tantalisingly tense affair saw Marc Marquez hold on to put his Sprint crash behind him and collect 25 points ahead of Bezzecchi, who did brilliantly to pile on the pressure for the second half of the Grand Prix. The top two were in a league of their own on Sunday, with Alex Marquez handing Gresini a special home turf podium 7.7s behind the top two.

Back in Australia, there is still time to secure your tickets and even enter the draw to win tickets, thanks to Bass Coast Shire Council.

To win, simply subscribe to Council's email newsletter, Coastell, for your chance to win one of four double general admission tickets for Sunday only or six double general admission tickets for all three days. Winners will be announced in the September issue of Coastell on Thursday, September 25.

And remember, a community day will again be held on Friday, October 17, which provides free general admission tickets for Bass Coast residents. To receive a complimentary ticket, just present your proof of residency at any gate on the day or avoid the queues by collecting your tickets from Gate 1 on October 16.

Bair Street will be roaring during Biketoberfest

BAIR Street will roar to life next month when motorcycle lovers hit Leongatha for the fourth inaugural Biketoberfest.

The event, held a week before the Phillip Island MotoGP, draws both motorcycle enthusiasts from far and wide and locals who enjoy the family-friendly festivities.

With specialty stalls and motorcycle merchandise to browse and Vesper DJ bringing music to the street, attendees will be treated to a day of entertainment with two local trial riders showcasing their incredible skills.

"They're unbelievable what they can do on those things, balance on one wheel up on a car bonnet, hop on the roof, spin it round and all sorts of wonderful things. It's a real crowd eye-opener. They're very entertaining, to say the least," said Biketoberfest founder and president Steve Busana.

The local emergency services will have a display, and Bass Coast Highway Patrol Solo Unit motorcycles will be in attendance, chatting with the public and raising awareness of road safety heading into the warmer months.

"The crowd love it, especially the kids and the police are really good. Young and old jump on the bikes, play with the lights and all sorts of stuff. It's a lot of fun," said Steve.

Holding the festival in October is also significant as it coincides with Motorcycle



Bair Street will roar to life with Biketoberfest.

Awareness Month, which aims to promote safety and awareness among riders and drivers.

It encourages everyone to be vigilant and educated about motorcycle safety, especially going into the summer riding season.

All money raised during the event gets donated to the Black Dog Ride, a charity that raises awareness and conversations around women's and men's mental health and suicide prevention.

"They've been around for quite a long time, a very good and worthy organisation, I must say," said Steve.

Biketoberfest was born when Steve, alongside his wife Rozz and their two friends Cherie and Graham Pritchett, wanted to put on a community event, coming out of COVID lockdowns.

"Bair Street had just been refurbished and redone at that time, and we thought let's showcase it. Let's have a stationary event, fill it full of motorcycles for all to see," explained Steve.

The group worked with the Leongatha Business Association and the South Gippsland Shire Council and secured sponsors to get the first and subsequent events off the

ground, and they encourage everyone to go along.

"Turn up to the event. Check out everyone's bikes because there'll be hundreds there, and just admire the day, admire it for what it is. We want to see smiling faces everywhere, just people having a great time and supporting all their local businesses in the process," said Steve, who encourages all shop owners to stay open and take advantage of the crowds.

"It's for the whole community, families, everyone's welcome, two wheels, four wheels on your feet. Doesn't matter. It's for everybody."

Drone awareness course inspires next generation of pilots

THE first group of local students to undertake a Drone Awareness Course at Leongatha Secondary College have been awarded Certificates of Completion.

Funded by the Martin Carlson Foundation in partnership with South Gippsland Bass Coast Trade Skills Alliance (SGBC TSA) and South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (SGB-CLEEN), the Drone Taster Program was run over two days.

The course included an introduction to the drone industry and drone technology, types of drones and industry use cases, drone rules and airspace basics, CASA regulations, and briefings on safety and safety zones.

Careers in the drone industry were also explored, including the demand for drone technology, job roles, licensing

pathways, flight control skills and drone simulators.

An afternoon flying session included flight circuits, filming, and mission control basics, and real-world data capture and mapping concepts, as well as pathways into RPAS careers, licensing and RePL and school-based Cert III delivery.

Certificates of Participation were presented to the students at the conclusion of the training by Martin Carlson Foundation Trustees Darren Polglaise and Gary Brittle.

Participating students were enthusiastic about the course with more than one student expressing an interest in a future career in aviation or drone surveillance.

"It was fun, very interesting."
"It's what you need to learn to fly drones safely and as a career."



Cooper and Brody learning how to fly drones safely with National Drones Instructor Jason Fichera at Leongatha Secondary College. B42_3725

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CAR OF THE WEEK

2019 Ford Ranger Wildtrak PX MkIII

49,990 DRIVE AWAY

Off road performer, 62,640kms, 6 spd sports auto 4x4 dble cab SN: W101387



2021 Mazda CX30 G20 Astina DM

34,990 DRIVE AWAY

Low kms, 20,000kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102214



8 SEATER

2021 Hyundai Palisade Highlander

44,990 DRIVE AWAY

4x4 On demand, 127,000kms, 8 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102213



2013 Mazda BT-50 GT UP

24,990 DRIVE AWAY

Work or play, 87,517kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4 ute SN: W102215



2013 Suzuki Swift

14,990 DRIVE AWAY

Great First Car, 155,705kms, 4 speed auto hatch, ABS, airbags SN: W102156



2019 Holden Equinox LTZ EQ

20,990 DRIVE AWAY

Stylish AWD, 141,123kms, 6 speed sports auto wagon SN: W102212



2023 Volkswagen Tiguan 110TSI Life 5N

28,990 DRIVE AWAY

The full package, 51,082kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102123



2015 Hyundai Tucson TL Active X

19,990 DRIVE AWAY

Perfect for Family, 146,872kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102195

Leongatha Toyota

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4X4 OF THE WEEK

2020 Toyota Landcruiser VX

99,990 DRIVE AWAY

Highly Desirable, 125,074kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101416



2021 Toyota Fortuner Crusade

53,990 DRIVE AWAY

Just arrived, 76,647kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101422



2019 Holden Colorado Z71 RG

39,990 DRIVE AWAY

Turbo Diesel, 96,234kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 ute, leather seat SN: L101414



2008 Toyota Landcruiser VX

51,990 DRIVE AWAY

Go Touring, 210,810kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101396



2021 Toyota Camry Ascent Sport

31,990 DRIVE AWAY

Family Friendly, 78,884kms, 6 speed CVT auto sedan SN: L101371



2023 MG ZST Essence

22,990 DRIVE AWAY

Tidy Package, 19,188kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L101413



2018 Toyota C-HR Koba

26,990 DRIVE AWAY

4x4 On Demand, 81,347kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV, alloys SN: L101400



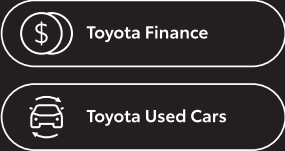
2023 Toyota Landcruiser Workmate

104,990 DRIVE AWAY

Tough workhorse, 5,600kms, 5 speed CVT manual 4x4 double cab SN: L101411

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LMCT 8179
wonthaggitoyota.com.au

Leongatha Toyota
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Leongatha VIC 3953
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LMCT 8179
leongathatoyota.com.au



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.

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

Sports finals just the tonic we need

IT FEELS like we've been pummeled by bad news locally, nationally and internationally in recent weeks and months.

And that the bad deeds of some seem to empower others to do likewise.

Korumburra's Pastor Ian Wilkinson said it best in his Victim Impact Statement ahead of Erin Patterson's sentencing recently:

"It's one of the distressing short comings of our society that so much attention is showered on those who do evil and so little on those who do good."

Well, let's see what we can do about that, at least for one week.

What a fantastic thing it was, at the weekend, to see so many people in the community out celebrating the culmination of our winter sporting season at venues right across Gippsland.

Huge crowds turned out, especially for some of the local league grand finals, with massive numbers responding at Trafalgar for the Ellinbank grand finals, where Lang Lang triumphed in the Reserves, at Yinnar for the Mid Gippsland finale, with Foster defying the odds and winning a thriller, and Woodside repeating last year's heroics in the North Gippsland League over TTU at Gaskin Park in Churchill.

Dalyston did a great job of hosting the preliminary finals in the West Gippsland competition and now all eyes turn to Garfield this Saturday, where Inverloch Kongwak and Phillip Island will face off in the Under 18s and Korumburra-Bena meet Nar Nar Goon in the A Grade netball grand final.

It will also be a big day for the Leon-gatha Parrots and Wonthaggi Power in the Gippsland League at Morwell this Saturday, September 20, with Leon-gatha represented in the Seniors, Reserves and Under 18 football grand final and a liberal sprinkling of Parrots and Power teams in the netball grades.

And the Gippsland Soccer League has its grand finale this Sunday in Wonthaggi with nine competitions to be decided and local clubs in each match.

So, is too much sport never enough?

The great thing about sport is its community-building role and we saw that played out right across the board, with people of all ages involved.

It's also worth noting that National Police Remembrance Day and Victoria's Blue Ribbon Day are observed on Monday, September 29 so look out for an opportunity to support and celebrate the work of our local police.

A costly gift that fails the fairness test

Reply to letter published August 26 from K. Walsh

FIRSTLY, I want to be clear that this is my personal point of view.

In short, the council's decision is not "short-sighted" but rational: it ends an inequitable and inefficient subsidy. The reality of receiving a very generous double dip of a "Farm Rate" on land with often no agricultural output and a very low per-acre valuation due to no commercial output, means a further gift from fellow ratepayers to support individual choices is not sustainable.

In fact, other ratepayers would find confronting how low covenanted properties'

Vox Pop

Are you aware of having too much on-screen time?



Arnie
Newhaven

"I was spending more time on my computer than my friends, who were on their phones four or five hours a day. Now I spend about one to two hours on my phone and less on my computer."



Emma
Cranbourne

"Yes. I get a reminder to stop me from spending too much time on my phone. I was spending too much time on it. Mostly on TikTok. I've got two jobs now, which helps me to stay off it."



Pauline
Ventnor

"I don't, no. I'm older, so we have limited tech knowledge. I mainly use it for catching up with and keeping up with my kids' communication."



Julie
Ventnor

"When I was on Instagram, I did, I'm ok now since I deleted it. I deleted Instagram because I was spending too much time on it."

rates notices may already be.

Kate Walsh presents her argument based on untested assumptions and selective reasoning. The first flaw is her reliance on the idea that council rebates to covenanted property owners are essential for biodiversity protection. This is incorrect. Landholders who place covenants on their land overwhelmingly do so from a pre-existing conservation ethic, not because of a minor grant. The rebate simply rewards behaviour that would occur anyway, making it an inefficient use of public funds.

Walsh ignores the basic equity problem. Rebates for covenant holders shift the financial burden onto other ratepayers – many of whom also engage in responsible land stewardship without recognition or subsidy. In a climate where many have learnt to rely on the money of others to fund their lifestyle, I can see how the previous gift was enthusiastically embraced by the recipients, a farmer investing in soil regeneration, erosion control, Agro forestry or water management contributes to environmental health just as meaningfully. Why should the council elevate one model of stewardship above all others? Once upon a time council managed to fund chemicals rebates for weed control in the farm zone, a program also no longer funded.

Her argument collapses when tested against simple principles of fairness.

Walsh fails to address agricultural productivity concerns with the loss of land. Australia faces increasing food security pressures, and locking land into perpetual conservation arrangements risks constraining future adaptive land use. Unlike national and state parks – which provide conservation at scale under clear governance – private covenants are often dispersed, inconsistently monitored, and difficult to integrate into long-term regional planning. To present them as superior is a distortion.

Finally, Walsh treats the council's decision as an attack on conservation, when in fact it reflects fiscal discipline and recognition of competing priorities. Local government has an obligation to spend scarce resources where they deliver the greatest measurable public benefit. Covenanted Land Rebates fail this test. If the objective is biodiversity protection, targeted grants, coordinated planning, and investment in large crown-owned reserves will always outperform blunt rate rebates on private land.

When you dig deeper, Council has already engaged in a very generous arrangement of support in kind and monetary funding of Landcare and also a separate program providing trees to landholders.

Commercial reality dictates that the bucket of council money is not endless.

Scott Rae, Foster North

On ya bike

REGARDING "On Your Bike" by Bruce Wardley on September 2. Has Council considered the opportunity of safely linking Cape Paterson to the Wonthaggi/Inverloch bike trail by connecting the north end of Fulton Road to the south end of Boundary Road? From there, it's a very short ride along a back road to the bike trail.

This would require less than two kilometres of bike trail across farmland along existing property boundaries. I've heard that there may even be an existing easement. Bikes would be diverted off the Cape Paterson/Wonthaggi Road. This would really open up safe family cycling between Cape Paterson, Wonthaggi and Inverloch.

The funds for this may come from a separate budget supporting cycling/fitness, etc. The roads budget is well over-committed.

John Godfrey, Cape Paterson

To whom do we owe a duty?

AS A soldier serving in the late seventies and early eighties, I had to determine to whom did I owe my duty.

The Army I served in had performed its duty as it understood it in Vietnam, but had come home to find itself blamed for the lack of operational success.

I formed the view that I was a soldier of a democratic Australia, and I would do my duty as determined by the legitimate democratic processes of my country.

I use this same process to determine who are Australians to whom I feel I have sworn an oath to protect.

The Australian government has rules for who can become an Australian citizen.

Once you have taken the oath to be an Australian citizen, no matter your background, you are thenceforth an Australian citizen.

New migrants swear an oath to uphold and respect Australian laws and democratic values.

I know I administered that oath many times as Mayor of Greater Dandenong.

This does put some pressure on those who were already here and who were comfortable with the then-existing White Australia model. We are now required to adapt to what can seem to be very different values and behaviours of our fellow citizens, but that is our current duty.

This doesn't mean giving up our values, but it does mean respecting the strongly held views of others with whom we must coexist.

I suggest adopting a curious mindset.

If migrants have become legitimate

Australian citizens, then by definition they have all the rights that attach to all Australian citizens, that is the nature of a democracy. Also, they become those for whom I see it as my duty to protect.

Kevin Walsh RFD, Cape Paterson

The 'Sentinel-Times' encourages readers to write with issues of interest or concern but letters that have a local reference point will be given priority. Writers are also urged to be brief where possible. Letters may be edited for space and legal reasons, and must be submitted with the author's name and contact details of which only the name and town location will appear.

• FAITH FACTOR

Looking For Peace

By Assistant Pastor, Karen Thorp, Grace Chapel, Archies Creek

THIS Sunday is International Day of Peace.

It raises a question: Will this world ever be at peace? The answer to this and many other mysteries can be found in the Bible.

While world peace is a great idea, it was Jesus who said we will see no end of conflict until His second and final return. On that day, 'every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.' Philippians 2:10. Then there will be peace! Peace will rule when all creation acknowledges the authority of Jesus on the Earth.

So, knowing world peace is unattainable until then, what do we do?

We are all responsible for attaining a culture of peace within ourselves and where we live. It starts with each of us.

I've found peace by searching for the will of God for my life and then doing it. I discovered this long ago: Jesus is the author of peace, He is the giver of peace, and He is known as the Prince of Peace. I have found joy and blessings while on my search for peace by doing the will of God. In the Bible, it says, "... blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:28

This is something worth remembering, our obedience produces peace, peace leads to joy and joy is followed with blessings. Each step relies on the previous. We can benefit greatly from pursuing the will of God because in doing so, the weight of this world is lifted off us.

God wants us to live with the gift of peace, but there is only one way to get it. God is the one who is the giver of perfect peace; it's available to everyone who humbly comes before the God of the Bible and allows themselves to be led by Him. May the giver of peace grant you peace.

Community connected with nature and wildlife at open day

THE theme for this year's Phillip Island Nature Parks Community Open Day was connect with nature, wildlife and community.

PINP's hub is at Churchill Island and they wanted to open it up for people to go along and connect with the Nature Parks partners, initiatives and projects.

"This is the day that we're able to connect the community to lots of the conservation work and tourism work that we do. It's about providing a bit of fun as well as trying to expose people to the fact that it's more than just the venues that we're all about," explained PINP CEO, Catherine Basterfield.

There were 15 different stallholders on the day, including the Phillip Island Conservation Society, Wildlife Coast cruises, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, National Surfing Reserve, Friends of Churchill Island, Landcare, Westernport Water, and Bass Coast Reconciliation Network.

"These are all people that we work with throughout the year. It's a chance to come together and to celebrate," said Kim Dunstan, community engagement officer.

"We've got representation from local schools as well. They've been invited to showcase their music, with Newhaven College up on stage this morning. We've got Green Room Concepts, which is students from all over the Bass Coast Shire here throughout the day. And then, just a whole lot of fun."



Phillip Island Nature Parks welcomed the community to Churchill Island on Saturday for a day of fun, adventure and learning with Dr Duncan Sutherland senior scientist, Catherine Basterfield CEO, Kim Dunstan community engagement officer and Ewan MacLeod content coordinator. ob14_3725



Noelene and Linda showcased the heritage and history of Churchill Island's historic homestead, cottages and clothing. ob16_3725



Bob was showing how the blacksmiths did it once upon a time, creating a hook to hang stuff on. ob15_3725



Gordon Morrison and Bruce Grainger from Leongatha Rotary Club at their Second Hand Furniture and Book store, which continually raises funds to help out people and causes. ob01_3725

Leongatha Rotary Club's gift that keeps on giving

THE Leongatha Rotary Club's second-hand furniture and book shop at the old Leongatha Fire Station is the gift that keeps on giving.

Books and furniture are donated from locals and are sold on, with profits going to the charities and projects the Club decide to support.

"We've been going now for about two years and it's proved to be exceptionally successful," said Leongatha Rotarian, who runs the shop, Bruce Grainger, who credits Shirley Seabrook with the original idea and establishment of the business.

"The main source of furniture is people downsizing and deceased estates. Because with deceased estates, the kids don't want the stuff because it doesn't fit into their house, not the right style, etc."

"People have a lot of issues moving it online, so it's either us or the tip, and it costs a small fortune to deposit the second-hand furniture at the tip."

The Rotary club have recently acquired a new enclosed van and they collect furniture on Tuesdays from as far afield as Mirboo North, Foster, Inverloch, Wonthaggi and Korumburra.

The weekly collections keep the shop filled with a constant supply of new items, which turnover fairly quickly.

"It's mainly people who are establishing or young people, establishing a new home, setting up granny flats, setting up holiday homes, things like that, and just people after the odd knick-knack," explained Bruce.

"It also enables us to help out needy families. We've been able to effectively furnish entire houses on occasion, for quite a reasonable outlay on the part of the family," explained Bruce.

The large library of second-hand books is also popular.

"Even if you don't sell any furniture on a given day, you'll always sell a book."

With proceeds from the shop donated to drought and flood aid, the SkyHydrant project in Timor-Leste, Marty Moo's Cambodian project, Mercy Ships Australia, Koonwarra bike shelter, and funds are also being set aside for a substantial contribution to the Woorayl Lodge development.

"It's a very rewarding project to be involved in. Because we're helping people. We're alleviating some people of the problem of getting rid of this stuff, and on the other hand, we're helping other families establish a household and, of course, we're adding to our funds in the process."

"There's always something (to donate to). And it's good to have this gift that keeps giving," said Bruce.

Coffee with the new cop

THE last Sunday in August saw new local police officer in Loch, Senior Constable Giuseppe Conti, sit down with other police from Korumburra Police Station, to meet with local community members from Loch and surrounds for the inaugural 'Coffee With A Cop'.

Police answered questions about many issues in the community such as road safety and personal security. Community members also wore something blue to honour the two police officers who died recently in the line of duty.



Eden and Koby were excited to dress up in army fatigues at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Community Open Day on Saturday. ob11_3725



Relieved of their combat duties, Koby and Eden were having some lunch and said the best thing about the day was winning a glider to take home. ob13_3725

A fun family day at the Vietnam Veterans Museum

CAMO face paint was being applied, combat uniforms were donned and small aircraft were being launched through the air at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Community Open Day on Saturday.

Being held in conjunction with the Churchill Island Community Open Day, General Manager of the Museum, Braxton Laine, said it was an opportunity for locals, especially, to come and visit and check out what they drive past every day.

Putting on a day that is fun and has something for a good cross section of people was also a key part of the event, he said, with face painting, plane flying, colouring in,

dress up photos and a sausage sizzle.

"It's a way of engaging the little ones with activities while the mums and dads can wander around and have a look at some stuff and engage with the place," said Braxton.

Braxton also commented that the new National Vietnam Veterans Museum, which is being built, is a couple of weeks away from starting on the driveway, which marks the fourth leg of the project.

"It will change the fabric of Phillip Island because of the massive landscape precinct museum," said Braxton.

A large component will be for the community.



Estelle and Travis were having a wonderful time seeing how far they could fly the gliders at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum. ob12_3725



Joel Stevenson has his hair painted in the colours of the rainbow.

Bright colours spark conversations

AT CARINYA, we believe in sparking conversations that matter, and this year's R U OK? Day was no exception. To shine a light on the importance of checking in with each other, our leisure and wellbeing coordinator, Vince Leithbridge, and Joel Stevenson, co-CEO corporate services, stepped up in a truly bold way. Both volunteered to have their hair bleached and dyed in every colour of the rainbow!

With the skilled hands of our much-loved hairdresser Duncan guiding the process, residents had the opportunity to join in and help dye Vince's and Joel's hair. The laughter and smiles filled the room reminding us all of the simple power of connection.

While the activity was lighthearted and fun, the message was deeply important asking "R U OK?" can change a life. By taking part, Vince and Joel not only showed their commitment to raising awareness but also encouraged conversations about mental health and the importance of looking out for one another.

We are proud to continue building a community where support, inclusion, and care go hand in hand. R U OK? Day is a reminder that at Carinya, every conversation matters and no one walks alone.



Are You Okay? Day at WNPS

LAST week, Wonthaggi North Primary School held a special WOW Day to celebrate R U OK? Day. Everyone wore yellow to show they care about each other and to remind us how important it is to ask, "Are you OK?" everyday.

Students joined in fun and thoughtful activities like "A Recipe for a Good Friend," "Me and My Friend," and "Wanted: A Good Friend." These helped students learn what makes a good friend and how to support one another. It was a bright, happy day full of kindness, sharing, and connection.

Inaugural Pink Bowl a success

CORINELLA Bowls Club hosted its first Pink Bowl on Sunday.

This women's only tournament proved to be an excellent success for the club, and it was anticipated to have raised \$4000 for the McGrath Foundation.

Of this tally, \$1625 was raised from the raffle alone, which included locally donated prizes.

Sixty-four bowlers took part in the day, travelling from Melbourne and locally based clubs to be involved.

Among the bowlers was Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, who praised the event and its contribution to the McGrath Foundation.

It was brought to the attention of Corinella Bowls Club's Steve Bray that a women's tournament needed to be a fixture on the calendar, and what resulted was an exceptional outcome.

"We decided to link the tournament with the McGrath Foundation, who supplied us with shirts and a trophy. We had the men doing the cooking and serving on the day, while the women enjoyed their day of bowls," Steve said.

"We are going to make this an annual event. We love doing our tournaments here at Corinella and it has been fantastic."

The event included breakfast and champagne, a roast lunch, pink slushies, and nail and face painting.

There were prizes for best dressed and singer Paul Hogan provided the entertainment through the afternoon.



Denise Cole, Samantha Cole-Surjan and Heather George competed at the Corinella Bowls Club in support of the McGrath Foundation on Sunday. Tk06_3725



Jo Cartmel and Amanda Slack took part in the Pink Bowl at the Corinella Bowls Club. Tk07_3725



Corinella Bowls Club's Steve Bray with Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, who competed in the inaugural Pink Bowl on Sunday. Tk04_3725

Relax and wander at the Corinella Community Market

HELD at the Harold Hughes Reserve, the Corinella Community Market was a relaxed affair on Saturday, without the hustle and bustle of bigger markets.

Attendees took their time to browse, catch up with friends and grab a coffee, a plant or a knick-knack from the assortment of interesting stalls.

Once a month the market occurs, organised by local Gwen Watson along with some help from the Corinella CFA and the Corinella Residents and Ratepayers Association.

Gwen commented that they have both local stalls and others from further afield, but attendees are always guaranteed to find good coffee and good food at the market.

A French bakery attended this past weekend, as well as authentic Indian food and the CFA crew were cooking up the trusty sausage in bread.

Funds are raised through the sausage sizzle for the CFA and a gate raffle is also held for the brigade, with the crew getting 70 per cent of the proceeds and the rest going to other local community groups.

Young Clarke was also there selling chocolates to help raise money for a new playground for the Newhaven Primary School.

Victoria Ambulance will be attending the October market to talk about first aid and provide education about CPR for those interested.

The Corinella CFA will also be holding a benefit concert and dance, Equinox Rox, featuring five local bands on Saturday, September 20 from 7pm. Tickets are available from their Facebook page.



The Corinella CFA Crew were doing their regular Saturday market gig, cooking up a sausage sizzle storm for attendees to raise money for the brigade. ob10_3725



Inia with sports-mad Clarke, who was selling chocolates to help raise money for a new playground for Newhaven Primary School. ob09_3725



Joy and Wayne from Joyous Gardens in Nyora are regulars at the Corinella Community Market, bringing a good selection of plants for people to buy. ob08_3725

Spend some time along **The Waterline**



Bass Coast Stock Feeds manager Simone Gracey, owner Colin Kelly and retail assistant Cheryl Wilkinson display some of the Cherish food range. A01_3625

Bass Coast Stock Feeds delivers expertise and a wide range

OFFERING a large range of feed and care products for animals, including livestock, cats, dogs, horses and birds, Bass Coast Stock Feeds in Grantville provides friendly and expert advice.

Staff are happy to chat about the health and existing diet of your animals and make suitable suggestions on feed and other care products.

Store owner Colin Kelly comes from a farming background, while manager Simone Gracey and retail assistant Cheryl Wilkinson bring horse expertise.

"We all have years of experience in owning and attending to animals," Colin said.

He stressed that the business operators pride themselves on running an independent store, explaining, "We don't have any affiliation to brands or

companies."

"We're quite open for people to order that one-off thing with our weekly deliveries," Colin added, noting there is no minimum quantity.

Local delivery is available.

The staff's pets are happy to test the products, with handsome store cat and mascot Charlie even having his own range of dried food.

He continues to charm customers who follow his exploits, such as his past appearances in the paper, and took it in his stride when awoken from an afternoon nap for his latest modelling assignment.

Along with lots of other varieties, dog and cat food brand Cherish is now available, being Australian-made and owned, the store supporting Australian manufacturers whenever possible.

That approach helps obtain stock in a timely fashion as opposed to waiting on deliveries from overseas.

In addition to packaged food, there is a choice of hay, of which the business has sourced and supplied a full range throughout a challenging season, with lucerne and oaten hay among the varieties available.

As well as pet and livestock products, the store has a popular selection of firewood, with kiln-dried hardwood, Red Gum and local Blue Gum available in bulka bags or 20-kilo bags.

In exciting news, Bass Coast Stock Feeds will be moving into new premises next door to its current location in the coming months, with abundant extra space allowing for more stock to provide even greater choice for customers.



Sales assistants Mary Mifsud and Jaime Poulter are ready to offer a friendly greeting and expert service at the Corinella General Store. Corinella General Store is a community-oriented shop and meeting point, with a healthy selection of products to suit your needs locally, the happy crew ready to look after you, with the business offering groceries, takeaway food, post office services, fishing licences and plenty more. A05_3625



Manager Bruce Van Steensel with some of the thriving plants available in the Van Steensel Timbers nursery. It's springtime and everything's starting to look good, including a fantastic selection of natives that are mostly locally grown, callistemons are coming into flower and the advanced trees are delightful, and fruit trees are in blossom, showing fruiting clusters, with Van Steensel stocking a wide range of products to support your spring gardening needs. A04_3625

Waterline Library celebrates official opening

THE Waterline Community Library has officially opened in its new home at Unit 3, 1524 Bass Highway, Grantville. The milestone was marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and morning tea attended by Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Cr Jan Thompson, Jodi Kennedy from Bass Coast Shire Council, Myli - My Community Library representatives, and other guests.

The new location has been welcoming visitors since May 2025, but the event provided the opportunity to formally recognise the move and the work involved in preparing the new space.

Since relocating, membership has grown by 16 per cent, with many new members joining the Open Access program, giving them the convenience of using an Access Fob to visit the library between 7am and 8pm each day. This flexibility makes it easier for people to enjoy the library at a time that



Bass Coast Cr Jan Thompson, Mayor Rochelle Halstead and Pamela Richmond.

suits their busy schedules.

The library's expanding calendar of events has been well received, from Story-Time, Baby Rhyme Time, and school holiday activities for families, to the popular Book Chat group, writers' support group, and other programs for adults.

Myli thanked its team for their efforts in setting up the

new space, highlighting the library's role in supporting learning, connection, and well-being across the community. Mayor Halstead praised the library as a safe and inclusive place for Bass Coast residents.

The Waterline Community Library is proudly managed by Myli - My Community Library in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council.



S & P Heavy Mechanical has been keeping Grantville and the surrounding district moving for more than 10 years. Conveniently located in the Grantville Industrial Precinct, right beside Bass Coast Stock Feed, the business is locally owned and operated by Patrick Robertson. From cars to trucks and tractors, the experienced team can handle it all, including automotive air conditioning, delivering reliable service and repairs for every customer. Pictured are Patrick and qualified mechanic Jack, part of the trusted team dedicated to keeping the community on the road. C03_3725

Grantville Market is back every first Sunday

AFTER a brief hiatus, the Grantville Market will trade on the first Sunday of the month throughout Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The idea is to keep the market going even through the colder months when many local markets take a break.

Undercover sites are available in the large shed, the hall, as well as under the veranda areas.

"We have discounted the site fee from \$25 to \$20 per site outdoors (5 x 4 metre) or \$20 per table inside the shed, hall, or veranda so as to encourage more stalls to attend," the Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee of Management secretary, Di Goeman said.

"The aim of the new Committee is to grow the Sunday market and turn it into the iconic event it once used to be. We welcome more stallholders and encourage variety and diversity so as to cater to a cross section of market goers."

The Grantville Hall and Recreation Reserve are on land managed by The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and not the Bass Coast Shire.

As there is no ongoing funding from either state or local government, the committee relies on income from the market and hall bookings to cover the ongoing maintenance costs of the hall, the necessary insurances, utility bills, any improvements as well as the general upkeep of the reserve including the mowing/gardening.

For more information about the market or the hall visit our website: grantvillehall.com.au, email: Grantvillehall@gmail.com or phone Di on 0418 581816.

Kim Grant honoured for her community spirit

No one gets left behind.

IT WAS a proud moment for Community Bank Grantville & District's Kim Grant on September 3, when she was named winner of the 2024-25 Community Involvement Award (Individual) at Bendigo Bank's Victorian/Tasmania State Awards.

Kim was recognised for her tireless community contribution – a commitment that has touched many lives in the Waterline area over her nearly 15 years at Bendigo Bank's Grantville branch, joining the team when it opened.

Her leadership in the Off Your Back winter coat drive and the much-loved Christmas Tree gift initiative are two of many initiatives she has run over the years, which have brightened many local lives from the footy fields to the Christmas tree.

Speaking after the announcement, Kim admitted she was shocked and overwhelmed. But anyone who knows her work won't be surprised.

"We started collecting coats a few years ago. I saw it online and thought, 'What a great idea!' At first, they went into a big city drive, but we wanted to keep it



Kim Grant's 15 years of giving back have been recognised at Bendigo Bank's Victorian/Tasmanian Awards ceremony. C01_3725

local. Now every year, from June to September, people look forward to cleaning out their cupboards and bringing them in. It's incredible to see the generosity going straight to those who need them here at home," Kim smiled, a huge pile of coats waiting in the corner to head off to their new homes after two lots went earlier in the season.

The Christmas Tree initiative has become just as special. For years, Kim has helped coordinate donations of gifts for children whose families are doing it tough.

Local groups identify the children anonymously, and the community rallies, filling the front portion of the Bendigo Bank branch with presents. Kim admitting she collects presents throughout

the year – three boxes already filled in preparation.

"I'd hate for my grandchild, or anyone's child, to go without at Christmas," Kim said.

"And thanks to our community, they don't."

Her passion comes from a simple place: wanting to help.

"You'd be surprised how many local families and individuals are vulnerable. But you also see how amazing our community is – they want to help others. I love it."

The awards night also saw other regional stars acknowledged. San Remo's Kim Grinham and Cowes' Win Deed both received nominations under the Critical Few Behaviour Awards, while the Cowes branch was named Branch of the Year. On top of that, the South Coast region won Region of the Year.

The Off Ya Back winter coat drive is still underway at Grantville, San Remo and Cowes, with Christmas present donations welcome from mid-October. If you'd like to help out, but are unsure what might be needed, pop into the branch and Kim and the team are more than happy to advise on ages/gender.

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We have quality, affordable, brand-new two-bedroom homes and some lovely pre-loved homes with various layouts available for sale in the village. If you are looking for a low-maintenance sea change, we'd love you to pop in and have a cuppa with our friendly staff and take a tour of the village!

Residents of our established community love Frenchview's quiet atmosphere and community feel. Being right on the foreshore, there are plenty of lovely places nearby to relax and enjoy the view with a coffee, take a short walk or enjoy a meal at a local café. Within close proximity to Phillip Island and the greater Bass Coast and only 25 minutes from Wonthaggi, the village really is the perfect sea-change for those looking to downsize but still remain within 90 minutes of the Melbourne CBD.

Village residents enjoy a number of excellent facilities, such as our saltwater inground pool, BBQ areas, large off-leash dog area, community facility and tearoom and plenty of access to the foreshore.

Contact our Village Manager on 5678 8232 for more information, or to organise a tour of our lovely village – we can't wait to show you the Frenchview Lifestyle Village lifestyle!



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A photograph of a modern, single-story house with a large, covered front porch supported by white columns. The house has a light-colored exterior and a dark roof. The front yard is landscaped with various shrubs and small trees. The house is set back from a paved road.



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Big nights ahead at Leongatha RSL

FAB Friday Nerrena Cricket Club on September 19

GET ready to unleash the fun and hit some sixes for the Nerrena Cricket Club on Fab Friday Nights, September 19. All the cash raked in from the meat raffle and Joker Poker tickets will power up the club's ambitions. You could bag a whopping \$500 in meaty delights, Joker Poker cash from a neat \$50 to a jaw-dropping \$2600, members' cash prizes soaring from \$1000 to an eye-popping \$5000.

80's Night with Catnip the Band on Saturday, September 20

GROOVE to the Greatest Hits from the '60s to the '80s. Get ready to twist, shout, and dance the night away with Catnip the Band, your ultimate time machine back to the golden era of rock, soul, and classic pop. From Bruce Springsteen, Bryan Adams, The Eagles, Robert Palmer, Joe Cocker, Dragon, Paul Kelly, Billie Joel, Stevie Wonder, John Cougar Mellencamp and more. Catnip delivers all your favourite tunes with high-energy vibes and a whole lot of soul. One night only – limited seating, maximum dancing. Get your move, groove, and feel the beat. Tickets include a chef's selection buffet dinner. Doors open at 6pm, meals at 6.30pm - music starts at 8pm. Tickets: \$70 per person.

FAB Friday Biketoberfest Friday, October 3

SUPPORT Biketoberfest during Fab Friday nights on October 3. Every cent profited from the meat raffle and joker poker ticket sales will help them to put on another spectacular Biketoberfest event. Let the games begin.

FAB Friday South Gippsland Shire Brass Band Friday, October 10

STEP right up and join the South Gippsland Brass Band for a FAB Friday extravaganza on October 10. We're talking \$500 worth of meat trays, thrilling joker poker, a members' draw, and \$5 schooners. It's going to be an evening bursting with laughter, friendship, and a treasure trove of prizes. Whether you're a band booster or a newbie, everyone's invited to bask in the fun. Don't let this golden opportunity to support the band pass you by – mark your calendars for an unforgettable night.

PINK - Tribute Show Saturday, October 11

GET ready to raise your glass and feel all the raw energy of one of the world's most fearless performers with Hot Pink – The Australian Tribute Show. Celebrating the powerhouse vocals, explosive stage presence, and chart-topping hits of P!nk, this high-octane live show brings you all the anthems you know and love – from "So What" and "Raise Your Glass" to "Just Like a Pill" and "What About Us". With stunning vocals, dynamic choreography, and a whole lot of attitude, Hot Pink is a must-see tribute experience that honours the spirit and strength of P!nk herself. In support of a cause close to many hearts, \$5 from every individual ticket sold will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation Australia, helping fund crucial research, support, and awareness initiatives across the country. It's more than just a show – it's a celebration of music, empowerment, and making a difference.

Be sure to secure your spot at any of these events by calling 5662 2747 or book online at leongatharsl.com.au.



Christine Peters Best Intermediate Any Other Genre (Coelogyne Unchained Melody). B23_3725



Allen Archbold of Pound Creek First Prize Any Other Genus Species (Maxillaria picta). B24_3725

First-time exhibitor wins Champion Orchid at South Gippsland Orchid Show

NEW member and first-time entrant in the annual South Gippsland Orchid Show, Raymond Gribble of Bairnsdale, won this year's Champion Orchid of Show with a truly stunning Australian native orchid Dendrobium Ray's Quest.

Despite a breathtaking line-up of outstanding orchids from dozens of local growers, judges were impressed by the presentation, colour and vigour of Raymond's entry.

"I wished it was mine," said show marshall Julie Kilgour.

"It was a very healthy plant." Last year's Champion Orchid of Show winner, Lita Gill impressed the judges again this year with Best Species in Show and Best Specimen in Show for two Dendrobiums.

Daryl Mills took home two Champions of Show ribbons for quite different orchids, a delicate Dendrobium Regal Hilda Star of Gold hybrid and a more traditional Darch Freak Mars Cymbidium.

Julie Kilgour said entries were strong across all categories, although many growers had commented that with a delayed start to spring, many orchids were still in bud.

Volunteers were kept busy right from when the doors opened early on Friday morning. "We had a hundred Cymbidiums, and nearly all were sold in the first hour," said Julie.

"The early buyers are always after the best blooms."

Nearly one thousand orchid enthusiasts and club members attended the 35th Annual South Gippsland Orchid Show from Korumburra, Leongatha, Cowes, San Remo, Inverloch and Wonthaggi over two days.

Reflecting on the success of the show, Julie Kilgour said it is always a team effort.

"We think we've got it right."

Next year the South Gippsland Orchid Society hopes to encourage more interest from young growers with categories for junior members.

Results 35th Annual South Gippsland Orchid Show

- Champion Orchid of Show: Raymond Gribble (Dendrobium Ray's Quest)
- Reserve Champion Orchid: Daryl Mills (Dendrobium Regal Hilda x Star of Gold)
- Best Cymbidium: Daryl Mills (Darch Freak Mars)
- Best Australian Native: Raymond Gribble (Dendrobium Ray's Quest)
- Best Species in Show: Lita Gill (Dendrobium speciosum)
- Best Other Genera Hybrid: Gary Neilson (Masdevallia Rubicon Noojee Purple)
- Best Specimen in Show: Lita Gill (Dendrobium Gracious Cascades)



Julie Kilgour Show Marshall and Life Member of the South Gippsland Orchid Society with Raymond Gribble's Champion Orchid of Show (Dendrobium Ray's Quest). B31_3725



Lita Gill Best Species in Show (Dendrobium speciosum) and Best Specimen in Show (Dendrobium Gracious Cascades). B22_3725

Horticulture history to come to life for community

A CLUB that has been running for 65 years has a vast amount of history.

Welshpool and District Horticultural Society (W&DHS) life club member and horticulturist Rob Gyles has voluntarily taken on the huge task of collecting and compiling the club's history.

It has been amazing to see what people have had stored in various places.

Members have donated from the back of the cupboards more than 2000 documents and 800 photos.

Rob spent so much time at the Foster Mirror office reading through back copies of the paper from 1960 to find articles about the club, that then owner of the Mirror, Rob Best, thought of Rob as a staff member.

The club started in 1960 and had 40 members by 1961.

Currently, there are around 80 members.

The club has run an Autumn and Spring Show since 1960 and the popular Plant Stall started in 1994 in the Welshpool



Rob Gyles has been busy curating Welshpool and District Horticultural Society's 65-year-long history.

Hall lobby, then shifted to the old supper room in 2003, and into the current purpose-built nursery at the back of the hall in 2017.

Rob has now organised the various items into sections and files at his home.

Included in the collection are photos, newsletters, show schedules, meeting minutes, treasurers' reports, officer bearers, club trips and excursions,

and press articles.

Rob is also going to include 'mini biographies' of current members telling how and why they became part of the club.

Members have helped with gardens at the Welshpool Maritime Museum, Toora Nursing Home, and Welshpool and Foster Primary Schools' vegetable gardens.

Turning the collection into a book was certainly not Rob's

intention when he started the task, but well-known local author Mary Ellis recently contacted Rob offering to help him do just that.

The club is very excited about the suggestion and very grateful to Rob for taking on this mammoth task.

If anyone has anything about the club they think Rob might be interested in, he is happy to be contacted on 0419 544 514 or via email at rob.gyles@gmail.com.

The club is delighted that Rob is going to officially open the Spring Show on Friday, October 31, at 2pm at the Welshpool Memorial Hall.

The theme of this show is Halloween, which should inspire some amazing and quirky entries.

This year's show will run on Friday, October 31, from 1.30pm to 5pm and Saturday, November 1, from 10am to 4pm.

The club is looking forward to seeing all its regular and new garden lovers at the show.

Billy Elliot preparations well underway in Leongatha

BILLY Elliot the Musical is coming to Leongatha, and while audiences must wait until July to experience it, preparations are well underway, the role of Billy already filled following an August audition.

Further auditions were held on the weekend, with those selected for adult leads and ensemble or as ballet girls to be announced soon.

It's an exciting challenge for director Joel Stevenson, the Leongatha Lyric Theatre show comfortably his largest production yet, his experience working with Colin Mitchell OAM and other directors giving him confidence he is well prepared for the responsibility.

With the decision to perform Billy Elliot locked in by July last year, there's already been extensive discussion on what that might look like and how to present the show to ensure its success.

Joel is also designing the set.

While planning always starts a long way in advance for all the company's musicals, auditions were held a little earlier this time, with rehearsals, or at least dance classes, expected to start by late this year.

"It's going to be a really demanding show because we have a requirement to replicate the original choreography from Billy Elliot that you would have seen on a professional stage," Joel said, with that obligation built into the contractual rights for the production.

There is some flexibility allowed,



The creative Team behind Leongatha Lyric Theatre's production of Billy Elliot is already busy with the show. Assistant Choreographer – Bri Robb, Choreographer – Bron Croatto, Musical Director – Carmel Slater and Director – Joel Stevenson.

with Lyric Theatre unable to replicate a dream scene in which Billy flies during a big dance number.

While every effort will be made from a choreography point of view to bring the same kind of movement and look to the show as was the case in Melbourne, there is room for originality in other elements, such as set design.

Joel has worked closely with vastly experienced director and set designer Colin on a few shows, beginning with School of Rock in Wonthaggi, in which Joel performed.

Joel was Colin's assistant director for the Lyric Theatre production of 'Into the Woods', Colin's final show for the company as director.

Colin has offered his perspective on design concepts for Billy Elliot in Leongatha, multiple iterations of those concepts were already developed prior to that, and some tweaks inspired by the expert advice.

Although filling the role of Billy shaped as a daunting task, Mason Athanasiadis from the Latrobe Valley impressed.

"Mason blew us away with his audition; his talent is immense, as is Jude Fisher's," Joel said, Jude from Bass Coast chosen to play Michael Caffrey, the director having worked with him on a couple of previous productions, 'School of Rock' and 'Kinky Boots'.

Joel said both Mason and Jude would likely be at home on a

professional stage.

Lyric will again provide opportunities for young performers, with 11 filling ballet roles and a few others in the ensemble.

Joel described himself as relatively new in the theatre space, always having an interest but not seeing the opportunity while growing up in central Queensland.

After his move to Victoria, it took him a couple of years to audition for a show, but he has thrown himself into theatre since, finding the whole process of bringing a production together interesting and enjoyable.

"Even in my first couple of shows, I was looking for different ways to help, painting sets or building sets, helping out behind the scenes however I could," Joel said.

The key to directing is being across all aspects of the show to bring it all together.

"I've found it so rewarding to sit back on opening night and think about all of the people that you've brought together, all on a volunteer basis, to make this wonderful thing happen for the community," Joel said of his previous experiences as director.

The sense of community and the chance to provide a comfortable environment for people who mightn't fit into other settings, such as sporting clubs, are rewarding elements of local theatre, both at Lyric and elsewhere.

Joel's only regret is not being involved in theatre sooner, but he's making up for that now.

Deep South Brass 8 head to Phillip Island Bowls Club

PHILLIP Island Jazz Club welcomes Deep South Brass 8 on September 21 at 2pm in their first-ever appearance at the club.

Inspired by the contemporary brass bands of New Orleans, Deep South Brass 8 plays an infectious mix of originals and popular charts, including jazz/funk/blues originals. With nods to The Big Easy's luminaries of Trombone Shorty, Jon Cleary, Dr John, and the Rebirth Brass Band, Deep South Brass 8's big, bold brass also brings a few surprise interpretations of some old favourites.

Playing in the band will be Neil Gracey: trumpet/trombone/band leader, Matt Dixon: trombone/vocals, Mark Sylvio: trumpet/vocals, Sean Nihill: trumpet/composer, Justin Abicare: alto sax/flute, Jim Glasson: tenor and baritone sax, Andrew Murray: keyboard and Roy John: drums.

It promises to be a great afternoon's entertainment, and it's recommended that you book early.

Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25.00 for visitors

For more information, please contact: Jill Boyce on 0417 416 300.

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Julie Jackson, Jo Michaels and Lisa Arnold travelled from Newborough to take part in the Pink Bowl at the Corinella Bowls Club, in support of the McGrath Foundation. Tk01_3725



Irene Dawson, Glenda Jarred and Margie Rhodes enjoyed the pink theme at the Corinella Bowls Club on Sunday. The club hosted a fundraiser in support of the McGrath Foundation. Tk02_3725



Rhiannon Tronconi, Amelia Tronconi and Leanne Christoforou at Corinella Bowls Club's Pink Bowl on Sunday. Tk03_3725



Lynne and Ashleigh Kruss of Inverloch enjoy the Melbourne Cup's visit to Meeniyan. A40_3725



Mary Young, Pat Sanderink and Milva Allen at the 35th Annual South Gippsland Orchid Show in Wonthaggi. B25_3725



David Froud and Ann Bomers were early starters at the annual South Gippsland Orchid Show at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club. B26_3725

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the South Gippsland Orchid Show, Corinella Bowls Pink Day, Corinella Community Market and Phillip Island Nature Parks Community Open Day.



Go Girls Foundation CEO Michelle Jobson relishes the chance to hold the Melbourne Cup. A41_3725



Charlotte and Brandon Lawler of Arawata savour a moment with the Melbourne Cup. A42_3725



Allen Archbold and Daryl Hill at the 35th Annual South Gippsland Orchid Show in Wonthaggi. B28_3725



Jethro, Shani, Luke and Chelsea are the ranger team from the Bunurong Land Council and were informing attendees about pest and wildlife, caring for country and handing out stickers and badges. ob23_3725



Dianne and John Schelling get acquainted with the Melbourne Cup. A43_3725



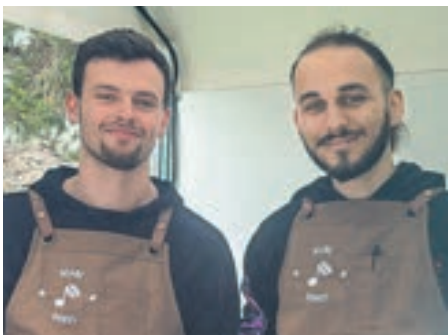
Greg Kelly and Gunter Ebihart from Phillip Island enjoying the 2025 South Gippsland Orchid Show. B29_3725



The 2024 South Gippsland Shire Citizen of the Year Kathryn Smith shows off Australian horse racing's most celebrated trophy during its visit to Meeniyan. A44_3725



Vincent Vale helps out with early-bird sales at the South Gippsland Orchid Show. B30_3725



Braydan and Aaron were serving up coffee at the Corinella Community Market out of a converted horse float. ob19_3725



Anthony and Marian went along to browse at the Corinella Community Market and catch up with their friends. ob20_3725



Lisa and Jesse from Wildlife Coast Cruises said whale watching is on at the moment in Wilson's Prom until the start of November and daily seal tours on Phillip Island are available. ob22_3725

Lovely lifestyle property!

HERE is a stunning property located close to Mirboo North and Leongatha with sealed road frontage. Approximately 41 acres, with a lovely, renovated homestead in pristine condition, with an amazing level of attention to detail. You will wake up to peace and tranquillity and be in awe of the lovely northerly aspect of the surrounding gardens and the private setting.

Features of this property include

- Three bedrooms, two with built-in robes.
- Two living areas with an adjoining dining room.
- A renovated kitchen offering generous bench space, cupboard and drawer space, electric oven, range-hood, dishwasher and large pantry, perfect for the entertainer and families.
- Lovely bathroom with separate shower and bath, and a generous laundry/mud room.
- Other features of this home include high ceilings and ceiling roses; it has also been rewired and re-roofed, insulated throughout, and presented in immaculate condition.
- An extended north-facing verandah, perfect for capturing the gorgeous sunshine, while enjoying the

peaceful outlook.

- The home has a cosy solid wood fire heater as well as reverse cycle heating/air conditioner.
- The acreage is subdivided into five paddocks that offer excellent undulating pasture and good fencing, shelter belts, water troughs, a header tank, and an amazing spring-fed dam, offering excellent water security.
- Rich red soil, with an annual fertiliser history, with strong livestock and hay production.
- The outbuildings include a double lock-up garage, a large machinery shed, an additional lock-up shed, all with power connected and a great set of stock yards.
- There is school bus access for the kids to Mirboo North.

This property will offer the new owners the potential of a great rural lifestyle in a stunning part of South Gippsland. With rolling green hills, consistent rainfall and the ability to run livestock, you will love living here! The current owners have presented this property in an immaculate condition, and all you need to do is move in. Call Kellie Thomas on 0438 647 449 to arrange an inspection today.



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Charming Unit!

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Barry Redmond
Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292



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BERRYS CREEK 4 3 2

Peaceful Rural Retreat on 4 Acres!

- Spacious brick home with stunning rural views.
- Kitchen boasting quality appliances and butlers pantry.
- Approx. 4 Acres, outdoor alfresco area.

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FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 2 2

Quiet Court Location

- Immaculately presented on approx. 854m² block.
- Elegant timber kitchen with quality appliances.
- Master bedroom with generous walk in robe and ensuite.

\$830,000



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Attention First Home Buyers!

- Modern, neat and low maintenance home.
- Stylish and well equipped kitchen.
- Fenced backyard abd great entertainment area.

\$599,000



Kellie Thomas
Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449



FOR SALE

FISH CREEK 4 2 4

Idyllic Country Living

- Stunning 28 Acre approx. lifestyle property.
- Well equipped Modern kitchen with stone benchtops.
- Fantastic outdoor facilities.

\$1,285,000 - \$1,385,000



FOR SALE

TARWIN LOWER 3 1 4

Rural Gem on approx. 199 Acres

- Productive 199-acre farm with Tarwin River frontage.
- Charming 1937 homestead with stunning rural views.
- Dams, stockyards, hay shed, and divided paddocks.

\$2,500,000



NEW PRICE

MIRBOO 2 1 2

Expansive 106.5 Acres

- Approx 106.5 acres with excellent fencing and stockyards.
- Brick home with wood fire, north-facing veranda.
- Dam, original shedding, and scenic undulating paddocks.

\$10,700 Per Acre



Monique Wightman
Marketing & Administration
(03) 5662 2292



Skye Clothier
Sales Associate
(03) 5662 2292



Where luxury meets nature

ON THE market for the first time, this luxury Hamptons-style home is certainly going to hold plenty of appeal. Nestled in the township of Mirboo North, this beautifully presented four-bedroom, two-bathroom home with a guest room/study is filled with natural light and exudes quality and style.

The home boasts a large formal lounge with an open fireplace, a second living/family room, a modern kitchen with new Kleenmaid appliances, an induction cooktop and Tasmanian Oak cabinetry. Other key features of this home include:

- Stylishly renovated with a contemporary colour palette
- Freshly painted and new carpets throughout
- Renovated bathrooms (ensuite and family)
- RC/AC
- Polished timber laminate flooring
- Ducted vacuum
- Modern laundry
- Large alfresco deck flowing from the kitchen and living area
- 5 KW solar system

Situated on 1.58 (approx) hectares, the property features low-maintenance garden beds, lawns and feature trees around the home, a 9mx6m workshop/shed with power and concrete floors, and the balance of the block is well treed with a seasonal creek running through the rear. This is a magnificently presented property which must be seen to be appreciated.

For more information or to arrange a personal inspection, please contact Peter Bellingham at Ray White Foster. Inspections by appointment only.



4 2 2 1.58ha*

21-25 Baths Road, **Mirboo North**
For Sale \$955,000
Agent Ray White Foster
Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653
** Approximately*

Scenic rural living with dual occupancy

SET ON a picturesque 2.5-acre (approx.) allotment, this well-maintained lifestyle property presents a rare opportunity to enjoy peaceful country living with the added bonus of dual occupancy.

The main residence is warm and inviting, featuring a spacious lounge complete with solid bamboo floating floors, reverse-cycle air conditioning and a solid fuel heater providing year-round comfort. The open-plan kitchen and dining area is designed for modern living and includes an electric cooktop, oven, dishwasher and a walk-in pantry. Comprising four bedrooms, two with built-in robes, while the master enjoys a large walk-in robe and ensuite featuring a clawfoot bath and separate shower.

Designed for growing households, the home includes a large second living area with built-in entertainers bar and direct sliding door access to a deck showcasing stunning farmland views and incredible sunsets. Additional features include a central family bathroom plus a spacious laundry with built-in bench and a third separate toilet, adding to the home's practical layout.

Ideal for guests or extended family, the property also includes a fully self-contained bungalow with disability access and offers one bedroom, a small living and dining room, a bathroom with toilet and shower, a kitchenette with electric stove and rangehood, plus its own air conditioning unit. This self-contained bungalow would also offer the ideal workspace for those who wish to run a business from home.

For those who need shed storage or workspace, the property is equipped with a two-bay shed complete with concrete flooring, power, a built-in bench and a lockable, compliant gun room. There is also a second large lock-up shed with remote roller door access for added convenience. Water supply is well catered for, with five 22,500-litre water tanks and a dam equipped with an electric pump for garden irrigation.

Just 10 minutes on sealed roads from Leongatha with ideal access to local schools, this is the perfect property for growing families. This is a rare opportunity to secure a lifestyle property that blends comfort, functionality, and versatility all within a serene rural landscape.



5 3 1 2.5 Acres*

30 Allans Road, **Koorooman**
For Sale \$995,000 - \$1,050,000
Agent Ray White Leongatha
Michael Hanily 0417 311 756
** Approximately*



Ray White Leongatha
03 5662 5800
15 Bair Street, Leongatha
raywhiteleongatha.com.au

Ray White Foster & Sandy Point
03 5639 9202
17 Main Street, Foster
raywhitefoster.com.au

Ray White



For Sale

102 Brown Street, **Leongatha**

WHEN QUALITY & LOCATION MATTER!

- Top quality build & finishes
- Open-plan living with a chef's kitchen
- Outdoor entertaining oasis
- Prime location

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$849,000

3 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

950 Mardan Road, **Mardan**

PICTURESQUE MARDAN

- Rare 1,135m² parcel of land
- Create your dream country escape (STCA)
- Views over surrounding farmland
- Easy access to essential services

David Trotman 0418 589 805

\$120,000

Land



For Sale

33 Riflebutts Road, **Korumburra**

FAMILY LIVING WITH SPACE TO GROW

- Multiple living zones
- Sleek contemporary kitchen
- Magnificent undercover alfresco area
- Low-maintenance garden

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$670,000 - \$690,000

4 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

405 Leongatha North Rd, **Leongatha Nth**

COUNTRY CHARM WITH VIEWS

- Spanning just over 5,400sqm
- Open-plan kitchen & dining
- 2 living areas
- Landscaped gardens, established trees

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$890,000

3 1/2, 1 2 4 2 2



For Sale

9 Hall Road, **Mount Eccles**

FAMILY RETREAT ON 10 ACRES

- Open-plan with sweeping farmland views
- 2 separate living areas
- Vibrant gardens
- 2 fenced paddocks with troughs & dam

David Trotman 0418 589 805

\$1,450,000 - \$1,550,000

4 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

1030 Boolarra Sth-Mirboo Nth Rd, **Mirboo Nth**

REFINED COUNTRY ELEGANCE

- Beautifully renovated on 5.5 acres
- Stunning views to the Strzelecki Ranges
- 6x12m shed with concrete floor & power
- 2 large water tanks with auto irrigation

David Trotman 0418 589 805

\$950,000

4 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

1/2 Vista Court, **Leongatha**

PEACEFUL AFFORDABLE LIVING

- Block of only two
- Light-filled open plan living
- Ensuite-style access to main bed
- Low maintenance yard

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$415,000

2 1/2, 1 2 1 2 2



For Sale

15 Church Street, **Leongatha**

INVEST, RENOVATE OR DEVELOP

- Large 1111sqm block
- Development potential (STCA) with rear lane access
- Located in the heart of town

David Trotman 0418 589 805

\$600,000

3 1/2, 2 2 1 2 2



For Sale

6 Blackwood Drive, **Foster**

BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED

- Open plan kitchen lounge and dining
- Main BR at rear with ensuite and WIR
- Secure side access for caravan and boat
- Beautiful garden, close to town amenities

Wendy Gregson 0477 665 868

\$725,000

3 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

71 Nelson Street, **Foster**

FAMILY HOME PRICED TO SELL

- Renovated inside and out
- Outdoor entertaining area
- Double lock up shed and separate carport
- Close to sporting ground, medical facilities

Dave County 0417 397 650

\$550,000

3 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

86 Station Road, **Foster**

CLOSE TO IT ALL

- Master with ensuite and WIR
- Ducted vacuum
- Double remote garage
- Fully fenced, low maintenance yard

Dave County 0417 397 650

\$690,000

3 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

32 Moyes Road, **Stony Creek**

GRASSY SPUR OLIVES

- Prestigious, successful olive farm
- Home with surround balcony and views
- 25 acres, olives, truffles, citrus & hazelnuts
- Onsite olive processing and plant

Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653

Expression of Interest

3 1/2, 2 2 4 2 2



For Sale

4420 South Gippsland Hwy, **Foster**

HISTORICAL GEM WITH VIEWS

- Built in 1908 on small acreage
- Original features throughout
- Two living spaces
- Views to Corner Inlet and Prom

Dave County 0417 397 650

\$895,000

3 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

135 Fullers Road, **Foster**

LIFESTYLE ACREAGE CLOSE TO TOWN

- 28 acres ideal for hobby farmers
- Renovated home with separate bungalow
- Stock yards with race
- 2x8 shed with concrete floor and power

Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653

\$1,150,000

3 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

480 Foster Mirboo Rd, **Foster Nth**

NESTLED IN NATURE

- Open plan living, kitchen and dining
- Separate bungalow with bathroom
- Luxurious spa overlooking views
- Large height workshop and garaging

Wendy Gregson 0477 665 868

\$829,000

3 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2



For Sale

4585 South Gippsland Hwy, **Toora**

VIEWS TO THRILL!

- Views to Wilsons Prom & Hoddle Ranges
- Elevated 5 acres with fruit trees
- Light filled open plan living with deck
- Pizza oven & outdoor hot and cold baths

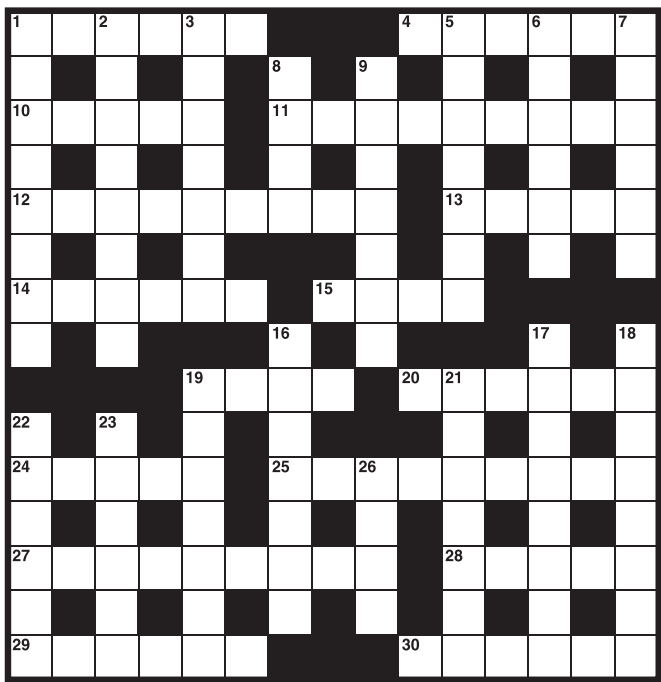
Wendy Gregson 0477 665 868

\$849,000

2 1/2, 2 2 2 2 2

CROSSWORD

No. 298



- ACROSS
- 1 Upper part of a dress (6)

4 Sickness (6)

10 Extraterrestrial realm (5)

11 Awkward (9)

12 Hindrance (9)

13 Harangue (5)

14 Arachnid (6)

15 Strong wind (4)

19 Strike (4)

20 Shooting star (6)

24 Japanese verse form (5)

- 25 Russian chemist who developed the periodic table (9)
- 27 Clan leader (9)
- 28 Accumulate (5)
- 29 Vocalist (6)
- 30 Erase (6)

DOWN

- 1 Without foundation (8)
- 2 Theatrical (8)
- 3 Fissure (7)
- 5 Stunning (7)
- 6 Sacred beetle (6)
- 7 Horn of a deer (6)
- 8 Wireless internet (2-2)
- 9 Start of the calendar (3,4)
- 16 Porridge (7)
- 17 Sing to (8)
- 18 Fissure in a glacier (8)
- 19 Struggle confusedly (7)
- 21 Promote (7)
- 22 Inspects (6)
- 23 Subordinate (6)
- 26 Not any (4)

WORDFIT

No. 207

3 LETTERS

- ACE
- ADD
- ADS
- AGO
- ART
- ASH
- CON
- COS
- EEL
- ERA
- HEN
- HOE
- ILL
- IRE
- LAG
- OWE
- PEA
- PRY
- REV
- SEC
- TAE
- TEA
- VAN
- VIE

- TABS
- TAME
- TINS
- USES

5 LETTERS

- AGREE
- ALGAE
- ALLOW
- ANGER
- AREN'T
- ASSET
- AWARE
- BATHE
- BEARD
- BEGAN
- BENCH
- BLARE
- BOATS
- CELLO
- CLEAN
- COSTS

4 LETTERS

- CABS
- CHAT
- DEBT
- FEES
- PANE
- PERT
- PURR
- SEED
- SPAR
- STUD

- PRESS
- SAGAS
- SASSY
- SCANS
- SENDS
- SHUTS
- SMEAR
- SORES
- SPIRE
- STOVE
- SWEET
- THEIR
- TIFFS
- TRADE
- TREAD

- TREED
- USING
- VISTA
- WOODY

6 LETTERS

- ANYHOW
- ENACTS
- ESTATE
- SEDATE

7 LETTERS

- DEVOTEE
- FLASHER
- HAMSTER
- HASSLED
- MANGOES
- TRAPPER

8 LETTERS

- FORMULAS
- SCHEDULE
- SEVENTHS
- TERRIERS

9-LETTER

No. 298

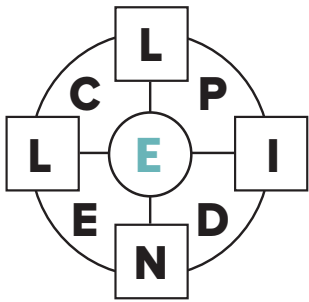
Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

Today's Aim:

18 words: Good

27 words: Very good

36 words: Excellent

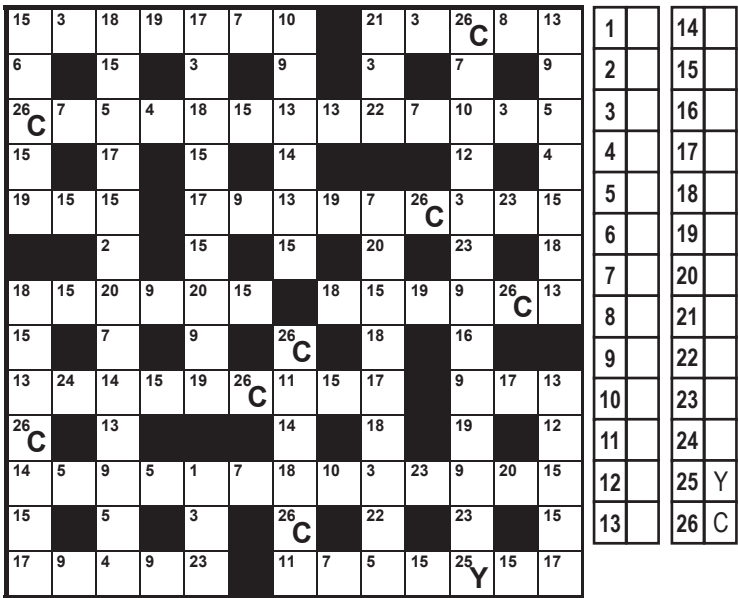


pled, pine, pined, piled,
pled, piled, piled,
piece, pieced, pied,
PENCILLED, pend,
peen, pence,
nice, niece, peel,
line, lined, need,
lend, lice, lied, lien,
epic, iced, idee, idle,
dice, dine, elide,
decline, deep, dell,
cede, cell, cline,

CODEWORD

No. 288

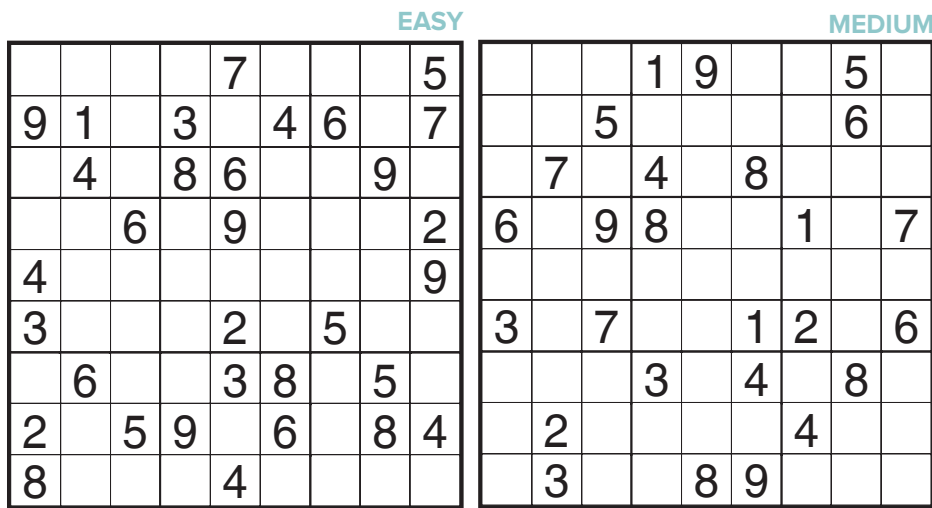
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



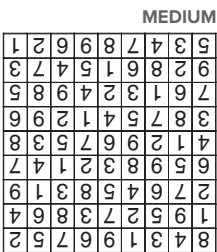
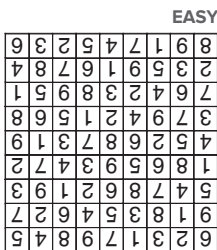
SUDOKU

No. 297

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. What colour are Bond Street, Oxford Street and Regent Street on a Monopoly board?

2. What was the title of Kate Bush's 1978 debut album?

3. Russet, New and Yukon Gold are varieties of which vegetable?

4. In which Irish county would you find the Blarney Stone?

5. Robert Allen Zimmerman is a US singer and songwriter better known by what name?

6. The gall bladder is responsible for storing what bodily fluid?

7. 'Rosebud' is the famous opening line from which 1941 film?

8. Justin Timberlake (pictured) was part of which boy band?

9. What are complementary colours?

10. Which two Australian writers co-authored the 1979 novel *Puberty Blues*?



ANSWERS: 1. Green 2. The Kick Inside 3. Potatoes 4. Cork 5. Bob Dylan 6. Bile 7. Citizen Kane 8. NSYN 9. Two colours that are opposite on the colour wheel 10. Gabrielle Carey and Kathy Lette

WORD SEARCH

No. 208

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



- A A MILNE

AESOP

BALZAC

BAUDELAIRE

BURNS

BYRON

CAMUS

DANTE

DR SEUSS

EMILE ZOLA

GOETHE
- GRIMM

HERVEY

HERZOG

HOMER

JOE HILL

KAFKA

MALORY

PINDAR

PINERO

PINTER

PLATO
- PROUST

PUSHKIN

R L STINE

SENECA

SWIFT

TAMI HOAG

THOMAS

MANN

THURBER

TOM SHARPE

WAUGH

SECRET MESSAGE: Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me



Dairy heroes celebrated at South Gippsland Dairy Expo

IT'S a bird, it's a plane... no, it's a dairy farmer!

At this year's South Gippsland Dairy and Farming Expo, Matt Harms from OnFarm Consulting donned a superhero costume to remind attendees that although we're accustomed to heroes on our screens flying through the sky and lifting buildings, heroes in our community are pulling on gumboots each morning.

His presentation shone a light on the quiet achievers of the dairy industry who continue to persevere through tough times and make extraordinary contributions.

After some tough seasons, farmers across South Gippsland and beyond have shown a resilience that many would say borders on superhuman. Harms wanted to capture that spirit in his session, which celebrated the quiet achievers of the dairy industry who continue to contribute.

The presentation highlighted the journeys of Russell Follett, David and Penny Conn, Peter Notman, Colin Wright and John Verstedden. Each has carved their own path in dairying, beef, business or seed production, and each has done it with a level of humility that Harms described as the mark of a true "quiet achiever."

"They've all been highly successful in farming and in other enterprises," Harms said.

"What came across most strongly is that they're all very humble about their achievements, yet they've made a huge contribution to the industry in so many ways."

Harms centred his presentation around three main



The real superheroes of the dairy industry: Peter Notman, Colin Wright, Russell Follett, Matt Harms, David and Penny Conn, and John Verstedden. W03_3725

themes. The first was recognising people as the heart of any business.

"Having faith in your people is key. Their role is critical to the success of the farm. You can't do it all yourself. Delegation and trust are essential if you want to grow."

The second theme was about wealth creation, not only through land values but also through strong farm performance. Harms emphasised that profitability and good business decisions are vital.

"There are fantastic opportunities in the industry for growth and wealth creation. To seize those, businesses must perform well," he said.

The third theme was the need for continuous upskilling. Financial literacy, skill development and business

acumen, Harms said, are tools that allow farmers to spot and act on opportunities when they arise.

While each of the five farmers featured could fill a session with their story alone, Harms said the panel worked because of the variety of perspectives it brought together. From accountants and seed merchants to large-scale operators and long-time stalwarts, each story underscored the diversity and strength of the dairy community.

Harms has run more than a dozen of these panels over the years, including one online session during the pandemic. This year's presentation was his last in the role, and he said he was grateful for the support he has had.

"I've enjoyed every panel.

They've all been different, they've all been enjoyable, and I'm so thankful to the members who've shared their stories. We've probably had about 60 people sit up there over the years, which is remarkable," he said.

He also acknowledged the role of the Dairy Expo committee and South Gippsland Shire Council, who sponsored the session and helped ensure it could go ahead.

As the crowd at the presentation discovered, heroes don't always fly through the sky or fight supervillains. Sometimes they wake up early, milk cows, manage staff, study accounts and weather the storms of a tough industry. And in doing so, they quietly prove themselves both remarkable and incredible.

Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy to benefit farmers and processors

PROMOTING collaboration between dairy farmers and processors to strengthen advocacy efforts and tackle the industry's current challenges are among the aims of the Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy recently launched in Korumburra.

The launch took place during the South Gippsland Dairy & Farming Expo, the Strategy developed by the Gippsland Dairy Industry Leadership Group (GDILG).

"It is making sure we're working as one," member of the GDILG executive, Karen McLennan told the Sentinel-Times, explaining that the aim of getting farmers and processors collaborating for the betterment of the industry is what makes the new plan unique.

"If we're talking about renewable energy, let's not just talk about renewable energy on farm, let's talk about how it's going to support the processing sector as well," Karen said.

Access to reliable power, water, land and internet technology are examples of requirements to support the continued growth of the dairy industry and are therefore among the areas in which it is hoped to attract investment locally.

Karen stressed that the planned collaborative approach should boost the appeal of Gippsland in attracting investment that will benefit those in the dairy industry and Gippsland communities more broadly.

Describing the dairy industry locally as stable but not growing, Karen said it is important to consider "What levers we can pull that can help enhance investment in dairy in Gippsland".

A large number of farmers and service providers were present at the Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy launch.

"As with any strategic plan, it's great to launch it, but the hard work starts now, in terms of the delivery," Karen said.

As well as her role with GDILG, Karen is regional manager for GippsDairy, which secured and held the funds on behalf of GDILG required to develop the Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy. The GDILG was established through Agriculture Victoria, being there to help when emergency events impact the dairy industry locally, but also facilitating the sharing of knowledge on anything impacting the industry.

"It's about where we're heading as an industry in Gippsland, but it's also an information piece to help the average person understand what's happening in the dairy industry now," Karen said.

She remarked that a lot more people these days lack connection to the industry, along with understanding aspects of it, such as technological innovation and environmental protections.

The recently launched Strategy document includes case studies that illustrate things farmers are doing now that many members of the public would be unaware of.



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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
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

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
BERWICK		LANG LANG		Tom Gibson	0438 574 472
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Angus Hall	0466 326 487

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Friesian x Jersey heifers
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\$880 including GST

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120 TO 159	\$5.10

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Life-changing technology under the spotlight

DELEGATES at this year's Dairy Research Foundation Symposium will hear from Tasmanian dairy farmer Troy Ainslie about his life-changing experience with virtual fencing.

The technology was introduced in June 2023 on the 540-cow herd that he manages at Woodrising Dairies near Launceston.

While pasture utilisation has improved, the impact has been far-reaching, including production and six-week in-calf rate, savings in fuel and machinery costs and greater team wellbeing.

Registrations are now open for the Symposium, which is being held on November 26 and 27 at WIN Stadium in Wollongong.

Symposium organiser Professor Yani Garcia said the event is designed to bring together leading researchers, dairy farmers and industry innovators under the theme of 'it's time: to connect, learn and be inspired'.

Day one features a diverse lineup of speakers who will challenge thinking and spark ideas.

Sessions will explore topics such as harnessing the power of the cow, the genetic future of dairy, and uncovering what is both holding the dairy industry back and driving it forward.

The program also includes the always-popular Emerging Scientist Awards and an important focus on redefining grazing in a changing climate.

Day two will open with Dairy Australia's annual general meeting at WIN Stadium, followed by the Dairy Innovation Farm Tour.

Delegates will see innovation in practice at Philip and Craig Tate's progressive Albion Park dairy farm, a showcase of forward-thinking management and technology.

Don't miss this opportunity to invest your time in the future of dairy.



Loch farmer and local councillor Nathan Hersey was one of the faces in the crowd at Koonwarra last Thursday.

Cattle going everywhere from key Leongatha sales

THERE'S a lot going on at the weekly store cattle sale at Leongatha, one of the most important, if not the most important selling centre for this type of cattle in Australia since Pakenham's numbers joined in.

Last Thursday, September 11, 3800 head were offered, catering to a wide range of buyers from those looking for the best-bred young cattle for feedlots, trade buyers hoping to complete their supermarket orders, specialty buyers looking for small, lean lots for the multi-cultural restaurant trade, others with orders for lean meat for the US market and local farmers, just hoping to replace recently sold stock.

There's eyes everywhere as new voices are heard calling bids across the rails, like Buster Jolly of the Koo Wee Rup-based Everitt, Seeley and Bennetts, not new to the auctioneering caper, but one of a band of stockmen now frequenting the Koonwarra complex on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

"It's working well," says Simon Henderson of Phelan & Henderson & Co.

"The buyers have got just the one main venue to go to now and they're all here," he said.

Nathan Hersey, Loch farmer and South Gippsland Councillor, was there last week, looking for a few cattle to replace ones he sold well last week.

"It's not easy, they're pretty pricy. Just looking for a few smaller ones I can grow out," he said.

Prices held firm from the previous week's sale price lift, which is good news because cattle are selling really well at the moment and the season is at last shaping up, albeit with little runoff for stock water.

However, if we do get decent spring rain, it could still be a good season.

Whatever the case, the Leongatha VLE Saleyards have demonstrated a capacity for orderly transactions, even when seasonal conditions are against producers.



Buster Jolly of Everitt Seeley Bennett based in Koo Wee Rup, is a regular at Koonwarra since the Pakenham cattle came over.



Dave Abernethy of Leongatha and Charlie Goff of Nutrien Yarram. "The country is looking better down Yarram way, but not much run-off. We could do with some more rain."



With 3800 head on offer at last Thursday's store sale at Leongatha there was a big crowd of buyers right through from start to finish.

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Stores steady

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded another excellent offering of 3800 head at this week's VLE Store sale.

Prices generally held firm from the previous week's sale price lift, with the odd sale dearer and some sales just a little easier, all in line with quality.

Once again, there were some terrific pens of Angus-grown steers and heifers and good lines of Angus and coloured weaners.

The usual feedlot buyers continue to secure most of the heavier types, with the rest mostly going to local graziers.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025 Steers

Holt & Perry, 12 Angus	673kg	\$4.90	\$3300
B Woodward, 20 Angus	658kg	\$4.95	\$3250
Dw Bishoff, 23 Angus	624kg	\$5.20	\$3250
S & S Collins, 12 Angus	508kg	\$5.66	\$2880
Melaleuca Past, 15 Angus	500kg	\$5.59	\$2800
High Voltage, 28 Angus	497kg	\$5.76	\$2870
T & D Glover, 14 Angus	495kg	\$5.03	\$2490
J Mosley, 17 Angus	493kg	\$5.46	\$2700
J Lindsay, 15 Angus	468kg	\$5.23	\$2450
Vere Investments, 19 Angus	466kg	\$5.53	\$2580
High Voltage, 14 Angus	464kg	\$5.78	\$2690
Heart Park, 16 Angus	465kg	\$5.78	\$2690
G & G Morgan, 14 Angus	460kg	\$5.03	\$2490
C & B Matthews, 12 Angus	452kg	\$5.66	\$2560
G & A Trewin, 21 Angus	445kg	\$5.69	\$2450
B Wallace, 17 Angus	433kg	\$5.78	\$2500
Latrobe Park, 18 Angus	431kg	\$5.90	\$2550
B Wallace, 17 Angus	412kg	\$5.88	\$2430
Hopfields, 14 Shorthorn	412kg	\$4.99	\$2060
G & A Trewin, 16 Angus	409kg	\$5.49	\$2250
Latrobe Park, 19 Angus	399kg	\$5.63	\$2250
A & L Sage 10 Angus	418kg	\$5.68	\$2380
Satra, 11 Angus	382kg	\$5.57	\$2130
Two Creeks Past, 20 Angus	380kg	\$5.81	\$2210
B Wallace, 14 Angus	378kg	\$5.73	\$2170
Raj Croke, 20 Angus	378kg	\$5.73	\$2170
S Beckman, 17 Angus	378kg	\$5.73	\$2170
Hopfields, 36 Shorthorn	376kg	\$5.47	\$2060
Two Creeks Past, 20 Angus	364kg	\$5.81	\$2120
Two Creeks Past, 20 Angus	351kg	\$5.74	\$2020
T Beamish, 15 Angus	350kg	\$5.56	\$1950
T Croke, 18 Angus	343kg	\$5.53	\$1900
Two Creeks Past, 20 Angus	337kg	\$5.69	\$1920
C & S Corrigan, 20 Angus	334kg	\$5.23	\$1750
Condon & Lee, 10 Angus	327kg	\$5.44	\$1780
D & M Lee, 22 Angus	323kg	\$5.68	\$1840
S Beckman, 13 Angus	319kg	\$5.66	\$1810
Two Creeks Past, 23 Angus	313kg	\$5.80	\$1820
Satra, 15 Angus	312kg	\$5.79	\$1810
T Croke, 18 Angus	299kg	\$5.44	\$1630
Two Creeks Past, 24 Angus	293kg	\$5.48	\$1610
Von Pace, 15 Angus	297kg	\$5.44	\$1620
Von Pace, 24 Angus	271kg	\$5.15	\$1400
Angels Run, 13 Angus	267kg	\$5.26	\$1410
C & S Corrigan, 20 Angus	238kg	\$5.37	\$1280

Heifers

J MacLachlan, 14 Angus	509kg	\$5.16	\$2630
J MacLachlan, 22 Angus	480kg	\$5.30	\$2550
Kuch Grazing, 17 Angus	471kg	\$4.85	\$2290
T Beamish 10 Angus	461kg	\$4.63	\$2140
J & K Macaulay 12 Angus	437kg	\$4.80	\$2100
J MacLachlan, 23 Angus	433kg	\$5.12	\$2220
R & P Savory 19 Angus	385kg	\$4.95	\$1910
B Stewart, 18 Angus	378kg	\$5.20	\$1970
B Wallace 24 Angus	371kg	\$5.06	\$1880
J MacLachlan, 13 Angus	367kg	\$5.14	\$1890
T Croke 17 Angus	360kg	\$5.01	\$1810
S Beckman 15 Angus	360kg	\$5.02	\$1810
Satra 10 Angus	360kg	\$4.58	\$1650
S Conway 16 Angus	358kg	\$4.88	\$1750
R & P Savory 17 Angus	356kg	\$5.35	\$1910
Latrobe Park 24 Angus	345kg	\$4.10	\$1760
P & T Harris 12 Angus	345kg	\$4.80	\$1660
Two Creek 21 Angus	341kg	\$5.03	\$1720
L & B Bastin 10 Angus	336kg	\$4.19	\$1410
Sjc Farms 24 Angus	334kg	\$5.05	\$1690
Bj Buckley 10 Angus	334kg	\$4.49	\$1500
B Wallace 14 Angus	332kg	\$5.11	\$1700
S Beckman 16 Angus	324kg	\$5.02	\$1630
Kuch Grazing 25 Angus	323kg	\$4.94	\$1600
T Croke 13 Angus	317kg	\$4.56	\$1450
Condon & Lee 14 Angus	314kg	\$4.70	\$1480
G & J Jans 13 Angus	308kg	\$4.54	\$1400
Two Creeks 18 Angus	305kg	\$4.87	\$1490
Sha Valley 11 Angus	301kg	\$4.73	\$1430
SJC Farms 21 Angus	297kg	\$4.70	\$1400
SP Dunlop 12 Angus	293kg	\$4.84	\$1420
Von Pace 17 Angus	289kg	\$4.28	\$1240

Lardner Park Calf Market Report Monday, September 8, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$16 to \$30
Friesian Bulls	\$26 to \$60
Beef Bulls	\$25 to \$240
Beef Heifers	\$34 to \$100
Friesian Heifers	\$32 to \$70
Number of Calves:	524
Number purchased to rear:	82

LARDNER PARK ELDERS AND ALEX SCOTT & STAFF DAIRY SALE

DAIRY SALE: Friday, September 19 at 11am

A/c J & A Zurrer, Mrs NJ Coster & CR Coster, Elenan, Jaz & Rolynga Holsteins, Longwarry

14 - Magnificent young Holstein cows calved since 3rd August by Al Jeronimo, Ferrero, Contender & B52 with generations of Al backing. Current herd avg 30 ltrs, 125 BMCC. A great opportunity for anyone to buy cows of this calibre. Individual breeding & production details available prior to sale.

A/c GM, GA & KA Olsen, Mountain View- Complete dispersal of later calved portion of herd.

34 - Holstein & 11 Jersey cows by A.I Destination, Pickfish, Regal, MVP, Matt, Marvarie etc having calved from 16th July to a few on point of calving. A closed herd with over 40 yrs AI breeding. Herd has been in selective breeding programs for over 25 yrs with Leading Edge Genetics breeding guidance for past 17 yrs. Medium framed young cows (majority 2nd -4th lactation) showing all the correct attributes of the generations of AI backing. Current herd avg 29 ltrs, 4.1 BF, 3.2 Prot, 65 BMCC in hill country with 5 kg bale feed.

A/c J James (Herd Sold)

8 - Springing Friesian, Guernsey, Jersey X Bred Heifers in calf to Speckle Park Bull.

ATTENTION FARMERS

Please ensure all entries are booked in with your agent prior to sale

5623 4744

Terry Ahearn
0438 562 816

Neil Darby
0418 595 265

5941 0299

Darryl Adams
0408 385 872

Andrew Mumford
0407 803 360



AF030



Shed Talk: For Farmers, by farmers to support yourself and your mates

THE AgMind Australia – For farmers, by farmers, free Shed Talk event in Surf Beach is being held on Wednesday, September 17, from 10am until 2pm by founder Nikole Schellekens.

Shed Talk is a workshop on farmer well-being and mental health, designed for farmers, ag workers, and rural communities.

“It’s about keeping yourself steady through tough times, supporting your mates, and learning simple tools to handle stress and pressure,” said Nikole.

“The sessions are run by people who know farming and mental health – so it’s real, relatable, and useful. And don’t forget, a roast lunch will be provided!”

This hands-on workshop helps farmers and people in rural communities deal with pressure, support their mates, and stay steady through tough times – with practical tools, real yarns, and no fluff.

“We’re delivering mental health education to farmers on the farm. When I did my master’s research, one of the big findings was that farmers don’t want to talk to those who aren’t farmers. They don’t want to explain why a drought is hard, or why paying \$200 a bale for rounds is hard. They need people who get where they’re already at, and that’s the key,” Nikole explained.

“We’re meeting farmers where they’re already at, instead of making them sit and explain why everything’s tough. It’s based on psychological ideas, but the main aim is to have a chat. It’s not a lecture. There’s no PowerPoint, none of that. It’s simply sitting around the table as a group.”

Nikole said that the afternoon is about talking through the challenges and exploring a range of support strategies.

“Strategies to support ourselves, and our mates,” said Nikole.

“We’ll then talk about all the local resources and national resources that can support us through rough times.”

Shed Talk is supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate Grant provided by Agriculture Victoria and the National Centre for Farmer Health. It’s a program designed to co-identify resources; for example, drought infrastructure grants. The program underlines networking, allowing the group to share skills and knowledge.

“Together we can open a really great conversation, share ideas and support each other,” said Nikole.

“Farmers will leave with a few strategies that they can easily try at home, strategies that you don’t need to leave the tractor, or the ute – making them accessible and simple – no need to pull out the meditation cushion - although I do love meditation, but that’s not what this program is about, it’s about strategies you can implement when you’re moving the cows, or simply on the go, because we all know farmers are busy enough,” Nikole explained.

“A big part of the event is to help figure



Nikole Schellekens of AgMind Australia – For farmers, by farmers – is holding a free Bass Coast Shed Talk in Surf Beach, Phillip Island, on Wednesday, September 17, from 10am – 2pm, because connection saves lives.

out what our tipping points are within ourselves and how we respond to stress. And there’s a little of the science in there. We’ll talk a bit about how prolonged stress affects the body and the mind.”

Nikole said that the event will discuss how the brain responds to incoming stress when it’s already stressed out.

“We’ll deliver strategies on how to re-train the brain to stop that from happening, and what we can do to support ourselves. So, it’s not all doom and gloom. I promise. The education side is getting to know your stress levels and the effect that’s having on your everyday life. It’s also about acknowledging others’ stress, whether it’s a partner, staff on the farm, or an external colleague. As farmers, we need to work together.”

“When we’re standing up against the new Victorian Emergency Services Levy, we’re standing together. We need to stand together, but in a skilful way!” said Nikole.

“We need to learn the skills to support our mates. It’s not enough to say I support you; I’m here for you. Let’s learn the skills so we’re all on the same page, and then we can truly stand together, supporting each other’s mental health and wellbeing.”

Book to secure your spot (and your lunch) by simply texting Nikole on 0419 699 965 or emailing hello@agmind.com.au. Remember, connection saves lives.

If you need support, talk to a GP or health professional.

Support services include:

- SANE Australia on 1800 18 SANE (7263) or sane.org.
- Lifeline on 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au.
- MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978 or mensline.org.au.

Dairy says it’s time to act at Drought Forum

AUSTRALIAN Dairy Farmers (ADF) has a simple message at the National Drought Forum – turn discussion into delivery for dairy farmers, now.

ADF representatives are among the 195 industry, government and community leaders at the forum in Gawler, South Australia.

“Farmers are not being heard,” ADF president Ben Bennett said.

“ADF first took its concerns to all governments over 12 months ago about the drought impacts if nothing changed. Dairy farmers can’t simply stop milking their cows because it’s too dry.

“We’ve consistently engaged with all levels of government in good faith and been patient, but patience has limits.

“There comes a point in time where governments must move from preparedness and resilience into

protecting food security, and as the most impacted industry by this drought, dairy can’t wait any longer.”

Mr Bennett said previous drought strategies were scrapped because of lines on a map, and models didn’t match the on-ground reality.

“But here we are, yet again seeing a line on a map – this time being the state border – deciding who gets necessary targeted support and who gets symbolic gestures and photo opportunities.

“Victoria’s late and light-on-expertise response has already forced many dairy farmers to liquidate good cows to survive – a long-term hit to production.”

Mr Bennett said the government drought response has implications beyond dairy, with contractors, truck drivers, processors and regional businesses all feeling the hit.

Realistic approach needed to caged-egg ban

IN LIGHT of Coles’ decision to delay the phase-out of caged eggs until 2030, citing bird flu-related supply issues, the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on retailers and the government to take a realistic approach to guarantee the future supply of eggs for consumers.

VFF Egg Group President Brian Ahmed said recent outbreaks have highlighted the need for all three farming systems (caged, barn and free range) in maintaining food security and food affordability for all Australian families.

“The harsh reality is that recent bird flu outbreaks decimated egg supplies across the country, and it

won’t be for the last time. Our biosecurity safety net is good, but due to the nature of migrating wild birds, we can’t stop everything.”

“In times of bird flu outbreaks, caged egg systems are vital to ensuring a reliable supply of eggs across Australia. A phase-out of caged eggs only accelerates the uncertainty for farmers, disrupts supplies, and puts massive pressure on food affordability for consumers.”

“We encourage retailers and policymakers to work closely with farmers to ensure that animal welfare standards improve, without compromising farm viability or consumer access to affordable eggs,” Mr Ahmed

said.

Mr Ahmed also called on farmers and domestic chicken owners to remain vigilant as we enter the peak migratory bird season.

“Migratory birds from all over the world begin arriving en masse during spring, which increases the risk of foreign diseases such as bird flu landing on our shores.

“We’ve seen how damaging bird flu can be and I’m encouraging everyone to have a biosecurity plan in place and alert authorities if your birds become sick.

“Biosecurity is a shared responsibility between everyone and is a vital defence to protect both our industry and the natural environment.”

VLE – LEONGATHA

STORE SALE 3000 CATTLE 3000

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c I Peterson, Yarram (ELDERS)

120 Angus steers, 2 yo, GF & ABF

A/c Lotus Ag, Seaspray (ELDERS)

60 Angus steers, 24 mths, GF & ABF

A/c Chester Shorthorns (ELDERS)

28 Shorthorn steers, 15-16 mths, Futurity & Royalla blood, NE Accred, GF & ABF

A/c KR Smith (ALEX SCOTT)

15 Angus steers, East Gippsland bred, 18 mths, GF & ABF

A/c Nuntin Pines, Stratford (ELDERS)

14 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, Banquet & Black Spur blood

A/c CJ & ME Stothers, Stratford (ELDERS)

12 Angus steers, 24 mths, Leawood Angus blood

A/c E & M Dowel, Lang Lang (ELDERS)

12 Angus steers, 16 mths, GF & ABF

A/c J Langley, Inverloch (ELDERS)

10 Hereford steers, 18 mths, Sth Kolora blood

A/c SJ Dyt, Narracan (ELDERS)

5 Angus steers, 20 mths, GF & ABF

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c J Langley, Inverloch (ELDERS)

10 Hereford heifers, 18 mths, Sth Kolora blood

ANGUS WEANERS

A/c Breeder, G.G, E.J, M.G & R. BATES,

“Maida-Vale”, Munro (ELDERS)

200 Angus steers, 12-14 mths

115 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths

By AI Bred Genetics from a Hazeldean Base with

Selected AI Genetics, GF & ABF, NE Accred

A/c K, P & R Hourigan, Hazelwood North

(ALEX SCOTT)

65 Black Baldy mixed sex weaners, 10-12 mths, by

Merlewood Angus Bull

A/c Teana Farm, Woodside (ALEX SCOTT)

30 Angus and Red Angus steers, 10-14 mths

30 Angus and Red Angus heifers 10-12 mths, all

drenched with Vetmec-F, NE Accred

A/c Parker Amber, Krowera (ELDERS)

50 Angus mixed sex weaners, Wattlewood & Bowman

blood

A/c P Cashman, Stratford (ELDERS)

40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-11 mths, Banquet

blood, VB, weaned, GF, ABF, NE Accred

A/c Tibooburra Angus, Hoddles Creek (ELDERS)

35 Angus heifers, 10-11 mths

A/c P. Peluso, Mirboo North (ALEX SCOTT)

20 Angus steers

10 Angus heifers

By stud Fernleigh bulls, 10 mths, weaned, VB,

GF & ABF

A/c Brad Rinaldi, West Creek (ALEX SCOTT)

25 Angus mix sex weaners, 12 mths, By Absolute

Angus bulls out of Leawood cows

A/c Nar Nar Goon Angus, Nar Nar Goon (ELDERS)

20 Angus Steers, 7 mths, Te Mania blood, VB, WND,

GF & ABF

A/c T & JA Christensen, “Willowbank”, Glengarry

(BAW BAW)

18 Angus & Black Baldy steers, 12 mth, Leawood and

Injemira blood, 3 x 5 in 1, NE Accred, very quiet and

noted doing cattle

COLOURED WEANERS

A/c J Granerii, Gembrook (ELDERS)

50 Limo X mixed sexes

A/c C Wraith, Nar Nar Goon (ALEX SCOTT)

40 Poll Hereford Heifers Ex Benambra bred, weaned

and Drenched Iverlab Pour on, NE Accred

A/c Deep Creek Farm, Woodleigh (ELDERS)

17 Hereford & BB heifers, 12-16 mths, VB, GF & ABF

13 Hereford & BB steers, 12 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c L & A Farmer, Woodleigh (ELDERS)

30 Speckle Park X mixed sex weaners, 9-11 mths,

VB, GF & ABF

A/c Hazel Dell, Ryanston (ELDERS)

28 Simm / Black Simm / Hereford X steers & heifers,

12 mths, weaned, 7 In 1 Vac, Multimin, drenched VB,

GF & ABF

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c Field & McSweeney, Yarram (ELDERS)

100 Friesian & Friesian X steers and heifers, VB,

12-15 mths

A/c G & S Butler, Korumburra (ALEX SCOTT)

16 Angus/Friesian X steers, By stud Fernleigh bulls,

14 mths, GF & ABF

A/c O & J Luff, Woodleigh (ALEX SCOTT)

10 x Angus/Friesian X steers, 9 mths, weaned,

GF & ABF

COWS & CALVES

A/c Darnum Park Estate, Darnum (ELDERS)

10 x10 Ang/FF X heifers with Angus calves at foot

3-4 mths, not rejoined

BULLS

A/c Tibooburra Angus (ELDERS)

2 Angus Bulls, 18 mths, registered, All drenches and

vaccines up to date



5658 1894

5655 1133

5941 4666

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

Wonthaggi North Primary School Prepares to Welcome 2026 Preps



WONTHAGGI North Primary School is excited to welcome its 2026 Prep students when the Ready, Set, Prep! program begins in the first week of Term 4.

Enrolled students are invited to attend weekly two-hour sessions designed to support a smooth transition from kindergarten to school. Prep teacher, Michelle Inness, is already preparing engaging resources to ensure the busy term ahead runs seamlessly.

The 10-week program introduces students to school routines, teachers, classrooms, and the wider school grounds, helping to ease nerves and build confidence ahead of their first official day in 2026. Children will

enjoy singing, dancing, reading stories, playing games, counting, and hands-on activities that give them a taste of the exciting experiences to come in Prep.

Each child will receive a special uniform and name badge to wear during the program, helping them feel part of the school community from day one. Towards the end of the program, students will also meet their Grade 6 buddy, beginning a supportive friendship that will continue into next year.

The Ready, Set, Prep! program also allows staff and specialist teachers – covering Art/Drama, P.E., Spanish and ICT – to get to know the new students. It's a chance

for children to build new friendships as they come together from a variety of local kindergartens.

Families and carers are warmly invited to attend morning tea during the first session, a wonderful opportunity to meet other families and begin their connection with the school community.

If your child is starting Prep in 2026 and has not yet been enrolled, please contact the Wonthaggi North Primary School office on 5672 4697 to collect an enrolment pack.

LEFT: Ready, Set, Prep! at Wonthaggi North is almost here and set to welcome a new group of future preppies.

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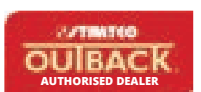


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CHARLES MITCHARD
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claims to the said
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November 2025 after
which date the
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to distribute the said
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which it then has
notice. Grant of
Probate was obtained
in Victoria on 11 July
2025. PRIOR LAW,
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Leongatha VIC 3953

CREDITORS,
next-of-kin and others
having claims against
the Estate of JANET
KINNEAR KELLY, late
of 27 Queen Street,
Korumburra VIC 3950
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JEAN CLARK and
GRAHAM LINDSAY
KELLY to send detailed
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claims to the said
Executor c/- Prior Law
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SITUATIONS VACANT

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Head Chef
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Rose Lodge is currently seeking a
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• Build strong, positive relationships with
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ME0611

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South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:

- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
- Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
- Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
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AF0029



Korumburra Scout Group's Cub of the Year Liam Sage with Group Leaders Ysabella Graham and Charlie Graham-Cross.

Korumburra Scouts awarded

KORUMBURRA Scout Group recently came together for its annual report and presentation night, which was a chance to celebrate the achievements of local young people and thank the leaders and volunteers who keep the group running.

A highlight of the evening was the award presentation, which acknowledged outstanding individuals from each section.

These awards celebrated their contributions and accomplishments within the Scouting program.

Rose Hiddleston received the Joey of the Year award.

Liam Sage received the Cub of the Year award.

Cade Manks received the Scout of the Year award.

Adult members Mel Wolswinkel and Travis Davidge were also recognised for their dedication and years of service.

Heidi Lang was welcomed as the new Group Leader, taking over the role from Wombat Lyons.

The group also took the opportunity to thank Wombat for the support he has given in that role over the past two years.

Committee chairperson Brad Dangerfield announced he would be stepping back from the role, but still remaining active on the group committee.

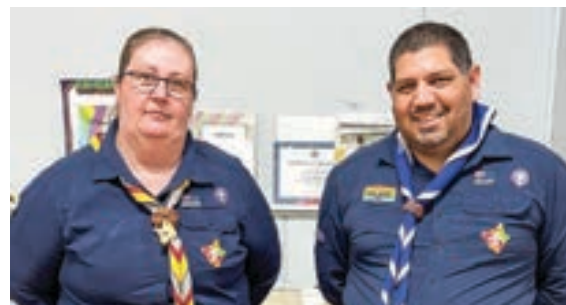
Looking ahead, a major focus of the group will be renovating the Korumburra Scout Hall so it can continue to serve both the Scout Group and the wider community for years to come.

The group is always keen to welcome new members and volunteers.

To find out more, visit the Scouts Victoria website or get in touch via the Korumburra Scout Group Facebook page.



Cade Manks was named Korumburra Scout Group's Scout of the Year. He is pictured with Group Leader Kelly Graham.



Korumburra Scout Group's incoming Group Leader Heidi Lang pictured with outgoing Group Leader Wombat Lyons.



Joey of the Year Rose Hiddleston was congratulated by Group Leaders Laura Johncey and Michael Hart.

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SGB success at State Championships

IT WAS a big weekend of racing for the SGB swimmers racing at the Victorian Age Short Course finals at MSAC on the weekend. Thirty-three Swimmers aged 12-18 raced in a range of distances from 50 to 800 metre, over the three days, in all strokes. Swimmers raced heats in the morning, and then those who were lucky enough to qualify for finals returned to compete at night.

It was a busy place, with two pools running side by side during the heats, the spectators had plenty of action to watch and provided plenty of cheering from the stands from the swimmers' supportive teammates and families. The event was also live-streamed, with fans able to cheer them on at home.

Coach Dylan was thrilled with the weekend's efforts.

"It's been quite a short season of Short Course racing this year, so to have one of the largest regional clubs here is fantastic. They all dug deep after Countries and worked on some areas they wanted to try and improve, and to see these results is really pleasing. They should be very proud of themselves."

Coach Lorri loved seeing the swimmers do so well.

"Seeing our first timers up there on the blocks always makes me smile. Over the years, they train hard, and the lucky ones are able to qualify and swim here. They are always so excited to get their State cap and towel and wear them for the first time."



Archie Smyth (right) with Levi Jarrett, Archie broke the Victorian Record in the Boys 13 years 200 metre backstroke and missed a second record by 0.4.

Archie Smyth broke the Victorian Record in the Boys 13 years 200 metre backstroke.

The club did well in the points score, despite being up against clubs with over 100 swimmers; SGB came 12th in the overall rankings, with other Gippsland Clubs Traralgon eighth, Waragul 14th and Sale 32nd out of the 83 clubs.

The swimmers at the meet were: Madison Andreatta, Emma Barclay, Bec Barclay, Asha Chalmers, Nyah Chapman, Gemma Cook, Zoe Cox, Claudia Croatto, Emily Croatto, Isabel Croatto, Billy Fisher, Maggie Fisher, Cormac Flynn, Jordan Gallicchio, Daisy Giliam-Rodda, Lachie Grimes, Josh Hunt, Sienna Hunt, Levi Jarrett, Ava Lucas, Hannah

Lucas, Mostyn Lumsden, Isabella Lynch, Brooklyn Packer, Josie Richer, Miah Roberts, Zac Sherar, Aidan Smyth, Archie Smyth, Lara Smyth, Jarrah Tagell and Kaela Welsh.

Results:

Claudia Croatto, 16: 2nd 200m Breaststroke, 4th 100m IM, 2nd 100m Breaststroke
Emily Croatto, 13: 4th 200m IM, 2nd 100m Breaststroke, 2nd 200m Breaststroke, 6th 100m IM
Isabel Croatto: 14 9th 200m Butterfly
Asha Chalmers, 4th 400m IM
Billy Fisher: 16 10 200m Freestyle
Cormac Flynn, 16: 8th 200m Breaststroke
Sienna Hunt, 15: 9th 200m



Miah is excited about her win.

Butterfly
Miah Roberts, 15: 3rd 100m Backstroke, 10th 200m IM, 10th 100m IM, 4th 200m Backstroke
Zac Sherar, 16: 10th 50m Freestyle, 4th 800m Freestyle, 9th 100m Freestyle, 6th 200m Freestyle
Archie Smyth, 13: 3rd 200m IM, 3rd 200m Freestyle
Gemma Cook, MC :1st 200m IM, 1st 50m Freestyle, 1st 100m Freestyle, 1st 100m IM
Zoe Cox, MC: 5th 100m Breaststroke, 7th 100m IM, 8th 100m Freestyle
Levi Jarrett, MC: 1st 100m Backstroke, 1st 200m IM, 1st 50m Freestyle, 1st 200m Freestyle, 1st 100m Breaststroke, 1st 100m IM, 1st 100m Freestyle

Phillip Island riders send it at the Joyride Rookie Cup Round 1: Mt Taylor

By Michael Wright

THE opening round of the 2025 Joyride Rookie Cup brought together hundreds of Victoria's most promising young downhill mountain bikers, and a strong Phillip Island contingency certainly made their mark at Mt Taylor near Bairnsdale last weekend.

The Joyride Rookie Cup is a grassroots mountain biking series aimed at developing the next generation of riders and promoting the sport of downhill racing. With a focus on fun, skill progression, and competition, each round draws the best young riders from across the state, testing juniors by racing in age-based categories on professional-quality downhill tracks throughout Victoria.

Representing Phillip Island with pride, an enthusiastic group of thirteen young riders competed across four age divisions on Mt Taylor's notorious double black diamond downhill trail, showcasing not only their skill and courage but also the tight-knit and



Under 11s, Kody Sheers stormed to an impressive second-place podium finish.

supportive spirit of the Phillip Island MTB community.

The standout result came in the Under 11s, where Kody Sheers stormed to an impressive second-place podium finish, showing incredible composure and speed well beyond his years. Kody's performance was a highlight of the day and a proud moment for the entire Phillip Island crew.

In the Under 13s, both Flynn Wright (28th) and Eli Rogan (30th) pushed hard in a competitive field, gaining valuable race experience on the ultra-technical course.

The Under 15 division saw a large and determined Phillip Island presence. Maxen Mills led the charge, finishing 13th, followed closely by Miller Micallef (17th), Ry Sheers (19th), Kody Lewis

(30th), Bodhi Cooper (53rd) and Hugo Wright (60th), all pushing hard.

In the Under 17s, Hamish Dakers-Hock secured a strong 15th-place finish, with Ethan Tilley (35th), Zac Sund (36th), and Blayde Rogan (42nd) all putting in solid efforts against the top junior riders in the state.

The event was not just about testing themselves against hundreds of the state's best junior riders, but further proof of the growing mountain bike scene coming out of Phillip Island and Bass Coast.

Now over 12 months on from the adoption of Bass Coast Council's Mountain Bike Strategy, it's time for some tangible outcomes with the investment and implementation of the desperately needed MTB infrastructure locally.

With the next round of the Rookie Cup at Mt Major near Shepparton on October 11 and 12, no doubt the Phillip Island crew are looking forward to testing themselves again.

Get ready to make your moves this September as Stride4Stroke is back!

STROKE Foundation's biggest annual fundraising event, Stride4Stroke, has kicked off this September and Australians everywhere are invited to join in, get moving, and help prevent stroke, save lives and enhance recovery.

Stroke survivor Annemarie had a stroke 21 years ago at the age of 32, leaving her paralysed on the right side of her body, and as a result, she had to learn how to walk and talk again.

Now, more than two decades later, she's taking on a new challenge. As part of Stride4Stroke she is going to learn how to ride a bike at the age of 53!

Stroke Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Dr Lisa Murphy, said Stride4Stroke is a simple, fun way to make a real difference.

"You can stride anywhere, anytime, and in any way that gets you moving. Every minute of exercise reduces your risk of experiencing a stroke (or recurrent stroke), and every dollar raised goes towards vital stroke prevention, research, recovery programs and advocacy."

Previously held in November, this year's month-long challenge is starting earlier to give people a springtime boost to their health and fundraising goals. From September 1-30, participants will set a personal Moving Minutes goal, the time they spend being active and complete it in whatever way works for them: walking, running, dancing, swimming, riding, yoga, or any exercise that best suits their ability or interest.

Stroke remains one of Australia's biggest health challenges. Research shows that 80 per cent of strokes can be prevented by getting regular health check-ups, managing blood pressure, cholesterol, being active, avoiding smoking and excess alcohol consumption. Just 30 minutes of exercise five times a week can reduce the risk of stroke by 25 per cent.

How to get involved:

- Visit stride4stroke.org.au and register your details
- Set your Moving Minutes goal
- Get friends, family or workmates to join in
- Start fundraising and making moves that matter

Join Stride4Stroke this September, and create a future with fewer strokes, better outcomes, and support and care for all.

South Gippsland Bridge

MONDAY, the first night of evening play since COVID, saw a wonderful result of 72.92 per cent for relative newcomers Sharon Bennetts and Deb Clapperton.

This was followed by Susan Ruffin (welcome back) and Clive Hope 55.21, and Ruth Stevenson with Kathy Dowd and Ruth Harvey with Jenny Jacob drawn on 50 per cent.

In Wonthaggi last Tuesday, Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd scored 62.5 per cent, Philip Chapman and Philip Rinder 61.98, Ann Rinder and Neville Chapman 55.73, Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston 54.17, and Deb Anglim and John French 52.6 per cent.

On Friday, September 12, in Inverloch, Matti Shub and John Quayle led N/S with 56.94 per cent, Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson 54.56, Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh 53.82, and Carol Sowden and Mary Brewis 52.43 per cent – very tight finishes.

In E/W, Ruth Harvey and Philip Rinder 60.71 per cent, Faye Rowlands and John Currier 58.63, and Julie Perriam and Bronwyn Sund 56.55 per cent.

Anyone wanting to learn the game and join the club would be welcome to ring the secretary on Kathy Dowd on 0438 859 561.

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	September 16
▲ 6.14am	1.55m
▼ 11.26am	0.72m
▲ 5.39pm	1.48m
▼ 11.56pm	0.31m

WEDNESDAY	September 17
▲ 7.14am	1.46m
▼ 12.13pm	0.78m
▲ 6.32pm	1.40m

THURSDAY	September 18
▼ 12.48am	0.40m
▲ 8.21am	1.38m
▼ 1.08pm	0.83m
▲ 7.41pm	1.32m

FRIDAY	September 19
▼ 1.53am	0.49m
▲ 9.30am	1.35m
▼ 2.26pm	0.85m
▲ 9.09pm	1.27m

SATURDAY	September 20
▼ 3.15am	0.55m
▲ 10.34am	1.36m
▼ 4.05pm	0.81m
▲ 10.34pm	1.29m

SUNDAY	September 21
▼ 4.36am	0.57m
▲ 11.33am	1.39m
▼ 5.24pm	0.70m
▲ 11.46pm	1.36m

MONDAY	September 22
▼ 5.43am	0.56m
▲ 12.24pm	1.44m
▼ 6.18pm	0.58m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au



The Monday winners Breakaway Bowls were Glenda Binch, Marg Hender and Jan Murphy.



Jenny Haydon, Rob Howard and Carol Hughes were the Thursday social bowls winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



Foster Bowls Club winners Daryl Talmash, Ian McLeod and Norm Cooper with Cr Scott Rae.



Tuesday's Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls winners were Maggi Scapin, John Rook and Sylvia Mattock.



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's best one game winners were Max Summers (2), Vern Elliott (S), Al Weeden (L) and Gwen Jeffery (3).



Elaine Grabham, Ray McCurry and Sylvia Mattock were the Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.



David Prosser (L), Alex Martin (2), Steve Edge (S) and Steve Muhi (3) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners.



Linda Newman, Les Stanbury and Marj Ford were the Friday winners at Breakaway Bowls.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

TO THE loyal and supportive club members, thank you for your participation at the club. September brings many members holidaying and for those not on holiday and still enjoying their bowling and social interaction at Cape Paterson Community Hall on Monday and Friday from 1pm to 4pm. New members are welcome. Monday's winners on +12 were Glenda Binch, Marg Hender and Jan Murphy. Friday's winners on a +21 were Linda Newman, Les Stanbury and Marj Ford. Great bowling by all.

FOSTER

EVERYONE was welcomed back by president Mark for the start of the 2025/26 season and the first Summer Triples. Weatherwise, it didn't start off too well. However, everyone rugged up and forged on with it not being too bad overall. There was a full green of 16 teams, which was excellent. A great day was had by all. Even those who were only just getting back into bowling after the winter break. The club thanked the generous sponsors for the day, Evans Petroleum and Duesbury's Accountants. It was also great to have Cr Scott Rae presenting the day's prizes on behalf of John Schellings from Evans Petroleum. The winner, winning all four of their games, was the Foster team of Ian McLeod, Norm Cooper and Daryl Talmash. Runner-up, with three wins and a draw, was the Foster team of Charlie and Bev Tyers with Craig Jenkins. Best game for the day, winning the wine donated by IGA, went to the Foster team of Ian Park, Kelvin Park and Sue Waugh. A lucky draw from the remaining scorecards saw the Yarram team of Ken Hansen, Brendan Kane and Bob Ash receive club drink vouchers. The club looks forward to seeing you all again next month.

INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH Bowling Club held its usual social day last Thursday. The day was reasonable with a bit of wind. Thirty-eight players enjoyed two games of 10 ends. There was only one two-game winner and four teams with a win and a draw with only two points difference. The eventual runner-up was the team of Lorraine Dowson, Carol Thorn, Joyce Arnold and Ted Lee. They had one win, one draw, 27 points and 13 shots up. The winning team was the team of Carol Hughes, Jenny Haydon and Rob Howard with two wins and 32 points.

LEONGATHA

CHECK out what's on at Leongatha Bowls Club in September.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners were John Migliorisi and Lyn Tagell.

Firstly, don't forget the John Richards Day on Friday, September 28. It's a great day of bowling and for \$10 you get a feed at the end of the day – not bad. The Monthly Triples start on September 24. You know the drill – phone in early to get a spot. Social days are back after the winter break and the first lady power team of Janis Sing, Jeanette Charmers with Sue Crouch won the day. Runners-up we're Ewin Coulter, Cole Williams and Ken Lester. Over the footy season, the club put on a footy tipping competition and the winner was Ken Lester. Runner-up was John O'Connor. All club events are on the board to check out what's happening. Not long to go now until the Penant season is here. These days are a good chance to practice.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

FORTY-SIX of the family of bowlers met at San Remo for the weekly challenge on Thursday. The day was quite a good day for the middle of winter. There was some rain around the surrounding townships, a firm breeze and quite cool temperatures. Overall, though, it was not too bad a day for the bowlers. The good news was that there was no rain all day, so no interruptions to the game. The bowlers were welcomed to the club by Bev and John, while Vern looked after the preparation of the teams. Once the players had a cuppa and a chat, they were then sent out to challenge their friends once again. What a day it was, with some magnificent quality bowling along with the usual sledging and laughter. There was one or two wrong bias shots – always a good thing for the Royal Children's Hospital as the tin fills. The winning score of 35 meant it required a countback to decide the winners and runners-up. The winners were David Prosser (L), Alex Martin (2), Steve Edge (S) and Steve Muhi (3). Runners-up were John Nicholson (S) Shirl Corcoran (3), Anne Shaw (L) and Bob Arnold (2). Best One Game winners this week on a score of 19, (also requiring a count back), were Max Summers (2), Vern Elliott (S), Al Weeden (L) and Gwen Jeffery (3). A big thank you to John, Bev and Vern for all the hard work they do. Also, a big thank you to Mark behind the bar. Not to forget Claire and Gwen for all their work in the kitchen. The club really does appreciate the hard work the volunteers do to keep everyone coming week after week. Next week, the bowlers will be meeting at Koo Wee Rup to once again fight it out for team of the week.

Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams. Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity, the club will

have to be strict on a 10am cut off time. Meanwhile till then, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

ANOTHER week of spring has come and gone. Wednesday was a fine day with a cool breeze to keep everyone alert after lunch. Twenty-one bowlers graced the greens to play two games of pairs, with one team of three to even up the numbers. The winners were John Migliorisi and Lyn Tagell with a score of two wins, 33 points, and 16 shots up. The runners-up were Syd Gostling, Paul Holmes, and Bryan Donohue, also with two wins and 33 points, but they lost on a countback. Thursday bowls started this week. Bowlers were happy to be back and are looking forward to some improved weather after the winter break. Saturday saw a practice match against San Remo at Wonthaggi. This was the first practice match between the two clubs and will not be the last, with Wonthaggi scheduled to travel to San Remo next year. All bowlers had a good day, with games played under pennant conditions, which is important. Bowls this week: Wednesday: Social bowls at 12.30pm. Thursday: Social bowls at 10am. This Saturday's practice match is at Phillip Island. The start time is 12.30pm – be there by 11.30am for roll-up and lunch. Make sure you check the teams on the board to see where you are playing. Friday night went off well with a good turnout. The weather is improving, and daylight savings is not far away. Raye was a happy meat tray winner. Mike and Roger each collected a brekky pack. Other winners were Mike, Sylvia, and John. The members' draw didn't go off, so next week it will be \$130. Meat packs plus lots of other prizes are up for grabs. Doors open at 4pm, with the members' draw and raffles at 6pm. Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT WAS another fun and enjoyable week of bowling. Tuesday saw a total of 26. Only one team won two games. They were Maggi Scapin, John Rook and Sylvia Mattock. Runners up with a plus 22, winning one game only, were Glenda Binch, Allan Ireland. Jim Wilson and Ray McCurry. Friday saw 28 players competing. The winners on plus 18 were Elaine Grabham, Ray McCurry and Sylvia Mattock. Runners-up on plus seven were Jean Wylde, Lia Smith, Max Sweetnam and Jim Wilson.



Wednesday's Korumburra Stableford runner-up and winner Kim Enbom and Shelley Snooks



Leongatha Golf Club's September Monthly Medallist was Joc Howson.



Marg Ryan and Patsy Britt were Wednesday's winners at the Wonthaggi Golf Club.



A Grade winner Kylie Collins and B Grade winner Tracey Ryan at the Woorayl Golf Club.

KORUMBURRA

TUESDAY, September 9:
Stableford: 26 players.
Winner A Grade: Steve Duffield 38 points.
Winner B Grade: Athol Worthy 37 points.
NTPs: first John Kerr, seventh Iain Riddell, 10th Athol Worthy and 13th Mick Belvedere.
Thursday, September 11:
Stableford: 18 players.
Winner A Grade: Barry Kerr 35 points C/B.
Winner B Grade: Dale Wyhoon 40 points.
NTPs: first Paul Hopkins, 10th Barry Kerr and 13th Wayne Knights.
Saturday, September 13:
Sponsor: Tim Fowles.
Par: 45 players.
Winner A Grade: Malcolm Garnham +5.
Winner B Grade: Brae Byrne +4.
NTPs: first Mat Wrigley, seventh Ian Gibson, 10th Paul Hopkins and 13th Murray Webb.

Ladies

FOURTEEN women played a Stableford game.
Congratulations to Shelley Snooks (16) winning with 34 points on a c/b from Kim Enbom (28).
BDTL went to Julie Hillberg (22) with 27 points on a c/b from Trudy Olden (29).
NTPs: first Merrissa Cosson (Kelly's Bakery), seventh (second shot) Karen Sorrell and closest on the 13th Barb Twite.
The nine-hole competition had four women play and the winner with 10 points was Viv Enbom.
Saturday women played a Par event.
Well done to Gail Beer, winning with a -3 and nearest the pin on the 13th green.
Runner-up was Shelley Snooks with -6 and also a NTP on first green to win the Kelly's Bakery voucher.
BDTL went to Trudi Mantell with -8 and was nearest the pin on the seventh (second shot).
This Wednesday, the club will have its Golf Vic Event the 'Doris Chambers Foursomes'.
Please organise your partner and entry online is now open with a shotgun start at 9am.

LEONGATHA

Tuesday, September 2: Stableford.
Tuesday was a Stableford event with a field of 72 members/guests on course for the first round of spring.

Overall winner: John Ryan (11) with 37 points on a countback.
A Grade winner: John Ryan (11) with 37 points.
A Grade runner-up: Conor Hosking (14) with 35 points.
B Grade winner: Jeffrey Brewer (19) with 37 points.
B Grade runner-up: Phillip Edwards (18) with 35 points on a countback.
C Grade winner: Trevor Moss (31) with 37 points.
C Grade runner-up: Gary Sharrock (20) with 36 points.
NTP fifth second shot: Antony Gedye (8) at 1.80m.
NTP 14th: David Richards (16) at 1.36m.
NTP 16th: Rod MacKenzie (11) at 1.62m.
Thursday, September 4: Stroke.
Thursday's event was a Stroke round, which is not the usual competition for midweek events with 42 members/guests hitting off with a shotgun start only to be cancelled shortly after with horrific wintry conditions causing the end of play for the morning.
Saturday, September 6: Monthly Medal Stroke Event.
The first Saturday round of spring was the monthly medal stroke event with 65 members/guests entering the competition.
Overall winner: Michael Thomas (2) with a net score of 71 on a countback, with an excellent round of 73 off the stick
A Grade winner: Michael Thomas (2) with a net score of 71 on a countback
Grade runner-up: Alan Starkey (11) with a net score of 71.
B Grade winner: Gordon Morrison (16) with a net score 74 on a countback.
B Grade runner-up: Ken Smirk (16) with a net score 74 on a countback.
C Grade winner: Russell Pentland (22) with a net score 73.
C Grade runner-up: Rene Zeller (25) with a net score 74.
NTP fifth second shot: Alan Starkey (17) at 1.30m.
NTP 14th: Gordon Morrison (16) at 2.36m.
NTP 16th: Adrian Banks (29) at 2.73m.
Tuesday, September 9: Stableford.
Tuesday's Stableford round had 51 members/guests entering the competition.
Overall winner: Nicholas Byrne (12) with a runaway high score of the day with an excellent 39 points.
A Grade winner: Nicholas Byrne (12) with 39 points.
A Grade runner-up: Jeffrey Brewer (18) with 32 points on a

countback.
B Grade winner: Donald Smith (19) with 34 points.
B Grade runner-up: Russell Pentland (20) with 32 points.
NTP fifth second shot: Craig Hutchinson (4) at 2.23m.
NTP 14th: Philip Edwards (18) at 4.00m.
NTP 16th: Philip Edwards (18) at 2.43m.
Thursday, September 11: Punjabi Pantry Stableford Event.
Thursday was a special day for Leongatha Golf Club with the new sponsorship of the day by Punjabi Pantry Indian Restaurant.
The members appreciated their voucher gifts for all grades.
This Stableford round had 68 members/guests hitting off with a shotgun start.
A Grade winner: Ken Smirk (15) with 37 points on a countback.
A Grade runner-up: Christopher Leaver (8) with 37 points.
B Grade winner: David Forbes (19) with 32 points.
B Grade runner-up: Jeffrey Brewer (18) with 30 points on a countback.
C Grade winner: Peter Hartigan (22) with 32 points on a countback.
C Grade runner-up: Russell Pentland (21) with 32 points.
NTP fifth second shot: Michael West (7) at 3.19m.
NTP 14th: Adrian Banks (28) at 2.40m.
NTP 16th: Christopher Leaver (8) at 2.90m.
Saturday, September 13: A.E. Ebney 4BBB Par Event.
Saturday's event was a 4BBB Par round with the excellent sponsorship by the Ebney family with 91 members/guests entering the competition.
1. Ian and Scott Blencowe with a score of +7 on a countback.
2. Grant Richards and Mark Anderson with a score of +7.
3. Susan Bowler and Kay Dumbleton with a score of +6.
Great score by Bruce Williams with a hole-in-one on the seventh hole.
NTP fifth second shot: Nicholas Byrne at 2.65m.
NTP 14th: Nicholas Byrne at 1.15m.
NTP 16th: Ian Blencowe at 4.20m.

Ladies

TWENTY-SIX women competed in the September Monthly Medal last week.
A further eight players elected to play Stableford and eight

enjoyed a nine-hole Stableford competition.
The Monthly Medal was won by Joc Howson – her third win in three weeks.
Joc finished with 104/29/75 net.
Marianne Leaver was the runner-up with 76 net.
The best score in the 18-hole Stableford competition was Maryanne Gartner with 30 points.
Karen Orford won the nine-hole competition with an excellent 20 points.
Balls down the line went to 81 net: Sue Bowler, Fay Guilford, Viv French, Anna de Bondt, Trish Owen and Dot Stubbs.
Viv French was closest to the pin second shot on the fifth, Anna de Bondt on the 14th and Fran Kearney on the 16th.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, September 9: Stableford.
A Grade: T. Leggo (14) 36 points.
B Grade: D. Taylor (22) 35 points.
DTL: N. Baker 34, G. Shandley and S. Woodall 32.
NTP: fourth M. Thompson, sixth G. Shandley, 13th M. Payne and 16th D. Taylor.
Saturday, September 13: Par.
A Grade: N. Bickerton (9) 6up.
B Grade: G. Dawson (14) sq.
C Grade: D. Felmingham (22) two up.
DTL: S. Woodall +3, T. Baker, P. Woodall, S. Beitz +1, R. Clark and A. Lappin sq.
NTP: fourth N. Baker, sixth W. Hubbert, 13th N. Bickerton and 16th S. Woodall.
Birdies: fourth N. Baker and T. Baker, 13th S. Woodall, and 16th S. Woodall and W. Hubbert.
Eagles: B. Scott, 11th hole.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: September 11, SR. 71.
Competition: Stableford 18-hole.
Winner: Stephen Kane 37.
Runner up: Glenn Hewlett 35.
Ball sweep: Ian Johnson 33 and Rod Bride 32.
Eagle: Rod McBride 11th.
Results: September 11, SR. 34.5.
Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.
Winner: Graham Ryan 18.
Ball DTL: Bob Cornelis 17.
Results: September 13, S.R 71.
Competition: Stableford.
A Grade: Mat Johnson 37.
B Grade: Jim Jordan 35.
C Grade: Martin Jays 40.
Balls down the line to 34: Brad

Andrew 36, Harrison Jays 36, Peter Thomson 35, Kevin Jamieson 35, Rohan Todd 35, Shaun Stirton 34, Ross Lovett 34 and Paul Cornelis 34.
NTPs: Ian Baker second, Allan McLean fourth, Mat Johnson propin eighth and Simon O'Halloran 13th.
Coming events:
September 27: AFL Grand Final Day 9am shotgun start.
October 5: Equal Opportunity Mixed.
October 19: J&P Martin Club Mixed Foursomes.
November 4: Melbourne Cup Day Ambrose 9am shotgun start.
November 9: Wonthaggi Hospital Charity Day.

Ladies

FOURSOMES – pick a mate to play with because you know things could get ugly.
Wednesday was a qualifying round for the Board Foursomes event, played by 13 pairs with the top four pairs to advance to match play knockouts.
While the scores were “quite large” it was mainly due to the course now wet underfoot, making the conditions much harder.
The winning teams were Marg Ryan and Patsy Britt 80.5 by countback to Marg Johnson and Anne Tschiderer.
Other qualifiers were Bev Sloan and Kaylene Hodgetts 82.5, and Jenny McRae and Donna Brosnan 83.5.
Also receiving BDL were Geraldine Prentice and Carole Sartori 86.5, Irene Walsh and Pam Hanley 87, and Andrea Grenville and Lisa Brusamarello 88.
NTP claimed on the day was by Kaylene Hodgetts on the 13th and 17th.

WOORAYL

Ladies

THE ladies played Stableford on Wednesday, sponsored by Suck It Up.
Thirteen ladies played, one being a visitor from Foster Golf Club.
The conditions were cold and overcast.
A Grade's winner with 33 points was visitor Kylie Collins.
B Grade's winner with 32 points was Tracey Ryan.
BDL: Ann Poole 31 points, Jo Fennell 30 points and Joan Smith 29 points.
NTP: eighth Kylie Collins, 11th Jean Hayes and 17th Kath Davis.

Phillip Island Tenpin

RESULTS: Phantom – week four: First place Herdy Gerdy on 102 points; second place Spin King on 101 points; third place Noddy on 97 points.

2scompany – week eight: First place on 16 points Jail; second place on 15 points Him N Her; third place on 14 points King Pins.

ABL – week eight: First place on 106 points Just Bowl Already; second place on 98 points The Fireballs; third place on 95.5 points Fairlanes.

Business Early: First place on 14 points Turkey Slappers; second place on 14 points Old Timers; third place on 14 points Balls Deep; fourth place on 14 points Woolly Rollers.

Business Late: First place on 18.5 points S&R Clarke Auto; second place on 15 points Balls Of Fury; third place on 14 points The Ex Men; fourth place on 12 points City Lights.

Top scores for this week across each league. Men: 211 Matthew Clarke, 199 Justin Porthouse, 188 Jack Ross and 166 Bob Jolly. Woman: 162 Mary Dardha, 160 Penny Wolswinkel, 145 Kerri Lambert and 113 Jackie.

Double Fish continue its table tennis dominance

ROUND eight of 14: Double Fish defeated Radak three to two.

The Doubles match was the difference again for top of the table Double Fish, scraping through in a tight and tense six-setter. The cohesion and chemistry of Double Fish's Leanne and her molecular teammate combined like hydrogen and oxygen to douse Radak's gallant Fred and Warren.

Donic defeated Nittaku three to two.

Donic's Dirk and Michael, showing off their Dutch wares, were like an orange tsunami overwhelming Nittaku's Braden and Michael in the doubles encounter, keeping Donic's finals hopes alive.

Stiga defeated Andro four to one.

Stiga's Tim and Trish, bandana and belligerence adorning their style like Bonnie and Clyde, pilfering points with stealth and bravado, proving their credentials as a contender.

In tribute to well-suited nicknames, Andro's Yeti's survivalist vibe and forestry fashion is as perfect as the well-predicted Blues for 21st Century Carlton.

Butterfly had the bye.

Ladder: Double Fish 28; Stiga 20; Nittaku 16; Andro 12; Donic 8; Radak 4; Butterfly 4.

Leading Players: Braden and Brad 10; David and Tim nine.

Darts League launches Spring Competition

THE Phillip Island and Districts Darts League officially began its spring competition on Monday evening, with six teams taking to the oche at the local darts centre.

The season opener drew a strong turnout of members, each eager to test their skills after the off-season.

Players displayed impressive form, with several fine scores and precise peg-outs highlighting the night's matches.

The honours went to the team of Paul, Marilyn, Alby and Vince, who emerged victorious in the evening's event.

A special mention must go to Bob, who produced one of the night's most memorable performances.

He scored a maximum 180 and later claimed the popular meat tray raffle, kindly sponsored by Des and the team at San Remo Butchers.

League organisers have reminded participants that games will continue next Monday, with arrivals required between 7pm and 7.15pm to ensure inclusion in the night's competition.

The spring season promises to deliver plenty of exciting darts and spirited camaraderie in the weeks ahead.



Victoria Racing Club consultant historian Andrew Lemon holds the 2025 Melbourne Cup, accompanied by Stony Creek Racing Club committee members and members of Stony Creek Riding Club Rebecca Parker with Boyzee and Carolyn DeGaris with Finn.

Melbourne Cup rides into South Gippsland

By Andrew Palocz

THE Melbourne Cup visited Stony Creek Racecourse on Sunday before making its way to Meeniyan Town Hall, where enthusiastic community members enjoyed being photographed with the famous trophy.

They heard about its interesting history and that of the race that stops the nation, Victorian Racing Club consultant historian Andrew Lemon on hand to outline a little of the Melbourne Cup story and answer people's questions.

The event was part of the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour, and while Andrew has travelled widely on such tours in past years, the journey from Stony Creek Racecourse to Meeniyan is the first time he can remember the prestigious trophy travelling by tractor.

With the current price of gold, the solid gold Cup is valued at \$850,000.

Interestingly, the Melbourne Cup was known by that name from the outset, inspired by an English handicap race called the Chester Cup, but there was no cup presented to the winner.

Andrew dashed the story that a gold watch was awarded when Archer won the first Melbourne Cup race in 1861, along with the tall tale that the horse walked from NSW for the race, the eventual two-time winner actually travelling by ship.

While various trophies were



Andrew Lemon and Jason Benbow are ready to share the Melbourne Cup with community members in Meeniyan after its arrival at the Town Hall by tractor.

eventually awarded to the Melbourne Cup winner, it wasn't until 1919 that the current style of Cup was first presented.

Andrew fondly recalled for the audience his first memories of the big race in 1969 when Rain Lover secured back-to-back Melbourne Cup victories, saying "I fell for the magic of the Cup that day."

Stony Creek Racing Club president Jason Benbow relished his time on stage

chatting with Andrew and learning more about the trophy and the race, the Melbourne Cup having been a driving force in his career as a jockey.

Jason recalled the heartbreak of his near misses when he appeared set for a start in the nation's most prestigious race only for a trainer's decision or a mishap to intervene.

While he never quite got a

start, he is still swept up in the magic of the event, believing the first running of the race he saw was in 1996, the winner that year the Bart Cummings-trained Saintly.

Stony Creek Racing Club committee members were delighted to host the Melbourne Cup visit and share it with the community, attendees savouring CWA scones and a cuppa as they chatted about their memorable day.

Volunteer Marissa clocks up her 25th Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun

THE 259th Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun attracted 22 cheerful participants on Saturday, including a few faces that haven't been seen for a while and a welcome group of visitors from Newborough.

Four amazing participants achieved their personal best, which can be a great motivator, just like the regular parkrun milestones. Marissa Shields got to wear the purple cape in recognition of 25 volunteering efforts.

The volunteers who made the event happen this week were Shirley Buckley, Julia Groves, Dave Knowles, Alan

McKenzie, Carmel Quirk, Marissa Shields, Val Smith and Linda Zhang.

With the spring sunshine finally starting to peek through the eucalypt forest on the Grand Ridge Rail Trail, the parkrun is an excellent reason to text your mates and tell them you'll meet them on the trail just before 8am next Saturday.

The Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun is a free, timed five kilometre walk/jog/run open to all ages and abilities. For more information look for Grand Ridge Rail Trail on Facebook.



Marissa helps out for the 25th time at the Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun in Mirboo North.

Gippsland Soccer League Senior Presentation Night

ON FRIDAY, September 12, the Gippsland Soccer League held their annual Senior Presentation Night at The Wonthaggi Club Clubhouse. Representatives from all nine clubs, as well as the GSL life members, FV referees, and the GSL Board and staff, were among the over 130 attendees who celebrated the 2025 season.

Every year, this is a great opportunity to mingle with the other clubs. After the formalities of the awards were completed, the band “AlgoRhythm Trio” turned up the speakers and played the night away.

The following awards were presented:

2025 League Champions:

- Under 12B Mixed – Drouin Dragons White
- Under 12A Mixed – P-Island Breakers
- Under 12 Girls – Phillip Island Breakers
- Under 14 Mixed – Wonthaggi United
- Under 15 Girls – Drouin Dragons Yellow
- Under 17 Mixed – Drouin Dragons Maroon
- Mens Reserves – Phillip Island Breakers
- Senior Womens – Phillip Island Breakers
- Senior Mens – Phillip Island Breakers

2025 Golden Boot (Leading Goal Scorer)

- Mens Reserves – Angus Reed (Phillip Island Breakers)
- Senior Womens – Kelly Wall (Phillip Island Breakers)
- Senior Mens – Hayden Smith (Korumburra City) and Logan Winter (Trafalgar Victory)

2025 GSL Club of the Year

– Drouin Dragons Soccer Club

2025 Best & Fairest

- Mens Reserves – Christopher Tigas (Trafalgar Victory)
- Senior Womens – Naomi Eaton (Leongatha Knights)
- Senior Mens – Joris Kerstens (Phillip Island Breakers)



Reserves Golden Boot (Angus Reed) and Womens Golden Boot (Kelly Wall). Photos: Morgan Fisher Photography.



The 2025 Senior Mens League Champions trophy was presented to Daren Dempsey of Phillip Island Soccer Club.



Womens B&F Naomi Eaton and Mens B&F Joris Kerstens.



Mens Golden Boot (Hayden Smith and Logan Winter).

Goannas begin their return to cricket

SOMETHING new is happening in Veterans' cricket. Firstly, a name change – Veterans Cricket Australia has become Cricket Australia Masters.

The reasoning behind the change appears to be a concern that the term veteran is more commonly associated with returned Servicemen/women, rather than just old people.

It is not yet clear whether affiliated State Associations will follow suit.

Secondly, National Championships will now be conducted at every five-year age group. It is only post-COVID that there was a National Over 70 Championship, separate from the Over 60s. Now there will be National Championships at Over 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75, and Over 40 Women.

The National Over 70 Championships have recently been held on the Sunshine Coast.

When in this location they are usually held in late August, while most others will take place in November.

Later this month there will be a “Global ‘Spirit of Cricket’ Festival”, played at Mildura when teams reportedly from around the world will play games against each other at both Over 50 and Over 55 level.

Gippsland Goannas' Anthony Bloomfield has been selected to represent The Australian Over 50 team at this carnival – go Bloomy.

Goannas' Ian Gibson (wicketkeeper), Ray Smith (batsman) and Ian Southall (bowler) all played in the No. 1 Victorian team at the recent Over 70 Championships held on the Sunshine Coast.

Neil Meredith was selected for the No. 2 team, which was also in Division 1 and the two Victorian teams played off for third and fourth in the finals.

The No. 1 team triumphed, but Meredith was named No. 2 team's best player in the final, making 22 runs opening the batting and bowling his 9 overs, taking 1/14.

His wicket was Ray Smith, caught and bowled for 22. Smith made 70 runs in the four games, Gibson had four victims as 'keeper, Southall took six wickets and Meredith scored 46 runs and took two wickets.

Gordon Cowling played in the Victorian four team in Division 2, taking four wickets for the week and making 33x in the final against ACT2.

Bob Duljas played in the Victorian sixth and seventh teams in Division 3, batting in two of the games and bowled two overs in the final.

The other National Championship games will be played at the following venues:

- Over-40: Adelaide, Jan. 31 to Feb. 5.
- Over-50: Brisbane, Nov. 22 to 27.
- Over-55: Busselton WA, Nov. 15 to 20.
- Over-60: Illawarra, NSW, Nov. 8 to 13.
- Over-65: Christchurch, NZ, Nov. 22 to 27.
- Over-75: Albury, Nov. 24 to 27.
- Over-40 Women: Perth, Nov. 8 to 13.

Teams have not been selected as yet, but several Goannas have put their names in for the various squads, from Over 50 to Over 75.

The regular season will start for Goannas teams on the first weekend in October.

Wonthaggi United U12 girls storm into season decider



Celebrations as the U12 girls secure their ticket to the grand final. Pictured are Ella Coyne and Hannah Taylor.

THE Wonthaggi United Soccer Club U12 girls have booked their spot in the grand final after a brilliant 6–2 win over Lang Lang on Sunday at the Trafalgar Recreation Precinct.

The game didn't start in our favour, with Lang Lang striking early with a strong, well-placed goal. The girls stayed composed, stuck to their structure, and worked their way back into the match. Their persistence paid off just before the half time break, slotting home the equaliser to make it 1–1 at halftime.

After some smart coaching changes and a rousing halftime talk, the team came out firing. With renewed energy and confidence, they slammed home three quick goals in the opening minutes of the second half, leaving Lang Lang stunned. From there, the girls never looked back. Two more goals followed in a dominant display of attacking soccer, with only one more conceded late in the game. Special shout out to Skylah who held up the goalkeeping role all day. Final score: 6–2.

It was a superb all-round team effort – from solid defending and relentless midfield running, to sharp finishing up front. Every player played their part in this well-deserved victory, showing resilience, teamwork, and belief.

Now it's on to the grand final – and the girls are ready! Fingers crossed a home ground advantage will get them across the line.

If you are interested in supporting the Wonthaggi Girls, for the first time the Gippsland Soccer League Grand Final Carnival will be held at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve on Sunday, September 21.

CRICKETERS WANTED



OVER 60S & OVER 70S

Contact: Rob Francis
Phone: 0417 121 619
SOUTH GIPPSLAND
VETERANS CC Inc.



Lady Knights Senior Womens team is heading into the grand finals this weekend for the fourth year in a row.

Gippsland Soccer League Grand Final

THIS Sunday is the Gippsland Soccer League Grand Final. Hosted by Wonthaggi United Soccer Club supported by the Bass Coast Shire, it is going to be a great day with nine matches played across three pitches. The first kick off is the Under 12 Girls at 9.30am, and the final match of the day is the Senior Men kicking off at 3pm. MDR Digital Images will once again be live streaming the three senior matches. Check out the Gippsland Soccer League Facebook page for the link.

Come along and support the teams. The canteen will be open. There is a \$5 gate entry fee for adults, U18s free entry.

GIPPSLAND SOCCER LEAGUE

SEMI FINAL 2 RESULTS - SUN, SEP 14

- SENIOR Mens:**
Trafalgar Victory 4 d Korumburra City 2
- Senior Womens:**
L'gatha Knights 2 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 1
- Mens Reserves:**
Inverloch Stars 2 d Trafalgar Victory 0
- Under 17 Mixed:**
L'gatha Knights Blue 3 d P-Island Breakers 1
- Under 15 Girls:**
P-Island Breakers 3 d Wonthaggi United 2
- Under 14 Mixed:**
P-Island Breakers 4 d Drouin Maroon Yellow 3
- Under 12 Girls:**
Wonthaggi United 6 d Lang Lang United 2
- Under 12A Mixed:**
Drouin Maroon 4 d L'gatha Knights Blue 1
- Under 12B Mixed:**
P-Island Penguins 4 d P-Island Stingrays 2

GRAND FINALS - SUN, SEP 21 AT WONTHAGGI REC. RESERVE

- Senior Mens:**
Leongatha Knights v Trafalgar Victory
- Senior Womens:**
Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights
- Mens Reserves:**
Phillip Island Breakers v Inverloch Stars
- Under 17 Mixed:**
Drouin Dragons Maroon v
Leongatha Knights Blue
- Under 15 Girls:**
Drouin Dragons Yellow v P-Island Breakers
- Under 14 Mixed:**
Wonthaggi United v Phillip Island Breakers
- Under 12 Girls:**
Phillip Island Breakers v Wonthaggi United
- Under 12A Mixed:**
P-Island Breakers v Drouin Dragons Maroon
- Under 12B Mixed:**
Drouin Dragons White v P-Island Penguins

Lady Knights secure fourth consecutive Grand Final bout

GIPPSLAND Soccer League's second week of knock out semi-finals was hosted by Trafalgar Victory under glorious spring sunshine. The Senior Women's second versus third on the ladder fixture saw Leongatha Knights FC face off against Drouin Dragons SC in the second last game of the day. With both teams claiming a win against the other over the regular season, this promised to be a match of note.

Leongatha won the advantage of the wind in the coin toss and put good use to it with a sustained period of attack on Drouin's defensive line. Midfielders Jordan Rinotule and captain Bernie Fitzgerald served solid through balls for the attacking line made up of recently awarded GSL B&F Naomi Eaton, Lisse Bath, Amaya Sande and Lauren Cain. Though there were several promising shots on goals, it was Bath's through pass to super substitute Emma Harvey that saw Harvey beat her defender and secure the first goal of the match with a tidy strike under the Drouin goal keeper's hands to thunderous applause.

The Knights entered half time with the advantage but knew the second half would be a test as they fought against the wind.

Drouin came out strong with a well-timed pass from their mid-field playing their winger into a top left bin strike that secured the equaliser. Despite the wind, the possession of play was relatively even for the second half, with the Knights making some great breakthrough runs.

It was a superb corner delivered by Eaton that found the head of Drouin's centre back who in error sent the ball into the net for an own goal.

The Knights defensive line held tight, holding onto the advantage. Shortly after the final whistle blew sending the Leongatha Knights Senior Women's team through to the grand final for the fourth year in a row.



Leongatha Senior Women's captain Bernie Fitzgerald battles for possession against Drouin midfielder Savannah.



Leongatha's Noah Bowman takes possession of the ball with support from U17s teammate Heath Clifford.



Toora's 15 & Under side prevailed by two goals in its Grand Final clash with Yinnar. Back Row: Charlee MacPherson, Summer Walsh (coach), Evie Stone, Willow Butinar, Jade Latham (coach), Jaimee Boyd, Hazel Stone, and Abbey Best. Front Row: Abbey Lees, Zaira Walsh, Scarlett Dubignon and Tess Hollier. A12_3725



Tess Hollier of Toora was best on court in the 15 & Under Grand Final win over Yinnar. A13_3725



Aleeah Munnich of Boolarra was best on court in the 17 & Under Grand Final against MDU. A18_3725



2025 C Grade Premiers – MDU, from left, back, Jaslin Kelly (team manager), Tegan Renden, Ruby Mackie, Natalie Rayson (coach), Ayla Lafferty, Ebony Dean, Madi Johnston, Jade McRae, Tahlia Lafferty, and Hannah McMahon. Front, Zara McKenzie, Laura Wightman, Jodie Arnup, Nick Arnup, and Brooke Jones (team manager). C10_3725



The incredible MDU coaches C Grade Natalie Rayson and A Grade Jasmin Friend with their 2025 winning trophies. C17_3725



Jodie Arnup celebrates with Natalie Rayson (coach) after securing the C Grade premiership for MDU. C51_3725



Emma Watkins celebrates Fish Creek's B Grade win on Saturday. C13_3725



MDU's A Grade coach Jasmin Friend and son Bohdi celebrate the win. C19_3725



2025 B Grade Premiers – Fish Creek, from left, back, Fiona McPhee, Hayley Bourke, Haley Watkins, Ella Schauble, Lauren Gale, Maddi Carew (coach), Beth Pratt, Jasmine Manne (captain), Emma Watkins, and Katie Hamilton. Front, Grace Berryman, Nadia Wallace, and Ellen Sorrell. C11_3725



Lillyca White and Ruby Marks celebrate MDU's A Grade win. C14_3725



Kirra Jones takes a moment to celebrate her premiership and Grand Final Best on Court win with nanna Dolly. C16_3725



2025 A Grade Premier – MDU, from left, back, Emma Winsor, Pallas Lamers, Lillyca White (co-captain), Kirra Jones (co-captain and Best on Court), Alahna Arnason, Jasmin Friend (coach), Darlene Jones (team manager). Front, Lauryn Eyre-Walker, Sienna Musili, Shari Harris and Rahni Matheson. C12_3725



A Grade co-captain Kirra Jones, and team manager Darlene Jones celebrate the win with family. C20_3725



Standing room only at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve as Poowong falls short by just eight points in the Ellinbank & District League 15 & Under Grand Final. Nicola Fort takes a shot at goal. Photo: Jeff Tull.



Missed opportunity for Catani as Imogen Ware intercepts a pass for Poowong in a tight Ellinbank & District League 15 & Under Grand Final at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve. Photo: Jeff Tull.



Poowong's Mia Wilson takes control of the ball under pressure from Catani in the 15 & Under Grand Final at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve. Photo: Jeff Tull.



Foster's Madeline Stewart leaps for an unsuccessful rebound from Alahna Arnason, who lands the second shot in goal. C35_3725



Fish Creek's Hayley Bourke was sensational on the court, zipping around throughout the match. C38_3725



Absolute joy as the siren sounds on the B Grade grand final. Fish Creek's Beth Pratt and Ella Schauble celebrate. C41_3725



Ella Rendell pivots as she lines up another goal for Foster in the A Grade Grand Final. C33_3725



Zara McKenzie attempts to distract her Yinnar opponent in MDU's C Grade Grand Final win. C43_3725



Goal attack Ebony Dean lands another goal for MDU. C46_3725



Alison Snell lines up another goal in Mirboo North's D Grade Grand Final clash. C50_3725

RESULTS

ELLINBANK

Grand Final - Trafalgar (Sat, Sept. 13)
A Grade: Neerim South 63 d Nilma Darnum 51
B Grade: Neerim South 28 lt Ellinbank 36
C Grade: Ellinbank 50 d Trafalgar 35
17 & Under: Longwarry 39 d Lang Lang 35
15 & Under: Catani 33 d Poowong 25
13 & Under: Lang Lang 29 d Buln Buln 18

MID GIPPSLAND

Grand Final - Yinnar (Sat, Sept. 13)
A Grade: Foster 41 lt MDU 55
B Grade: Foster 50 lt Fish Creek 61
C Grade: Yinnar 25 lt MDU 42
D Grade: Yinnar 29 d Mirboo North 21
17 & Under: MDU 37 lt Boolarra 50
15 & Under: Toora 24 d Yinnar 22
13 & Under: Yinnar 28 d Newborough 13

GIPPSLAND

Preliminary Final - Sale (Sat, Sept. 13)
A Grade: Moe 75 d Morwell 53
B Grade: Wonthaggi 52 d Traralgon 35
C Grade: Wonthaggi 39 d Leongatha 38
17 & Under: Traralgon 26 lt Leongatha 27
15 & Under: Sale 36 d Moe 30
13 & Under: Leongatha 32 d Traralgon 22

WEST GIPPSLAND

Preliminary Final - Dalyston (Sat, Sept. 13)
A Grade: Nar Nar Goon 46 d Tooradin-Dal 45
B Grade: Tooradin-Dalmore 41 d Cora Lynn 33
C Grade: Garfield 43 d Nar Nar Goon 36
D Grade: Cora Lynn 21 lt Koo Wee Rup 22
17 & Under: NNG 49 lt Phillip Island 51
15 & Under: Nar Nar Goon 29 lt Cora Lynn 40
13 & Under: Tooradin-Dal 21 d NNG 12
11 & Under: Garfield 25 d Koo Wee Rup 22

THIS WEEKEND'S GAMES

GIPPSLAND

Grand Final - Morwell (Sat, Sept. 20)
A Grade: Warragul v Moe
B Grade: Leongatha v Wonthaggi
C Grade: Morwell v Wonthaggi
17 & Under: Bairnsdale v Leongatha
15 & Under: Traralgon v Sale
13 & Under: Sale v Leongatha

WEST GIPPSLAND

Grand Final - Garfield (Sat, Sept. 20)
A Grade: Korumburra-Bena v Nar Nar Goon
B Grade: Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin-Dalmore
C Grade: Cora Lynn v Garfield
D Grade: Nar Nar Goon v Koo Wee Rup
17 & Under: Cora Lynn v Phillip Island
15 & Under: Tooradin-Dalmore v Cora Lynn
13 & Under: Cora Lynn v Tooradin-Dalmore
11 & Under: Cora Lynn v Garfield

Gripping finals match as MDU secure second cup of the day

IN A gripping contest that swung from end to end, MDU netballers stormed home to claim victory over Foster in their grand final clash, finishing 55-41 after a blistering final term.

The opening quarter set the tone – fast, physical, and tight on the scoreboard. Foster wrestled back the lead in the dying minutes to hold a slender 12-11 advantage at quarter time.

The second term saw both sides locked in a near goal-for-goal battle, with neither prepared to give an inch. It wasn't until the closing

stages that MDU broke away, building a six-goal buffer with defensive pressure that forced turnovers and rewarded their shooters.

The intensity lifted again in the third quarter, where MDU's defensive wall stood tall. Foster's frustrations showed, with a player sent from the court for two minutes following repeated warnings for dangerous play. Still, Foster clung on, keeping within striking distance heading into the last break.

But the final quarter belonged entirely to MDU,

as the sun came out. Goal shooter, Alahna Arnason was unstoppable under the post, combining accuracy with composure to punish every opportunity. Foster lifted their pace and managed to slot a few late goals between Brylee Angwin and Ella Rendell, but MDU's relentless drive and earlier lead meant, with continued determination, Foster was behind on the chase.

Coach Jasmin Friend was full of praise for her side's effort across the finals series.

"We've had a great time in the finals. Thank you to the

umpires – we've had great umpiring throughout.

"There's not a lot I can say that the girls haven't said on the court over the finals series... You are amazing, and I think you girls have earned it this year. It's a pleasure to coach you."

"A big thank you to MDU's supporters for all the support you have given throughout the finals series," Darlene Jones and Jasmin Friend added after the match.

Whilst Foster's seniors had a win, it wasn't Foster's day on the courts, losing both B and A grade in close matches.



Olivia Holmes rises to defend Nar Nar Goon's goal attempt. Photos: Bec Casey Sports Photography.

Island survives epic thriller

PHILLIP Island's Under 17s pulled off a thrilling overtime victory in the Preliminary Final, outlasting Nar Nar Goon 51 - 49 in what was one of the toughest and most physical games of the season.

From the outset, it was goal for goal, with neither side able to break away. By the final siren, the scores were locked, sending the contest into overtime. The Islanders dug deep, showing grit and composure to seize control when it mattered most and booked their place in the Grand Final.

In goals, Aisha Hibbert was outstanding, holding strong under immense defensive pressure and sinking crucial shots when the game was on the line. Ava supported smartly in goal shooter, and Adelle came on in the last quarter at goal attack, adding fresh energy and movement in the circle. Ellie directed play through the centre with composure, while Piper brought her usual pace and drive. Macy contributed in wing attack with steady feeds to the shooters.

Down back, Olivia was fierce in goal defence, contesting everything, while Jasira and Kate combined to put Nar Nar Goon's shooters under real heat. Isla also came on in wing defence, working tirelessly to close down the drive and applying extra pressure in the midcourt.

It was a gutsy, all-in performance that showed Phillip Island's heart and determination to keep their season alive.



Wonthaggi C Grade centre, Jess Tiziani, tries to find a way through the traffic in midcourt during a hectic run to the line against Leongatha on Saturday.



Wonthaggi goal attack Courtney Blair looks to drive the ball forward during a physical display by Power in Saturday's B Grade Preliminary Final at Sale.



Wonthaggi's Libby Hutchinson passes into the Power's C Grade shooter Brigette Tack, who goaled superbly under extra-time pressure on Saturday.



Leongatha Under 17 goal attack looks to work the ball into a better position during a thrilling game against Traralgon on Saturday.



KORUMBURRA BENA A GRADE NETBALLERS

Korumburra Bena v Nar Nar Goon in the West Gippsland Competition Grand Final on Saturday, September 20 at Garfield



Mackenna Whiteside
GS
A versatile goaler who delivers consistent accuracy under any conditions. Kenna plays with maturity beyond her years.



Elisha Nicholas
GA
Fit and fast, Elisha has really grown into her role this year. Her defensive pressure as a goaler sets her apart from the rest.



Ash Cuff
WA (captain)
The Giants captain sets the standards for the team. Ash's excellent leadership and vision for the goalers can make a huge impact.



Chelsea Fox
C
Chels can run all day and will disrupt the opposition's attacking end with her defensive skills.



Annalise O'Halloran
WD
Anna brings a fearless, never-back-down attitude to every contest. Her relentless defensive pressure and speed make her a threat.



Felicity Fox
WA/C/WD
Our most versatile midcourter brings strength and composure and can make an impact in any position. Fizz is an integral part of the team.



Gemma Dixon
GD (coach)
Gem's anticipation can influence a game and makes her a challenging prospect for opposing teams.



Fiona Burns
GK
Fi brings a wealth of knowledge and calmness to our young group. She has the ability to shut down any player with her IQ and skill.



Caitlin McDonald
WD/GK
The ultimate teammate. Cait has a team first attitude and brings strength and physicality to the defensive end.



Sophie Thomas
GK/GS
A hard-working player who has a strong presence at either end of the court. Soph's height and competitiveness can be a threat to any team.



Kate Attenborough
(Coach)
Kate has a passion to bring out the best in every player, and will always back the girls in, no matter what.



2025 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE



Wonthaggi's Courtney Young has emerged with the best and fairest award after the counting of votes in the Gippsland League B Grade Netball last Sunday.

Parrots and Power feature in netball awards

JUST as Wonthaggi and Leongatha went neck and neck in a nail-biting C Grade Preliminary Final, going into extra time at Sale on Saturday, before the Power girls got up by one goal, the contest for individual honours was just as hot in the league vote counting on Sunday.

While Leongatha's Ben Harding claimed the Trood Award and Rodda Medal in the seniors football and Renee Nobelius the corresponding medal in the A Grade netball, Leongatha and Wonthaggi players figured strongly in the other netball grades.

In the C Grade award, two Leongatha players Georgia Maskell and Kate McCarthy shared the award on 22 votes, with Kate claiming best-on-court votes in the last round of the season to catch her teammate at the last moment.

Wonthaggi's Elise De Santis 21 and Bec Farrell 19 had been right up there throughout with Elise claiming best votes in Round 15 and 16, but neither player collected votes in the last two rounds.

In the B Grade count, some of Courtney Young's main competition came from teammate Jess Blair who scored two votes in the last round to close to within one vote of Young, before Courtney clinched the win with three votes in that same game against Moe, winning by three from the Lions' Elise Demczuk, Young 28, Demczuk 25 and Blair 24.

Other local success came in the Under 13 netball where Finlay Bradley claimed the league's best award.

In other results, Tye Hourigan of Traralgon was the season's MVP and Sienna Green of Warragul the MVP in A Grade netball.

Parrots and Power in seven grand finals

ON A DAY when 20 teams play off for premiership glory in the Gippsland League, at Morwell this Saturday, the local clubs Leongatha and Wonthaggi will be well represented with eight teams featuring in seven of the day's 10 grand finals.

The neighbouring rivals only meet each other in one of those games, the eagerly anticipated B Grade Grand Final starting at 1.30pm.

The teams have traded wins during the season, Leongatha convincing winners early in the year and again in the Qualifying Final, but Wonthaggi got them at home, 39-38, indicating the contest could go either way, with the Parrots slight favourites.

But the Power has two of the highest-voting players in the league this year, best award winner Courtney Young and Jess Blair to call on, with much to play for.

Local interest starts early with the Leongatha Under 13s opening the day against Sale at 8.30am, the Leongatha Thirds up against Maffra at 10.30am and then Wonthaggi in the C Grade netball grand final at 11am.

At 12.30pm it's Leongatha versus Traralgon in the Reserves' grand final and at 1.30pm, Leongatha and Wonthaggi in the B Grade, as the perfect appetiser for the big senior football grand final starting at 2.30pm featuring last year's grand finalists Leongatha and Traralgon.

The A Grade netball grand



Leongatha's Jenson Garnham was on song up forward the last time Leongatha and Traralgon met, with four goals in a low-scoring affair but the Parrots will be looking for more scoring output from their midfielders and other forwards if they are to trouble Traralgon.

final between Warragul and Moe may not feature a local team but for netball aficionados, it should be a cracker with the top two teams of the competition both boasting plenty of star power and separated by only four goals in the Qualifying Final where Warragul prevailed over the previously undefeated Lions. Expect to hear plenty of noise coming from the Morwell courts as that game reaches its crescendo.

Main game

The fairy tale result from Saturday's Gippsland League Senior Football Grand Final for locals would be to see Leongatha brothers, Dyson and Aaron Heppell, draped in their premiership medals and holding up the 2025 cup.

But, as Parrots' fans found out last year, reputations mean nothing when it comes to grand finals and a pacy Maroons' lineup left the much-vaunted Leongatha team of last

year in its wake to claim the 2024 title.

The two powerhouse clubs of the competition, since Leongatha rejoined the central Gippsland league in 1969, have shown themselves both capable of winning from any position when it comes to "the big dance".

They expect success and Saturday's contest shapes as one for the ages, Traralgon coming in with their famous run and carry and Leongatha hoping to stop that at the source with the likes of Dyson Heppell, Tom Marriott, Luke Bowman, Kim Drew, big Benny Willis, Aaron Heppell, Sam Forrester, Jay Walker and Trood medal winner Ben Harding all first-class ball winners and distributors.

But Traralgon are equally blessed in that department with names such as Ambler, D'Angelo, Willaton, Cunico, Northe, Hallyburton, Neocleous and Anderson match-winners on their day.

Add to that a miserly defence led by intercept-marking force, the league's MVP Tye Hourigan, and you have a scoring barrier that looms as a significant challenge for the Parrots.

Who wins it? Stupid question! There's nothing between these sides, even with the significant inclusion of Dyson Heppell this year, hoping to share in some hometown success after a stellar career at the top level.

It's all about who brings it on the day... all we can say is "Carn the Parrots"!!

What the coaches say heading into the Grand Finals



Appointed as Leongatha Development Coach for 2025, Jake Cochrane has his team into the Gippsland League grand final on Saturday. "We beat them in the first round, and they had a good win over us later, when we were affected by injury, but there have been a lot of changes since then. We played well against them in the qualifying final, but we're going to have to come up with a plan to stop their outside run and we need to make the most of our chances up forward, but yes, looking forward to it," said Cochrane.



Leongatha U18's Coach Jesse Giardina has done a great job of developing a rapidly improving group and goes into Saturday's grand final with high hopes. "Everyone knows we've been crippled by injury this season and credit to the eight or nine Fourths players who've filled in and everyone else who's played a part in getting us there. The game we played against Maffra last time stood up and if we can bring that kind of intensity and game plan this time, I think we're in with a good chance," said Giardina after Saturday's preliminary final win at Sale.

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2025 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE

What to do about Traralgon's run and carry

- Parrots' coach Trent McMicking talks tactics ahead of Saturday's grand final

COACH of the Leongatha Parrots' senior team, Trent McMicking, admitted to watching the closing stages of the NRL qualifying final between the Canberra Raiders and the Brisbane Broncos on Sunday evening, noting he hopes the Gippsland grand final on Saturday doesn't go that way – no matter who wins.

"Yeah, it was pretty epic wasn't it. You'd hope we don't have to go through that," he said of the extra time and golden point heroics.

Looking at Saturday, though, he said it was very pleasing for a club from a town the size of Leongatha, with under 6000 people, to have three football and three netball teams into the grand finals, against the likes of Traralgon (population 27,000) and the other big towns in the league.

"As a club we're pretty pleased with that, from our Under 13 netballers and Under 18 footballers, right through, it's a big effort."

So, getting down to the senior grand final, between Leongatha and Traralgon, a



This Saturday's Gippsland League Grand Final will be Leongatha Senior Coach Trent McMicking's fourth in a row, having tasted success in charge of the Parrots in 2022 and 2023.

repeat of last year's finale, how does he plan to combat Traralgon's famed run and carry?

"Win it at the source, get first hands on it, control the ball and stop the outside run. Control the ball so they're chasing us. Controlling the ball has been our strength."

And what of possible changes to the team?

"Unfortunately, you'd have to say Sean Westaway is doubtful, with a badly corked calf and a bleed on that as well. But yes, Luke Bowman is ready to go, he would have been right last week. And we'll be looking

for a replacement in defence as well."

Among those in the frame for a possible call-up would be Jackson Harry, 12 months after ACL surgery, Xavier Bolge and Beau Grabham among others.

"Despite the injuries we've had, we've probably played fewer players this year, from a core group in the Development grade, to a number of Under 18s that we've been pleased to have in this year, but we'd be hoping not to make too many changes."

"It's always a big day, we're pleased to be a part of it. Traralgon's such a

well-run club and we respect how they go about it. We're looking forward to it."

Traralgon's senior lineup looks to be fairly settled with forward Daniel McKenna some chance to come back in after not playing since Round 18. Star half-back Tristan Waack is likely to be ruled out, not yet recovered enough from a PCL injury late in the season and Gippsland Power talent Marlon Neocleous also looks likely to miss.

Just as Xavier Lindsay was the year before, Neocleous has been named to play in the youth showcase on AFL Grand Final Day, the 2025 Marsh AFL National Futures Boys match as a curtain-raiser to the big one on Saturday, September 27.

McMicking was appointed Leongatha Senior Coach in 2022, after seven years working alongside Gary Ayres as a Port Melbourne Assistant Coach, tasting immediate success with the Parrots in 2022 and 2023. It will be his fourth Gippsland grand final in a row, but he might need to win this one before his former mentor boosts Warragul's rising claims in 2026, after being named their new coach last week.

Stats point to epic final

THE grand final match-up in the Gippsland League this Saturday, September 20, between Leongatha and Traralgon, takes on epic proportions, according to league statistician Paul Carter, almost rivalling the great Morwell-Traralgon contests of the past.

In fact, it will be the 10th grand final meeting between Leongatha and Traralgon in Gippsland Latrobe and Gippsland League history, just one behind the Maroons versus Tigers.

Here's a snapshot of the stats since Leongatha joined the league in 1969, through to 2025, supplied by Paul Carter.

- All GL matches: Played 139 – Leongatha 62, Traralgon 75, drawn 2
- Finals: Played 22 – Leongatha 10, Traralgon 12
- Last 10 matches: Leongatha 8, Traralgon 2
- Last three matches: 2025 (T) Leongatha 9.11.65 d Traralgon 7.6.48, 2025 (L) Traralgon 11.10.76 d Leongatha 11.7.73, 2025 (2nd Semi at Morwell) Leongatha 7.12.54 d Traralgon 5.4.34.
- Match Aggregate High: 258 pts – (2011) Leongatha 21.12.138 d Traralgon 17.18.120.
- Match Aggregate Low: 72 pts – (2012) Leongatha 5.12.42 d Traralgon 4.6.30.
- Highest scores: Leongatha 23.24.162 (1995 Grand Final), Traralgon 29.14.188 (2009).
- Lowest scores: Leongatha 2.7.19 (2006), Traralgon 1.14.20 (2003).
- Greatest winning margin: Leongatha 123 (2015), Traralgon 127 (2009).
- Record Quarter Scores: Leongatha – Traralgon.
- 1st quarter: 7.8.50 (1977) – 10.4.64 (2009).
- 2nd quarter: 9.2.56 (1995) – 10.3.63

(2009).

- 3rd quarter: 8.2.50 (1977) – 9.5.59 (1971).
- 4th quarter: 10.2.62 (1987) – 8.6.54 (2009).

- Most goals (match): Leongatha 9 Jake Best (2015), Traralgon 12 Tim Aitken (2009).

"Leongatha and Traralgon contest their 10th Grand Final against each other on Saturday. Only Morwell and Traralgon, with 11 Grand Finals together, have played more premiership deciders," said Paul Carter.

"This will be the 23rd finals match involving the Parrots and the Maroons, also the second most behind Morwell and Traralgon, who have done battle in 31 finals games."

"Despite having a string of injuries to key players throughout the season, Leongatha demonstrated its incredible depth in still finishing atop the Gippsland League ladder. Their meeting a fortnight ago in the second semi-final was a typical finals match with its ebbs and flows, Traralgon goaling twice in a minute midway through the second quarter to gain a vital break."

"Twelve points ahead at the 14-minute mark of the second term, no one thought that it might be the Maroons' last goal of the match, but it was 34 points to two after that with the Parrots dominating almost every statistic in the match from that time onwards."

"The Traralgon team will have learned lessons from that game and bounced back against Moe, as all teams which have worn the Maroons jumper have done in the past. Fans can expect a match of titanic proportions with possibly a heart-stopping finish. Who knows, it may even take extra time to separate the two."

Siren, mark, goal... but not necessarily in that order!

LEONGATHA was the better team on the day in the Under 18s preliminary final against Warragul at Sale on Saturday.

But they tried every possible option in front of goal, without success, and looked set to go into half time with by far the highest possession count but a scoreline of Leongatha 0.14.14 to Warragul 4.1.25 before controversy, luck, call it what you like, played a part.

With the time ticking towards zero at half time, Leongatha surged forward for yet another scoring attempt and either just before, right on, or just after the siren, Jhett Brown clunked a

mark in the goal square and calmly slotted the pipe-opener for the Parrots that saw them go on to a convincing victory.

Supporters on the grandstand side of the Sale ground swear black and blue they heard the siren go before Brown took the mark but with sound travelling at approximately 343 metres per second, it must have been a split second before the umpires registered the noise.

The rest is history. Leongatha came on strong in the third quarter with goals to Brown again after the restart, Max Sheahan, Charlie Bickerton and Mitchell

Croatto, while Warragul went goalless and they virtually sealed the deal with another to Eamon Berryman.

Warragul pulled one back to make it 16 points the difference halfway through the last quarter, but by then, Leongatha's players were gang-tackling the opposition, presently for the marks and running in twos and threes.

A late free kick and goal to Max Carter sealed the deal. They'd held their nerve when the goals didn't come for what seemed like an eternity, and have marched on to a rematch with Maffra after a cracking Qualifying Final two weeks ago.



Mitchell Croatto clunked this pack mark near goal before kicking a crucial one to help stretch the lead for the Parrots in the third quarter.



GO PARROTS!

Best of luck to all the players!



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Good Luck Parrots!

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Go Parrots!

Best of luck in the Grand Final



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Good Luck Parrots in the 2025 Grand Final

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2025 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE

LEONGATHA PARROTS



2

Jenson Garnham

Forward

Talented and athletic. Long, accurate kick for goal.

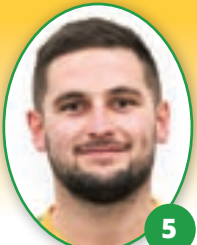


3

Sam Forrester

Mid / Defender

Mid-sized player who rebounds well. Excellent disposer of the football.

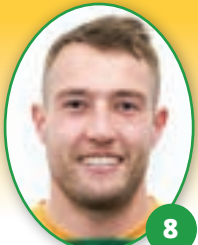


5

Tallin Brill

Forward

Attacking player who provides drive in the inside 50 area with his long kicking and hard-running game.



8

Tom Marriott

Inside Midfielder

Leader of the club. Able to break lines with strength and pace. Multiple league Best & Fairest winner. True champion.



9

Nick Argento

Small Forward

Smart small forward with a great football brain. Always looking for ways to bring others into the game.



10

Kim Drew

Inside Midfielder

Creative midfielder who loves the physical side of the game. Strong at breaking tackles and driving the ball forward.



11

Jack Hume

Wing/Forward

Tall, quick, and creative. Takes a strong mark and is dangerous around goal. Proven goalkicker.



14

Ben Harding

Midfielder

Skilful midfielder, elite by hand and foot. Big possession winner with an enormous work rate.



15

Brok Davidson

Forward

Tall forward who is an accurate and reliable kick. Former Parrot who has returned to the club this year.



16

Jay Walker

Wing

Hard-running, pacy midfielder. Courageous in his attack on the ball.



19

Justin Pellicano

Ruck/Forward

Big, determined player who uses size and strength to assist teammates. Can also kick goals when stationed forward.



20

Ben Willis

Ruck

Big-hearted ruckman who uses his size to advantage. Works tirelessly for the full four quarters.



22

Patrick Ireland

Forward

Young key forward with a strong lead and mark. Long, accurate kick for goal.

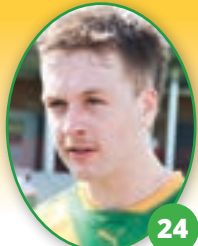


23

Cade Maskell

Key Defender

Club champion and proven performer in big games. Excellent reader of play who provides rebound from defence.



24

Beau Grabham-Andrews

Midfielder

Talented young player who has impressed at senior level this season.



28

Jacob Warne

Ruck/Forward

Strong and athletic. Creates opportunities through size and presence in contests.



30

Tim Sauvarin

Defender

Tall, athletic defender with pace and endurance. Loves to turn defence into attack.



31

Sean Westaway

Key Defender

Club games record holder. Reliable, tough defender who thrives in the lock-down role.



35

Will Littlejohn

Defender

Hard-working small defender who gets the job done each week. Versatile enough to push forward if required.



37

Ned Hanily

Small Forward

Tenacious with excellent footy smarts. Makes good decisions in congestion and sets up teammates.



40

Ty Hall

Mid/Wing

Workhorse midfielder with pace who consistently finds plenty of the football.



41

Xavier Bolge

Defender

Young key defender who has already stood up to big roles this year. Bright future ahead.



45

Travis Nash

Defender

Elite defender who takes lock-down roles but also showcases attacking flair.



49

Zavier Lamers

Small Forward

Exciting young forward with blistering pace. A constant threat around goals.



55

Luke Bowman

Inside Midfielder

Tough, physical midfielder who thrives in contested footy. Brings teammates into the game.



58

Dyson Heppell

Midfielder

Former Parrot junior who returns after an illustrious AFL career with Essendon. Brings class, leadership, and experience.



59

Aaron Heppell

Midfielder

Hard-working inside midfielder who racks up possessions. Dangerous when pushing forward.

Three Parrots' teams through to grand final

THE Leongatha Reserves appeared set to make an easy transition from preliminary final to grand final against Moe at Sale on Saturday when they stretched their lead to five goals at the start of the third quarter.

It looked as easy as one, two, three to get Firsts, Seconds and Thirds into the grand final after the Under 18s won the earlier game, but you shouldn't count your chickens.

They'd dominated the scoring and general play to that stage in the game and when their playing coach Jake Cochrane got on the end of an impressive string of handballs to boot their eighth goal, at the start of the third term, it looked how far the Parrots.

But a plucky Lions' side had other ideas, kicking three goals in quick succession to Brendan Holt, from point-blank range, Liam Weir and Liam Durkin to close the gap to 13 points near the last break. Durkin might have got another after the siren, but the Parrots had certainly lost their winning break.

Coach Cochrane urged his team "not to go into your shells" at the final huddle, but it was Moe which drew first blood, through Sean Curtis, followed by an exchange of points which saw the margin fluctuate.

A goal-saving smother by Jackson Harry, who was literally throwing everything into his defensive efforts, a bad miss by Cochrane and a shot at a miracle goal by Jarrod Stewart featured in a frenetic finish, but it was Moe's Brodey Wolfenden who closed the gap to just three points still with plenty of time on the clock.

A thrilling run-down tackle by Luke Marshman saved the day up one end, as did an inspiring pack-mark by Cochrane on the wing, but ultimately it was late inclusion, Klayton McGrath, who got on the end of a pass by Stewart and kicked the sealer with 30 seconds remaining.

Leongatha now gets another shot at Traralgon in the grand final after a close contest between the two sides in the Qualifying Final.



Leongatha premierships defender Jackson Harry threw literally everything into his bid for a last-minute call-up for the seniors in Saturday's grand final, attempting a number of spectacular marks in an effort to catch the eye of selectors during the reserves' preliminary final.

Leongatha's Ben Harding wins league's best award

LEONGATHA'S Ben Harding has taken out the Gippsland League's best and fairest award for 2025, the Trood Award and Rodda Medal, in his first season in the region's top football competition.

However, while he was both surprised and delighted to come out on top in Sunday's online vote count, he's no stranger to winning club and even league best and fairest awards.

Back in 2017, as an 18-year-old, he won the West Australian Football League's Reserves Best and Fairest Award, the Prendergast Medal, having previously won the A Grade Amateurs best and first in Perth.

He played 13 Senior WAFL games with East Fremantle, Peel Thunder and Claremont between 2017 and 2022, before relocating to Melbourne in 2023 where he played with Old Melburnians in the VAFA, winning two club best awards before looking to relocate to the country.

"I was looking to move to a well-run, family-oriented club in the country and after



Ben Harding of Leongatha scored 'three votes' in the Parrots' Round 13 match against Moe at Ted Summerton Reserve on his way to winning the Gippsland League's best and fairest award for 2025, the Trood Award and Rodda Medal, on Sunday this week.

making contact with Leongatha, I had a few conversations with Matt Mansfield (premiership playing coach of the Leongatha Football Club in 1997) and made the move," said Ben Harding this week.

"I feel like I had a pretty consistent year, and I had it on at home (the count), but I never

expected to win it. It was a bit of a shock, for sure.

"Prior to coming to Leongatha, I'd played a lot in the midfield, but I had a few chats with Trent (Leongatha coach Trent McMicking) and we talked about playing on the wing, which I've really enjoyed.

"We've got a lot of good

midfielders and the opportunity to play a little bit more on the outside has been good.

"I've never played in a grand final though, so the focus is definitely there, but yeah, it's an honour and a surprise," he said.

Harding has been avalanched with congratulations from teammates, and others around the club, as well as sharing the news with friends and family back in Perth.

He polled votes in eight games across the 2025 season, scoring best-on-ground votes in six, including in Round 2 (Leongatha v Sale), Round 6 (Warragul v Leongatha), Round 13 (Moe v Leongatha), Round 15 (Leongatha v Warragul), Round 16 (Drouin v Leongatha) and finally in Round 18 (Leongatha v Maffra). There were also two-vote games against Maffra in Round 9 and Sale in Round 11, for a total of 22 votes, four clear of Bairnsdale's Will Mitchell and Warragul's Tom Hobbs on 18.

For the final leaders' board read online at sgst.com.au

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

PRELIMINARY FINAL

94 61

TRARALGON	Moe
Traralgon 5.6	7.9 10.12 13.16 (94)
Moe 2.4	6.8 7.11 8.13 (61)

GOALS, Traralgon: D Loprese 3, S Hallyburton, T Marsh 2, C Ambler, C Brown, L D'Angelo, J McMahon, B Roscoe, L Willaton 1 each
BEST: D Loprese, L D'Angelo, L Willaton, S Hallyburton, H Dunbar, J Cunico
GOALS, Moe: B Crocker 3, L Poholke, B Smith 2, A Dijkstra 1
BEST: No best players have been selected.

RESERVES				
Leongatha	3.1	7.3	8.5	9.8 (62)
Moe	2.2	3.2	6.4	8.6 (54)

GOALS, Leongatha: J Cochrane, B Davidson, B Fort, T Gannon, F Materia, C Rump, J Stewart, C Watson 1 each
BEST: B Fort, J Stewart, T Gannon, C Rump, L Marshman, J Harry
GOALS, Moe: S Curtis 2, L Durkin, B Holt, B Morrow, L Rock, L Weir, B Wolfenden 1 each
BEST: L Rock, L Weir, B Morrow, B Holt, J Van Dyk, A Wilson

THIRDS				
Leongatha	0.5	1.14	5.14	7.15 (57)
Warragul	2.1	4.1	4.4	5.5 (35)

GOALS, Leongatha: J Brown 2, C Bickerton, M Croatto, M Sheahan 1 each
BEST: J Brown, S Bradley, F Donohue, A Williams, K McGrath, N Bradley
GOALS, Warragul: R Nettle 2, H Hodge, C McIntosh, R Senini 1 each
BEST: T Logan, H Hodge, R Senini, C McIntosh, X Olsson, R Nettle

FOURTHS				
Maffra	6.2	7.6	9.9	13.12 (90)
Warragul	1.2	1.3	3.5	3.5 (23)

GOALS, Maffra: J Armstrong, L Stephenson 3, M Pendergast 2, H Bartlett, A Burgiel, T Grumley, J Little, L Phillips 1 each
BEST: J Armstrong, A Weatherley, M Pendergast, J Linford, I Brown, P Horan
GOALS, Warragul: F Aubrey, W Phillips, T Senini 1 each
BEST: N Olsson, N Young, H Allsop, J Strating, F Aubrey, T Senini

THIS WEEKEND'S DRAW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

GIPPSLAND GRAND FINAL

Saturday, September 20
Morwell Recreation Reserve
Seniors: Leongatha v Traralgon
Reserves: Traralgon v Leongatha
U18: Maffra v Leongatha
U16: Traralgon v Maffra

Local football

South Gippsland and Bass Coast
Sentinel-Times



www.sgst.com.au

Read the full report from Traralgon v Moe seniors preliminary final online at sgst.com.au



Melina BATH
STATE MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA



Danny O'BRIEN
STATE MEMBER FOR GIPPSLAND SOUTH

THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

Wishing the Parrots all the best for the Grand Final

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danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au 03 5144 1987 dannyobrienmp.com.au 54B Cunninghame St, Sale VIC 3850



Sky high and locked in battle between Inverloch-Kongwak and Nar Nar Goon in the U16s at Dalyston.

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION RESULTS

PRELIMINARY FINAL

	80		57
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TOORADIN-DAL	CORA LYNN			
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Tooradin-Dal 3.1 5.5 8.7 11.14 (80)
Cora Lynn 2.5 7.7 8.9 8.9 (57)
GOALS, Tooradin-Dal: J Craven, S Savage 3, B Butler 2, J Flannery, C Shinniers, X Shinniers 1 each
BEST: J Esler, B Butler, P Wright, J Craven, J Flannery, S Savage
GOALS, Cora Lynn: N Gardiner 4, L Peluso 2, H Briggs, M McDermott 1 each
BEST: J Munro, N Gardiner, W Thomas, L Peluso, M Briggs, J Butera

RESERVES				
Nar Nar Goon	1.2	1.2	4.2	5.8 (38)
Phillip Island	0.3	2.6	3.6	3.8 (26)

GOALS, NNG: M McGreal 2, E Douglas, E Grierson, J Hamilton 1 each
BEST: E Grierson, Z Smith, E Douglas, L Graham, M McGreal, J Hamling
GOALS, Phillip Island: T Woodfield 2, B Pewtress 1
BEST: J Keating, B Davies, T Woodfield, O Hibbert, F Cousins, T Niven

THIRDS				
Phillip Island	1.4	2.8	7.11	8.13 (61)
Nar Nar Goon	2.0	2.1	4.1	5.2 (32)

GOALS, Phillip Island: O Duggan 2, Y Caffieri, C Fischer, B Hennessy, F O'Brien, C O'Garey, M Taylor 1 each
BEST: C Walton, F O'Brien, J Kelly, B Hennessy, N Williams, I Savona
GOALS, NNG: T Millar 2, M Cross, Z Ferguson, O Ratten 1 each
BEST: O Ratten, T Millar, R Kaminski, Z Ferguson, M Cross, C Becker

FOURTHS				
Nar Nar Goon	1.0	2.1	3.1	3.4 (22)
Inverloch-K	1.0	3.0	4.5	4.7 (31)

GOALS, NNG: J Hall 2, M Mathews 1
BEST: F Shorey, T Crema, C Hamilton, J Cross, T Holland, J Hall
GOALS, Inverloch-K: No goal scorers listed.
BEST: No best players have been selected.

THIS WEEKEND'S DRAW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

WEST GIPPSLAND GRAND FINAL

Saturday, September 20
Garfield Recreation Reserve
Seniors: Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin-Dalmore
Reserves: Tooradin-Dalmore v Nar Nar Goon
U18: Inverloch-Kongwak v Phillip Island
U16: Warragul Ind v Inverloch-Kongwak

Island juniors charge into Grand Final

WHAT a day for the future of the Phillip Island Football Club! Our Under 18s have stormed their way into the 2025 West Gippsland League Grand Final, after producing a brilliant four-quarter performance against Nar Nar Goon in the Preliminary Final.

It was tight early, with Nar Nar Goon coming out strong, but the young Bulldogs lifted their pressure and began to take control of the contest. With hard tackling, relentless running, and smart ball movement, Phillip Island slowly wore their opponents down. By the final siren, the scoreboard told the story: a composed and determined 29-point win that sends our boys through to the biggest game of the year.

This is an incredible achievement and a testament to the dedication of the players, coaches, and families who've supported the group all season. The energy around the club is electric, and this Saturday we call on every supporter to head to Garfield (at 10.10am) and get behind the 18s. Let's make it a sea of red, white, and blue as the next generation of Bulldogs chase premiership glory!

A huge congratulations to Benjamin Chihotski, who was named runner-up in the League Best & Fairest Medal – a massive achievement in a very competitive competition.

Reserves

Our Reserves side gave everything in their Preliminary Final clash against Nar Nar Goon, but unfortunately fell just short in a hard-fought and physical contest.

The game was an arm-wrestle from the outset, with both teams locking down defensively and making scoring difficult. Phillip Island matched Nar Nar Goon for intensity across the ground, but the difference came down to



Breaking free, Phillip Island's Darcy Thompson bursts through the Goon's clutches. Photos: Bec Casey Sports Photography

conversion in front of goal – Nar Nar Goon took their chances, while the Bulldogs were left to rue a number of missed opportunities that could have changed the momentum of the match.

Despite the scoreboard, there were plenty of positives. Senior experience from the likes of Jack Keating and Beau Davies steadied the group when the pressure lifted, while younger players like Oliver Hibbert and Thomas

Niven showed they can match it in big finals. Up forward, Travis Woodfield battled hard to finish with two goals, while Bryce Pewtress added another. The backline held strong all day, repeatedly repelling Nar Nar Goon's attacks and keeping the contest alive right until the closing stages.

While the result wasn't the one the boys wanted, this group should be incredibly proud of their season. They showed determination,

resilience, and strong team unity week after week, and pushed deep into September as a reward for their efforts.

A very special mention to Finlay Cousins, who capped off his outstanding season by being crowned the West Gippsland League Best and Fairest Medal winner for the Reserves competition. This is a phenomenal achievement and underlines his importance to the side – a true leader both on and off the field.



Inverloch-Kongwak lines up the perfect kick in the Under 16s Preliminary final.



The ball flies as Jack Martin launches another IK attack.



Unfortunate losses for Poowong as promising years ahead

By Geoff Wyatt

POOWONG'S Under 16s football and Under 15 girls Netball teams travelled to Trafalgar to play in their 2025 Grand Finals supported by their families and a large contingent of Poowong fans.

There was a big crowd in attendance at Trafalgar in cool conditions with a breeze favouring the highway end. The surface of the Trafalgar ground was a credit to the club.

Looking at the two sides on the ground Bunyip looked to be a top age side with some tall players whereas Poowong Under 16s looked a younger side, lacking in height and it would take a huge effort to get over Bunyip.

Poowong Under 16s have played some great football to reach the Grand Final and should be proud of their efforts win or lose.

Bunyip kicked to the highway end with the breeze and had two goals early before Poowong came back with a goal to Johnathon Wilson. Unfortunately Bunyip kicked a late goal to stretch the margin to 14 points. Poowong held Bunyip well against the breeze and would need to use the breeze in the second quarter.

The second quarter was tight football, unfortunately Poowong could not finish off up forward and missed a chance to add a goal only to see Bunyip kick a goal to open up a nineteen point lead at half time. Bunyip's height was a telling factor taking many marks in defence. Bunyip 4.3.27 to Poowong 1.2.8.

Poowong would need a big third quarter to stay in the game and with Bunyip's height making it hard in the ruck and marking around the ground. Poowong had a good quarter keeping Bunyip to two goals while adding one with a goal to Cruze Deal to keep the margin to four goals, a possibility with the breeze, but it would require a good start in the last quarter. Bunyip 6.3.39 to Poowong 2.3.15.

Unfortunately, Bunyip got on top adding three goals early and with Poowong unable to break Bunyip's defence they ran out winners by 44 points, a well-deserved victory.

Hopefully this group will be the basis of Bunyip's rise in senior football, well done Bunyip.

To the Poowong boys, a great season and a tremendous effort to make the Grand Final. A lot of talent there and they will be a big chance next season. Be proud of your year's performance – a lot of talent there going forward for Poowong with a couple of boys playing Seniors this year.

Very taken by the speeches of young coach Mitch Van't Hof, speaking about what was needed to the players in a concise manner, congratulations Mitch on your season.

Best Players Christian Dorian, Lachie Moriarty, George Edwards, Johnathan Wilson, Tait Nicholls, Marlon Cawcutt in a team effort.

Unfortunately, the Under 15 Netball girls lost to Catani 33 to 25. A lot of talent in the side. Well done girls on making the Grand Final and best of luck in your future careers.

Though we went away without a premiership it was still a great effort by the club to have two teams in the Grand Finals – all the best for 2026.



Desperate pressure is applied by Bunyip as Dylan Canavan boots the ball towards Poowong's forward line in U16 Ellinbank & District Grand Final. Photos: Jeff Tull.



Surrounded by Bunyip opponents, Jordyn Mackin clears the ball for the Magpies in the U16 Ellinbank & District Football League Grand Final played at Trafalgar Recreation Reserve.

Cats claim the crown

NEERIM South took out a resounding win against Trafalgar in the Ellinbank Football Netball League Senior grand final on Saturday.

Playing at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve, Neerim South were the favourites to win after a dominant season, but the Bloods went in with a homefield advantage.

The Bloods had the opportunity to gain an early lead with a shot at goal one minute in.

However, inaccurate kicking foiled the momentum, and the Bloods kicked a behind – their only score for the quarter.

Neerim South kicked the first goal of the game nine minutes in and slotted a second goal late in the quarter for a 14-point lead at the first siren.

Neerim South was quick out of the gate in the second quarter with an early goal.

The Cats chipped away at the scoreboard, while the Bloods attempted to fight back but continued to be plagued by inaccurate kicking.

Neerim South had a five-goal lead at half-time, the game still open for anyone to take.

The Cats were fuelled by premiership glory in the third quarter, leaving the Bloods behind. Kicking four goals, Neerim South extended its lead while its defence held Trafalgar to just one more point.

Trafalgar showed why it deserved its spot in the grand final with an almighty fourth quarter. Showing no signs of giving up, Trafalgar put three goals on the scoreboard.

However, with two more goals, Neerim South had done its job.

Neerim South was crowned the 2025 premiers with a 51-point win.

ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE RESULTS

GRAND FINAL



	NEERIM SOUTH		TRAFALGAR	
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Neerim South	2.3	5.3	9.8	11.11 (77)
Trafalgar	0.1	0.5	0.6	3.8 (26)

GOALS Neerim Sth: M McGarrity 5, N Bayne, L Kinder, E McGillivray, T Morrow, H Notman, W Papley 1 each

BEST: K Wilson, A Ramm, K Cornwall, C Urie, T Pratt, M McGarrity

GOALS Trafalgar: K Butler, D Farrell, C Minichiello 1 each

BEST: D Farrell, B Hoffmann, H Kenny, L Coulthard, B Cunico, J Butler

RESERVES

Lang Lang	4.0	5.0	9.3	11.3 (69)
Trafalgar	2.1	6.1	8.2	9.2 (56)

GOALS Lang Lang: T Guan 2, K Batt, B Kiss, T O'Riordan, J Ventura 1 each

BEST: No best players have been selected.

GOALS Trafalgar: M Swenson 3, B Bosman, D Brock, Z Brown, T Radford, A Templeton, B Zimora 1 each

BEST: B Bosman, K Tullett, T Radford, M Swenson, D Brock, J Hines

THIRDS

Ellinbank	1.3	3.9	8.11	11.13 (79)
Buln Buln	0.2	1.4	1.5	6.6 (42)

GOALS Ellinbank: J Armstrong, R Butters, H Cunningham, A Debenham, L Joyce 2, B Handley 1

BEST: A Debenham, L Joyce, J Armstrong, J Good, H Cunningham, T Keeble

GOALS Buln Buln: R Eastwell 3, H Jones, A Pickthall, J Vaughan 1 each

BEST: R Eastwell, A Pickthall, C Kilmartin, M Steenholdt, C Kennedy, A Davidson

FOURTHS

Bunyip	3.3	4.3	6.3	9.6 (60)
Poowong	1.1	1.2	2.3	2.4 (16)

GOALS Bunyip: K Jones 4, C Cunningham, H Sheehan 2, L Clark 1

BEST: K Jones, B Interlandi, C Cunningham, H Sheehan, S Blackley, L Clark

GOALS Poowong: C Deal, J Wilson 1 each

BEST: C Dorian, L Moriarty, G Edwards, J Wilson, T Nicholls, M Cawcutt

The Sentinel-Times wishes to thank the photographers and scribes who contributed throughout the year for Poowong and Nyora football netball clubs. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to provide the extent of coverage that is provided weekly.



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MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

Seniors: Foster 12.7.79 d Fish Creek 9.14.68

Reserves: Morwell East 5.11.41 d Yinnar 3.7.25

Under 18s: Newborough 9.12.66 d MDU 9.9.63

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MDU produces thrilling finish but can't snatch Under 18 cup

By Andrew Palocz

WHILE a stunning final quarter comeback fell just short of achieving an MDU Under 18s Premiership, Newborough hanging on by three points, Demons coach Dale Thomas aptly described it as a "cracking spectacle of junior footy".

Although a Will Campbell goal early in the last term gave MDU hope, that seemed gone when Newborough responded with a couple of quick majors to lead by 35 points.

The Demons had other ideas, doing as their coach urged at the last change when he said, "Leave everything you have on that ground; put your heads over the footy."

Were it not for a couple of crucial marks in defence to Newborough's Max Edebohls and Macally Brosnan, MDU may have completed a fairytale comeback.

That was still on the cards when Blake Smith marked and goaled to cut the margin to three points late in the game, but the Bulldogs held their nerve.

After a bright start to the match by the Demons when they snapped the first goal, the Bulldogs began to look increasingly dangerous, gaining a slender quarter-time lead.

At the huddle, Thomas urged his players to deliver the footy to spots that would challenge the opposition rather than kicking too deep and wide and to ensure they didn't allow the Bulldogs space to run free.

However, the Demons struggled to put the clamps on an increasingly rampant Newborough, MDU's halftime deficit blowing out to 22 points.

At the mid-match break, Thomas called for his players to get some movement going, to spread more effectively, and for his backmen to treat the boundary line as their friend, given there is no deliberately out of bounds rule in junior footy.

Although MDU was quick to attack when the third term commenced, it was the Bulldogs that goaled first and Newborough looked in control heading into the final term with a 28-point lead.

Having booted just three goals up to that point, the Demons burst into life with six majors in the final stanza to almost claim victory.

Brayden Sellings' committed efforts stood out even more than his eye-catching blue helmet as he helped keep MDU in the hunt and drive its unlikely resurgence.

The narrowly beaten side named Cameron Bruce as next best after a lively performance in which he booted a couple of goals and generated scoring opportunities for teammates with his ball-winning ability and composure. Campbell and Harry Scrimshaw also booted two majors each for the Demons.

Brody Young and Oscar Hanson were damaging around the big sticks for Newborough, combining for seven of the Bulldogs' nine goals, Young accounting for four of those majors.

Bulldogs coach Rod Peatey encouraged his players to be humble and enjoy the moment.

Demons coach Thomas acknowledged the Newborough boys have had his side's measure all year, even if only by pretty much a kick each time and deserved the win on Saturday, telling the MDU players to be proud of their efforts.

Read the full story and medal winners online at sgst.com.au



Tigers Mitch and Michael Green enjoyed plenty of support during Saturday's Grand Final. A34_3725



Shouting all round as coach Sam Davies celebrates with supporters Nat Martin and Nick Goss and player Angus Norton. C23_3725



Off the field and straight into celebration mode, Harry Flavelle, Billy Flavelle, and Jack Flavelle. C24_3725



2025 premierships player Jake Best (centre right) with 2010 premierships players and Tigers supporters, Tom, Johnny, Tim, Brett and Ryan. C25_3725



Zave and Josh Toner share a moment with Josh's Bill McConville Medal and Premiership Medal. A37_3725



Foster premierships senior player Matthew Clarke with Rachel. C21_3725



Angus Norton with proud parents Kim and Tam and the premierships cup. C22_3725



Jake Thornell celebrates with Sophie Bolam and Sonia Seuren. C26_3725



2025 MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 • YINNAR RECREATION RESERVE

Tigers roar to premiership triumph

From page 56

Both teams opened up the ground, allowing more opportunity in the third term, but inaccuracy was costing Fish Creek.

It wasn't until the Kangaroos managed two goals deeper into the third quarter that you sensed the comeback was on, and so it was, the pendulum in full swing by the three-quarter time break.

Fish Creek 8.12-60 to Foster 9.4-58.

"We panicked in the third, but we needed repeat stoppage to set up behind the ball; it was time for controlled chaos in the last 25 minutes," Foster coach Sam Davies said, observing that "We might have been out on our feet, but so were they."

The Tiger team delivered what coach Davies wanted, plenty of stoppage, and finally a goal 10 minutes into the last quarter that gave them back the lead, courageously fending off the pressure being applied.

After delightedly accepting the TTMI Premiership Cup along with skipper Dylan Williams, Foster's coach reflected on what his side had achieved.

"What a day – we set ourselves really well hunting and applying elite pressure in the first half and importantly took our chances in the first half," Davies said.

"They came out firing in the third and played some great footy like we knew they could – credit to them for playing that way too.

"But boy oh boy did we show something in that last quarter, couldn't be prouder of the group and the achievement.

"Big moments, we got it done.

"Only one coach backed us in today from across the league and he has the medal around his neck."

The Kangaroos had their chance, chances even, inaccuracy part of the problem, Foster the other, Fish Creek coach Walker summing up the match.

"It was a disappointing result for us, but I was really proud of the effort all day," he said, acknowledging his side got jumped at the start and was then playing catch-up.

"The third quarter comeback was really special to be a part of and I thought that momentum would get us through," Walker said.

While Fish Creek was confident it would have the legs to hang on in the last quarter, the Kangaroos coach reflected that, to Foster's credit, the Tigers found another gear.

"It was a great Grand Final and a good standard of footy, and we were beaten by the better team on the day and better team all season," Walker said, extending his congratulations to Foster and coach Davies.

League Best and Fairest Angus Norton was awarded the AFL Victoria Best on Ground medal.

The Bill McConville medal for Best on Ground as decided by the umpires went to Josh Toner.

While Foster reached the top of the mountain, Fish Creek lost no admirers in its attempt to dethrone this tough, honest Tiger team.



Foster coach Sam Davies and captain Dylan Williams raise the Premiership Cup. A26_3725



Best on Ground Josh Toner lays a tackle on Fish Creek's Josh Standfield, Toner's defensive pressure and composure for the Tigers being instrumental in ending the Kangaroos' three-peat hopes. A31_3725



Grand Final intensity is apparent as Jordy Shaw looks for a Fish Creek teammate. A27_3725

MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

GRAND FINAL

FISH CREEK 68 FOSTER 79

FISH CREEK FOSTER

Fish Creek 0.3 1.7 8.12 9.14 (68)
Foster 3.2 6.3 9.4 12.7 (79)

GOALS, Fish Creek: T Cameron, J Shaw 2, L Gale, M McGannon, S McGannon, J Standfield, J Stefani 1 each

BEST: L Williams, R De Biase, M McGannon, T Gavenlock, J Lamers, J Kenny

GOALS, Foster: L Rathjen 4, J Best 3, J Flavell 2, S Chaseling, M Cooke, J Rathjen 1 each

BEST: J Toner, L Rathjen, C Wray, A Norton, J Best, M Cooke

RESERVES

Morwell East 0.4 3.6 4.9 5.11 (41)
Yinnar 2.0 2.2 2.3 3.7 (25)

GOALS, Morwell East: K Chapman, B Darby-Lock, D Heyden, B Marks, N Nikodemski 1 each

BEST: B Atkinson, C Lane, J Atkinson, L Little, F Marks, B Francis

GOALS, Yinnar: C Le Page, B Watson, D Webster 1 each

BEST: D Webster, D Yates, T Russell, J Chessum, L Maynard, J Findlay

THIRDS

Newborough 2.4 5.8 7.10 9.12 (66)
MDU 1.2 2.4 3.6 9.9 (63)

GOALS, Newborough: B Young 4, O Hanson 3, H Gallagher, M Langdon 1 each

BEST: M Brosnan, H Gallagher, B Young, M Edebohls, L Nelson, M Langdon

GOALS, MDU: C Bruce, W Campbell, H Scrimshaw 2, L Hamilton, B Smith, B Taylor 1 each

BEST: B Sellings, C Bruce, A Bruce, W Campbell, L Duvoisin, A Casey

Berryman in, no 32 out



Darcy Berryman

Damien's has become a very dangerous and important forward. He has genuine speed and strength and can kick goals on either side of his body.

LAST edition we accidentally placed no. 32 Blaine Coates in the headshot lineup for Fish Creek. It should have in fact been no. 33 Darcy Berryman. For all the headshot collectors out there please cut out this shot and tack it over Coates. Apologies Darcy!

Visit our website:

www.sgst.com.au

The Sentinel-Times wishes to thank the photographers and writer who contributed throughout the year across the many football and netball clubs within the Mid Gippsland league. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to provide the extent of coverage that is provided weekly.



Foster's Premiership players and officials enjoy the moment after a hard-earned victory. Back row: Harley Hoppner, Jake Thornell, Sam Davies (coach), Dylan Williams (captain), Todd Bastion (team manager), Tom Littore, Lachlan Rathjen, and Brad Angwin (runner). Middle row: Jack Flavelle, Matthew Clark, Harry Flavelle, Shaun Chaseling, Michael Green, Brock Cripps, Jack Rathjen, Troy Van Dyke and Michael Howell (water). Front row: Mitchell Green, Jake Best (vice-captain), Angus Norton, Craig Wray, Josh Toner (vice-captain), Oliver Callcott, Michael Cooke and Mitch Allott. C32_3725

Tigers roar to premiership triumph

FOSTER secured one of the more courageous premiership victories in the history of the MGFNL competition on the weekend, defeating the more favoured Fish Creek by 11 points.

The Kangaroos were chasing some rare air on the weekend, searching for their third Premiership in succession.

The "threepeat" has only ever been achieved on three prior occasions in the history of the competition, by Hazelwood in 51, 52 and 53, Yinnar in 69, 70 and 71 and Newborough in 88, 89 and

By Rob Popplestone

90, and for just a few minutes of the league's premier event, it looked as though Fish Creek could become the fourth.

The saying that you don't poke the Tiger was never more appropriate; this Foster team had been hit hard by a long and demanding season, some of its best performers looking helplessly from the sideline as their teammates battled courageously to stop one of the most respected football teams in regional Australia.

Speculation was rife pre-game that talented teenager Willem Duursma might be rushed from his duties with the Gippsland Power in Melbourne to represent his hometown of Foster, a rumour that was quashed moments before the first bounce.

The game started as every Grand Final does, with intensity and purpose, physicality and enthusiasm, but against the odds the Tigers were more composed as they snatched the first three goals of the day on their way to a quarter time lead of 17 points.

While acknowledging Foster's impressive play, Fish Creek coach Jarrod Walker outlined what his side could have done better.

"We looked ok in the back half, but we needed to be more composed going into forward 50, lower the eyes and really turn it up on them; I felt they played at their maximum level, and we just needed to really spread hard from the back to set ourselves up better," he said.

The Kangaroos finally found the goals through Jordy Shaw

seven minutes into the second quarter, before that same player lashed out at his opposing defender following a missed opportunity for his second, resulting in his send off, being yellow carded.

The reigning premiers were now under pressure on the scoreboard and on the field, the frustration teetering on panic, allowing Foster's Jake Best to get his second goal of the game as the Tigers took further advantage and a halftime lead of 26 points.

Continued page 55

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