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Six page preview inside

DANGEROUS DOG ALERT

- Loophole leaves killer dog on the streets

A female Staffordshire Bull Terrier, which attacked and killed a Pomeranian dog on Ventnor Beach on March 2 this year, has had no 'menacing' or 'dangerous dog' declaration recorded against her purely because the dog is registered in another jurisdiction.

The case, which was heard in the Korumburra Magistrates' Court last Thursday, September 14, exposed a fatal flaw in animal management arrangements across the state.

"It might as well have occurred in another country," said a spokesperson for the shire, acknowledging the worrying gap in governance.

It was also an issue noted by the Korumburra Magistrate Andrew Halse.

"The dog isn't registered in Bass Coast, I take it... council isn't seeking a declaration because it's not registered in its jurisdiction," said Mr Halse.

"That's right, your honour, yes," said Bass Coast's legal representative, Mary Kane.

According to a summary of the incident, provided by Ms Kane, the owner of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, a visitor from Melbourne, arrived at the beach and immediately took her dog off its leash in a designated "off-leash" area between 12.30pm and 1pm.

"The dog sprinted away in the direction of two Pomeranian dogs... it bit down on the torso of one of the dogs and wouldn't let go despite the efforts of the owner.

"After the attack, the dog lay motionless in the sand."

Ms Kane said words were exchanged between the owner of the offending dog and the owner of the Pomeranian, but she declined to provide her details and the owner of the critically injured dog was only able to identify the Staffy's owner by the number

on the dog's registration tag.

The dog was taken to the Cowes Veterinary Surgery but was pronounced dead on arrival.

The court was told that treating vets said death was likely to have been caused by a brain injury to the Pomeranian, caused by "violent shaking".

Two charges were laid: (1.) That at Ventnor Beach on March 2, a female Staffordshire Bull Terrier attacked a Pomeranian dog causing the death of that dog, and (2.) that a female Staffordshire Bull Terrier was not on a lead or under control on Ventnor Beach on March 2, 2023.

Magistrate Halse asked if the dog was seized by shire officials, or if they attended the scene. They didn't.

Mr Halse asked the owner of the Staffy about the circumstances of the attack.

Continued page 3



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Pharmacy cuts likely after government 'reform'

By Michael Giles and Andrew Paloczi

NATIONALS Federal Leader David Littleproud is maintaining the rage about the impact of the 60-day prescriptions reform despite the fact that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has suspended its campaign.

But the lobby group's president Trent Twomey still believes the reforms will force pharmacies to make cuts, especially those in regional areas, if not to close or cut jobs, then to seek to make savings on complimentary services such as deliveries.

Speaking to Jaynie Seal on Sky Regional News on Wednesday, September 6, Mr Littleproud said the government had fundamentally changed the pharmacists' business model, with the impact likely to hit country and regional business operators, and local jobs, harder than city pharmacies.

"There's an omission of failure here by Mark Butler," Mr Littleproud said.

"He got it wrong, and he's had to go back and as we said from the start, sit down and negotiate with the pharmacists.

"You've fundamentally changed their business model, and if they don't have a sustainable business model they shut their doors or they start to sack people.

"And when you think that



there could be 20,000 people lose their jobs, most of them women, a feminised industry that the government was prepared to effectively bring to its knees without negotiating, just didn't make sense."

Mr Littleproud declared that Mark Butler and Anthony Albanese have realised the pharmacists were right.

"They've had to bring forward the eighth Pharmacy Agreement to make sure that they understand that there is a way to make them sustainable and keep them sustainable, because you've got to understand medicines in Australia, they're regulated prices."

Pharmacists don't have the option of increasing the margins on medications to make up the difference, they're all regulated.

"They got \$8 every time medicine was dispensed and if you

halve that, then you halve the viability of these pharmacists, and particularly in rural and remote areas where the pharmacist is the last line of primary healthcare."

Member for Monash Russell Broadbent has also welcomed the Government's move to bring forward the eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA).

However, while negotiations towards that agreement are likely to commence in the short term, the agreement may not come into effect until mid next year.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia president Dr Fei Sim spoke of the importance of the new agreement being achieved in a timely fashion.

"We must ensure that there is a close alignment between the implementation of the 60-day dispensing policy and

the rollout of the eighth CPA to maintain the short-term viability of the community pharmacy network," Dr Sim said.

She said discussions and background work need to happen in the short term to facilitate the new agreement.

Phil Lo of Terry White Leongatha said the 60-day dispensing policy has been wearing pharmacists operators out on multiple fronts, expressing concern about whether the eighth CPA will provide required solutions.

"We cannot trust the Government to provide enough in the eighth agreement to continue the hours for our staff and their families, our patients, our community and all those in need," Mr Lo said.

He stressed the wait until the agreement is finalised will be a long one, with no certainty on what the government will decide and how well pharmacists will be compensated for the dramatic reduction in script fees they receive on medicines approved for 60-day dispensing.

Mr Lo noted expenses will not diminish in the meantime.

"We want to continue to pay our staff, continue to sponsor our local clubs, and continue to support all our patients, not just those who can afford to pay," he said.

Mr Lo is adamant some pharmacies will be forced to shut their doors before the new CPA takes effect.

POLICE BRIEFS

'Slow speed' police pursuit through Wonthaggi

THE PEACE was disturbed in Wonthaggi Wednesday afternoon, shortly after 4pm when police were involved in a "slow-speed" pursuit through Wonthaggi.

A male from Wonthaggi who was wanted in regard to serious family violence and criminal matters was located by police in Wonthaggi around 3.30pm (September 13).

Evading police by vehicle, Air Wing was able to track the male's movements as he made his way to Kirrak Road, on the outskirts of Wonthaggi.

An arrest plan was executed by police with stop sticks placed at both the north and south ends of Kirrak Road.

As the male exited the north end of Kirrak Road the stop sticks were effectively deployed puncturing the front right tyre of the vehicle.

The vehicle continued at low speed along Lynnes Road and onto Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road as the tyre deflated.

The vehicle came to a standstill near the residential boundary of Wonthaggi along Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road at which time the male offender got out of the car and turned himself into police.

The offender was remanded in custody overnight to appear at Latrobe Magistrates Court.

Urgent appeal for witnesses

LEONGATHA Police are appealing for witnesses to a physical altercation between two males which occurred about 3.30 pm on Friday September 8 on the footpath outside Discount King, McCartin Street. Any witnesses and those with footage of the incident please contact Leading Senior Constable Bowman at Leongatha Police Station, via email - lauren.bowman@police.vic.gov.au or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

Burglary attempt foiled

ON September 17 at 5.30am a husband and wife were woken by their garage door being activated in Cowes. Investigating the noise, the husband found one male offender inside the now open garage. Hightailing it out the garage, the offender escaped with garage remotes stolen from the vehicles.

No injuries as blaze destroys kitchen

A FIRE has caused extensive damage to a kitchen in Merrin Crescent with smoke and heat damage to the rest of the house.

The fire broke out on Thursday (September 14) at approximately 11.30am.

Fortunately, there were no injuries with one occupant in a separate rear bungalow safely evacuated.

The fire was attended to by Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Dalyston Fire Brigades, and local police. The cause of the blaze was undetermined by Victoria Police and Fire Investigators.

Loophole leaves killer dog on the streets

From page 1

She said her dog was a "rescue dog" provided by Stafford Rescue Victoria, she'd had the dog for 12 months, and no temperament report was provided with the dog.

"Nothing like this has ever happened in the past. I had no idea that would happen," said the offending dog's owner.

"Only the day before, I had her on the beach and she played happily with the other dogs. I'm extremely sorry for their loss.

"Since then, I've never let her off-leash. I appreciate that I'm not only responsible for my dog but the safety of other dogs as well," she said.

The dog is 7 years old.

Magistrate Halse found the charges proven but did not record a conviction against the dog's owner.

"There are no priors, and the circumstances are such that you were unaware of the potential for your dog to do what it did. You are a resident of another area, so orders (against the dog) will not be made.

Magistrate Halse adjourned the matter for 12 months, without conviction, ordered that \$131 costs be paid and a donation of \$1000 be made to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital.

"Are you prepared to do that?" he asked.

"Yes," she said.

"And make sure your dog is not let off leash in public again or there may be a destruction order made if an offence occurs."

The Bass Coast Shire Council has recently reviewed its Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25.

A stated aim of the policy is to develop programs, services and strategies "which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district", to among other things "effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in

compliance with this Act and the regulations".

It is noted that in 2021, Bass Coast Shire has 17 declared dogs of which six were declared as dangerous dogs, 10 declared as menacing dogs and one restricted breed dog.

But how many others, like the offending dog in this case, visit the area?

The shire has a stated aim to also "ensure all dogs declared by Council are recorded on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry" however, with no avenue to make a declaration against visiting dogs, these dangerous dogs slipping through the cracks.

The small local business with a big difference

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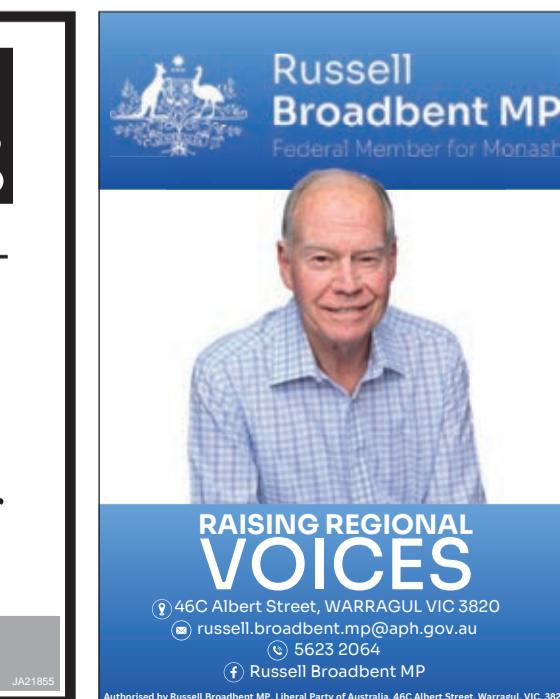
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NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND



TUE | Sept 19
Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: W-NW 15-20km/h
11° 21°



WED | Sept 20
Showers.
Wind AM: NW 20-30km/h
Wind PM: W 25-30km/h
11° 17°



THUR | Sept 21
Showers easing.
Wind AM: W 25-35km/h
Wind PM: SW 20-30km/h
7° 15°



FRI | Sept 22
Cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: W 15-20km/h
8° 15°



SAT | Sept 23
Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light
7° 18°



SUN | Sept 24
Sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light
7° 21°

IN BRIEF

Explore new energy in a workshop

A WORKSHOP which aims to explore regenerative ways of working in the new energy space based on a Gippsland version of the Melbourne Doughnut will be held by New Energy. Insights from three workshops will form the first stepping stone of creating a roadmap for our beautiful region.

Attendees can expect to hear from thought leaders in the respective space, discuss previous work, expose barriers and discover new energy opportunities.

This event will be held in conjunction with Regen Gippsland, at Meeniyah Hall on Sunday September 24 from 2pm to 4pm. For more information and tickets go to: events.humanitix.com/regen-gippsland-x-new-energy.

History awards open for entries

THE 2023 Victorian Community History Awards are now open for entries.

The Community History Awards are presented in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria to celebrate the people and groups involved in history projects that tell local stories, which help all Victorians to better understand their past.

Categories include Victorian Premier's History Award (\$5000); Collaborative Community History Award (\$2000); Local History Project Award (\$2000); Small History Publication Award (\$1500); Small Organisation History Project Award (\$1500); Community Diversity Award (\$1500); Digital Storytelling Award (\$1500); Historical Interpretation Award (\$1500); Oral History Award presented in collaboration with Oral History Victoria (\$1500); History Article Award (\$500); and Judge's Special Prize (\$500).

Past winners have included creators of historic walking tours, apps and websites, writers of non-fiction history books, history groups, museums, and exhibitors of history related displays.

Entries close on October 13.

More information can be found at prov.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/community-history-awards.

How many dancers?

To help shape the future of dance in Victoria, Ausdance Victoria held a 'Dance Census' last Thursday, September 7.

Data from the Victorian Dance Census will form a clear picture of the state of the sector in 2023 and help Ausdance VIC identify the support and services needed most.

This information will inform the advocacy agenda and influence the education programs

they provide.

The census is still available online and only takes nine minutes to complete, visit ausdancevic.org.au/victorian-dance-census

Local sports clubs play on with new funds

THE latest round of the Sporting Club Grants Program will continue to break barriers for grassroots sport and recreation organisations, encouraging local communities to stay healthy and active.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced applications are now open for the latest round of the Sporting Club Grants Program.

The grants program sees a strong focus on supporting, celebrating and building the capacity of sports volunteers in vital roles – from administration to coaching and umpiring.

Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for uniforms, equipment and resources that improve accessibility and engagement; up to \$2,000 for projects to strengthen volunteering and officiating; up to \$4,000 to deliver a new sport or recreation program and up to \$750 to support athlete travel.

By providing more opportunities for local clubs and organisations, the program goes a long way towards future-proofing grassroot sports, while ensuring those participating are equipped with the necessary skills to take their game to the next level.

Applications for this round

close at 4pm on October 12.

For more information and

to apply for Sporting Club

Grants Program visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Community Diversity Award (\$1500); Digital Storytelling Award (\$1500); Historical Interpretation Award (\$1500); Oral History Award presented in collaboration with Oral History Victoria (\$1500); History Article Award (\$500); and Judge's Special Prize (\$500).

Past winners have included

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tours, apps and websites,

writers of non-fiction history

books, history groups, mu-

seums, and exhibitors of history

related displays.

Entries close on October 13.

More information can be found at prov.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/community-history-awards.

Hospital care delivered differently

RECORD numbers are accessing Priority Primary Care Clinics and the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department as alternative urgent care options as paramedics and emergency department staff

face record demand.

Priority Primary Care Clinics (PPCC) have quickly become an invaluable addition to the health system, with more than 152,000 visits recorded since centres progressively opened late last year.

Open after hours and on weekends, they are staffed by highly qualified teams of GPs and nurses who can treat a range of conditions that require urgent attention but not a hospital-led response, such as mild infections, fractures and burns, helping to improve treatment and waiting times at hospital emergency departments.

Available to all Victorians, no matter where they live, thousands are also accessing urgent care through Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED), which has provided more than 155,000 video consultations to patients since it launched in October 2020.

Paramedics are also connecting patients to VVED through the Ambulance Victoria pathway.

If facing a medical emergency, people should still call Triple Zero or present to the closest emergency department.

However, PPCCs and VVED are the best alternatives for patients with urgent medical conditions when their GP is not accessible.

Moo's nominated for Community Achievement

MOO's At Meeniyah was nominated in the 2023 Community Achievement Awards for Victoria.

The awards celebrate people who have contributed to their community, no matter how big or small.

The Community Achievement Awards started in 2002 and are designed to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions that individuals, communities and businesses make throughout Victoria.

These awards aim to recognise their success and achievements, which contribute to making Victoria a better place.

Nominations closed on September 1 and judging will take place on October 11.

Winners will be announced on Friday, December 1, at the 2023 Community Achievement Awards Gala Presentation Dinner.

Big hearts, big achievement

LATROBE Regional Health's cardiac catheterisation laboratory has performed its 1000th coronary angiogram, in a major milestone for the expanding cardiology service.

The cath lab opened in 2018 and has an experienced team of nurses, cardiologists and cardiac physiologists led by Director of Cardiology Dr

Derk Pol.

"The cath lab specialises in diagnosing heart problems and providing treatment options for patients. This includes inserting a stent, under-skin loop recorders or carrying out right heart studies which allow us to test the pressure in a patient's lungs," Dr Pol said.

The high-tech cath lab features special imaging systems and cameras which can track the passage of a catheter as it is moved closer to a patient's heart.

The cath lab at LRH is the only service of its type in Gippsland.

Working to protect Victoria's threatened species

VICTORIA'S threatened species are being given the best chance to thrive with the government opening a second round of the Nature Fund which promotes collaboration with private and philanthropic groups.

Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt announced the Nature Fund open at Phillip Island on Thursday, with \$3.5 million available to restore habitat and protect at-risk native species.

The Nature Fund supports conservation projects that secure co-investment from private groups which leads to collective action for biodiversity.

Since launching in 2022, the Fund has seen \$10 million go to 22 projects which have delivered habitat restoration, research and monitoring, wildlife translocations and community engagement.

Projects funded in the first round included expanding a sanctuary area for the critically endangered Southern Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby, restoring habitat for the endangered Swift Parrot, and supporting the recovery of the critically endangered Spotted Tree Frog and endangered Pookila.

The Nature Fund has also supported projects that advance the self-determination of Victoria's First Peoples, with \$1.9 million allocated via the program's Caring for Country stream to six projects led by Aboriginal organisations.

To learn more about the Nature Fund and to apply, visit environment.vic.gov.au/nature-fund.

Australian flag stolen from Senior Citizens Club

LAST weekend the Australian flag was stolen from outside the Phillip Island Senior Citizens Club. The matter has been reported to the police along with photos of the damage to the pole. If anyone saw any suspicious activity, please contact Cowes/Wonthaggi police.

When will the increases for small businesses stop?

WORKSAFE Premiums for one small business in Inverloch have risen by over \$5000 in a single year.

Inverloch local Fred deBono manages the bookwork voluntarily for his sons business, Hue Beauty Painting Services.

The business has been operating since 2003 and hasn't made a single WorkCover claim in that time.

"When he showed me this work cover insurance bill, and it had risen by over \$5000, from one year to another, it just seemed ridiculous really," Fred said.

WorkSafe premiums are calculated at different rates for different industries depending on the number of claims and the associated costs of the claims over the previous financial year.

Hue Beauty Painting Services is classified by WorkSafe as Painting and Decorating Services.

In the financial year 2019/20 the premium rate for this industry was 3.534 per cent equating to an annual cost of \$4466, it rose incrementally in 2020/21 to 4.24 per cent and over the next two years to 4.713 per cent and 5.449 per cent respectively.

The rate owing for the 2023/24 financial year sky rocketed to 8.188 per cent, with the cost blowing out from an annual rate of \$9388 from the previous year to \$14,424 this year.

This is an increase of \$5036 in a single year and an increase of \$9957 over five years that this small business must pay to stay insured.

In regard to this issue, a spokeswoman from WorkSafe said,

"The greater than average premium increase for painting and decorating services has been driven by growth in both injury numbers and claims costs."

The number of received injury claims made to WorkSafe in the Painting and Decorating Industry for the year 2019/20 was 91 and in 2022/23 was 95, and 84 and 94 for the years in between.

Costs of individual claims drive up this number, which is then passed on to small businesses, whether or not they



Fred deBono has seen an increase of over \$5000 in WorkSafe premiums in a single year, for his sons small business.

have made a claim.

WorkCover state that the way rates are calculated is equitable and manageable for small businesses.

"WorkCover industry rates reflect the relative injury risk of that industry to ensure the scheme is fair and sustainable," a spokeswoman from WorkSafe said.

"The business has always had an excellent safety record, which WorkCover gives no consideration. It seems that businesses with good safety records are penalised for those larger companies with poor safety records. This is not right," Fred commented.

"I can understand the reason they have it and to pay a reasonable amount, but on the other hand if someone has never had a claim and their injury record is perfect they get no reward for it," Fred said.

"What I'd like to see happen is that the small businesses that have a good record should at least have a different rate to a big company that's causing the problems. I think that's the only way."

"Anyone in a building industry like a plumber or an electrician or a painter, they'll cop these charges and you've got to have it, if you're going to start a business," said Fred.

The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, said he had been hearing from many Gippsland businesses in recent weeks about dramatic increases in their WorkCover bills.



The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, says business and workers are copping the brunt of big WorkCover premium increases.

"This week I spoke to a small South Gippsland business who's WorkCover premium has risen 150 per cent against a wages bill that has only gone up 64 per cent," Mr. O'Brien said.

"The bill has increased to over \$30,000 which is a massive cost for a small business employing just a handful of staff."

"The significant spikes in WorkCover charges come at a time when Victorian businesses can least afford them, with the price of goods and services increasing, rents and mortgages soaring and workforce shortages biting," said Mr. O'Brien.

While Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said, "We know workplaces are feeling the effects of rising costs and WorkCover has options in place to assist businesses."

EML Mutual are the WorkCover service provider, and the bill, according to Fred provides three different options to pay which offer two discounted rates.

A five per cent discount is offered if the invoice is paid by August 14, 2023, equalling approximately a \$700 discount and a three per cent discount equating to about \$430, if it's paid by October 1, 2023.

The final option is for the payment to be made in quarterly instalments with the first payment of \$3606 to be paid quarterly by October 1, 2023.

"They're trying to give you some discount, but it's just too

much in one hit, so you don't get the benefit," Fred said.

"It gets paid quarterly because the cash flow of small businesses is not really big. No small business could afford to pay it up front to get the discount."

"It's time for the highly paid executives, to sit down at the board table and come with a fair premium for businesses that have great safety records," said Fred.

WorkSafe's answer to this proposition is that, "The best way for Victorian employers to ensure their industry rate is as low as possible for future premium years is to operate a safe and healthy workplace to prevent injuries from occurring."

In response to Fred's concerns, Jordan Crugnale MP said, "The government is delivering fundamental reforms to WorkCover and establishing Return to Work Victoria to ensure this vital scheme is sustainable."

"I encourage the business owner who has raised this matter to contact WorkCover directly to discuss their premium calculation."

Fred is left with a large bill in his hand, wondering at the sense and fairness of the policies of WorkSafe.

"WorkCover is all about safety at work. You would think that WorkCover directors can offer some reward to a business of only two workers, with a perfect safety record, a twenty-year history of no claims," said Fred.

Small business owners getting older

AUSTRALIA'S small business owners are rapidly getting older as the proportion of younger entrepreneurs shrinks.

Ombudsman Bruce Billson said the most common age of small business owners across Australia is 50 years, compared to 45 years in 2006.

Mr Billson said in some sectors it's even lower, such as retail where only six per cent of business owners are aged under 30.

"In the 1980s, there were actually twice as many small business owners aged between 30 and 49 as there were aged over 50," he said.

"We need to replenish and nurture the next generation of entrepreneurs, value self-employment and encourage and enable smaller enterprises and the livelihoods they make possible.

"We need to understand why it is not as appealing as it perhaps should be for younger Australians to own a small business."

More than one in five small business owners (22 per cent) are aged 60 and over.

In agriculture, forestry and fishing, two thirds of small businesses are owned by people over the age of 50.

Other sectors where more than 50 per cent of small business owners are aged 50 or over include manufacturing, retail, finance and insurance, real estate, wholesale trade, utilities and waste services.

New Act backs mental health support

THE groundbreaking new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 came into effect on September 1, resetting the state's mental health system and enshrining the recommendations from the Royal Commission.

The State Government's landmark legislation paves the way for a redesigned, world-class mental health and wellbeing system that has human rights and lived experience expertise at its core. The Act focuses on a system of early intervention and community-based services to ensure people are involved in decisions about their treatment and incorporates a statement of recognition and acknowledgment of treaty process.

Guided by Victorians with lived experience of mental illness, the new Act establishes a Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission, Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Victoria, and Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The Act also enables an 'opt out' model of access to non-legal advocacy services for people who are subject to compulsory treatment, helping connect them with advocacy support when they need it.

The State Government has been working closely with the sector to assist transition to the Act, with a focus on delivering information, training and resources to help service providers and the workforce understand new requirements.

To ensure the new system continues to provide the best support for all Victorians, a review of the Act will take place in five to seven years.

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Shire set to back return of Lance Creek abattoir

MORE than seven years after ceasing regular operations, it seems almost certain now that the Lance Creek abattoir will be re-opened by Kilcoy Global Foods Australia.

But it may not be soon.

At tomorrow's Bass Coast Shire Council meeting, the shire has foreshadowed approving the issuing of planning permit "for the use of the land for an abattoir and associated buildings, works in a Farming Zone (FZ) and a reduction in the number of car parking spaces at 2140 Korumburra - Wonthaggi Road, Lance Creek."

It has been reported that Kilcoy has already made representations to local stock agents, for the purchase of stock and has been recruiting staff.

According to a report to be tabled at the council meeting this week: "The subject site ceased operation as an abattoir sometime after 2015. The permit has since expired due to the use ceasing for more than two years..."

The application was advertised with only one objection.

Mayor's message



Cr Michael Whelan



SO MUCH of what council does is about balancing the competing demands of a modern, growing population – but one where we want to hold on dearly to what made us all fall in love with Bass Coast in the first place.

One of those hot issues, which I know from talking to lots of residents, is short-term rental accommodation.

It's a vexed issue. On the one hand our tourism economy is critical to our local businesses and local jobs. To cater for the growing number of tourists – 1.85 million visitors each year – short term accommodation plays an absolutely critical role.

On the other hand, residents love their peaceful little pocket of heaven and complain that tourists staying in short term rentals interrupt their bliss.

Bass Coast Shire is not alone in trying to find an appropriate balance. This plays out across regional Victoria, nationally, and globally in sought after tourism locations.

To create a better outcome, many other councils have already introduced an annual registration fees and standards and Bass Coast Shire has followed their lead having learnt from their experience about the best way to implement the system.

Under the new Local Law No.1 Neighbourhood Amenity 2022, adopted by Council last year, short stay rental accommodation providers must now pay an annual fee of \$300 and abide by several standards.

There are two main reasons for the introduction of this Local Law: one is to help ensure that owners of short term accommodation take responsibility for occupant behaviour, including having a designated contact person who is available 24-7 and can attend the property within two hours, if required.

And the second important reason is that it will help us to strike a balance between accommodating more visitors who choose to spend their holidays and weekends in Bass Coast, and ensuring our local residents are able to continue to enjoy everything they love about living here without added disruption."

To streamline the registration process, Council has set up a new online portal to administer applications and approvals for short stay rental accommodation providers in Bass Coast. It came into effect on September 1.

The online portal will better manage short stay rental accommodation provider applications, approvals and maintain efficient, effective communication with applicants.

Yes, but council isn't telling you how to vote



The local Yes23 group spreading the message at the Mirboo North Winterfest. How will council voting 'Yes' change the way you think about the Voice to Parliament referendum?

referendum will change this to create better opportunities for reconciliation and healing," according to Cr Laing.

"The Voice to Parliament Referendum is an individual choice that allows all Australians to be a part of an historic moment in our shared history. It is a genuine chance to benefit all Australians."

Adding weight to Cr Laing's appeal is a note from the shire's administration: "The proposed Notice of Motion is consistent with the Bass Coast Community Vision 2041, and the Council Plan, Healthy Community objective and relevant strategies."

However, while Cr Laing argues that a vote for the Voice to Parliament will pave the way to "reconciliation and healing", opponents of the referendum say no one can say what the outcome will be.

"No matter what the Government, the advocates, and the activists say about what the voice will or won't do, the fact is they don't know," said Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, a Warlpiri/Celtic woman who spoke at the National Press Club last week.

"My hope is that after October 14, after defeating this voice of division, we can bring accountability to existing structures, and we can get away from assuming in-the-city activists speak for all Aboriginals and back to focusing on the real issues - education, employment, economic participation and safety from violence and sexual assault."

Cr Laing is calling on her council colleagues to vote for the following motion:

That Council: (1.) Supports a constitutionally enshrined voice to Parliament for First

Nations people; (2.) Commits to sharing clear, credible information on the Voice to Parliament and all aspects of the upcoming referendum to assist residents in making their own considered and informed choice on the day; and (3.) Is committed to reconciliation.

"We acknowledge that we are on a journey of learning. We continue to work actively in partnership with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. (4.) We acknowledge there are different views around the Voice. We respect everyone's right to express their views and to choose how to vote. We want to help ensure our community is well-informed to decide. (5.) We acknowledge that any position resolved by Council is without prejudice to individual positions of each Councillor or Council officer.

Short stay providers slugged in Bass Coast

NEW local laws "to better regulate short stay rental accommodation in Bass Coast" came into effect on Monday last week and in the first instance, you've got to stump up a \$300 registration fee ASAP.

Registration operates from the date it is issued and expires on June 30 the following year, unless it is cancelled sooner under "Local Law No. 1 Neighbourhood Amenity 2022".

But that's just for starters.

The Victorian Government is set to follow suit this week by placing a 7.5 per cent levy on accommodation bookings, effective immediately.

Local real estate agents say the rising cost of providing private accommodation in local resort towns is already driving investors and those simply

offering their own home for rent over the summer holidays.

"We've seen a rise in those sorts of listings, from people who are selling up and getting out," said an Inverloch real estate agent.

Bass Coast Shire Council says the new local laws will pave the way for a more structured, efficient system as visitor numbers surge.

Under the new Local Law No.1 Neighbourhood Amenity 2022, adopted by Council last year, it's not enough for short stay rental accommodation providers to pay the fee, they must also abide by several standards,

including taking responsibility for occupant behaviour and having a designated contact person available 24-7 who can attend the property within two

hours.

There must also be a specified number of occupants and vehicles per booking; and appropriate waste management measures in place.

An online portal, which has also gone live this week, is designed to help manage short stay rental accommodation provider applications, approvals and maintain efficient, effective communications.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Michael Whelan said visitor numbers were growing across the region and there were around 2500 short stay rental accommodation properties in the Bass Coast Shire.

Each year, Bass Coast attracts more than 1.85 million visitors, with estimates that number will grow to over 4 million by 2035.

"More and more people visit Bass Coast each year and Council will continue to nurture the growth of local tourism," Cr Whelan said.

"At the same time, we are obliged to manage short stay rental accommodation to ensure these rentals and visitors' enjoyment of the Bass Coast is not to the detriment of our local residents and community.

"Most importantly, it will help us to strike a balance between accommodating more visitors who choose to spend their holidays and weekends in Bass Coast, and ensuring our local residents are able to continue to enjoy everything they love about living here without added disruption."

The online portal is available at basscoast.vic.gov.au/ssra

Police hot on trail of Cape Paterson vandals

A DISTURBING spate of vandalism at Cape Paterson, in the early hours of Saturday morning, September 16, which shapes as a targeted attack, has raised the hackles of police.

According to Wonthaggi Police Sergeant, Scott Morison, vandals have set fire or otherwise damaged the three public toilets in the town, putting them out of action at the start of the spring school holidays.

They've also smashed windows at the Wonthaggi Surf Lifesaving Club. And along the

way, in what police believe is a related incident, they've also damaged cars in the vicinity.

"It is particularly disturbing that we've got people with nothing better to do than go around damaging facilities put there for the use of the community and visitors, while also damaging a community facility used in the main by surf lifesaving volunteers," said Sgt Morison.

Sgt Morison said it appeared that the opportunist vandals had used available materials, including toilet paper and rub-

bish to start the fires, rather than any accelerant.

But they have succeeded in causing thousands of dollars damage to community-owned facilities.

A unit of the Wonthaggi CFA Brigade turned out on Saturday evening, reporting damage to every toilet in the block in the First Surf Carpark, a burnt bin in front and damage to two other toilet blocks, at the boat ramp and the surf club.

The town is effectively out of public toilets for the school

holidays, unless the Bass Coast Shire Council can make some temporary arrangements.

Police have recovered CCTV footage from various locations around the town but are also appealing to the public who may have private CCTV footage, dashcam footage or who may have seen suspicious behaviour in Cape Paterson around 3am last Saturday morning, to call Wonthaggi Police on 5671 4100 or anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au

Deadly octopus spotted on Silverleaves Beach

A WALKER on Silverleaves Beach spotted two blue ringed octopuses on the sand about one hundred metres from each other heading towards the water last week.

A photograph of one of the colourful octopuses was posted to Facebook by the walker, receiving hundreds of reactions and comments from the public.

Not surprising, as the tiny creatures are rarely spotted in the wild. They are reclusive and antisocial, and prefer to hide or camouflage in rock pools, crevices and shells according to Australia Geographic.

There are at least ten different species in the world, they only grow to 12 cm and they are all highly venomous with enough poison to kill 26 humans – with no known anti-venom.

"As a lifesaver, the first message really is don't touch a blue ring octopus," said Jason Close, President of the Woolamai Surf Life Saving Club.

Jason explained that just like any other type of marine creature if it gets disturbed while in its natural habitat it will put up defence mechanisms.

"Sometimes the reason people get stung is when they try to pick up marine creatures and really the best thing to do is stay away from them. If a



Two highly venomous blue ringed octopuses were spotted on Silverleaves beach last week, heading back towards the water.

person sees one, tries to pick it up, or remove it to a different place, it's not a good idea, they should stay away from it and leave it alone."

While the Surf Lifesaving club doesn't keep track of marine species in the area, anecdotally they know the octopus inhabit the island, and as a surf club haven't yet had to treat anybody for a bite from a blue ring octopus.

"They do tend to be in rock pools and places that are fairly rocky. The beaches

that we patrol at Woolamai probably aren't the locations that they're most likely to be found in, but certainly they are in places on Phillip Island where there's rocks or places where they can attach themselves to."

"I don't think there's heaps of them, but they are around. Like any marine creature, you will get jellyfish, you'll get stingrays, you'll get creatures all around the island."

Jason commented that in the first instance if someone

is stung or suspects they may have been, they should immediately call for an ambulance, as it could turn very serious quite quickly.

"Call an ambulance and apply a compression bandage around the bite and then immobilise that limb," Jason advised.

"Keep the person still and then assess them, assess their breathing, they may need CPR, but the important thing is to call an ambulance as soon as possible."

Share stories of family violence to help others

WOMEN from Bass Coast and South Gippsland can share their experiences of family violence to help other women.

Research is being undertaken to understand how people affected by family violence are using family violence service systems and if they aren't using those systems, why not.

The Gippsland Family Violence Alliance (GFVA), which is comprised of 36 organisations across wider Gippsland, is working with Deakin to undertake the study.

Victims of family violence are invited to share their stories in completely anonymous, one hour interviews.

"They only need to share what they're comfortable with, but their story can make a difference to other people who may be experiencing or may experience family problems in the future," explained Kim Adams, Principal Strategic Advisor from GFVA.

"If they have experienced something that they wouldn't want to occur to anybody else, this is one of the many ways they can make a change to the service delivery, make a change to the service system and provide some feedback into the services people receive in Gippsland."

The research team want to interview forty victims and ten practitioners, with about half of those number reached so far.

The information will be used to make improvements to service systems and delivery where it may be needed.

This would require advocacy to the law and resourcing changes made to delivery models to create a service that aligns more closely to needs.

"If people are utilising other services, not the traditional family violence services, they might be using neighbourhood houses, food banks, bush chaplains, those kinds of things which we would also look at," Kim said.

For further information or for women who would like to participate visit gippslandfamilyviolencealliance.com.au or contact Dr. Lata Satyen on 5227 8452 or lata@deakin.edu.au.



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Accused of stomping on victim

A 21-year-old local man, who allegedly broke a victim's nose and stomped on the unconscious man while he was lying on the ground, during a fight in Wonthaggi, has had his case adjourned to the Wonthaggi Court for a contest mention in January next year.

However, after reading a police summary of what is alleged to have occurred in the incident, also involving two co-accused, Korumburra Magistrate Andrew Halse urged the accused man's lawyer to have some "frank conversations" with his client around resolving the matter.

The lawyer had earlier presented to the court that his client considered that the fight was consensual.

The magistrate queried why the cases of the three accused men involved in the fight had been separated.

No licence, no appeal

A LOCAL tradesman who recently lost his licence for an unspecified offence had his application to be able to drive while the matter was appealed refused in the Korumburra Magistrates Court last week by Magistrate Andrew Halse.

Asked why he wanted to be allowed to drive until the matter could be appealed, the tradesman frankly said he was a member of a small team of workers and was required to drive others to work.

Magistrate Halse had earlier told another traffic offender that losing the privilege to drive was supposed to be inconvenient.

He refused the application for an appeal, essentially trying to delay the inevitable.

Context for smashing windscreens

KORUMBURRA magistrate Andrew Halse asked a lawyer in his court last week how he planned to argue that a family violence order was not warranted after his client smashed his partner's windscreen and allegedly kicked her.

"She tried to run him over and he punched the windscreen to get her to stop," said the lawyer.

"I don't imagine the other side will agree with that," said the magistrate and the interim order was left in place until the matter could be properly heard in court.

Toughest penalty of all

A LOCAL grandmother, who admitted to police that she had a crackpipe in her car, and a personal-use quantity of ice when pulled over for a breath test, told the court last week that she had a compelling reason for trying to give up the highly addictive substance.

She said that when her daughter found out what had happened, she told her that she would not be seeing her grandchildren unless she gave it up.

"That's a more powerful penalty than any that I can apply," said Korumburra Magistrate Andrew Halse who scaled back the sanction accordingly.

The woman's lawyer said her client had made full admissions to police, had her licence back and was progressing well off the drug.

Police crisis: Magistrate queries attitude to family violence

ONE in five police officers are considering leaving the force in the next 12 months, while 67 per cent say they are feeling burnt out.

On top of that, according to Secretary of the Victoria Police Association, Wayne Gatt, there are 800 vacancies in police ranks at the moment with a further 900 officers absent for work-related injuries and long-term leave.

"It's been a record year of attrition," he told ABC Radio during the week, with more leaving than being recruited.

But, more worrying still, is the continuing trend revealed in a study by RMIT researchers who surveyed 1039 Victoria Police Officers.

And it certainly rings true locally, although Chief Commissioner Shane Patton claims numbers of recruits are outstripping those leaving the force.

"I don't believe the survey, I'm sorry," he said.

One local police officer, who is among those going out the revolving blue door, told the Sentinel-Times last week that the pay wasn't good enough for the stuff you've got to deal with.

He didn't say "stuff".

"Scumbags on drugs, the amount of times you have to turn out for family violence incidents and body-worn cameras that are likely to get you into more

trouble than the people you're dealing with.

"If you don't speak to the crims nicely enough, your behaviour can be reviewed by senior management. It's just another thing you have to deal with," he said.

It may also be that political interference is skewing police operational decisions with, for example, the increased emphasis on family violence initiatives, coming out of the 2015 Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence. This includes added pressure to charge and prosecute even relatively minor family violence offences, as well as the use and monitoring of family violence and personal safety orders as a main management tool.

It's a situation, as highlighted last week by Korumburra Magistrate Andrew Halse, that may be taking police away from other more pressing issues of law and order.

"Why is this even here? What, just because it was listed as a family violence matter, a charge had to be laid?" said Magistrate Halse.

The magistrate was talking about a moment of stress that led to a 54-year-old local woman

throwing her former partner's mobile phone during an argument about the man's daughter.

The accused woman, suffering from fibromyalgia, a disorder

characterised by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by fatigue, sleep, memory and mood issues; as well as chronic arthritis had just returned home from hospital after an unsuccessful treatment when the brief argument broke out.

As the woman explained to the court, she thought her ex-partner, now a live-in friend in attendance in court, was trying to film her behaviour when she grabbed the phone and threw it to the floor, trying to break it.

"We have been together for 30 years, now just as friends living together. It was an isolated incident, completely out of character, I am so sorry," she said.

The magistrate accepted the explanation, noting that it was exactly the sort of incident with which the prosecution should be able to use its discretion.

The total number of family violence incidents in the year to the end of March 2023, fell by 5.9% in Bass Coast and 2.4% in South Gippsland, which means that either the message is getting through or a lack of police resourcing allowed detection and prosecution to fall.

There was however a 22.9% increase in other crime in South Gippsland, and coming off the population settling back after COVID, zero increase in Bass Coast.



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Paul, Kevin, Mark, Emmet, Carmel, Vincent, Scott, Brian and Anthony Taranto and Ann-Marie Brereton at the 60th birthday celebration for Taranto Glass. A05_3823

Taranto Glass celebrates 60 years

TARANTO Glass recently celebrated its 60th birthday with a large gathering at Taranto Windows & Doors to mark the occasion.

Founder Vincent Taranto was inspired to establish the business by his Italian grandfather who delivered a persistent message from the time Vincent was five years old.

"My grandfather would slap me on the knee, telling me when I grow up I have to 'make de money', something it was stressed wouldn't happen working for someone else."

Vincent took the leap to open his own business in 1963 with the support of wife Carmel.

He needed 12 months to work up the courage to do so, initially handing in his notice before changing his mind as he and Carmel had a one-

year-old baby, and another on the way, and Vincent's boss told him he wouldn't make it on his own.

Eventually he decided he had to give it a shot.

"I bought a Holden ute and a case of glass," Vincent said.

"I'm not sure you could do it today," he noted, adding that there is so much one could do then that would no longer be possible with occupational health and safety requirements and endless red tape.

"It's been a good life and very rewarding seeing the family make such a success of it."

"My wife's been a great support; she looked after the family while all I did was work," Vincent said.

Of the couple's five children, three of them are in the glass industry,

now running their own businesses, which incorporate the Taranto name.

While several members of the family made speeches, sharing amusing recollections and making fun of one another, it was former tradie and later politician Alan Brown who provided an insight into why Taranto Glass has thrived for so long.

"My first purchase from Taranto was 57 years ago," Alan said, adding that began an enduring friendship and business relationship, initially while he worked in joinery.

"I have had the service of four generations of one family and very few small businesses last anything near 60 years," Alan said.

He attributed the ability of Taranto Glass to do so to great service and competitive pricing.

The season to thrive at The Ranch

THERE's a lot of hard work and attention behind the healthy grown fruit trees that bloomed as spring arrived. With dedication comes knowledge and continuous learning at The Ranch Dalyston - even before the trees and seedlings are ready for the public.

Greg Sutherland of The Ranch Dalyston tends to vegetable seedlings and fruit trees on the daily to produce an array of plants to sell directly to the public.

Located just down the road from the main strip in Dalyston, Greg developed hot houses at the rear of his picturesque property.

"During the winter, we see our fruit trees become dormant - it's important to trim them back and tend to their roots, transferring them to bigger pots when required for the next season."

"I have Dwarf Washington Navel oranges, Dwarf Tahitian lime, Eureka lemons, and Imperial mandarins, as well as Dwarf Tang-O's nectarines ready for planting or re-potting."

"These five-and-a-half-year-old Genuine Dwarf Pinkabelle and Wee Folk Dwarf 'Leprechaun' apple trees have only been re-potted once and

are blooming this spring - they can be planted or simply left alone for re-growth."

Greg invites the public to tour the property, gathering seedlings to plant in their very own veggie patches, with cucumber, spinach, eggplant, Roma tomatoes, jalapenos, Pak choy, and zucchini all available.

Once the careful selection is made, Greg can assist with soil and fertiliser, as well as decorative pot selection from renowned manufacturer, Bombora.

"I will have all stock on hand for everything to be purchased here, and I am open to providing advice on tree care and nourishment for future growth."

Greg advises that not all fruit trees need to be planted into the ground, "by tending to their needs with a good trim and re-potting, fruit and citrus tree's can thrive in a pot and be moved around the property as required."

"Take a look at these apple trees, they are thriving in the right size pot and it's just the start of their fruiting season."

For pricing or further inquiry email greg@theranchdalyston.com.

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**South Gippsland
Shire Council**

South Gippsland Shire Council News **2023 Sporting Facilities Upgrades**

South Gippsland Shire Council is committed to fostering an active and healthy region, so it was particularly exciting last week to celebrate the launch of nine new sporting infrastructure projects.

The launch was held at the Loch District Bowling Club with Tom McIntosh Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Mayor Nathan Hersey, South Gippsland Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis and Sue Loughridge Secretary of the Loch District Bowling Club, making use of the newly installed synthetic green.

Our region has a strong sporting culture which is reflected in recent data collected by Council that shows:

- There are consistent levels of sport played across all areas of South Gippsland (approximately 23 percent of our population are involved in sport in some capacity).

- More than six in ten children aged 5-7 play organised sport.

Sports are the essence of our community, bringing people together, encouraging physical and mental well-being, and fostering a sense of camaraderie, whilst promoting inclusivity. Local sporting clubs also offer programs and events that cater to all age groups, genders and abilities.

If you are part of a community sporting group in need of funding for equipment, uniforms or to promote your club, the Victorian Government's Sporting Club Grant Program is now open. Applications close Thursday 12 October. For more information and to apply, please visit the website listed below.

Additionally, keep an eye out for Council's second round of Community Grants opening 1 January 2024.

www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants

Citizenship Ceremony



South Gippsland Shire Council proudly welcomed six conferees at the Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday 13 September 2023.

The new citizens hail from the following countries:

- Norway
- Hong Kong
- Philippines
- Papua New Guinea

A big congratulations to our new Australian citizens and welcome to our beautiful region.

Pictured above are:

Left to right – Mayor Nathan Hersey, Tristan Bain Nancy Sam and Philijay Bain

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 20 September 2.00pm
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

Dates are also listed on Council's website at:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/
meeting-dates](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting-dates)

To watch the 'open' part of the meeting live or when it suits you, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Please contact the Governance Team for questions about Council Meetings.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Check out our current vacant positions here:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/
vacantpositions](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions)

SENIORS FESTIVAL

Seniors across Latrobe, South Gippsland and Baw Baw Shires, are invited to a Combined Gippsland Country Concert.

Melissa Langton stars in *What the World Needs Now*, a joyous, foot stomping, hand clapping celebration of the swinging sixties.

Here are the details:

WHEN: Thursday 12 October 2023

TIME: 11.00am – 12.00pm

WHERE: Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium, Catterick Crescent, Traralgon, VIC, 3844

COST: Free Event

To book a ticket, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival

REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

RFT/384 – Minor Drainage Works – Korumburra and Leongatha

Tender closes 2.00pm AEST on Tuesday 10 October 2023

Documentation is available from Council's e-Tendering Portal

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

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South Gippsland Shire CEO Kerryn Ellis, Loch & District Bowling Club secretary Sue Loughridge, Cr Mick Felton, Cr Clare Williams, mayor Nathan Hersey, Cr John Schelling and Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh celebrate recent sporting infrastructure improvements. A01_3823

Sporting infrastructure projects celebrated in Loch

GLORIOUS sunshine played its part at Loch & District Bowling Club for a Tuesday celebration of nine South Gippsland sporting infrastructure projects, one of which was the installation of the club's synthetic green.

Other projects included lighting improvements at Fish Creek, Korumburra, Meeniyian and Toora Recreation Reserves, and Mirboo North's Walter J Tuck Reserve.

Irrigation and drainage improvements and the addition of an electric scoreboard at the Foster Showgrounds and new goal posts at Meeniyian Recreation Reserve were also celebrated.

The total value of the projects carried out is approximately \$2.4 million, with a State Government contribution of \$1.2 million, \$599,000

from South Gippsland Shire Council, \$366,000 from the Federal Government and \$280,000 from local sporting clubs benefiting from the improvements.

Speeches highlighted the importance of sport to country communities and the value of different levels of government working together to achieve beneficial infrastructure projects, with attendees learning about the different projects across South Gippsland and the funding for each.

A highlight of the morning was the bowl off between Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh and South Gippsland Shire Mayor and Federal aspirant for the seat of Monash, Nathan Hersey.

Tom confidently declared himself a better bowler than the mayor and lived up to his

claim, his bowl finishing close to the jack while Cr Hersey's was well off target.

Cr Hersey thanked the Victorian and Federal Governments for their support of the projects as well as acknowledging the contribution of clubs.

Finlay Luke is one of the many people delighted with the synthetic green at Loch, no longer having to dedicate long hours to the maintenance of a turf green.

"My back feels alright now," he said.

As well as significantly reducing maintenance requirements, the artificial surface will save water.

The bowling club's president Paul Latham said a key benefit of the surface will be allowing play to happen throughout the year, with its turf predecessor too wet for approximately half

of the year.

"I'm passionate about what we've done with our sporting groups," Mr McIntosh said, stressing the value of sport for community members of all ages.

He noted the importance of local involvement adding that projects only come about because of dedicated local committees.

Cr Hersey also mentioned the importance of local involvement, saying the most important thing is community buy in, something he credited the bowling club's secretary Sue Loughridge for recognising and promoting.

The event was a great celebration of the importance of sport in bringing community members together, reducing isolation and promoting good mental health.

New Aussie Citizens celebrated in South Gippsland

SOUTH Gippsland is a little more Aussie after Wednesday evening's citizenship ceremony at Leongatha Memorial Hall, with six new dinky-di Australians taking the pledge.

Nancy Sam and her sons Philjay and Tristan call Korumburra home, having arrived in Australia from Papua New Guinea in 2017.

She sees South Gippsland as a safe location to raise her sons.

"I love the place, the people are really friendly and I feel like I'm part of the town," Nancy said of Korumburra.

She is still adapting to Aussie slang, such as 'bloody' sometimes having positive connotations, as in 'bloody beauty'.

Philjay said being officially an Aussie doesn't seem any different.

"We've been here so long I always feel Australian," he said, having arrived at the age of nine.

Vianne Christal Cheng came to Australia around 2009, living for a time in Foster where her mother-in-law is based.

"I don't think it's sunk in," she responded when asked how it feels to officially be an Aussie.



Councillors Adrian Darakai and Mick Felton, mayor Nathan Hersey, and Cr Clare Williams welcome new Australian citizens Nancy Sam and her sons Tristan and Philjay. A06_3823

With her husband and daughter Australians, obtaining citizenship seemed a natural step to take.

Vianne looks forward to celebrating a summer Christmas as an Australian.

Kristine Rodriguez lives in Leongatha, having shifted from the Philippines to Australia in 2019.

"It's really exciting and I can see my future in Australia," she said of her new citizenship.

Hege Chapman arrived in Australia in 2007 and lives in Korumburra.

She said the main change in being an Aussie is that she is now able to vote.

Norway's decision to allow dual citizenship encouraged Hege to become an official Australian.

She expressed surprise at the emotion she felt during the citizenship ceremony.

"I didn't expect the ceremony to mean a lot," she said, reflecting that while she was born a Norwegian citizen, she chose to become Australian.

She is hedging her bets when it comes to who she will support in sporting contests,

saying she will treat that on a case-by-case basis with the likely winner an influential factor.

Some new citizens were heard proudly singing the words of Advance Australia Fair accompanied by the stirring sounds of the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

Citizenship ceremonies continue to be characterised by a vibrant mood and councillors and council staff clearly enjoy the occasions as much as the new citizens, respecting the significance of the occasion while sharing in the joy.

Mayor's Message



Cr Nathan Hersey



RU OK? Day was held this week and is a good reminder for us all to check in on our friends, family and neighbours. Mental health is no joke, and we all play a crucial role in supporting our loved ones if they are going through a hard time.

In South Gippsland, it is in our nature to take care of others, which makes our community special. Our local towns offer many opportunities to connect with others through sporting clubs and community groups and we gladly welcome new residents and make them feel part of what we have built here.

Thankfully, our mental health is now widely recognised as something we need to look after. We can ask more openly and support others around us who are experiencing mental health challenges. There are many opportunities to develop skills, such as through Mental Health First Aid programs and promoting a broader focus on mental health through events such as the Youth Live4Life Spring Dinner. Along with Cr Jenni Keerie, I was pleased to attend the Youth Live4Life Dinner on Saturday night, bringing a particular focus to the mental health of young people in our communities.

There are many support services that you can utilise if you are struggling with your mental health, including Beyond Blue, who can be contacted on 1300 22 4636.

Sporting Facilities Upgrades Opening

Last week we celebrated the completion of nine sporting facility upgrades across South Gippsland.

The mega opening was held at the Loch and District Bowling Club, which was a beautiful backdrop to such a community celebration.

Loch and District Bowling Club, Meeniyian Recreation Reserve, Meeniyian Dumbalk United Football Netball Club, Foster Showgrounds, Toora Recreation Reserve, Fish Creek Recreation Reserve, Walter J Tuck Reserve (Mirboo North) and Korumburra Soccer Club all received updates to some of their facilities, which can now be enjoyed by the community.

All of these upgrades were made possible by funding from the Federal Government, State Government, South Gippsland Shire Council and with contributions from the community. It is a great example of the progress that can be made when all levels of government work together with the community to deliver outcomes the community expect and need.

Citizenship Ceremony

It is always great when we can welcome new Australians to South Gippsland. Six new Australians, including two children, took their oath and have chosen South Gippsland as their new home.

When I hear the stories of people who choose to live in South Gippsland, I am reminded of the many reasons I love our area so much!

Congratulations to Hege Chapman, Vianne Christal Cheng, Kristine Rodriguez, Nancy Sam, Philjay Bain and Tristan Bain.

Legacy Centenary Celebration

I was humbled to attend the 100-year celebration of Legacy in Korumburra and was touched by the very warm welcome offered by so many people to my four-year-old son Hugo who attended with me.

The service was an important reminder of the service of our veterans and highlights the support organisations such as Legacy provide to families of those who serve.

Thank you to all who participate and give through Legacy.

Coastal Strategy to be adopted

IN THIS week's council meeting The Coastal Strategy that attracted over 770 public comments and submissions will look to be adopted by South Gippsland Shire Council.

The South Gippsland Coastal Strategy was prepared based on increasing development pressures in South Gippsland's coastal areas combined with increasing environmental risk factors, including fire and coastal inundation. The plan is the culmination of extensive community engagement to determine the issues and opportunities facing the South Gippsland coastline and its communities.

Venus Bay is the most evident example with a large supply of vacant residential lots, increasing new dwelling approvals and a growing permanent population, all set in a location exposed to high fire risk and flood-compromised road access.

Port Welshpool is another notable at-risk location given its remaining residential subdivision potential on low-lying land subject to flooding.

It was evident at the commencement of the Coastal Strategy project that more was required of Council to effectively manage growing risks facing the Shire.

Hay Fever Season and its impact on Dry Eye Syndrome

HAY fever season can be a challenging time for many Australians, especially those who suffer from Dry Eye Syndrome.

The arrival of spring often brings blooming flowers and lush greenery, but it also ushers in a surge of pollen in the air. For hay fever sufferers, this can lead to itchy, watery eyes and sneezing fits. Unfortunately, these allergic reactions can worsen dry eye symptoms, creating a double whammy of discomfort. Dry eye occurs when the eyes don't produce enough tears or when the tears evaporate too quickly, leaving the eyes feeling gritty, burning, and irritated.

During hay fever season, individuals with dry eye syndrome should take extra precautions. First and foremost, consult your optometrist who can recommend specific eye drops or treatments tailored to your needs. Additionally, wearing wrap-around sunglasses can help shield the eyes from pollen and wind, reducing irritation.

At Leongatha Optometrists we have a special interest in the treatment of dry eye and our non-invasive Blephasteam treatments can significantly reduce the symptoms of dry eye, providing you with instant relief. Continue to enjoy your favourite activities without the discomfort of itchy, dry eyes this hay fever season, head to our website for more information leongathaoptometrists.com.au

Pamper your eyes with \$50 off our Blephasteam Dry Eye treatments at Leongatha Optometrists. Simply mention Sentinel-Times during the month of September or October to receive your discount.

Regional workforce report released



Ford Davis, founding director of Ninety Mile Consulting outlines the findings of a new report into attracting and retaining staff in regional areas during his visit to Leongatha.

A09_3823

THE CHALLENGES of attracting and retaining staff in regional areas is the focus of a new report officially released on Thursday in Leongatha, with aspects of South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires featuring along with other parts of regional Victoria.

Titled 'Regional Workforce: Attraction & Retention', the report concludes that regional workforce challenges are much more complex than in metropolitan Melbourne and there is no single workforce strategy that will address all challenges, regardless of the industry.

The report produced by Ninety Mile Consulting (NMC), which drew on expertise from Deakin University, stressed the need for regional Victorian organisations to develop a compelling 'employee value proposition'.

NMC Director Bettina Davis stressed it is important to be clear what your employee value proposition is because it varies from region to region.

Gippsland Southern Health was mentioned as an example of adding value in the eyes of both current and potential staff through its in-house 'emerging leaders' program. The program is aimed at broadening the prospects of participating staff, potentially encouraging them to stay.

Bettina noted the value of networking with peers and understanding what others are doing to attract and retain staff.

Ensuring your organisation is part of its community and assisting new employees from elsewhere to become valued community members are important ways to boost staff retention.

NMC Founding Director Ford Davis said the aim of the report is to identify factors driving regional workforce shortages.

Director Bettina elaborated on the report's purpose.

"It's a solution focused guide to rethinking your employment strategy," she said.

South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis was involved in the research project.

In her foreword to the report, Kerryn highlights issues such as a shortage of housing and worker accommodation, and a lack of adequate public transport among the challenges in South Gippsland and much of regional Victoria.

"I welcome not only the recommendations but the approach to tackling these issues together," the council

CEO said of the report, mentioning the need for innovation, collaboration and a creative approach.

Workforce solutions in South Gippsland Shire

South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis outlined the practical benefits of a new report titled 'Regional Workforce: Attraction & Retention' detailing council's involvement in the report's research phase and how information gained and the collaboration involved will benefit employers across a range of local industries.

"We have a lot of industries in our community that are struggling to find workers," she said.

Those industries include hospitality, retail, visitor economy, health, and manufacturing.

"It's about business and industry in our community and supporting them to be able to attract and recruit workers in areas where there are workforce shortages," Kerryn said.

Council has worked in partnership with the Department of Transport, resulting in a pilot community transport model to commence in coming months and benefiting those in Venus Bay and Sandy Point, running initially for two years.

"It's an example of the kind of things that can potentially be funded in partnership with the community," Kerryn said, explaining the community may run the service, with the bus funded by the Department of Transport.

Bass Coast Shire set to pass \$85M 'Isle of Wight'

HIGHLIGHT of the Bass Coast Shire Council meeting this Wednesday, September 20 will be the tabling of a planning permit application for the construction of a new \$85 million, 163-room residential hotel, at 9-11 The Esplanade, Cowes, site of the old Isle of Wight Hotel.

The old hotel, at one time owned by Australian tennis legend, Frank Sedgman, burnt down in May 2010, leaving a gaping hole in the Cowes' landscape for more than a decade.

And, in a sign of the times, where attracting and housing staff is a major issue for the hospitality sector, the project includes 50 rooms for worker

accommodation.

As well as the residential hotel, which comprises hotel suites, function rooms/centre, restaurant, swimming pool and swim-up pool bar, there will also be a traditional hotel with public bar, bistro, restaurant and beer garden. There will be space for four retail shops, a wellness centre and gym, with developers also seeking to use the carpark for outdoor music and entertainment events from time to time.

A report to council, to be considered ahead of this week's meeting, recommends approval of the long-awaited hotel project despite a major shortfall in the parking requirement

at peak times of 1132 (normally 748) of 935 spaces.

And while the project is compliant with the condition of no more than seven storeys, at 27.58 metres, the hotel building component exceeds the 23-metre preferred height limit by almost five metres.

"Whilst at 27.58 metres, the hotel building component exceeds the 23-metre preferred height limit it still is within the seven-storey preference. Furthermore, the development is substantially lower for the remainder of the site, with the main pavilion building with the pool terrace only two storeys in height across more than two thirds of the width

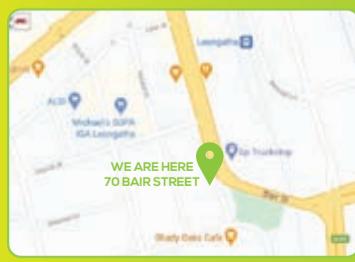
of the northern frontage," said the shire in its report.

"The application has been assessed against the Bass Coast Planning Scheme and whilst a significant reduction in car parking is sought, is considered to provide an overall net community benefit. As part of the approval process, the council has been at pains to save the iconic Moreton Bay Fig tree at the front of the site.

Objections (39) raised concerns about parking, excessive height, wind-tunnel effect, hours of operation, traffic management, retention of the Morton Bay Fig, lack of bus parking and electric vehicle charging stations.

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You're invited to Inverloch Community Connects

Community Bank Inverloch & District is bringing businesses, community groups and people together to engage and connect. In October we'll hear from five community groups about what they are up to. Drinks and light refreshments will be served.

When Thursday 19 October, 5.00 – 6.30pm

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Pie premiership for Paul the Pieman

AFTER collecting a swag of medals, four gold, two silver and three bronze for the entries in Australia's biggest pie, pastie and sausage roll championships, the Official Great Aussie Pie Competition, in Sydney last week, Paul the Pieman, Paul Woods, wife Robyn and son Mitch thought they better get home and do some work.

They had the first weekend of the school holidays coming up in the seaside town of Inverloch and plus, it was Paul's birthday on Friday.

But if they'd have known what was coming up on Day Three and Day Four of the competition, they would have stayed longer in the Harbour City.

Because they nailed two of the biggest trophy awards at the event, the Tom Lindsay Pepper Steak Pie Award for the best pepper pie overall in Australia and also the Best Gourmet Pork Pie in Australia for their Korean BBQ Pork Pie.

"Absolutely ecstatic," said Inverloch baker, Mitch Woods, son of long-time Gippsland bakers Paul and Robyn Woods.

"We'd been up in Sydney, for the first two days of the judging, but we flew home Thursday because it's dad's birthday on Friday.

"We'd have stayed if we knew this was going to happen."

"Dad's been trying to win a trophy award at the Great Aussie Pie Competition for quite a while, and now we've won two at the one show, amazing," he said.



There's only one way to celebrate winning one of the most coveted trophies at the biggest national pie competition in Australia, The Official Great Aussie Pie Competition, chow down on the winner, Paul the Pieman's (now) famous Pepper Steak Pie. And son of a gun baker, Mitchell Woods, was more than happy to oblige.

"We only found out about it at 3pm this afternoon, so not even our staff know yet. It's exciting. Fantastic."

Mitch paid tribute to his team at Inverloch and in turn they paid tribute to the Woods' family that run the business.

"They work so hard, and they've given so many kids a start in their working life; they really deserve it," said one of the staff members last Thursday.

About the top Aussie pie awards

The Aussie Pie Council presented its 34th Official Great Aussie Pie Competition (OGAPC) and the 10th Official Great Aussie Pie Sausage Roll Competition, at the Fine Food Australia Exhibition in Sydney from September 11-14, with

more than \$25,000 in prizes up for grabs, but more importantly, great marketing opportunities if you can rise to the top of almost 2000 entries to gain gold, silver, or bronze medals, or even one of the limited number of trophy prizes on offer.

The Official Great Aussie Pie Competition is judged by a team of professional pie competition judges. The panel consists of industry representatives and qualified bakers/pastry cooks.

Pie Judging Criteria: General appearance (shape, even colour), size (single-serve lunch pie), filling (meat quality, flavour, colour, and texture), pastry (a visual flake - if using puff pastry), colour, eating quality and creativity for

appearance and filling (gourmet category only).

Of the main awards won by Paul the Pieman, the 'Tom Lindsay Pepper Steak Pie Award' is one of the most highly sought-after in the show.

Engineer and manufacturer of 'Simple Simon' pie machines and bakery equipment (Lindsay Pie Making Equipment), Tom Lindsay passed away a few years ago and had this award named after him in honour of his involvement in the industry. Known as "Big Tom" or "Mister Pie" for his dedication to The Official Great Aussie Pie Competition, Tom was at the competition every year, imparting his knowledge of and passion for the industry.

Tom's favourite pie was Pepper Steak, and he was honoured in 2017 with the creation of the Tom Lindsay Pepper Steak Award.

As well as a trophy (provided by the Di Salvatore Family), the award also includes \$1000 worth of Simple Simon pie pallets, certificate of excellence, electronic badge stating which category has been won, digital pro-forma media releases and discounts with selected competition sponsors.

"Tom was one of the biggest supporters of this event over the years and was such a major figure in the industry that it's a real honour for us to receive this award," said Mitchell Woods this week.

Paul the Pieman's nine medals have been added to the 10 they won in June at the Baking Association of Australia awards.

About Paul's winning pies

FOCUSING on Paul the Pieman's gold medal winners, it was especially thrilling that a new pie won gold, just weeks after the first examples of the pie hit the shelves.

"We've been trialling our new BBQ smoked brisket and Jack Daniels pie for a while, but we only put the finished product out on the shelves a few weeks before the Great Aussie Pie comp," said Mitchell Woods last week.

"So, to come up with a gold for that after we've just come out of development is pretty special," he said.

Gold medal winners:

- Smoky beef, jalapeno and cheese: It's got an authentic smoky beef taste, with the smoothness of the cheese and a little bit of bite from the jalapeño chillis.

- Gourmet: BBQ brisket with mac and cheese. This one was invented while the bakers had a bit of time through the COVID lockdowns, and it has become one of the bakery's very best sellers. The mac and cheese really complements the slow-cooked BBQ brisket and has been a hit with customers.

- Gourmet: Pepper steak pie. What can you say about Australia's best pepper pie, beautiful pastry crust, quality beef steak and just the right seasoning to have you coming back for more, almost immediately.

- Gourmet: BBQ smoked brisket and Jack Daniels. Here's the very latest pie from Paul's again with the sensational smoky brisket at the heart, but with that special JD taste that has just got to be tasted to appreciate. Something a bit different but one that the judges and local customers have quickly warmed to.

Paul the Pieman has 34 varieties of pies, and several pasties and sausage rolls for you to try.

Try our awarding winning pies! 2023 34th Great Aussie Meat Pie Competition results



OVERALL WINNERS

TOM LINDSAY PEPPER PIE AWARD
Pepper steak pie
BEST PORK PIE
Korean BBQ pork pie



SILVER MEDAL

- Beef, cheese and jalapeño sausage roll
- Chicken, leek and bacon sausage roll
- Butter chicken



BRONZE MEDAL

- Traditional sausage roll
- Chunky beef
- Chicken and leek pie



GOLD MEDAL

- Smokey beef, jalapeño and cheese
- Brisket, mac 'n' cheese
- Pepper steak
- Korean BBQ pork
- Smoked brisket and Jack Daniel's BBQ

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Paul The Pieman

Caution urged over lithium-ion battery fire risks

VICTORIAN fire services are responding to at least one significant lithium-ion battery-related fire each week and this trend is expected to increase.

Energy Safe Victoria, Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) are urging the community to be aware of risks associated with lithium-ion batteries and know how to use them safely, with fires caused by them on the rise.

Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries found in e-scooters, e-cigarettes, e-bikes, electric vehicles, golf buggies, power banks, vacuum cleaners, power tools and gardening appliances.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer Garry Cook said lithium-ion battery fires can be avoided by taking precautions and using these devices safely.

"When lithium-ion batteries are damaged, misused or fail to meet compliance standards, they pose a serious fire risk, particularly while they are connected to chargers," he said.

"These devices make our lives easier, however people should know the risks and make sure they use e-products correctly."

"The best way to keep you and your family safe is to only purchase from reputable suppliers, follow the manufacturer's instructions and use the compatible charger that came with the product."

Fire Rescue Commissioner Gavin Freeman AFSM said fire crews were responding to an increasing number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries, often with devastating impacts.

"Just last month FRV attended a significant house fire in Port Melbourne caused by a handheld rechargeable tool, which had a faulty lithium-ion battery," Commissioner Freeman said.

"Thankfully the occupant managed to evacuate the premise and was uninjured, but the house was extensively damaged."

"It's important that people never store e-products in places that would block exits in the event of a fire."

"Stop using or charging the product if you notice strong odours, extreme heat, change in shape, leaking or hissing and popping sounds, as these are indicators the product may catch alight."

Once a lithium-ion battery catches alight it can develop dangerous, self-sustaining flames and potentially release shrapnel and toxic gas.

Fire agencies encourage people to charge these devices in a safe open space outside or in a room where a smoke alarm is present.

Victorians can learn more about lithium-ion batteries and how to safely use these products online at cfa.vic.gov.au/batterysafety and [www.frv.vic.gov.au/battery-safety](http://frv.vic.gov.au/battery-safety).

Electric bus plan must accept regional restraints

THE NATIONALS Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien has raised concerns that the Government's plan to move Victoria's public transport network to zero-emission buses by 2025 has failed to consider the impacts on regional bus operators.

Speaking in Parliament recently, Mr O'Brien asked the Minister for Public Transport to provide flexibility to ensure regional bus operators are able to continue to offer a reliable service to school students and passengers during the phase in of zero-emission vehicles, which at present means electric buses.

"Rural operators do not have the same opportunity to charge electric buses as their city counterparts," Mr O'Brien said.

"I recently met with the owner of a rural bus company here in Gippsland who has buses stored overnight in five different towns."

"Many of the buses are parked at the driver's home or a similar casual arrangement



Mr O'Brien has asked the Minister for Public Transport, Ben Carroll, to respond to his questions. Photo: AAP Image.

which limits the opportunity to charge the buses."

Mr O'Brien also highlighted that the capacity of the local power network to supply the energy required to bus charging infrastructure was also in question.

"Even those operators that may own a central depot, may not be able to upgrade

their facilities given the constraints in the network, especially in smaller towns.

"I am seeking flexibility from the Minister to ensure that rural bus operators are not forced to attempt to implement this policy before these clear obstacles are adequately addressed.

"Rushing to move Victoria's

transport network to zero-emission vehicles by 2025 without consideration of rural operators could disadvantage them and their passengers, and may simply not be achievable."

The Minister for Transport has until September 29 to respond to Mr O'Brien's questions.

EV chargers on the way to South Gippsland

SIX EV chargers are anticipated to be installed and operational by the end of September or early October across six South Gippsland towns.

Preliminary work has been completed for the six 50kW level three fast chargers including electricity network upgrades, procurement of the chargers and final site design.

According to the South Gippsland Shire Council, the chargers are waiting to be "wrapped" (stickered with graphics) and supply and installation of new electrical switchboards for each site (aside from Leongatha), are pending, and required to handle the extra electrical loads.

The chargers will be capable of charging a typical long-range EV from 10 per cent to 80 per cent in about an hour and will be located at the following sites:

• Korumburra: As part of the

railway precinct carpark redevelopment, near Bridge St

- Leongatha: In front of Council's Main Office at 9 Smith Street
- Foster: Carpark behind the Uniting Church, Station Road, behind shops
- Mirboo North: Baromi Park Carpark, corner Ridgway and Baths Road
- Meenyan: Tompkins Rd carpark, behind shops
- Yanakie: Road reserve, in front of toilet block, playground & recreation reserve.

In addition to Council's six chargers, a private business (Evie Networks) is also installing three 50kW EV chargers on road reserves in the following locations:

- Korumburra: Beside the Austral Hotel on South Gippsland Highway
- Leongatha: Down from K-Hub on McCartin St
- Fish Creek: On Foster Road, opposite the Fish Creek Pub



Preliminary work has begun on six EV charging stations in South Gippsland.

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USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



2016 Toyota Rav4 GXL
31,990 DRIVE AWAY

36,805kms, 6 speed sports auto
AWD SUV SN: W101615



2020 Toyota Rav4 GX
42,990 DRIVE AWAY

59,245kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: W101610



2021 Toyota Rav4 GXL eFour
48,990 DRIVE AWAY

76,987kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: W101611



2019 Honda HR-V VTi
28,990 DRIVE AWAY

29,887kms, CVT auto SUV
SN: W101609



2013 Nissan Micra ST-L K13
11,990 DRIVE AWAY

59,863kms, 4 speed auto hatch
SN: W101605



2017 Holden Commodore SV6 VF Series II
30,990 DRIVE AWAY

92,610kms, 6 speed sports auto
wagon SN: W101571



2016 Subaru Impreza 2.0i Premium G4
20,990 DRIVE AWAY

155,240kms, 6 speed CVT auto AWD
hatch SN: W101616



2021 Mitsubishi ASX ES Plus XD
30,990 DRIVE AWAY

34,517kms, CVT auto SUV
SN: W101577

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



2019 Ford Everest Trend UA III
47,990 DRIVE AWAY

94,233kms, 10 speed CVT auto
RWD SUV SN: L100990



2017 Toyota Landcruiser Prado
52,990 DRIVE AWAY

128,655kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: L101030



2019 Toyota Kluger Black Edition
43,990 DRIVE AWAY

86,210kms, 8 speed CVT auto AWD
SUV SN: L101059



2022 Ford Escape ST-Line ZH
39,990 DRIVE AWAY

22kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV
CDS 329



2020 Ford Ranger FX4 PX MkIII
52,990 DRIVE AWAY

116,211kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab L101025



2022 Toyota Kluger GX
52,990 DRIVE AWAY

8,073kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV
CFY 646



2019 Ford Ranger Wildtrak PX MkIII
52,990 DRIVE AWAY

73,358kms, 10 speed CVT auto
double cab SN: L101056



2018 Mitsubishi ASX LS XC
22,990 DRIVE AWAY

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LMCT 8179
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Leongatha VIC 3953
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OH WHAT A FEELING

Sentinel-Times COMMENT

Councillors must say 'No' to interference

THE Bass Coast Shire Council area already has an active 'Yes' campaign going.

For example, there's a 'Belonging Together, Walking Together' event coming up this Sunday, September 24, for supporters of a 'Yes' vote in the Voice to Parliament referendum, to get along to Apex Park in Wonthaggi from 10.45am.

This far into what has been a tortuously long and almost exclusively divisive referendum campaign, everyone who wants to know something about the pros and cons, already have access to whatever information there is, in support of either voting 'No' or voting 'Yes'.

And despite having an indigenous population of just 465 people in Bass Coast at the 2021 Census, or 1.1 per cent, it may well be that a majority of local people will vote 'Yes' here in the hope that a Voice to Parliament advisory group will make a difference to the life-expectancy, health, education and social outcomes of those of Australia's First Nation's people in need of assistance.

But what we don't need is another organisation, following the likes of Qantas, the bloated banks, BHP and Dan Murphy, for goodness sake, telling us how to vote.

Because that is what the Bass Coast Shire Council is proposing to do at Wednesday's council meeting, under the ridiculous proposition of making sure people have "clear and credible information on the Voice to Parliament and all aspects of the upcoming referendum to assist them in making their own considered and informed choice on the day".

Baloney. Local residents already have the 'Yes' and 'No' cases presented to them in a pamphlet, delivered to their door, appropriately by the Federal Government. There's wall-to-wall coverage on TV, radio, newspapers and social media and most people have frankly had enough, having seen politicians and others dragging what is a worthy question into the gutter.

It's become depressing, where it could have been a celebration, especially if the question of recognition for our wonderful First Nations' culture had what it needed from day one, bipartisan support.

It's all been atrociously handled by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his government and if the referendum fails it will be on his head.

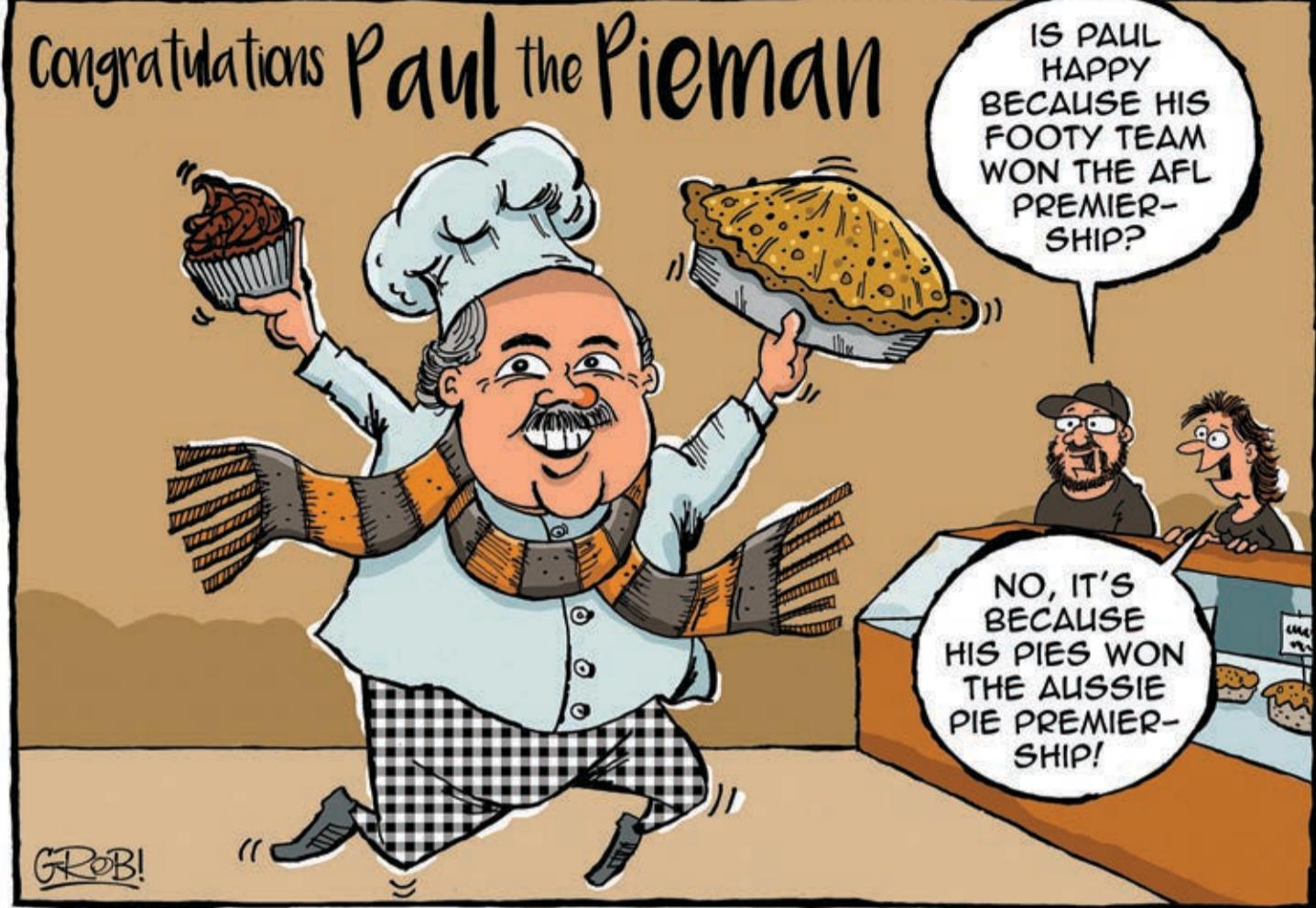
The Bass Coast Council should not be telling people how to vote, which is clearly what they are proposing to do. There's enough information out there now and they should simply trust their own local residents to make a well-considered decision, in consultation with family members and friends if necessary. Stay out of it!

The Voice a personal choice

REGARDING the Council's possible announcement of a yes vote for the Voice referendum, I believe it is a personal choice for each Councillor and as they have not polled the voters for their say, the councillors have no right to make any such statements.

It would be good to see some of them with enough intestinal fortitude to either state, no, or I am not prepared to state my position publicly.

David Blum, Almurga



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grobb' Robinson.

Our great democracy

I HAVE read with interest the letter by Harry Baess (Your Say, September 5, 2023) re The Voice to Parliament. His letter seems deliberately provocative, factually inaccurate and quite racist in tone.

It not only seems offensive to First Nation Peoples of this country but also to people like myself.

However, Harry can keep his views and vote the way he desires as we live in a great democracy.

But there are many of us who will vote, YES, to acknowledge the past and move forward in our great country Australia.

The Voice to Parliament is not about Harry or myself or our histories and lives. It is only about the lives of First Nations peoples of Australia. Why wouldn't we want to ask them about their views on things affecting their lives?

The Voice is a very modest proposal: it is simply to establish an advisory body – a 'sounding board' – that sits outside the doors of parliament.

Tricia O'Brien, Ventnor

It's not okay council

COUNCILLORS believe it's okay to spend \$295,000 on a contract with a private company for work which should be undertaken in house.

The contract is with Infrastructure Management Group and involves assessing the suitability of council's roads.

Work started on September 11.

Bass Coast has around 400 employees looking for things to do. Checking road surfaces should not be a challenge.

Philip Westwood, Grantville

Failure causes stress

KORUMBURRA loses another 20 full time car parks as the shire tries to get the hub finished by October.

With the loss of 30 to 40 car parks near the railway precedent, the shire has blocked off Boston's Lane for the last three weeks and works still to take another 1 / 2 more weeks. Korumburra workers are now illegally driving up the wrong way to seek all day parking.

Behind the Bendigo and their own private parks are being repaired, workers are walking up to 900 metres to find parks. With the loss of so many parks, and 12 to

15 workers vehicles at the hub site, locals and tourists, are failing to spend money in the town. A lot are driving on, yet the shop keepers lose out yet again. The shire has no care, it seems.

With the main street yet to have works later this year, the streetscape project could be another two years in the making, with no compensation to the business, it puts more pressure on landlords and business.

With mistakes after mistakes troubling the Korumburra Hub and rocketing costs, at the end of the day who pays, leaving Korumburra heart broken, and years behind. Hub 15 months behind, streetscape years behind, accountable is nowhere to be found.

Transparency has failed, and the closed door to answers still waiting. Blame falls on deaf ears. Our councillors need to stand, and push for truth. The CEO, management must be accountable and be put to print.

David Amor

Rural land for new residents

I REFER to Stephen Jobling's letter dated August 30 (published in The Weekly Times) 'Free up rural land for new residents'. Mr Jobling's suggestion that South Gippsland Shire Council allow 12,000 of its Farming Zone lots be used for housing would have serious implications for the Shire's \$750 Million agriculture sector, and the 2,000 plus people it directly employs.

South Gippsland already has one of the State's most lenient rural housing policies that allows consideration of planning permit applications for new houses on lots less than 10 acres on farm zoned land. This existing land use strategy provides more than enough opportunity to satisfy people looking to make a tree change to South Gippsland.

Allowing larger rural lots to be used for housing would reduce agricultural output (larger farms have higher agricultural returns) and adversely affect the ability for farmers to run 24/7 commercial operations without complaint.

South Gippsland has some of the best agricultural land in the nation, and while we welcome new residents, we need to keep our eyes on the prize. Commercial scale agriculture is what we do best, and housing needs to fit around this, not detract from it.

Cr Scott Rae, Coastal Promontory Ward

Vox Pop

How beneficial is it to have adult learning centres?

*Some comments have been edited due to space constraints.



Olivia Hurrell

"Crucial. Having an all-inclusive safe space that enhances someone's learning experience, helps them to develop employable skills and meet industry demand."



David Leslie

"They help provide people with connections, including those who require NDIS support and migrants who are looking to learn English as a second language."



Glo-Ann D'Souza

"They provide pathways for further study or short course education in a non-intimidating environment, so the student can develop confidence and skill."



Josh Latham

"It is more beneficial than ever with the growing demand, the courses are shown to be successful. A space to learn language, literacy, and numeracy outside of school."

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.

U3A Wonthaggi Activities for Seniors

ARE you aged 50+ and retired or semi-retired? Want to keep your brain and body active and make new friends?

Then join U3A Wonthaggi! We are an all-volunteer organisation of mature people who share an interest in many educational, creative and leisure activities.

In term four we are excited to welcome new tutors with new courses. John French, a well-known landscape designer with a passion for writing will lead two courses: Landscape Design, nine sessions on Wednesday afternoons commencing October 4 and Memoir/Autobiography Writing, Monday afternoons, again nine sessions.

Hormones 101? In this nine-week course Emeritus Professor Joe Proietto will explore the amazing hormonal system and the role of hormones in our biology. Hormones affect everything from blood sugar to blood pressure, growth and fertility, sex drive, metabolism, and even sleep. Friday afternoons commencing October 6.

Term Four U3A membership fee has been reduced to \$25 for one or all three courses. A bargain.

More info about current activities and online enrolment: u3awonthaggi.org.au

Or phone: 0493 471 254 or email: secretary@u3awonthaggi.org.au



~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE NEWS ~

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

AGM

SCHOOL holidays are upon us which means a number of our regular activities are in recess with facilitators enjoying a well-earned break over this week and next. These include the supported playgroups (Monday and Friday), Linda's Yoga Class (Tuesdays), Meditation with Marion (Tuesdays), Seated Yoga with Maree (Thursdays) and the Multi-Cultural Women's Group (Thursdays). Each of these activities will resume in the week beginning Monday October 1.

The increasingly popular weekly community lunch on Wednesdays will also take a break over the school holiday period and resume on Wednesday October 4.

The office remains open and the free food box will continue to be replenished over this period, and frozen meals will likewise remain available while stock lasts.

6 Murray St, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3731 www.wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com 

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

SCHOOL holidays have begun, and the house tends to be a bit quieter with some of our classes taking a break. It is a great opportunity for you to drop in for a chat and pick up our Term Four brochure!

We have a lot planned for term four including three Christmas themed one day workshop's: Christmas Calligraphy, Kids Christmas Cards and Christmas Ornaments. We also have some new classes in term four.

The first is a Creative Writing class, where participants

will have the opportunity to learn and develop their skills with our highly trained tutor, this class needs a minimum of four people to go ahead.

Also, next term we are introducing a Women's Self Defence Class, this class is offered to women aged 12 plus and is for all abilities. The first session of this class is discounted to \$5, come along and give it a go.

Another great new addition to our timetable is our Kids Art class, aimed at 7-11-year-olds, children will have fun

learning various art styles. The first session for this class is FREE! Come and try it out.

And another change to our program will be the introduction of a tutor for our Painting with Acrylics class. For more information on dates, times and prices call us on 5662-3962.

Bookings essential for all classes.

I am also pleased to announce that we had a successful AGM and we are pleased to have a full committee. I would like to thank and welcome

Membership

Membership of WNC supports the work of the Centre within the community and brings a number of benefits including reduced rates for many activities, copies of the quarterly Grapevine program and Connections newsletter emailed or posted and of course, the right to vote at the AGM. Membership fees are very reasonable, and rates are available for individuals, families and relevant concession card holders. Call Mitchell House, visit our website: wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com or our Facebook page for more details and to make application.



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

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

MILPARA Community House is still eagerly anticipating news of when we can start our move to the new Korumburra Community Hub. The spaces and grounds are looking great, and we are hoping to take the next step in this momentous transition in early term four. We are grateful for your patience, and practicing our own, as we wait for when we can start to move in.

Milpara's regular term pro-

gram will be a little lighter than usual during this period to allow space and time for our team of staff and volunteers to set up and get to know the new building.

We will however be planning a bunch of interesting, important and timely community sessions toward the end of term four and into 2024, so stay tuned by checking our website, Facebook page or calling – you will be pleased to know that Milpara's phone

number remains the same... And if you have a community event or ideas of your own, feel free to contact us to help make it happen.

Most regular activities and programs are now closed for the school holidays – September 18 to 29. During the school holidays, our Centrelink Agent and Food Bank will be available Tuesdays 10am-2pm, and Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-1pm. Please remember to bring

your own bags.

On the other side of the school break, you are warmly invited to the Korumburra Community Meal on the first Friday of October. Come for a hearty meal, good company and music.

Happy Spring.



21 Shellcot Rd, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au 

LIFE Moments



Gwen celebrates her century

FRIENDS and family were on hand at Woorayl Lodge on Monday celebrating Gwen Fairbrother's 100th Birthday, with staff and residents joining in the special occasion.

Gwen was originally from the city but married a Mirboo East farmer, bringing her to the country.

She continues to be an active resident of Woorayl Lodge with a passion for reading and keeping up with the news.

There'll be more on Gwen's milestone in next week's Sentinel-Times.

• FAITH FACTOR

Finding Rest in a Restless World

By Amanda Hart (Captain), Corps Officer South Coast Gippsland Salvos

IN OUR fast-paced and hectic lives, finding true rest can often feel like an elusive dream. We rush from one commitment to another, constantly chasing after success, recognition, and material possessions. Yet, in the midst of this ceaseless pursuit, we often overlook the significance of rest as an essential component of our well-being—both physical and spiritual.

Rest, as mentioned in the Bible, carries a profound spiritual meaning. In the book of Genesis, we read that God rested on the seventh day after creating the heavens and the earth. This divine rest is not an indication of fatigue but a model for us to follow. It teaches us the importance of setting aside time for reflection, renewal, and worship.

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus invites us to find rest in Him, saying, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." This promise reminds us that true rest is not found in worldly accomplishments but in surrendering our burdens to the Lord. When we allow Jesus to be the centre of our lives, we discover a peace that transcends understanding.

Rest is not only physical but also spiritual. It is a time to recharge our souls, to connect with our Creator, and to deepen our faith. When we rest in God, we draw near to Him in prayer, meditation, and worship. It is in these moments that we find solace, guidance, and the strength to navigate life's challenges.

Furthermore, rest allows us to gain perspective on our priorities. In our ceaseless pursuits, we often lose sight of what truly matters — the love of God and our relationships with others. By taking time to rest, we can refocus on these essential aspects of life and live with greater purpose and meaning.

In our modern world, where busyness is celebrated and rest is often neglected, let us remember the wisdom of Scripture. Let us heed the call of Jesus to find rest in Him, not just as a physical break from work but as a spiritual retreat into His loving presence. When we embrace rest as a gift from God, we can experience true peace, contentment, and spiritual growth in the midst of life's challenges.

Roadmap for a regenerative region

A ROADMAP for a regenerative region is being embarked upon by Regen Gippsland in three initial community forums.

The organisation is linked to upwards of twenty other Gippsland organisations who are supporting a bottom-up approach to reimagine how Gippsland could be in 2030, at scale.

Insights from the workshops, centred around tourism and affordable housing, food and fibre and new energy, will form the first stepping stones to creating a roadmap report for a regenerative Gippsland.

The roadmap will ultimately seek to protect and enhance the region, create fair access to resources, have connected and flourishing communities, and respect and nourish natural systems.

"It's about acknowledging what's been done before, what's happening at the moment and then looking at the opportunities that lie ahead for us as well," Shaun Mallia, a representative for Regen Gippsland said.

Regen Gippsland is seeking to connect and hear from individuals, groups and communities across the region to create a broad, collective and inclusive plan for the future.

"There are a lot of people in East Gippsland, that aren't aware of what's happening in South Gippsland, and realise that when they're connected, they can then support each other and continue to thrive together and do something bigger again," Shaun said.

Forming a community-led vision around regeneration and supporting solutions that can reverse environmental damage and create a sustainable and positive impact for people and the planet is at the heart of the organisation's efforts.

"We would love to see everyone who is hopeful and has large aspirations for Gippsland, and who want to be a part of the journey. Everyone has something to contribute."

The next forum on New Energy will be held at the Meenyan Town Hall on Sunday, September 24 from 2pm to 4pm.

To follow Regen Gippsland's activity, visit @regen_gippsland on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn and for more information go to kindredspirits.org.au/regen-gippsland.

\$3.65M awarded to prepare rural regions for drought

FRRR HAS awarded \$3.65 million in grants to eleven agriculture-dependent regions across Australia, for projects that will better prepare their communities for the impacts of drought and a changing climate.

Recipients of this funding across South Gippsland and the Bass Coast include:

Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria - \$99,880 to build awareness of and attitudes to drought preparedness and \$35,000 to deliver the ADAPT wellness program, Food and Fibre Gippsland Inc. - \$109,978 to build capability in community leaders', networks and organisations and Gippsland Women's Health Inc. - \$44,122 for Active Bystander Training.

The grants are funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, and delivered as part of the Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative's Community Impact Program. To date, \$9,115,583 in grants has been awarded to 27 agriculture-dependent regions, through the program.

Nina O'Brien, Disaster Resilience and Recovery Lead for FRRR, said that the collaborative nature of the Community Impact Program means locals in each region have come together to identify and act on their communities' drought preparedness priorities, at a grassroots level.

"The beauty of this program is that it's so flexible. It can support events, initiatives, training and even small-scale infrastructure. But at their core, each project is about fostering the growth of stronger networks to encourage shared learning and more collaboration. We're already seeing that happen among the program facilitators, who are leading by example, having established a community of practice, and mentoring one another across the regions."

Learn more about the Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative at frrr.org.au/drought-preparedness.



A 60 years of service medal and Life Membership of the CFA was awarded to Tommy Marshman at the recent Dumbalk CFA's 75th anniversary celebrations.



Dumbalk Fire Brigade jointly marked its 75th anniversary and hosted an open day for the community over the weekend.

Dumbalk CFA celebrate 75th anniversary with open day

DUMBALK Fire Brigade jointly marked its 75th anniversary and hosted an open day for the community over the weekend.

The brigade opened the station doors for community members to mosey on down to learn more about the brigade and its local members on Saturday afternoon.

There were two vintage fire trucks, virtual reality firefighting gear and other interesting firefighting items on display for the community to enjoy.

Later that evening, brigade members, past and present,

were joined by their families and local councillors to celebrate the brigade's milestone at Dumbalk Hall. Emma Conway, Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) District 9, presented the 75-year award to the brigade and service medals to brigade members.

A 60 years of service medal and Life Membership of the CFA was awarded to Tommy Marshman. A total of 275 years' worth of service was rewarded on the night.

Captain Dallas Campbell said combining the two events made for a fantastic day out.

"The Dumbalk Fire Brigade is a really strong brigade, and it was great to invite so many people who've supported it throughout the decades, to reflect on how far we've come," he said.

Dumbalk has transformed through the years, previously being part of Meenyan and Stony Creek brigades, before it amalgamated with Mardan brigade.

An honour board was also unveiled on Saturday as part of the formalities, which details all Captains, 1st and 2nd Lieutenants, and secretaries

throughout the brigade's history.

"Our brigade has cultivated a great culture, it's very diverse and is a fantastic place to volunteer."

"I'm proud to celebrate 75 years of the brigade and hope there are many more to come."

"This brigade has been such a valuable group and asset to the community over many decades and we hope to continue building it into the future."

"We always have our doors open for anyone who's interested in helping out."



Representatives of Bass Coast College, Watersure and the Wonthaggi Evening VIEW Club recently celebrated the opening of the college's new kitchen, which will help to ensure Breakfast Club continues to run each week.

Breakfast is served at Bass Coast College

BASS Coast College is the place to be at breakfast time.

The school's Dudley campus runs a Breakfast Club twice a week, ensuring its students start the day on a positive note.

A generous \$12,000 contribution from Watersure recently allowed a storeroom to be transformed into a kitchen space, where the Wonthaggi Evening VIEW Club makes breakfast for the students every Tuesday and Thursday.

The kitchen space took two weeks to complete.

Watersure and Bass Coast College have maintained a valuable partnership for many years.

"We do quite a lot of collaboration and initiatives with Bass Coast College," plant director Julian Taurvry said.

"We have our science program with the college, and we try to sponsor projects like this. For us it's great because it's quite a physical outcome

for our contribution and we have kids who are students here as well.

"Each year, or every two years, we discuss what will be our next contribution. We look forward to continuing the relationship between Watersure and Bass Coast College."

Currently, Watersure has four active initiatives running at Bass Coast College – the maths and science program, environmental science, interview to impress, and the focus leadership program.

The Breakfast Club is streamlined by five nutrition leaders.

Year 9 students Riley Harris, Milly Jobe, Chloe Larsen, Harry Foster and Rhys Newman were selected to fulfil the new role this year.

Their role is to make sure food delivered to the school is in the right spot for the VIEW Club on Breakfast Club days.

"I think (the Breakfast Club)

is a good idea, especially for those who don't get to have breakfast before coming to school. They can come in here and feel comfortable to have something to eat with their friends," Chloe said.

College principal Darren Parker said he was thrilled to see the students reaping the benefits of the program, as well as seeing a wonderful outcome from the college's valued relationship with Watersure.

"It's got lots of benefits. Food is the great equaliser of everybody, so it's a great way to start the day and it's there for all the kids. It's become part of their routine," he said.

"The VIEW Club ladies are amazing. The students get along with them so well. The ladies ask about these kids a year or two down the track because they've made such a connection, so we're seeing real community benefits too."

"We've had the Breakfast

Club for many years, but the VIEW Club make it happen. The kids know it's on and it's got a great feel."

VIEW is a national women's organisation with more than 14,000 members in close to 300 communities exclusively supporting education charity The Smith Family.

Members sponsor students, volunteer, fundraise and advocate to improve the life outcomes of disadvantaged Australian children and young people.

Wonthaggi Evening VIEW Club support seven children and are active in several community ventures, including the Breakfast Club.

The VIEW Club thanked Watersure for supporting its work with the new kitchen.

To learn more about VIEW Club, email view@thesmithfamily.com.au or contact the local club via wonthaggievew@wonthaggievew@gmail.com.

SES lead with a random act of kindness

KINDNESS starts at home, at school and in the community, and for young 9-year-old Alex Magner Karon, she experienced an act of kindness from San Remo SES Unit Controller Mandy Chancellor.

Alex's mum has been supporting her independence and allowed Alex to take a quick stroll to San Remo IGA to purchase ingredients for her to make muffins for the family.

In an attempt to do so, Alex wandered the aisles of the supermarket doing her best to shop on her own. Seeing young Alex struggle with locating some items, SES Unit Controller Mandy Chancellor (in uniform), whilst collecting some items herself for her Unit's training night, stepped in to ask Alex if she needed a hand.

Without any credit for her random act of kindness, Mandy assisted Alex through the local IGA, helping her gather the ingredients she may need and purchased the goods for young Alex.

In surprise, and with great gratitude Alex travelled home and couldn't wait to tell her mum about the kindness of a lady in IGA. To show appreciation, without knowing Mandy's name, Alex's mother Regina posted to the Phillip Island Community Notice Board writing...

"What a beautiful place we live in! My daughter went to IGA to buy ingredients to make our family muffins. To the kind lady that helped her find the ingredients, spoke with her, and went on to pay for the shopping, a very heartfelt thank you. My daughter came home and said, "Mum, I'm very grateful for this lady I met," and went on to explain her experience with this lovely woman. Thank you again, whoever you are."

Mandy reached out to say "You are very welcome - the lady was me. You have a beautiful



Alex Magner Karon made muffins for San Remo SES volunteers Rod Cameron, Mandy Chancellor (UC), Charlotte Jones, and Ron Chambers. Photo: Magner Media.

daughter, and it was my pleasure." Before she went on to write, "sometimes random acts of kindness can create moments in life that can impact a whole community. Always be the best version of ourselves."

Mandy then contacted Regina and invited young Alex to come into the station and take a tour.

Mandy explained that her random act of kindness was just the values she holds as a person and what she has learnt during her time with the SES and as a leader of volunteers.

"An important aspect in SES is decision making, and during my encounter with Alex I hope I encouraged her to be independent and to think of what to do next time - for example make a shopping list and take that along with her," said Mandy.

With strong leadership in the SES, Mandy emphasised that "through experience and with a background in arbitration and conciliation, I have gained

skills and developed tools - learning how to look at a problem from different aspects. This coupled with a drive for safety first, both for members and the community, and a genuine love for what I do and the people I do it with, then I feel as a leader I am instilling qualities not just valued by SES but also striving to make every member the very best version of themselves."

Mandy went on to explain that the San Remo SES unit welcome volunteers all year round.

"I hope by making this impact in young Alex's life that she values what she's learnt in that situation and takes it away with her."

This was a random act of kindness, displaying the values of a volunteer SES worker within the community.

"Here at the SES, we assist other emergency services including Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police. There are

some situations where we are the control agency, sometimes we support others; however, at all times we are working together as a team."

"Every member must assess the risk in every situation," said Mandy.

Decision-making skills are taught through SES training and through leadership where leaders genuinely care about members.

Mandy strongly encourages the community to explore joining as a volunteer and not let barriers such as being time poor or having doubts in what skills you could bring to SES deter you. "You might be surprised at what you can offer the SES and you will certainly get fulfilment from any level of involvement."

November 18 is the SES fundraising day, so keep an eye out for volunteers on patrol for donations and support the voluntary work that helps the broader community.

A decade of knitting at Inverloch Library

THE perfect creative outlet can be found at the Inverloch Library.

An all-inclusive knitting group has been meeting at the library for the past 10 years and is always excited to welcome newcomers.

The group formed following Design Week in June.

The community event allowed people access to knitting and spinning in a public setting and it was enjoyed so much it became a permanent fixture in Inverloch.

"Ever since we have been (at the Inverloch Library) knitting in one way or another," Carolyn Hurst said.

As well as creating beautiful pieces, the group is centred around the friendships formed along the way.

"It's an open invitation. Anyone is welcome to just come along for a cuppa and a chat. Someone usually brings some homemade goodies to share, and we also share our ideas and advice," Ms Hurst said.

The group is an initiative of



The knitting group meets at the Inverloch Library every Thursday from 1pm. Pictured from left, Chris Mitchell, Bev McHugh, Anna Sedelies, Sue Nicholls, Chris Luszkiwicz and Carolyn Hurst.

the Inverloch Library, which has also bought equipment in support of the knitters, and orders in knitting magazines for inspiration.

"We all work on our own individual projects. We were all amazed by sock knitting for a while there," Ms Hurst said.

"We certainly welcome beginners who want to join us. We recognise that we were all

beginners once and we encourage people to come along and learn. We have a plethora of expertise here, an abundance of knowledge. It has been a really lovely environment over the years."

Some of the group also knit for KOGO (Knit One, Give One), a charity that provides warm garments for those in need.

Knitting for this movement is held on Tuesdays at the Inverloch Community Centre.

The social aspect goes beyond the library, with the group gathering for luncheons and a Christmas dinner each year.

For those wanting to join in the fun, the knitting group meets at the Inverloch Library from 1pm on Thursdays.

Mirboo North's new Market Money initiative

THE MIRBOO North Market team have given market lovers and shoppers another reason to come and shop in their town.

The team launched a Market Money initiative last month, where shoppers collect a ticket with every purchase they make and go in the draw to win \$150 worth of Market Money tokens.

Committee member, Doug Park said the idea is an attempt to try and keep the market sustainable and growing.

"We want to get people outside our direct town and to make it worth their while to get in the car, come up and shop with us, and we want to give them something back."

The market has grown over the last two years as the team have spent time on improving the variety of stalls and relationships with stall holders.

This has paid off and the market has grown from an average of fifty stall holders to an average of seventy.

The stallholders that attend Mirboo North Market have been overwhelmingly supportive of the concept, said Doug.

"The issue for us, is that in a town of two and a half thousand people, there's only so many dollars that people are going to spend at the market. We need to ensure that we align growth in stalls with the continued growth in customers."

"That's why rather than free coffee, we thought we've got to make it substantial."

It only takes one ticket to win \$150 worth of Market Money which can only be spent at the market, but the more items bought mean more tickets and more chances of winning.

Nearly 3000 tickets were received from shoppers in the first run of the new initiative in August.

With the first winner being Chloe Collin from Toongabbie - a fifty-minute drive from Mirboo North.

"I only bought one ticket and I come for the cannelloni from Dine with a Difference - it's so nice to be rewarded like this!" said Chloe, as posted on the market's Facebook page.

The Mirboo North Market is held on the last Saturday of each month with the next one falling on Saturday, September 30 from 8.30am.

Heart program saving Aussie lives

A HEART Foundation pilot program that recalls at risk Australians via a text message from their GP clinic is being seen as a potential lifesaver.

The Heart Health Check (HHC) Recall pilot study was rolled out in more than 200 GP clinics across the country.

Around 42,000 at risk Australian patients have received an invitation from their GP to come in for a HHC.

The pilot is the largest targeted cardiovascular disease (CVD) screening trial of its kind in Australian general practice, potentially paving the way for a structured Australian CVD screening program in the future.

"This is the most robust Australian evidence we have that shows a targeted CVD screening program could be both effective and feasible in general practice," Heart Foundation Healthcare programs manager Natalie Raffoul said.

The Heart Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to fighting the single biggest killer of Australians.

For more than 60 years, it has led the battle to save lives and improve the heart health of all Australians.

Its sights are set on a world where people don't suffer or die prematurely because of heart disease.

Find out your risk of heart attack or stroke by using the Heart Age Calculator.

To find out about the Heart Foundation's research program or to make a donation, visit heartfoundation.org.au.

Free training opportunity in Foster

DISCOVER employment opportunities in the care and support sector with the 'Work For Yourself' training program to be offered for the third time at Manna Gum Community House as part of their Learn Local program.

The government funded course was developed in partnership with Gippsland Skills and Jobs Centre, TAFE Gippsland and other Learn Local organisations across Gippsland to fill a worker shortage in the care and support sector.

The program will run for eight weeks on Thursdays starting October 5 and will assist participants to take the first steps setting up as a sole trader and providing 'light touch' services such as gardening, shopping and cleaning to people on National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plans. It will provide insight into the NDIS, and advice on professional conduct and boundaries when working with clients.

Manna Gum staff member Genevieve Moore facilitates the course. Before working in the community sector, she worked in education and training roles for many years including the Commonwealth and State public service.

A previous participant already working in the care and support sector found the course highly valuable: "it has been very helpful in the direction I want to go with my business," she says.

"I think this is vital for all support workers who are untrained in the field to provide a responsible service to our very vulnerable clients."

"There are a range of jobs available working in care and support, and you don't need a qualification to start many of these jobs," says Rebecca Matthews, Manager of Manna Gum Community House.

"People find success in entry-level support roles with skills drawn from their own life experience, and a sense of compassion and respect. It can suit people looking for a flexible working environment who want to choose the hours that they work."

The course also provides information and support for the next steps into higher education study in other sectors such as Childcare or Aged Care. It works well in conjunction with the Certificate III in Individual Support currently on offer at TAFE Gippsland.

For people on a JobSeeker Centrelink benefit, a Learn Local government funded course is approved study that may count towards requirements. It is free and accessible and delivered in an informal, supportive environment at the Community House.

One of the strengths of the course is the range of guest speakers that are engaged, as one previous participant says, "Genevieve has put a great deal of thought into the information shared and the guest speakers are valuable with their experience in the field, their knowledge is worth its weight in gold."

For further information and to register your interest contact Rebecca or Genevieve at Manna Gum Community House on 5682 1101.

Study support for secondary teachers

THE state government will make studying to become a teacher in secondary schools in Victoria free, with scholarships covering the cost of degrees to help boost the school workforce and support hard-working teachers.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins announced the scholarships, as part of a \$229.8 million package to grow the school workforce.

The scholarships will be available to all students who enrol in secondary school teaching degrees in 2024 and 2025, with final payments if they then work in Victorian government schools for two years after they graduate – supporting around 4000 future teachers each year.

Student services and outreach officer Rebecca Prowd of Country Universities Centre Bass Coast, based in Wonthaggi confirmed that this announcement is a great incentive to get regional students into university, and encourages those living in regional Victoria to pursue a new career path.

CUC Bass Coast welcomes students in Bass Coast, South Gippsland and surrounds to register their course each semester and use the local facilities for their studies.

"Our centre welcomes full time and part time students, as well as short-term or visiting students studying any university course – all we ask is they register their enrolment," said Rebecca.

Via registering enrolment students will have daily access to the terminal room that is inclusive of dual screen monitors and free Wi-Fi, as well as the opportunity to schedule a private room for remote presentations or meetings.

"We provide assistance and guidance to the students throughout their studies, our service gives remote learners access to a university environment," Rebecca said.

During the pandemic, too many students experienced isolation during their



Bachelor of Education student Melissa Steiner at the Country Universities Centre in Wonthaggi with student services and outreach officer, Rebecca Prowd. Z05_3823

studies and would therefore not favour the thought of remote online learning; however, with access to CUC and financial support for secondary education, students are more likely to take up the opportunity to complete their Masters of Secondary Teaching or begin their Bachelor of Secondary Education.

The total scholarship for students who complete their studies and then choose to work in government secondary schools will match the HELP fees charged by the Commonwealth Government for Commonwealth Supported Places – \$18,000 for a four-year undergraduate program or \$9,000 for two years of postgraduate study.

A further \$27 million will continue and expand the Targeted Financial Incentives Program – providing incentives of up to \$50,000 to teachers from Victoria, interstate and

overseas to take up rural, remote, and otherwise hard-to-staff positions in government schools.

In addition, \$95.7 million will expand the successful Australian-first Career Start initiative to support and retain teachers – developing graduate teachers in government schools with extra preparation time, mentoring and other professional support to help them flourish in their first year of teaching.

An investment of almost \$13.9 million will support a trial of employment-based degrees for undergraduates. Set to start in 2025, the program will allow people to study and qualify as a teacher while undertaking paid work at a school, while also providing a pathway for education support staff to gain teaching qualifications.

Rebecca said the incentive for employment-based

placement breaks down the huge financial barrier for those working and required to take time off for placement.

"Work placement generally requires blocks of unpaid work, so having the opportunity to undergo employment-based degrees is more of an incentive to develop further skill and complete a degree in education."

The package supports five key priority areas agreed by all Australian jurisdictions, in recognition of national school workforce shortages, to tackle workforce pressures: attraction, recruitment and distribution, supporting early-career teachers, retention, and career pathways and flexibility.

CUC Centre Manager Andrea Evans-McCall said teaching is a degree that can be studied online and with our services available in Bass Coast, remote learning is made easier.



Kinder teacher Phoebe was accompanied by Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt, and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale at Thursday's official opening of Newhaven Kindergarten.

Celebrating Newhaven Kindergarten

MORE of Victoria's littlest learners in Newhaven are attending kinder in world-class local facilities and families are ditching the double drop-off.

Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt joined Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, on Thursday to officially open Newhaven Kindergarten on Phillip Island – giving the growing community access to quality and convenient early childhood education close to home.

The new kindergarten service is located at Newhaven Primary School and shares in a \$283 million Government investment for three-year-old kindergarten from the Victorian Budget 2019/20.

The centre provides up to 66 approved places across two rooms, and also has an outdoor learning and play space for

children to explore and use their imaginations.

Y Kinders runs three- and four-year-old programs at the service, with 15 hours of kindergarten each week providing children with early learning that is giving them the best start to life.

The bulk of construction for the modular kindergarten facilities took place off-site, giving local families the modern facilities sooner while ensuring the learning of school students was uninterrupted.

Newhaven Kindergarten is one of 12 new kindergartens on school sites delivered this year. In 2024, 11 more kinders will be delivered at government schools across the state – making drop-off time easier for more families and helping more children make a smoother transition to primary school.

Meaningful career conversations held for Korumburra students

YEAR eleven students from Korumburra Secondary College received some sage advice from Mayor Nathan Hersey at last week's Inspiring Young People Luncheon.

"Your future is not determined by your postcode, your family situation or where you grow up," he said.

The mayor spoke about his career pathway from his first job raising and selling chickens at the market, to his time in federal politics, to becoming the youngest Mayor ever to serve on South Gippsland Shires' Council.

"Surround yourself with the people that see opportunity in you, that you may not see in yourself," he told the students.

"Grab opportunities, take opportunities and see where it goes."

During the event, the students had the chance to engage in meaningful conversations with a varied group of local industry mentors.

They learnt about career pathways, the importance of opportunities as well as navigating career challenges.

Nicole Milner, Project Officer from South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN said the program is designed to, "inspire the students to broaden their



Nicole Milner, Leigha Underwood, Monti Voight from SGBC LLEN, with Karen Sorrell and Steve Scott from Korumburra Secondary College at the Inspiring Young People Luncheon. ob02_3823

horizons as they leave school; and to show young people that what you think in year ten and eleven about what you're going to do with the rest of your life is really not the be all and end all; and to really take the opportunity to follow your passion."

Karen Sorrell, Senior School Assistant and Careers Practitioner from Korumburra Secondary College commented that it's a good opportunity for the students to talk to businesses, to network and to try

and decide what they may want to do.

"At this time, they're still deciding, 'am I wanting to go to university? Am I wanting a trade?' It's all those big decisions that they have to start making for year twelve and beyond."

The students heard from guest speaker Kerryn Vaughan, a Gippsland based international presenter, author, trainer, mentor and podcast host; who spoke about 'getting off the bench', having

courage, tackling imposter syndrome and backing themselves.

The Inspiring Young People luncheon is part of a wider reaching program delivered by South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN together with YES Youth Hub and CUC Bass Coast.

As part of the program, Foster Secondary College, Neerwhaven College, Mary MacKillop College and Mirboo North Secondary College will be holding similar careers events for their students.

Book Week at Wonthaggi North

STUDENTS at Wonthaggi North Primary School celebrated the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book Week 2023 with a Dress Up Day at the end of August.

The theme of this year's Book Week was 'Read, Grow, Inspire' with a variety of related activities being offered to students throughout the week. Staff also read a number of children's books to students from the list of books CBCA award winners and shortlisted titles in their weekly Library sessions.

Acting Principal, Mrs. Kathy Jones, said "it was wonderful to see the students get so involved with the Book Week

celebration and acknowledgement of the love of reading. The costumes and makeup were amazing. The whole school parade was enjoyed by staff and children.

"It was evident a lot of work had gone into the preparation of the costumes. A big thank you to the parents, carers and friends who supported the day with their efforts to get the children ready".

RIGHT: Avary (dressed up as one of the '101 Dalmatians'), Zara (Cruella) and Tanah (dalmatian) dressed up for Book Week Dress up Day at Wonthaggi North PS recently.



--- Students celebrate scholarship success ---

THERE were 29 successful tertiary students and apprentices of the Greenhills Community Benevolent Society Scholarship this year with a successful morning tea held in the Loch Memorial Hall on September 9.

Abbey McNally, a former scholarship winner, spoke about her experiences at university and studying, highlighting how hard it is at times to keep going but the end was worth it. This was followed by a presentation of certificates where each recipient talked about what they were doing and what the future held for them. A delicious morning tea was provided by the Loch Village Foodstore.

From left, back: Bailey Peacock, Tane Derrick, Lara Standish, Deb Watson, Logan Tilbury, Abbey McNally, Brodie Hart, Hamish McMillan, Angus McMillan, Koda Connell-Rohde and Luke Monson; front, Danielle Lorkin, Beth Derrick, Katelin Staben, Phoebe O'Connor, Charlie Hall, Samantha Russell and Faith Connell-Rohde.

Absent: Mia Blackwood, Tyson Fievez, Ethan Hart, Emily Campbell, Eydie Johnson, Zac Gray, Simone Hussey, Keeley Johnson, Heath Connell-Rohde, Yahnika Mandermaker, Alex Henshall, Alex Olsen.

Classes of 1963 called on to celebrate 60-year milestone

STUDENTS and staff of Leongatha High School, now Leongatha Secondary College, who were at the school in 1963 are being called on to be part of the 60-year reunion event on October 7 at Leongatha RSL.

Former Meenyan resident Barry Davies finished at the school that year, with the now house painter completing Form 3, or Year 9 for the younger brigade.

"I enjoyed geography," he said of a subject in which he performed strongly, adding that despite going on to become a tradesman he discovered at school that carpentry wasn't his calling.

Barry chuckled that he was roped into organising the 60-year reunion after enquiring whether someone was doing so.

It will be the first Leongatha High School reunion he has attended, although he has kept in touch with school friends, particularly those he played footy with at Meenyan-Dumbalk United.

Barry contrasted his pen and paper-based school days with today's computer-based learning.

He also remembered the different approach to discipline 60 years ago.

"You do the wrong thing and you're off to the headmaster for the strap," he said.

He also spoke of the physically active nature of students when he was at Leongatha High School.

"Everyone was into sport in those days," Barry said.

While unsure how many people will attend the reunion he is encouraged by an enthusiastic response, saying he knows of one guy coming from Western Australia for the gathering.

Barry said it will be an opportunity for some to catch up with old girlfriends or boyfriends.

It's sure to be a great day with entertaining banter and amusing tales.

1963 happenings at Leongatha High School:

Looking back 60 years reveals construction delays are nothing new.

"A year ago, there seemed a reasonable possibility that our Assembly Hall would be completed by the end of 1963; now we know that it will not even be started," Headmaster ... Hurley wrote.

On the positive side, plans for the Mesley Memorial Assembly Hall had been completed and tenders called for, with the architect the son-in-law of the school's first Headmaster Mr Arthur Mesley.

Just 18 years after the conclusion of WWII, Leongatha High School bid a fond farewell to its first Japanese student Takyuki Uno, sponsored by Leongatha Rotary Club, who was described as likeable and popular, being wished every success.

Hoddle Flora Reserve Discovery Walk

PROM Coast Eco Link invite you to join ecologist Tim Bowler on a free discovery walk through the Hoddle Flora Reserve. This hidden gem lies nestled between remnant vegetation and farmland in the heart of the Hoddle Range, just out of Fish Creek. Tim has recently completed a Flora and Fauna Assessment Report on the reserve and will be pointing out the highlights along the way. Tim will also give us information on the impacts and control of weeds and feral animals.

When: Saturday, October 7, 8:30am - 2pm (back-up day is October 23 if the weather dictates!).

Where: Hoddle Range Flora Reserve (assembly point and details on registration).

What to bring: Sturdy footwear and clothes suitable for hiking through very steep terrain; hat and sunscreen; your own snacks, lunch and water.

Fitness level: Moderate. The walk will be around 4km, but not on existing walking tracks. We will be following animal trails on varying terrain, some quite steep.

Register: via our website or via ParkConnect – promcoastecolink.org/events/hoddle-flora-reserve-discovery-walk

Any questions, please contact Anda on 0409 180 346.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Markets a must-do

By Danny O'Brien

SPRING has sprung and while the weather might be a little unpredictable, chances are that there is a farmers or Sunday market happening somewhere near you this weekend.

Local markets right across Gippsland South are filled with a vast variety of locally grown fresh produce, handmade clothing and accessories, local arts and crafts, fresh flowers, baked treats, general bric-a-brac and much more!

These markets are a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the wonderful Spring weather while supporting local producers and makers.

For information on when and where local markets are occurring across Gippsland visit gippslanddirectory.com.au/listing-category/markets.

Take 'em fishing this school holidays

IT'S school holidays time, from September 16 to October 1, but what to do?

The State Government recommends that you take the kids fishing, and not only are there dozens of great places to go fishing around the spectacular coast of South Gippsland and Bass Coast but they've also stocked many of the state's dams and waterways for your enjoyment.

In the vicinity of this area, locations include Don Lake (Healesville) 800, Garfield Lake (Garfield) 400, Guthridge Lake (Sale) 500, Heyfield Racecourse Lake (Heyfield) 300, Hyland Lake (Churchill) 1600, Lilliput Lane Reserve (Pakenham) 200, and Pakenham Lake (Pakenham) with 750 trout.

Anglers are reminded that a daily bag limit of five trout applies, of which only two can exceed 35 centimetres.

The Minister for Outdoor Recreation, Sonya Kilkenny, is encouraging everyone to get out there and enjoy the state's great outdoors.

"The weather's starting to warm up so what better time to grab the kids or grandkids, a few rods and get the next generation hooked on fishing."

She said families can hope to reel in a big catch these school holidays, with more than 35,000 catchable rainbow trout stocked into lakes across Victoria.

The annual school holiday stocking program forms part of a record-breaking stocking effort funded by the Government's \$96 million package to improve fishing, boating, piers and aquaculture – supported by recreational fishing licence fees.

The program complements the commitment to deliver 95,000 Little Angler Kits to Victorian primary school students next term, encouraging more kids to fish with family.

For the full list of waterways stocked ahead of these holidays, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/holidaytrout

Keep the kids active this September holidays

MY Community Library (MYLI) San Remo is hosting a vast range of free library activities for all school ages this September holidays, helping the children stimulate their minds during their spring break.

The activities will kick off with:

- Stained "Glass" Windows on Tuesday, September 19 from 10.30am until 12pm

Suitable for ages 7 to 14 years, making their own stained "glass" windows with indigenous paper.

- Spring Flowers on Wednesday, September 20 from 11.30am until 12.30pm

With spring in the air, flowers are blooming, so come along and create wool and paper spring flowers.

- Outdoor Story Time Adventure on Monday, September 25 from 10am until

12pm welcoming children from 1 to 10 years.

Branch manager Jessica Barry said Sarah will host this outdoor event and meet parents and their little ones at the Lions Park in San Remo (weather permitting) to enjoy some outdoor exploring at San Remo beach.

The activities will continue until the end of September to get pumped up for the AFL finals.

- Football Fever Flags on Wednesday, September 27 from 11.30am until 12.30pm

For more information or to book an activity, visit [Eventbrite myli.au/events](http://Eventbrite.myli.au/events).



RIGHT: Jessica Barry, branch Manager of San Remo and Phillip Island libraries will host Football Fever Flags on Wednesday, September 27. z07_3823

Explore with Bunurong Environment Centre

CHILDREN and teenagers can go on exciting day and night discoveries and explorations these school holidays with the Bunurong Environment Centre.

Budding palaeontologists can learn how to find and identify dinosaurs and break open rocks in search of new fossils. They can see dinosaur footprints and fault lines from ancient earthquakes and petrified trees from the age of the dinosaurs along the Inverloch Coast.

For those fascinated by the skies, an exploration of stars, planets and moons visible in the Southern Hemisphere through astronomical telescopes can be searched for.

Or a guided night of wildlife walking and spotlighting is on offer to search for Australia's small nocturnal mammals that are best seen after the sun goes down.

Children interested in learning about local flora and fauna along the coast can take a relaxing stroll and meet some of the birds,

insects and other creatures that call Inverloch home.

An exploration of the magical rock pools of the Bunurong coast at low tide is also offered by an expert marine guide. Crabs, anemones, sea stars, small fish, elephant snails and a 'garden' of colourful seaweeds and seagrasses may be seen.

For children interested in estuarine ecology, the dynamic estuarine areas of Anderson's Inlet can be explored. Where coastal scrub, open woodlands, mangroves, saltmarsh and mudflats can be found.

For the more arty souls, a making art from nature workshop will be held and finished pieces could include poster size wall hangings, counter-top models or crafty objects like dreamcatchers.

All events are held by Bunurong Coast Education as part of the South Gippsland Conservation Society. More information and tickets can be found on [humantix](http://humantix.com).



Children can find and identify dinosaurs, break open rocks in search for new fossils, explore fauna and fauna, stars and planets, or make some art these school holidays.

Great Southern Ride E Bike Store is now located in Meeniyan!

Pick up E Bikes from Meeniyan Store

Half and full day rides available.

Half day = 4 hours, full day = 7 hours.

See us in-store today at Meeniyan for a terrific stock of E Bikes & accessories!

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Talking pictures

Get Kracken for Turtle Movie Mayhem

EVERYONE'S favourite turtles are back in cinemas these school holidays for their seventh outing. You can join Raphael, Donatello, Leonardo, and Michelangelo for pizza, skateboarding, and vigilante heroics in their latest adventure "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" (PG) screening at Stadium 4 Leongatha and Union Theatre Wonthaggi.

The Dreamworks animation "Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken" (PG) is also screening at both locations. The family-friendly animation follows a shy teenage girl who discovers she is the direct descendant of Nordic sea-monster kraken, who protect land and sea from evil mermaids. Voice actors include Toni Collette and Jane Fonda.

Diary Dates

The Bass Coast Fine Film Group screens this Sunday at 10.45am at the Wonthaggi Union Theatre. A two-part Festival called "Films from behind the veil, Iranian shorts mini film festival" is presented by the BCFFG together with Bass Coast Council and the Australian Short Film Festival. The screenings complement BCSC's focus on short film as an accessible and immediate art-form that is being encouraged within the shire. The second session at 1pm is general admission. Tickets for both sessions are available at the door.

On Thursday September 28 at 7.30pm, the Phillip Island Movie Club screens "Broker" (M) an engrossing Korean film by Cannes Palme d'Or winning director Koreeda Hirokazu at the St Phillip's Church Hall. Simply said, the film tells of two brokers, basically in the abandoned baby business, trying to match orphans with new parents – for a price. However, nothing is that simple and the film has a whole lot more going on than just that! By subscription, check website for details.

Of particular interest is PIMC's last film of the year, the Australian "Summerfield" starring Nick Tate, John Waters and Elizabeth Alexander was filmed on Phillip Island and Westernport Bay in 1977. No doubt a nostalgic treat for the locations, spot the extras and filmic style, it may even screen at Berninnett. Who knows!

For more information on films screenings locally, catch Bill Ten Eyck and Paul Coulter "Talking Pictures" Wednesdays at 11.05am on South Coast FM, live or streaming.

Bass Coast Fine Film Group Presents "Films From Behind The Veil"

ON SUNDAY, September 24, the BCFFG is screening "Films from Behind the Veil", a mini festival of Iranian short films. Fifteen films will be screened over two sessions at 10.45am and 1pm.

This anthology of Iranian shorts takes us behind the veil of contemporary Iran, and presents us with a vision of a country where political and artistic censorship is an everyday part of life. Each story offers an insight into life for women and other marginalised groups, filmed with passion and integrity.

Many of these short films encompass the plight of women and children, oppressive religious practices, the struggles of ordinary people – often in remote regions – refugees, and others living outside of mainstream society; but they also reveal qualities of compassion, love, and common humanity. Characterised by strong production values and the traditional Iranian poetic skill in storytelling, they provide an insight into culture and society in Iran today.

Despite governmental interference and censorship, the artistic voice of independent film-making in Iran remains strong. So it is with



An anthology of Iranian short films will be showcased by Bass Coast Fine Film Group on September 24.

these short films, made with courage and unflinching commitment to truth and authenticity. This filmic snapshot of life in Iran is not to be missed.

Screening fifteen short films over two sessions, the Bass Coast Shire and the Bass Coast Fine Film Group are very proud to be opening the doorway into life in modern Iran.

To find out more head to: bit.ly/48e15vk

BCFFG Members entry is free for the first session on presentation of membership card; general public welcome with tickets at usual box office prices. All tickets for the second session are \$15.

Film screening at Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

The Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proudly sponsored and supported by the Bass Coast Shire.

'Seasons' project at Foster War Memorial

THE Melbourne String Ensemble's much-anticipated performance in South Gippsland is fast approaching. And while tickets are still available, those interested in the event are urged to book now for the September 30 concert at www.trybooking.com/CKUWC.

The ensemble's commissioning project, 'Seasons', sees First Nations composers engaged to write new works inspired by seasons from their traditional Countries, with the performance set to feature works composed by Italian composer and violinist Antonio Vivaldi, as well as James Henry and a world premiere by Brenda Gifford.

The Melbourne String Ensemble inspires and educates the next generation of string musicians and is proud of its contribution to the musical community.

The ensemble will be performing at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre on Saturday, September 30, thanks to Prom Recitals, a group of South Gippsland locals who are sharing their love of music and the Prom Country region through the presentation of classical music recitals.

The concert starts at 2.30pm. Adult tickets are \$55 each, children's tickets are \$20 each. Tickets at [https://www.trybooking.com/CKUWC](http://www.trybooking.com/CKUWC)



James Henry has been in demand as a composer and sound designer, writing various blends of traditional Aboriginal and contemporary genres.

Friends of Coal Creek to host Beggs2Differ

THE versatile and popular group of locals, Beggs2Differ, will be playing this Saturday night, (September 23) at the Korumburra Masonic Hall, as an entertainer and fundraiser for Friends of Coal Creek, the volunteer group which supports the Coal Creek Community Park and Museum.

The group have a diverse range of musical styles, playing guitar, violin, mandolin, harmonica and tin whistle. Their music links to folk, rock and roll, and country, and will include bush music fun for all ages.

Philip Beggs is a passionate song writer. In 2000 he won the 'Lawson Patterson Songwriting Award' for the best song at the prestigious Port Fairy Folk Festival.

John Rees is best known for his bass playing in the band "Men at Work". In Beggs2Differ the Grammy award-winning John also gets to play another of his loves – the violin.

Diana Rees is a classically trained concert pianist but with a love for the contemporary. Her individualistic playing style is sure to impress and please.

Terry Lay has been singing and performing for 40 years but is probably more recently known for his portrayals in musical theatre. His lead and backing vocals style perfectly complements the band's acoustic expression.

With a mix of poignant and lively covers and original songs, the band's rich harmonies and encouraged audience participation have been loved by audiences throughout Gippsland and Melbourne for over 15 years.

Admission is \$25 and tickets can be purchased through the website or QR code in the nearby ad, or at the door from 6.30pm on the night. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Contact Frank on 0427 801 640 or Shirley on 0400 976 248 for any enquiries.

Bass Coast Fine Film Group

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER
FILMS FROM BEHIND THE VEIL
IRANIAN SHORTS MINI FILM FEST
Session 1@10.45am (Members Free)
Session 2@1pm (All tickets \$15)

BCFFG proudly presents a program of 15 short films from Iran screening over two sessions.

General public welcome. Members Free Entry!

@ WONTHAGGI UNION CINEMA
96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Check the website for more info:
basscoastfinefilmgroupp.weebly.com



WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 8pm - 10pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street

Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

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Friends of Coal Creek Entertainment Fundraiser

Saturday, September 23 at 7pm

• Korumburra Masonic Hall •
25 Bridge Street

Featuring Beggs2Differ

BYO drinks and snacks.
Entry \$25 tickets at [https://www.trybooking.com/CLGCS](http://www.trybooking.com/CLGCS) or tickets at the door.

Contact: Shirley 0400 979 248 or Frank 0427 801 640



LB1083



QUIZ: Who wants to be a Squillionaire?

SCHOOL HOLIDAY QUIZ

- [\$100] Which Victorian scenic drive takes you through lush rainforests and dramatic coastline? A. The Great Alpine Road. B. The Great Ocean Road. C. Grand Pacific Drive. D. The Great Ocean Drive.
- [\$200] In which decade did Phillip Island's Penguin Parade become an organised tourist attraction? A. 1920s. B. 1930s. C. 1940s. D. 1950s.
- [\$300] When does the Melbourne Royal Show kick off this year? A. September 21. B. September 28. C. October 5. D. October 12.
- [\$500] What is the main attraction at Sovereign Hill in Ballarat? A. Wildlife sanctuary. B. Gold mine tours. C. Aboriginal cultural centre. D. Art gallery.
- [\$1000] What is the name of the overnight train between Melbourne and Adelaide? A. The Adelaide Express. B. The Westlander. C. The Overland. D. The Riverlander.
- [\$2000] Which national park is famous for its beautiful pink lakes? A. Wilsons Promontory National Park. B. The Grampians National Park. C. Murray Sunset National Park. D. Phillip Island Nature Park.
- [\$4000] Which historic coastal town boasts colorful beach boxes by the beach? A. Lorne. B. Port Fairy. C. Portsea. D. Sorrento.
- [\$8000] A distinctive geological formation in central Victoria, Hanging Rock, made famous by the Peter Weir film is most closely located to which of these towns? A. Woodend. B. Kyneton. C. Sunbury. D. Bendigo.
- [\$16,000] Which national park is home to the famous Mackenzie Falls? A. Wilsons Promontory National Park. B. The Grampians National Park. C. Great Otway National Park. D. Alpine National Park.
- [\$32,000] Top 10 Victorian rail trail, the 'O'Keefe Rail Trail' is located closest to which Victorian location? A. Ararat. B. Bendigo. C. Camperdown. D. Daylesford.
- [\$64,000] What is the indigenous name for Wilson's Promontory in the Gunai and Boonwurrung languages? A. Kunama/Moorundie. B. Gariwerd/Warrane. C. Iutruwita/Wiradjuri. D. Yiruk/Wamoon.
- [\$125,000] Which of these UNESCO World Heritage Sites is one of only two in Victoria? A. The Great Ocean Road. B. Budj Bim National Park. C. The 12 Apostles. D. Wilson's Promontory National Park.
- [\$250,000] What is the most valuable painting in the collection at the National Gallery of Victoria? A. Pablo Picasso's 'Weeping Woman'. B. Paris Bordone's painting, 'Rest on the flight into Egypt with Saint Catherine and Angels'. C. Coreggio's 'Madonna and Child with infant St John the Baptist'. D. John Brack's painting 'The Bar'.
- [\$500,000] After whom was Wilson's Promontory named? A. An English merchant. B. An English explorer. C. A Governor of NSW. D. A Royal Navy Rear Admiral.
- [\$1,000,000] In what year was Korumburra's Coal Creek Community Park and Museum opened to the public? A. 1973. B. 1974. C. 1975. D. 1976.

Quiz answers: 1. B. The Great Ocean Road. 2. A. September 21. 3. A. September 28. 4. B. Gold mine tours. 5. D. Sorrento. 6. A. Woodend. 7. D. Daylesford. 8. B. Phillip Island Nature Park. 9. B. The Grampians National Park. 10. B. Port Fairy. 11. D. Yiruk/Wamoon. 12. B. Budj Bim National Park. 13. C. Coreggio's 'Madonna and Child'. 14. A. An English merchant Thomas Wilson. 15. B. 1974.

SUDOKU

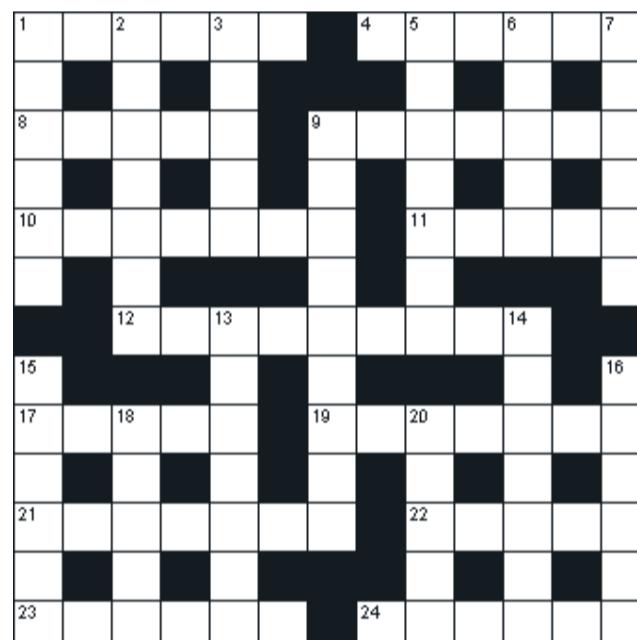
Level: EASY

3		6	5	8				
5	8			4	1			7
2	4		3			5		
9	2		8		4		3	
		4		3		8	6	
		8	4	7		9		1
4		2	6		3	7		
8		7	1				9	6
	6			5	9		4	8

Instructions:

Only the numbers from 1 through to 9 can be used. Each 3x3 box can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once. Each vertical column can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once. Each horizontal row can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once

QUICK CROSSWORD



Sourced from: www.simplydailypuzzles.com

ACROSS

- Zealous, impassioned (6)
- Nuts from an oak (6)
- Quibble (5)
- Mother and father (7)
- Undress (7)
- Swelling (5)
- Penniless (9)
- Beginning (5)
- Take out (7)
- Early childhood (7)
- Salt solution (5)
- Rigorous (6)
- Tinned (6)

DOWN

- Front of a building (6)
- Prepared for exams (7)
- Home for an Eskimo (5)
- The American reindeer (7)
- Of the kidneys (5)
- English county (6)
- Exactly (9)
- Devilish (7)
- Exhilaration (7)
- Imitations (6)
- Pay heed (6)
- More secure (5)
- Shin bone (5)

CODE CRACKER

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26.

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.

18	23	12	9	2	2	20		25	23	6	2	5	15	23
5		16		14		2		23		8		9		14
18	25	8	10	23	4	2	25	13		21	8	15	22	9
9		7		20		19		5				22		5
23	15	22	2		7	17	23	20			25	8	21	2
23		23		20		23		19		8			15	
20	2	O	9	5	2	20		15	17	8	5	10	8	20
			9		26		19		23	12		10		
11	17	5	26	26	8	25	19		3	5	8	11	17	23
8				17		24			11	20		24		12
20	8	5	3	23		20	23	8	16		11	17	2	15
1		20				13		20	1		8		24	
24	20	17	5	9		8	19	6	2	24	25	20	23	19
23		8		4		25		2	8		15		2	
9	22	21	25	2	5	19		12	22	21	20	23	12	12

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

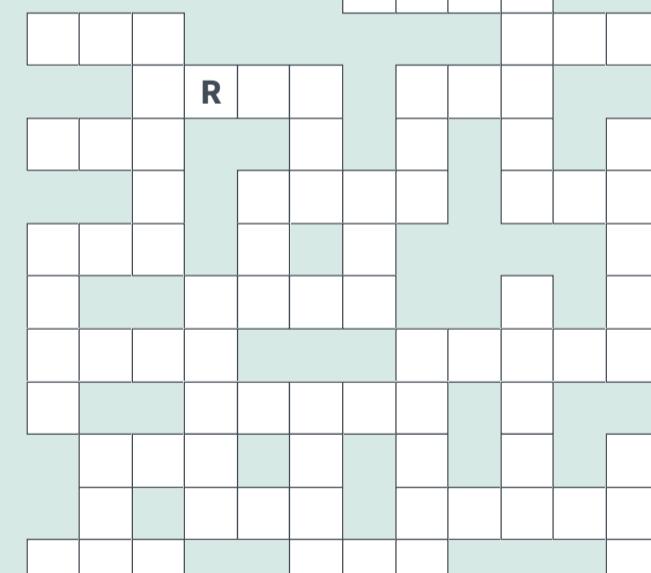
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Sourced from: www.simplydailypuzzles.com

WORD FILL

Level: MEDIUM

AWE



Sourced from: <https://api.razzlepuzzles.com>

SOLUTIONS: Sept. 12, 2023

Crossword:

STAY	H	O	B	O	M	E	N
TOGA	D	E	M	O	B	C	A
UTAH	I	N	A	N	E	G	I
NORTHERN	S	N	A	I	L	S	I
ZITI	L	I	O	N			
ACCEDE	K	A	T	R	I	N	A
FREE	D	A	N	D	Y	C	A
RED	D	O	L	D	N	A	
OPAL	S	I	R	E	S	P	I
ERECTOR	C	H	O	R	A	L	R
PEAS	C	O	A	L			
METROS	H	E	L	L	E	N	T
O'REO	H	O	A	R	D	M	A
LIEU	E	L	V	E	S	I	D
LENS	S	E	E	S	C	A	M

Sudoku:

2	9	7	8	5	3	1	4	6
5	6	4	7	1	9	8	2	3
1	3	8	2	6	4	5	7	9
8	4	9	5	2	1	6	3	7
7	5	3	6	9	8	4	1	2
6	1	2	3	4	7	9	5	8
9	7	5	4	3	6	2	8	1
3	2	6	1	8	5	7	9	4
4	8	1	9	7	2	3	6	5

Calcudoku:

9	3	16	54	2	15	6	8	14
1	4	8	9	20	2	6	3	2
2	6	3	8	5	4	17	9	7
7	5	1	2	4	3	9	17	8
14	4	2	6	1	9	8	5	7
8	3	9	7	6	5	2	4	1
14	3	18	19	12	8	9	35	6
6								



Former greenkeeper Finlay Luke and Rick Winters are delighted with the synthetic green at Loch & District Bowling Club. A03_3823



Cameron Shaw and Tom Fitzgerald from Reids are based in Trafalgar but service the whole Gippsland region. ob09_3723



John Van De Burgt and Mark Andrew from Westfalia based in Warra-gul enjoyed catching up with their South Gippsland clients at the expo. ob10_3723



Kathryn Fox with Jonathon Nurse from GEA Farm Technologies specialise in robotics. ob11_3723



Tom Loughridge and Norma and Reg Binding enjoy the celebration at Loch & District Bowling Club. A04_3823



Jo, Cassie and Amalee were supporting the mighty Sea Eagles at Koo Wee Rup Recreation Reserve on Saturday for the grand finals.



Diane and Will certainly embraced the final's spirit in their support for Inverloch-Kongwak.



Lanni, Shahn and Brendon proudly displayed their support for Inverloch-Kongwak.



Foundation teacher Louise Black and educational support officer Simone Pouw get into the spirit of the 'Colour Explosion' event at the finish of the term at St Laurence O'Toole Primary School. A46_3823

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the South Gippsland Dairy and Farming Expo Sponsors Breakfast, Multi sporting infrastructure project celebration at Loch & District Bowling Club, West Gippsland League Grand Final and St Laurence O'Toole Primary School 'Colour Explosion'



Foundation students Harley, Max, Marion, and Kade enjoy the 'Colour Explosion' day at St Laurence O'Toole Primary School. A45_3823



Matt Hall from GippsDairy was chatting to Penny Robinson from Saputo about all things dairy. ob12_3723



Rob Bonanno, Paul Hurst and Alex Boileau from ProDairy received a few good enquiries at the expo. ob13_3723



Jason Ross and Anthony Hyland from Ag Farm Machinery in Warra-gul enjoyed the Sponsors Breakfast. ob16_3723



Tim Roscoe from Evans Petroleum and Jason Williams from BP were enjoying themselves at the sponsors breakfast. ob15_3723



Educational support officer Maddie Elliott and Grade 2 teacher Sarah Arthur enjoy the 'Colour Explosion'. A47_3823



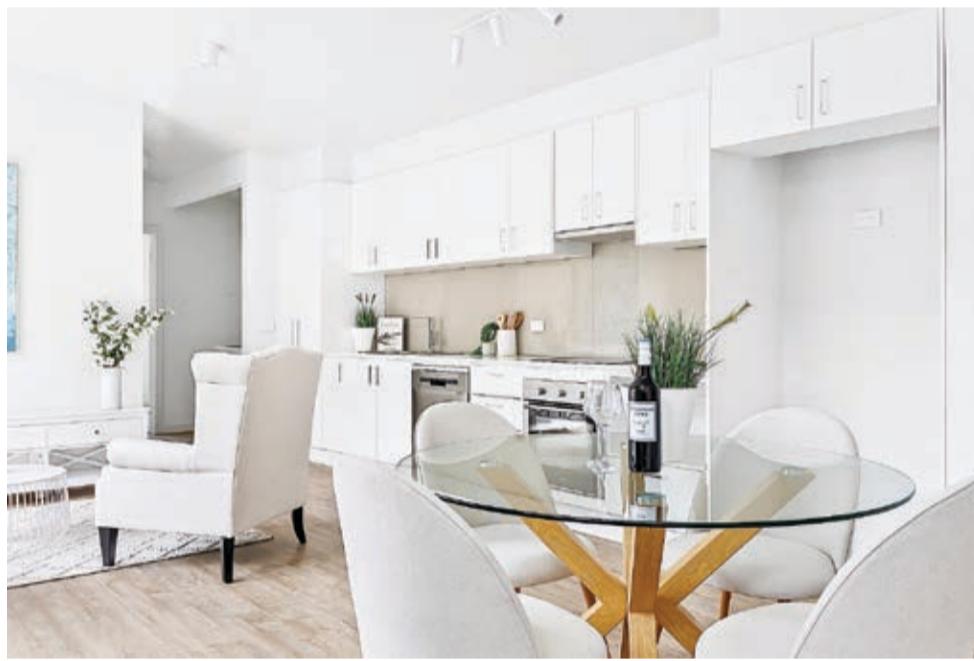
Saylor and Harlow are enthusiastic participants in the 'Colour Explosion'. A48_3823



George and Finn share the 'Colour Explosion' experience at St Laurence O'Toole Primary School. A49_3823



RIVERSIDE at Swan Reach



FOR SALE Swan Reach

Elizabeth Moss
0416 814 691

- Own your own home
- No stamp duty
- No council rates
- No exit fees



- 1 Bedroom + Study Home Options
- 2 Bedroom Home Options
- Quality Floor Coverings
- Blinds
- Heating & Cooling
- Dishwasher
- Fully Fenced & Landscaped
- Carport with Remote Control Door
- Ready for you to move straight in

Contact Elizabeth Moss today on 0416 814 691

New Homes
From \$265,000

Discover luxury lifestyle living by Riverside at Swan Reach, perfect for downsizing or a new chapter in life.

Riverside is a place for all walks of life. You'll discover a vibrant gated community that celebrates the joy of togetherness with relaxing low maintenance living.

We present a collection of beautifully crafted homes, thoughtfully tailor-made for connected living in a serene riverside setting.

RIVERSIDE

www.livingatriverside.com.au

Riverside at Swan Reach

DISCOVER luxury lifestyle living by Riverside at Swan Reach: perfect for downsizing and your new chapter in life.

Riverside is a community for all walks of life, you'll discover a vibrant gated community that celebrates the joy of togetherness, ensuring you are never alone on your journey.

Currently available, our homes are beautifully appointed in the peaceful locale of Swan Reach, surrounded by luscious, leafy landscape. The Tambo River meanders through Swan Reach, whilst the legendary Gippsland Lakes and Lakes Entrance are a short-distance drive away.

"The Banksia" by Riverside is a two-bedroom, one-bathroom gem designed to blend form and functionality seamlessly.

"The Waratah" by Riverside is a one-bedroom plus study, beautifully spacious light-filled abode.

Our homes offer an abundance of natural light, featuring spacious living areas that effortlessly combine style with everyday convenience.

- Open concept living and dining space
- Expansive entertainment area
- Sizeable master bedroom with built-in wardrobes
- European-inspired laundry area

More reasons to love our homes:

- Own your own home
- No stamp duty
- No council rates
- No exit fees

Features:

- Garage or parking space
- Pets allowed
- Secure access
- Air conditioning
- Broadband
- Built-ins
- Deck
- Dishwasher
- Fully fenced
- Modern kitchen
- Internal laundry
- Living area

Facilities:

- Swimming Pool
- BBQ
- Courtyard

Supports:

- Independent living

Locations:

- Close to transport
- Close to beach
- Close to shops
- Boating nearby
- Close to water
- Close to parklands
- Quiet location
- Close to nature

Our homes are turn-key with quality floor coverings and blinds, heating and cooling, dishwasher, fully fenced and landscaped, carport with remote control door, ready for your inspection.

Contact Elizabeth Moss today on 0416 814 691.

The Banksia 2 1
The Waratah 1 1 + study

2143 Princes Highway, **Swan Reach**
For Sale Starting from \$265,000
Agent Elizabeth Moss 0416 814 691

firstnational REAL ESTATE | Southcoast

INVERLOCH 24 Julia Street



- Sunny Sands Residential Village
- 2 bedroom unit
- Spilt system air conditioning
- Garage
- Fenced courtyard

\$365,000

Mitch Foon
0419 899 378

1B A'beckett Street, Inverloch
southcoast@scre.com.au

5674 2255
We put you first



“Oak Tree Farm” serene countryside haven

EXPERIENCE country living at its finest with this exquisite three-year-old brick veneer home, expertly crafted by renowned builders South Gippsland Homes. Nestled on an elevated spot, a picturesque tree-lined driveway guides you to this hidden gem that promises to steal your heart.

As you journey down the driveway, anticipation builds, and your excitement peaks upon reaching the property. The charming rural views that greet you from every room within this spacious 44-square under-roof haven are simply fantastic!

The heart of the home is a north-facing open plan kitchen, dining, and living area, where you'll be captivated by stunning vistas of the surrounding countryside. Imagine cosying up by the wood fire during chilly evenings or enjoying the comfort of the reverse cycle air-conditioner.

Retreat to the master bedroom, where a ceiling fan, large walk-in robe, and ensuite provide a haven of relaxation. The ensuite boasts an open shower, toilet, and heated towel rail, adding a touch of luxury to your daily routine.

The kitchen is a culinary delight, featuring Caesar Stone benchtops, an electric wall oven, gas cooktop, dishwasher, and pantry.

A separate east-facing living room with a reverse cycle air-conditioner is perfect for starting your day with a morning cuppa or offering comfort to guests. Bedroom two offers ample space with built-in robes.

A third bedroom currently serves as a multipurpose sitting area. The family bathroom includes a walk-in shower and bath, while a separate powder room adds convenience.

The laundry is both spacious and separate, boasting an

additional toilet for practicality if you have been working outdoors. With nine-foot-high ceilings, vinyl plank flooring, and carpet throughout, every detail has been considered for your comfort.

Energy efficiency is a priority with double glazed windows and a solar hot water system featuring an electric booster. In times of power outages, a generator plug ensures continued functionality. Finally, a generously sized double car garage ensures secure parking with direct access to the home.

While the land itself spans approximately 114.13 acres. Divided into seven main paddocks, complete with six dams and brand-new seven-wire barb fencing, this property is well-suited for livestock.

The gently undulating topography complements the serene surroundings, and a converted disused dairy serves as a studio with a spacious workshop. Stockyards, a crash loading race, and drench run offer convenience for managing the livestock.

Additional amenities include a large four-bay hay/machinery shed, a storage shed with a concrete floor, a small woodshed, and a potting shed. Two nearly new 22,500 litre poly water tanks ensure a reliable supply of drinking water for the house.

Situated approximately 11 minutes from the charming village of Mirboo North, 20 minutes from Leongatha, and a mere 2-hour drive from Melbourne, this property offers the perfect balance between tranquil country living and accessibility to modern conveniences. Don't miss out on this unparalleled opportunity to own your dream rural retreat.

Contact Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha today for a private viewing!



3 | 2 | 2 | 114.13 acres

155 Nicholls Road, **Mardan**

For Sale \$2,300,000

Agent Nutrien Harcourts

Matt Redmond 0418 357 341

matt.redmond@nh.com.au

Nutrien Harcourts

We get results

Harcourts

JUST LISTED



LEONGATHA

Great Large Family Home!

- 5 BR, 2 bathroom double story family home.
- Great sized kitchen with electric cooking.
- Bright open plan kitchen/living/dining areas.

FOR SALE \$595,000

JUST LISTED



FOSTER

Modern & Easy living!

- Modern 3 BR, 2 Bathroom double story home.
- Master bedroom boasting ensuite and WIR.
- Gorgeous elevated and treed outlook.

FOR SALE \$490,000 - \$510,000

JUST LISTED



LEONGATHA

Build your Dream Home in Springs Estate!

- Expansive flat to slightly sloping 6,790m² block.
- Access to all services including natural gas.
- Only a 5 minute drive to town.

FOR SALE \$560,000

JUST LISTED



LEONGATHA

Character & Charm

- 3 BR, 1 bathroom home on 812m² flat block.
- Retro kitchen with electric cooking & storage.
- LU 6 x 7 metre shed with concrete and power.

FOR SALE \$485,000 - \$495,000

Barry Redmond



0477 622 292

Director/Licensed Estate Agent

Kellie Thomas



0438 647 449

Licensed Estate Agent

Matt Redmond



0418 357 341

Licensed Estate Agent

Monique Wightman



5662 2292

Office Admin & Marketing Manager



3 | 2 | 5 10 acres

195 Mill Road, **Woolamai**
For Sale \$1,850,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Phil Hanley 0417 140 508
 Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

First class home in first class location

THIS stunning as new home, in one of the best locations in Leongatha, is yours for the taking. Set on a huge block which has had extensive landscaping to make it low maintenance, this beautiful home will take your breath away from the moment you step inside.

The home has so many features to boast about, including a 14.5kw solar system with battery storage (also mains power with three phase to the meter box) and a massive 6.7 Star Energy rating (before the solar was installed!), however you really need to inspect it to appreciate the full extent of what is on offer.

Some of the features include:

- Total of 38.84 squares under roof line
- Four car garage (under roof line) with additional roller door access to the rear yard
- Four bedrooms plus home office
- Eight reverse cycle air conditioners (including one in each bedroom)
- Master suite with ensuite (including double shower and separate WC) and large walk-in robe
- Open plan living plus additional formal lounge
- Rumpus room
- Full electric kitchen with stone bench tops, Belling stove with induction cooktop, and huge walk-in pantry with food preparation area
- Formal dining adjoining the undercover outdoor entertaining area
- Lounge room with additional study nook
- Electric feature fire
- Second bathroom with freestanding bath and shower
- Separate powder room with toilet and vanity
- 2.7m Ceiling height with stunning floor to ceiling window furnishings
- Double glazed windows and sliding doors
- Over 500 tonne of feature rock walls
- Outdoor fire pit and flat play area for the kids
- Secure pet yard
- Undercover outdoor area overlooking parkland
- Large 1250m² allotment Within easy walking distance of the CBD and the Leongatha sporting precinct, as well as safe walking passage to the school precinct, this truly is an outstanding location and an amazing residence.

Contact Alex Scott & Staff today to arrange an inspection, we'd love to show it to you.



4 | 2 | 4 1,250m²

10 Bent Street, **Leongatha**
For Sale \$1,195,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
 Tony Giles 0407 528 192

"Killaloe", not just a home, it's a lifestyle

NESTLED on approximately 10 acres of picturesque countryside, "Killaloe" presents a stunning transformation of a 1950s-built cottage into a contemporary residence spanning more than 28 squares. This light-filled haven offers a lifestyle of modern luxury and rural serenity.

As you enter, you'll be captivated by the open-plan design that seamlessly integrates the living spaces. The heart of the home is the exquisite kitchen, boasting a high-end 900mm gas cooker paired with an electric oven, a whisper-quiet Bosch dishwasher, and impeccable Blanco fittings and a striking black ceramic sink. Glass splash backs add a touch of sophistication, complemented by a butler's pantry and a separate walk-in pantry keeping storage and organisation nothing short of perfection.

Effortlessly extending from the kitchen is the inviting living area, featuring sliding doors that open onto a spacious deck with breathtaking views of the expansive property. The raked ceilings and floating floors add an extra layer of elegance to this space, and a split system offers all round comfort.

This home's northern orientation ensures that you'll wake up to stunning rural views from each of the three bedrooms, all thoughtfully equipped with their own split-system air conditioners. The two bathrooms are equally impressive, with one recently renovated to the highest standards, featuring quality fittings, a separate bath, and floor-to-ceiling tiling. The second bathroom has also received a modern makeover, and both bathrooms are complete with toilets.

Not to be overlooked, the laundry

has been meticulously fitted out with ample storage and generous bench space. A versatile study area, sound-proofed for maximum concentration, could easily serve as a fourth bedroom. More recent upgrades include new cladding and new flooring throughout the home.

For sustainability you can enjoy the benefits of double glazing and a solar system, ensuring efficiency and year-round comfort.

This exceptional home boasts a wrap-around verandah leading to a rear deck that offers stunning panoramic views of the property perfect for enjoying outdoor living. For the car enthusiast or hobbyist, a generous three-car garage and workshop provide ample space. Additionally, a 10m x 5m shed with 3.5m walls and a high remote roller door offers secure storage for a caravan or boat.

For more sustainability and convenience, the property boasts a 30,000-litre water tank dedicated to the house and an additional 30,000-litre water tank for the gardens. It's divided into five paddocks, complete with a holding yard featuring a loading ramp. A large dam graces the landscape, alongside an orchard and vegetable garden, a hothouse with a sprinkler system, and a hay shed capable of storing over 100 bales. Woodshed space is also on hand for your convenience.

"Killaloe" is not just a home; it's a lifestyle. Experience the epitome of modern living in a breathtaking rural setting, where every detail has been meticulously designed for your comfort and enjoyment. Welcome home.

Call for a private inspection now or be disappointed you missed out.



MEENIYAN



75 Whitelaw Street

- Birchwood Cottage
- Fully renovated & extended
- Magnificent 3 bedroom home

\$895,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



11 Goad Court

- Immaculate presentation
- Two storey
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom

\$689,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

COWES



300 Coghlan Road

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage
- Across from Golf Course
- 5 min walk to Silverleaves Beach

\$1,550,000

Contact: Cowes Office

CAPE PATERSON



23 Nardoo Street

- Dual living opportunity
- Great holiday home
- 300m walk to beach

\$795,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



25 Roughead Street

- 2 bedroom Cottage
- Long block with rear access
- Great location close to CBD

\$499,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KONGWAK



1095 Korumburra-Wonthaggi Rd

- 7 acres, outstanding views
- 4 bedroom, 1 bathroom
- Various shedding

\$920,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

COWES



5 Egret Way

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage
- Popular Seagrove Estate
- Your sea change awaits you

\$840,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



14 Carbine Street

- 4 bedroom family home
- Chef's kitchen
- 10.5m x 4.2 m shed

\$759,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



10 Bent Street

- 4 bedroom plus study
- Massive family home on large block
- Opposite McIndoe Park

\$1,195,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



7 Swanson Street

- First home buyer or Investor
- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom
- Flat block, lock-up garage

\$425,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

SUNSET STRIP



3 Bermagui Crescent

- 4 bed, 2 bath, open plan living area
- Close to Smiths Beach & Newhaven College
- Architecturally designed & energy efficient

\$920,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



5B Dowling Street

- Brand new spacious 4br home
- Close to CBD and schools
- Perfect for retirees or families

\$649,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



113 Brown Street

- 3 bedroom + study nook
- 2 bathroom, 2 living
- 2 car carport + parking at rear

\$599,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



9 Riflebutts Road

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Open plan living
- Inground pool, low maintenance

\$665,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

COWES



340 Settlement Road

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage
- Great location
- Investment or permanent living

\$695,000 - \$715,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



21 Ivor Street

- Charming cottage North side
- Approximately 1036m² allotment
- Established gardens

\$515,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA

5662 0922

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Emily Clifford 0422 622 299
Tony Giles 0407 528 192

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

COWES

5952 2633

113a Thompson Avenue

Greg Price 0419 337 441
Brian Silver 0407 347 509
Chase Waters 0423 272 819
Maree Malloy 0408 316 715

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Dan Huther 0418 334 801
Cal Nation 0439 334 163
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783
Phil Hanley 0417 140 508



Gardiner Scholarship applications open

STUDENTS from Victorian dairy communities who plan to start their tertiary studies in 2024 are invited to apply for one of seven Gardiner Foundation Tertiary Scholarships.

Students must pursue a career that will either directly benefit the dairy industry and/or benefit dairy communities. Each scholarship is worth \$10,000 per year and available for the first three years of a scholar's University or TAFE course.

The tertiary scholarships are named in recognition of services to the dairy industry by Niel Black, Shirley Harlock, Jakob Malmo, Bill Pyle and Doug Weir.

Students must start their first year of full-time tertiary study in 2024 on campus and need to relocate from home due to study commitments to be eligible to apply. There is no preferred field of study, with past students enrolling in a range of courses including agriculture science, nursing, medicine, engineering, journalism and commerce.

Successful applicants will need to demonstrate intended future contributions to the dairy industry and communities as well as describe their community involvement and academic achievements to date.

Applications must be submitted by 5pm, Monday, 20 November 2023. For more information and to apply please visit gardinerfoundation.com.au/ts. Please submit completed applications to scholarships@gardinerfoundation.com.au.

Global market challenges Aussie dairy

DAIRY Australia's September 2023 Situation and Outlook Report indicates the industry is navigating a challenging global market, amidst strong farmgate milk prices and growth in retail value across the dairy category.

Lower export prices are a result of weakened global demand for dairy products, particularly from China.

Cost of living pressures continues to impact how consumers spend and as a result, importers globally are buying substantially reduced volumes of product.

The bright spot for Australian dairy farmers is the strong farmgate milk prices set for this season.

Competition for milk amongst processors was fierce following the announcement of minimum milk prices at the start of June.

Despite a five per cent contraction in milk flows during 2022/23 season due to weather, flooding, labour issues, resource competition, and farm exits, growth was recorded in the final months.

During the spring transition, the Australian milk pool is expected to see further year on year growth, recovering from last season's production dip due to flooding.

Strong farmgate milk prices place Australian farmers in the best possible position as



Dairy Australia industry analyst Eliza Redfern.

the industry faces challenges," Dairy Australia industry analyst Eliza Redfern said.

"Australian farmgate milk prices run counter to trends in the global market. New Zealand in particular has seen a rapid drop in milk prices, far below Australia's levels. Additionally, stiff competition of dairy products from New Zealand and the northern hemisphere being sold in Australia and internationally, presents a difficult landscape for

Australian manufacturers to operate in."

Other global dairy exporting regions like New Zealand, the United States and Europe initially recorded production growth in 2023 but are now stabilising.

Variable weather conditions and declining herd numbers, along with tightening margins, are also factors at play.

Dairy has continued to deliver value growth in the retail sector and is a prominent

product category for Australian retailers.

The dairy retail prices have increased at the fastest rate compared to all other food groups, with the total retail market value growth, closely followed by cheese in fourth place and yogurt in ninth.

Dairy retail prices have risen faster than those in other food groups, with total dairy product sales compensating for lower volumes sold.

After a temporary easing in the first half of 2023, farm input costs are climbing again.

The Ukraine conflict has disrupted global fertiliser and grain trade, impacting Australia's market.

While global fertiliser prices have eased, Australian suppliers are facing growing demand, with reports of urea rationing.

Additionally, there are heightened risks and regional variations to the outlook for homegrown feed.

The yet to be declared El Nino event could bring drier conditions, weighing on feed availability.

Overall, yields are expected to be average, supported by larger crop planted areas, but minimal feed price declines are anticipated.

For more information and to view the latest Situation and Outlook Report, visit dairyaustralia.com.au/sando.

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA

David Ryan	0408 311 895	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
LEONGATHA		David Holden	0428 749 390
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Kaleb Jans	0487 155 471	Dale Atherton	0428 888 300

WARRAGUL

Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	PAKENHAM	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Glenn Barwick	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Morgan Croucher	0420 306 599

FOSTER

Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174	PAKENHAM	0409 443 473
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WONTHAGGI

Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	WARRAGUL	0423 272 819
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GRANTVILLE

Dan Huther	0418 334 801	PAKENHAM	0407 347 509
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LANG LANG

Cal Nation	0439 334 163	PAKENHAM	0409 423 822
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	WARRAGUL	0423 272 819

INVERLOCH

Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	INVERLOCH	0403 525 413
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LEONGATHA

Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	COWES	0419 337 441
Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	Maree Malloy	0408 316 715

WONTHAGGI

Emily Clifford	0422 622 299	COWES	0423 272 819
Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509

GRANTVILLE

Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	VENUS BAY	0417 631 252
Greg Kane	0477 020 267	VENUS BAY	0419 885 489

BERWICK

Michelle Gibson	0439 707 252	BERWICK	0417 631 252
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	BERWICK	0419 885 489

MELBOURNE LAND

Matt Koster	0474 781 711	MELBOURNE LAND	0457 120 277
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KOO WEE RUP

Michelle Lunney	0457 120 277	KOO WEE RUP	0457 120 277
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SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE



Keith Kuhne was named one of Jersey Australia's inaugural Master Breeders on a farm that has spanned generations.

A master at Bushlea Jerseys

BEING named one of Jersey Australia's inaugural Master Breeders is a career pinnacle for long-time breeder Keith Kuhne.

"It's about the pinnacle" he said.

"I have enjoyed breeding Jerseys over my lifetime, and this is the icing on the cake."

Keith's son Wayne and his wife Lisa now run Bushlea Jerseys which was founded by Keith's father Norman in 1945.

They milk 400 cows on 486 acres at Koonwarra, while the 144-acre home farm purchased by Norman in 1938 is used to run young stock.

"Fernleaf" is the outstanding name in the Bushlea profile.

"They just keep breeding on," says Keith.

The first Fernleaf was born in 1948, the only daughter from the foundation cow Ecker Fernleaf who was purchased from a Gippsland Stud. All Fernleafs trace back to this cow.

Bushlea Fernleaf bred well herself but her grand-daughters and great granddaughters really started to impress. This was influenced by semen imported from a USA bull named A Nine Top Brass.

"He was one of the first USA bulls we used and he really set us up," Keith said.

"We bought 10 straws for a start and flushed our six best cows, all Fernleafs, to him which set that family up even further. He was a total outcross to bulls we had used and had a tremendous influence on our herd."

His best daughter was Bushlea Brass Fernleaf 10 Ex91 7000 litre

cow and Champion Melbourne, Sydney, and Reserve Champion International Dairy Week (IDW).

Fernleafs remain the most prominent family in the Bushlea herd.

Over the decades Bushlea has bred for correct confirmation.

"I believe if you have the correct rump structure you will get a good vessel underneath it," Keith said.

Bushlea has bred more than 500 Excellent 90+ cows, including three 94-point cows. Bushlea Brook Maybell was twice Champion Cow at IDW. The stud bred 10 Royal Melbourne Show champions when it was a strong competition in the 1990s and early 2000s.

From 2000 at IDW, Bushlea won Pen of Cows five times, Intermediate Champion three times, Reserve Champion once, two Junior Champions three Reserve Senior Champions, Senior and Grand Champion four times.

The last IDW Champion in 2017, Bushlea Van Fernleaf 10, went on to win Supreme Dairy Cow. On Wayne's recommendation she was offered for sale and set a new Australasian record of \$50,000 which still stands today, eclipsing the previous \$34,000. She won the same award in 2018 for her new owners.

In 10 years from 1985, Bushlea exhibited at 72 shows, winning 88 Championships, 56 Reserve Championships, 45 Production Rosettes, 368 Firsts, 164 Seconds, and 17 Thirds.

Norman was one of the first breeders to submit a bull, Bushlea Starbrights Prestige, into artificial breeding. The stud has had more than 30

bulls go through the system, including Bushlea BigTop, who is currently performing well.

To establish new cow families, 75 embryos were imported from Canada and the USA. More than 200 embryos have been exported to USA, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and Germany.

Commencing in 1979 Bushlea held 21 annual sales, with cattle sold to every state. Since purchasing the new property in 2000 they have held four special sales; the highlight being the 25th sale which averaged \$5768 with a top price of \$20,000.

Keith has been involved with South Gippsland Jersey Breeders Club for more than 60 years and the Victorian Branch Committee for 15 years.

"Judging, classifying, and showing has resulted in many strong and lasting friendships all due to the shared passion for the Jersey cow," he said.

Wayne and Lisa became partners in 2000 and took over management of Bushlea Jerseys in 2016 and have since maintained the focus on a highly fertile and productive herd.

About four years ago they successfully moved to a seasonal calving, starting on May 1 and calving for 10 weeks. Historically the farm calved three times a year but changed to match the strong winter feed growth and to coincide with lower cost production.

"We're trying to use outcross bulls and bring in different genetics to widen the genetic pool without compromising the end result. I'm happy with how the herd is tracking. They are producing well and we're breeding excellent type cows," Wayne said.

Victorian woman celebrated on the national stage

VICTORIAN tech entrepreneur Nikki Davey has taken home the 2023 AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award, announced at a gala event at Parliament House in Canberra last week.

Nikki is a co-founder of Grown Not Flown – a digital platform that connects consumers with their local flower growers.

A budding flower farmer based in Glenmore, Central Victoria, she is passionate about sustainable and regenerative agriculture. Identifying a need for technologies dedicated to small-scale growers, Nikki put her skills in business and digital product development into developing a solution that reduces 'flower miles' and supports the local cut flower industry.

Along with the title, Nikki receives \$20,000 from award sponsor Westpac, in addition to \$15,000 she received as the Victorian winner.

This is the second successive year Victorian women have been acknowledged in the National honours, with Bendigo woman Kimberley

Furness awarded the 2022 National Runner Up title for her efforts to profile and celebrate female-led businesses in rural and regional Australia through her work as founder and publisher of OAK Magazine.

The Rural Women's Award acknowledges and celebrates the essential role women play in rural and regional businesses, industries and communities.

In addition, the Victorian Government is supporting Victorian women in agriculture with the Rural Women's Network, helping to build the skills and confidence to participate in leadership and decision making that benefits rural industries and communities. For more information, visit the Agriculture Victoria website.

Applications for the 2024 Rural Women's Award and Acceleration Grant are open now until October 23. Information on eligibility and the application process is available on the AgriFutures Australia website agrifutures.com.au/opportunities/rural-womens-award/

Farmers: Have you got a depression strategy?

BASS Coast Shire Council is running a mental health first aid training event for members of the agricultural community, on Monday and Tuesday, September 25 and 26.

It's suited to farmers and also those people and organisations who have regular contact with farmers.

Council is encouraging organisations, businesses and networks that directly service and support or who are in touch with local agricultural communities to participate.

These may be businesses such as financial services providers including accountants, banks and insurance agents; vets, stock agents, agriculture supply businesses, health care providers as well as community

organisations.

Sadly, in the National Farmer Wellbeing Report, close to one third (30%) of Australian farmers reported a decline in mental health over the past few years.

For more information and to book your spot go to Eventbrite and search Bass Coast 'Mental Health First Aid Course'.

Help now if you need it

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing depression or anxiety, then it's important to get help. Talk to friends, other farmers, a doctor, or someone at Beyond Blue's support service. For advice and to get connected to local mental health services, you can call Head to Health on 1800 595 212.

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Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, September 11, 2023

Jersey & Jersey x \$17 to \$51
Friesian Bulls \$28 to \$82
Friesian Heifers \$25 to \$145
Beef Bulls \$40 to \$170
Beef Heifers \$35 to \$63
Number of Calves: 641
Number purchased to rear: 134

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South Gippsland Beekeepers Inc. provide a bee removal service and President Andy Teige said when bees are swarming, they are happy and not too dangerous.

Busy buzzing bees

AS THE weather slowly begins to warm and the flowers start to bloom, honey bees begin to forage and become more active.

Drones will leave their colony, when there are enough numbers and once the queen has hatched, to look for a new home - preferring warm, dry places close to food sources.

"They'll land on a tree, a lamp post, a letterbox and then all the worker bees will go shuffling around the area they've gone to and they'll decide amongst themselves what looks like a good place to move into," explains Andy Teige, President of the South Gippsland Beekeepers Inc.

The South Gippsland Beekeepers Inc. Swarm Coordinator takes calls from across the region from people who have found a swarm or a bee hive on their property and a trained volunteer will remove the bees.

"Sometimes it's dead easy. If there's a swarm for instance in a bush, basically the process is, put a clean, white sheet under

the bush, gauge where the bees are going to drop, put a bee box under it and then give the branch a good stiff shake and the bees will fall into the box," Andy explained.

"If you're lucky, the queen goes into the box and all those bees that are outside the box walk into it, because the bees, particularly when they're swarming want to be with her - it is actually called the bee march."

The task becomes a bit more complex but still manageable if bees are found within walls, roofs or other hard to get to areas according to Andy.

After waiting until all the bees enter the box, the bee collector will wait until dark to move the bees.

"I'll try and collect during the afternoon and then I'll leave the box where it is, hopefully with the queen in it and then wait for dark... and the bees literally go to bed. Once they've gone to bed... you block up the entrance to your hive, chuck it in the back of the Ute and go home."

While the number of bees and the noise they make when they are swarming can alarm people, Andy said that bees are rarely aggressive at this time.

"It's a very happy time for bees on the whole when bees are swarming, and they're not too dangerous."

The collected bees will undergo some health checks before becoming part of an established apiary.

"The idea then is to keep them in quarantine effectively away from your established hives, so that you can do health checks over a period of a month to six weeks, to make sure that they're not carrying parasites, they're not sick," explained Andy.

"Then you can bring them into your apiary and look after them with the rest."

It is important for bee swarms to be managed by people who are trained to remove or destroy the hives, as the bees have the potential to become a biosecurity threat.

Relief for varroa-affected beekeepers

RURAL Aid has restated its support of commercial beekeepers as concern mounts over the continuing spread of the invasive varroa mite and its devastating impact on the nation's honeybees.

More than 260 outbreaks of varroa mite have now been detected since June 2022, when the alarm was first raised at the Port of Newcastle.

"Like everyone involved in agriculture, Rural Aid is enormously concerned for our beekeepers and our 'littlest livestock,' Chief Executive Officer John Warlters said.

"Rural Aid is supporting beekeepers with an offer of \$1500 of financial assistance and rural counsellors on standby to provide emotional support."

The detection of varroa

mite in hives in the Sunraysia region of southern New South Wales - one of the most heavily bee dependent regions for the pollination of crops - had further heightened concerns for the industry.

NSW DPI said Sunraysia was currently hosting the largest concentration of managed European honeybee hives in Australia to provide pollination services for almond orchards.

Rural Aid has provided more than \$500,000 to beekeepers since 2015 and is ready to again provide a 'hand up' to producers when it's needed most.

"Our thoughts are with beekeepers and their families at this time. It must be soul destroying to see precious hives euthanised on top of the

significant financial impact," Mr Warlters.

"Rural Aid has experienced an increase in calls from distressed beekeepers who are understandably upset that their livelihoods and livestock are in jeopardy.

"Our counselling team is specially trained to help primary producers navigate crisis. We thank the NSW DPI for their trust in encouraging apiarists to reach out to Rural Aid," Mr Warlters said.

"We are urging affected beekeepers to get in touch with Rural Aid at this distressing time."

Varroa-mite affected beekeepers can apply for assistance at ruralaid.org.au/services-provided.

Donations can be made at varroamite.ruralaid.org.au.



John demonstrates how farmers can use the herd management and identification software on site. ob47_3723

Tech advances in farming

HELPING farmers save both time and money using the latest technology in farming is an Australian company established in the nineties by John Van Bergen.

John brought his skills as an electronic and software engineer to help change the face of traditional farming practices and to bring them in line with the technological evolution.

A new app that is gradually being released by the business - Jantec Systems - links to the herd management and identification software that farmers had previously been only able to use in a desktop format.

The smart phone software has nearly all the desktop features and allows farmers and employees to enter data on the go, linking it back to the main system.

Farmers can digitally keep track of their herds. They can check production data, enter calvings, matings, pregnancy tests, and enter cows to draft.

"Farmers that are kind of interested in innovation and technology, particularly these young guys that are in their thirties and they're really switched on, they use it to the nth degree," said John.

"Then you get some of the other farmers where they just use it to do the basic things and help out here and there."

John recalls one instance where a farmer was spending two hours a day in the office keying in all the data, until they decided to try out the app.

"All the workers have got the app on their phones, about five of them, and they each do different functions on the farm (with the system). Now he only spends about 10 minutes a day putting in all the info. It's released him from that duty, and that's what we find with most places."

He has developed systems so that farmers can monitor their activity and keep track of cows that might be unwell as well enter alerts to keep an eye on them.

The most recent creation of Johns' is a grain feeder that runs off a solar powered unit and can feed six to eight animals that could prove to be a game changer for beef and dairy farmers.

Other innovations are currently in a trialling phase, but it would be well worthwhile for farmers to watch this space as it will prove interesting to see what other innovations John will bring to the industry.

Get it right every time – is it fit to load?

LIVESTOCK must be inspected prior to being loaded and they must not be suffering from conditions that could cause, or would be likely to cause, increased pain or distress during transport.

Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer Dr Jeff Cave said if you are in doubt about an animal's suitability for transport, you can always ask your private veterinarian or any Agriculture Victoria animal health officer or veterinary officer if livestock are fit to load.

Furthermore, a guideline titled 'Is the animal fit to load?' has been produced by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). This guideline can be viewed electronically on MLA's website.

In summary, an animal is not fit to load if it:

- is not able to walk normally or bear weight on all its legs. This may be due to a recent or old fracture, an injury, a deformity or an infection
- is not strong enough to make the journey
- is suffering from severe distress or injury
- is in a condition that could cause it increased pain or distress during transport

- is blind in both eyes
- is in late pregnancy.

Dr Cave said if you identify an animal that is unfit to load you have a few options.

'You could treat the animal and transport it when it has recovered and is fit to load. Naturally, this is not an option in cases that are not readily treatable.'

'Alternatively, you could humanely destroy the animal. A knackery service is available in many areas to help with this option.'

'Finally, you could consult a veterinarian and only transport the animal under veterinary advice.'

Dr Cave said remember, the person in charge of the animal is responsible for its welfare.

'Community values and expectations will not accept anything less. If it is unfit to load it is unfit to be presented at a saleyards.'

For further information on animal welfare contact your local animal health staff at Agriculture Victoria or call 136 186. Find the 'Land transport of livestock standards and guidelines' and more information at go.vic.gov.au/45RZ6uQ.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 - Starting at 10am

GROWN STEERS

A/c LH & SE Pendergast, Benambra (ELDERS)
50 Angus & Hereford steers, 2 yo, NE Accred, GF & ABF, VB
A/c P & S Campbell, Mardan (SEJ)
36 Angus steers, 22-24 mths, Merlewood blood, 3 x 5in1, Multi-min 4 weeks ago
A/c Adeles Grove, Yanakie (SEJ)
15 Angus steers 2 yo, Alpine Angus blood
A/c Churchill & Sly, Kilcunda (ALEX SCOTT)
13 Angus steers, 24-26 mths, By Fernleigh Bulls Drenched 29/7, Multimined & Easydosed
A/c Groves Estate (ELDERS)
32 Angus Steers, Autumn 2022 drop, Banquet blood, 2 x Ultravac7 in 1, Ausmectin Drench, DeltaFix Lice Drench Mid Aug
A/c Vening Agriculture, Hedley (PHC)
30 Angus x steers, 16-18 mths, By Smiths Bulls
A/c Jasmel Nominees, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 14-15 mths
12 Angus/Hereford X steers, 14-15 mths VB, GF, AB Free "Alpine Angus blood lines"
A/c P Miller, Almurga (ELDERS)
23 Angus steers, 18 mths
A/c Melaleuca Pastoral Trust, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
23 Angus steers, 18 mths, NE Accred, VB
A/c C De Visser, Montgomery (NUTRIEN)
15 Angus steers, 18 mths
A/c MH & MY Riley P/L, Newry (NUTRIEN)
5 Angus X steers, 18 mths
A/c H & J Bland, Yarram (NUTRIEN)
25 AA X MG mixed sex, 14-15 mths
A/c A & L Sage, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
18 Angus mixed sex, 16 mths
A/c Keenage Past Co, Alberton (NUTRIEN)
17 Hereford mixed sex, 15 mths
A/c SP Dunlop, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
16 Angus mixed sex, 16 mths

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Tarwin Pastoral Co P/L (NUTRIEN)
77 Angus heifers, 18 mths, Sired by Alpine Angus, out of Ferneaux Pastoral cows, VB, NE Accred
A/c JJ & GL Green, Bemboka (NUTRIEN)
34 Angus heifers, 12-15 mths, Sparta & Hazeldean blood
A/c A Conisbee & Co, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
11 Angus heifers, 18 mths
A/c RA & EG Newnham, Sale (NUTRIEN)
10 BB heifers, 14 mths

WEANERS

A/c T, C & M Hulls, "Narra Tingha", Leongatha (SEJ)
"Annual Draft"
240 Angus steers (All Weaned) 9-11 mths, VB GF AB Free

A/c WJ Armit & Partners, "Negoura" Swift's Creek (ELDERS)
140 Angus & Angus/Hereford x heifers, 12 mths NSM, yard weaned, NE Accred, VB

A/c Mirawah Pty Ltd, Wattlebank (ALEX SCOTT)
26 Angus steers

19 Angus heifers
11-12 mths, by Fernleigh Bulls out of Millah Murrah And Banquet blood cows

25 Angus steers

25 Angus heifers

10-11 mths, by Fernleigh Bulls Out Of Murdeduke blood cows

All the above weaners are yard weaned drenched with Dectomax V 2 X 5 In 1 Vacc

A/c A&H Gray, Maffra (SEJ)

65 Angus & Angus/Hereford X mixed sex, 10-12 mths, VB, GF, AB Free

A/c 'Bergalia Farm', Bergalia (NUTRIEN)

50 Limo & Charo X steers, 8-14 mths, VB

A/c Rosslawson, Tanjil South (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus & BB steers weaners, 10-12 mths

15 Angus & BB heifer weaners, 10-12 mths

A/c M&M Standfield, Fish Creek (SEJ)
40 Angus steers, 10-12mths, weaned, VB, GF & AB Free. Dunoon blood.

A/c Richards & Rae, Ryanston (ALEX SCOTT)

40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-12 mths, by Coffin Creek Bulls, drenched and Multimined 4 weeks ago

A/c SM & J Knight, Tanjil South (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus X mixed sex, 12-13 mths

6 Speckle Park X steers, 12-13 mths

A/c Northside Pastoral, Inverloch (NUTRIEN)

33 Angus steers, 12 mths

A/c M&J Elliott, Licola (SEJ)

30 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths, Alpine Angus & Banquet blood lines, VB, GF, AB Free, "Quality Future Breeders"

A/c "Barooma", Giffard (SEJ)

30 Angus mixed sex, 10-12 mths, Pinora blood lines "very quiet"

A/c J, J & T Beamish, Boolarra (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus mixed sex, 12 mths

A/c Boxbank Pastoral, Woodside (ELDERS)

30 Murray Grey m/s weaners, 8 mths, VB, GF & ABF, very quiet

A/c P Beath, Nyora (NUTRIEN)

28 Angus/Santa steers, 12-15 mths

A/c Grazing Developments, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus & BB steers

10 Angus & BB heifers

12-15 mths

A/c G & H Foad, Woodside (NUTRIEN)

25 Hereford steers, 12 mths, weaned

A/c Hidden Valley Angus, Kongwak (NUTRIEN)

21 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned, VQ, Wattlewood blood

A/c AW & CM O'Mara, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 12 mths, Leewood & Te Mania blood

A/c S Peters, Mirboo North (SEJ)

20 Angus steers, 10-11mths, well weaned, 3 x 5in1, Battersby blood

A/c T & J Donchi, Alberton West (NUTRIEN)

16 Angus steers, 12 mths

4 BB steers, 12 mths weaned

A/c Z Redpath, Meeniyana (SEJ)

15 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, weaned, VB, GF & AB Free, Greenhams N/E accredited. Alpine blood.

A/c M&V Milnes, Ryanston (ALEX SCOTT)

10 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, By Te Mania Bulls, 2 X 7

In 1, drenched and Multimined 10/8/23

A/c G&L Kennedy, Millingandi, NSW (SEJ)

10 Angus steers, 7-8 mths

A/c Sabili Park, Yallourn North (ELDERS)

9 Angus weaners, VB, GF & ABF

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c Jelbart Dairy, Leongatha Sth (NUTRIEN)

40 Friesian steers, 16 mths

A/c T & J Donchi, Alberton West (NUTRIEN)

15 Friesian steers, 20 mths

A/c P Beath, Nyora (NUTRIEN)

15 Xbred heifers, 18 mths

A/c T Cowie (ELDERS)

4 x Xbred steers, 12 mths

COWS & CALVES / JOINED FEMALES

K&B Marshall (ELDERS)

15x15 Speckle cows & calves

A/c A Gordon, Woodside (NUTRIEN)

6x6 Angus heifers with 3 mth CAF

A/c G&L Kennedy, Millingandi, NSW (SEJ)

24 Angus cows, (mixed ages) Hazeldene blood PTIC to Lawson bull calving Jan/Feb

10 Angus cows with calves at foot (mixed ages)

A/c IR Core, Yannathan (ELDERS)

6 Speckle cows 3rd & 4th calvers joined to a Murray grey bull



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DEATHS

BILLINGTON, Michael (Mick):
20.02.1943 - 12.09.2023.

Passed away peacefully with loving family beside him.

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DEVEREUX, Raymond Daligish:

01.03.1939 - 08.09.2023.

Passed away peacefully at Armitage House Wonthaggi.

Dearly loved husband of Patricia (dec.).

Proud dad to Kerry, Grant and Travis, father-in-law to Brent (like a son).

Cherished Pa to Jake, Jordan, Jessica, Ethan, Lilly, and Max.

Leaves behind sister Dawn.

Many thanks to all at Wonthaggi Hospital and Armitage House Aged Care Wonthaggi.

Special thanks to Dr. Phillip.

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DEATHS

LLOYD, David Colin:
26.03.1938 - 14.09.2023.

Much loved husband of Joan (dec.).

Loving father of Mark, Stephen, Kate and Susie, father-in-law to Anne, Gavin and Kelly. Cherished grandpa to James and Sarah.

Our treasured and devoted husband, father, and grandpa. *Forever in our Hearts.*

MASSARO, Isabella:

Passed away on 15.09.2023.

Loving mother of Belinda, Julia, and Nadia.

Known as Nonna Bell to her grandchildren.

Please see www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au for funeral details.

McARTHUR (nee Luxford), Glenda Dorothea:

31.05.1928 - 16.09.2023.

Passed away peacefully aged 95 years.

Devoted wife of Colin for nearly 70 years (now dec.).

Loved mother of Geoffrey, Yvonne, Russell, and Phillip and their partners.

Loving nan of 9, and partners. Great nan to 15.

Reunited with her darling Colin.

For funeral details please go to www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

DEATHS

McARTHUR, Glenda:

To our exceptionally loved mother of Geoffrey, mother-in-law to Sandra, we watched you close your eyes so you could join the love of your life Colin.

We will miss you Mum.

McARTHUR, Glenda:

Beloved sister of Sadie and Malcolm Foley.

Adored and special aunty to Cheryl, Lynette, Kaye, and Rob.

Thank you for the love and joy you gave us.

We will miss you forever and cherish you always.



McARTHUR, Glenda:

Thank YOU Nan Mac for all the Cuppa T's, chocolate and chutney at Blackmore Ave! Thank YOU for being present in all our lives!

Love YOU always Nan.

--Kelly, Raoul, Greg, Lenny, George, Clarrie, Henry, and Boab!

McFARLANE (nee Gardiner), Yvonne Florence:

29.09.1932 - 07.09.2023.

Loved and loving sister and sister-in-law of Doff and Max (both dec.), Jean and Alan (dec.), Elaine, Alan and Robert (all dec.), Dawn and Alan (both dec.), Stuart (dec.), and Ev, Mary and Trevor (dec.), Barbara and Geoff.

Much loved aunt to their families.

Loved and remembered always.

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Applications to be submitted to: recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Applications close 4.00pm Friday 6 Oct. 2023

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

SITUATIONS VACANT

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Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

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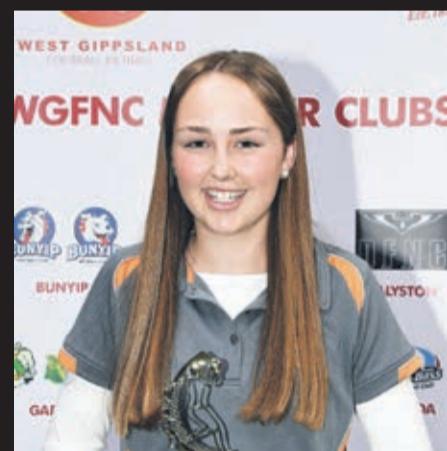
Dual A Grade best and fairest winners Gemma Dixon from Korumburra-Bena and Renee Pilkington from Inverloch-Kongwak.



Dual U16s best and fairest recipients Lucas Allen of Inverloch-Kongwak and Noah Forrest Mabilia of Dalyston.



Dalyston's Oona Shepherd was C Grade's best and fairest winner for 2023 by a 10-vote margin.



Korumburra-Bena's Mackenna Whiteside was named Sharp Shooter for the U17s with 512 goals for the season.



Inverloch-Kongwak's Augustus Finsterer was the U16s leading goalkicker.



West Gippsland Football Netball Competition's 2023 Football Team of the Year.

Panthers' Gawley Best and Fairest in West Gippsland

KILCUNDA-BASS ruckman Dale Gawley claimed the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Best and Fairest, seeing off joint runners-up Hayden Bruce of Phillip Island and Will Hams of Inverloch-Kongwak by four votes.

Gawley finished with 28 votes, with Bruce and Hams on 24 votes a piece.

The winner played 18 games for the season, continuing to impose himself on the contest on a regular basis, with his ruck dominance backed by athleticism and ball-winning ability around the ground.

He kicked nine goals for

the year.

Panthers' coach Lee Rowe used Gawley in the backline for a quarter here and there.

With Dean McRae helping out in the ruck this year, Gawley was also able to spend brief periods in the forward line.

"He's undersized in height and bulk for some of the bigger ruckmen," Rowe said of Gawley, noting he provides the advantage of doubling as a tall midfielder and is also highly proficient at ground level.

The coach said left footer Gawley has a knack for extricating himself from traffic.

"He's really elusive and even

when he is tackled he can still get his disposal off; they'll be clinging onto him and he still gets the handball," Rowe said.

Gawley is an expert at filling the hole, reading the flight of the ball to perfection and snatching intercept marks.

Backing up his runner-up place in last year's league Best and Fairest by going one better this time shows the consistently strong performance Gawley delivers.

Once he gets the Sherrin in hand, he uses it effectively with his damaging kicking ability.

Rowe said when one first sees Gawley play, his dour

appearance belies his effort and commitment.

"You watch him for the first time and think he's so laconic in the way he goes about it but he's not wasting his time and reads the play perfectly," the coach said.

While Rowe thought Gawley's 2022 season was arguably just as good or better than this year's campaign, the big man had to keep up his high level despite a greater focus on him from opposition teams in 2023.

It will be exciting to see what the big number 10 delivers in 2024.



Members of the West Gippsland Netball Team of the Year for 2023 were GS Kelly Boyd (IK), GA Alex Maher (TD), WA Meaghan Winter (NNG), C Lanni Pryor (IK), WD Kelsey Buxton (IK), GD Gemma Dixon (KBG), Renee Pilkington (IK). Interchange: Ashlee Murphy (KWR), Christie Edwards (PI), and Talia Charalambides (KWR). Coach Jarrad Walker (IK), Captain Renee Pilkington.

Pilkington and Dixon share West Gippsland best award

INVERLOCH-KONGWAK's Renee Pilkington has claimed her third West Gippsland Football Netball Competition (WGFNC) A Grade best and fairest award, not bad considering there have only been six such honours awarded.

She shared the award, on 28 votes, with Korumburra-Bena defender Gemma Dixon, who continued the tradition of Giants' players at the top of the competition.

Pilkington has dominated on the West Gippsland Netball

Competition courts, since the league was reformed in 2017, winning in 2019, 2022 and now in 2023.

Dixon follows Christie Hillberg and Kimberley Hillberg who won for Korumburra-Bena in 2017 and 2021.

Gemma Dixon led by three votes going into the last round but Pilkington captured three votes in the Sea Eagles win over Phillip Island in round 18 to join Dixon at the top of the leaderboard.

The top 10 vote-getters in A Grade were Gemma Dixon (KBG) 28, Renee Pilkington (IK) 28, Talia Charalambides (KWR) 27, Ashlee Murphy (KWR) 25, Lanni Pryor (IK) 25, Kelsey Buxton 27, Meaghan Winter (NNG) 17 and Dalyston trio Britt Thomas (16), Chloe Bramley (15) and Alana McRae (15).

The top-seven placegetters were also all selected in the 2023 WGFNC Team of the Year.

Top vote-getters in each

grade: A Grade: Gemma Dixon Korumburra-Bena 28, Renee Pilkington Inverloch-Kongwak 28.

Other grades: B Grade Brooke Weatherhead Warra-gul Industrials 41. C Grade Oona Shepherd Dalyston 35. D Grade Prue Hansen Nar Nar Goon 32, 17 Under Lily Mewett Phillip Island 37. 15 Under Miley Schade Cora Lynn 34. 13 Under Brilee Howes Tooradin-Dalmore 41, 11 Under Arlow Hallinan Tooradin-Dalmore 37.

Scarlett wins Under 12 Girls in 2023 Rip Curl Gromsearch

OVER 90 competitors descended on Jan Juc on Wadawurrung Country last weekend as the 2023 Rip Curl GromSearch series kicked off with performances at an all time high.

There was an increase in swell on Sunday as judges looked for competitors who committed to big turns on big sections.

Scarlett Rennie from Cape Woolamai took on this approach by dropping into double overhead waves and not holding back.

In her semifinal, Rennie took off on five waves and didn't score below a 9.00 point ride on all of them. On her second ride of the heat, she collected the highest score of the entire competition, a 10 point ride.

In the final, she waited patiently out the back looking for another set wave just like those in her earlier heat.

Rennie found a wave to complete a large swooping forehand re-entry. This committed manoeuvre earned her an 8.33 point ride and the win.

"I love big waves more than smaller waves, so I was happy with the larger swell," said Rennie.

With excellent overall performances, Rennie was awarded the DHD Ultimate Grom Award and a Mick Fan-



Scarlett Rennie from Cape Woolamai took out the Under 12 Girls competition and won the DHD Ultimate Grom Award for excellent overall performance at the 2023 Rip Curl Gromsearch.

ning signature surfboard.

"I was really surprised with myself. I didn't think I would get it but I'm super stoked to get a new DHD DNA board!"

In the Under 16s, Jackson Woolnough (Caves Beach, NSW) was able to find a rhythm with the ocean that none of his competitors could and secured first place.

In the Under 16 girls it was a tight battle right until the end however, Ava Holland (Dromana) was rewarded with a last minute lead giving her the win.

Under 14 Boy Locana Culen (Avalon Beach, NSW) also pulled off a last minute victory.

Winning the Girls Out-

standing Performer award was Under 12 Girls finalist Stevie O'Day.

The Rip Curl GromSearch series began as a single day event in 1999 and has developed into a world-wide series providing groms with the opportunity to surf with friends and test their skills against the best junior talent in their country.

The impressive list of previous GromSearch competitors currently competing on the elite WSL world tour is testament to the quality of the series.

This year the event will see stops in Torquay and Newcastle, with a National final at URBNSURF Melbourne. The local groms from Bass Coast and South Gippsland include Scarlett Rennie, Ryan Hain, Jarrah Cicero, Rye Cicero, Evie Lutz, Wilco Stubbs and Lillian Bassed.

The long range forecast for the event was promising with a mid-sized groundswell on its way with offshore winds all weekend.

Schedules and Live scores can be found via surfingvic.com/live

Rip Curl Gromsearch Series - 2023

EVENT 2 - Newcastle, NSW - Sept 28- Oct 1, 2023
NATIONAL FINAL - URBNSURF - October

Sporting grants now open

THE NATIONALS Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien is urging local sports clubs to apply for a share in State Government funding through the 2023-2024 Sporting Club Grants Program.

"These grants can be used for a number of purposes including purchase of uniforms and equipment, attract and build a skilled workforce, increase inclusiveness and diversity," Mr O'Brien said.

"A change has been made to the guidelines for the program this year which also allows grant applications for funding for athlete travel.

"I'm encouraging all our local clubs to get an application in to receive a fair share of this funding."

Mr O'Brien said 27 sporting clubs from Gippsland South made successful applications to the Sporting Club Grants Program last year including Corner Inlet Pony Club Inc., Korumburra Basketball Assoc Inc. and Leongatha Gymnastics Club Inc.

Applications for round one of the Sporting Club Grants Program are now open and close 4pm, Thursday October 12 with outcomes of applications to be announced in December.

"I am more than happy to provide a letter of support for our local clubs wanting to apply and would love to see a large share of this funding distributed across Gippsland South."

Sporting clubs wanting to apply for a grant can contact Mr O'Brien's office on 5144 1987 or at danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au to arrange a letter of support.

For more information about the Sporting Club Grants Program or to apply, visit: bit.ly/3EEcRBB

WorkSafe Tradies Surf Challenge returns to URBNSURF

SURFING Victoria and WorkSafe Victoria are stoked to announce the WorkSafe Tradies Surf Challenge will be returning to URBNSURF this October 29.

Bringing together surfing tradies from around the state to Australia's first wave park, the event is a relaxed and fun surfing competition.

WorkSafe Executive Director of External Affairs Sam Jenkin said the competition is a fantastic way for tradies to connect and strengthen bonds, which can in turn contribute to safer workplaces.

"The camaraderie and conversations that come from events such as this help to increase awareness and concern for each other's safety on the worksite," Mr Jenkin said.

The event features Open Mens, Open Womens, Masters Open and Bodyboard Open divisions with a huge raft of prizes from WorkSafe, Heaps Normal and Milwaukee Tools.

"We are stoked to be heading back to URBNSURF for the WorkSafe Tradies Challenge" said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"We know that there are a lot of surfing tradies out there across the state and this is a great way for them to catch up and get involved in a fun day of waves at URBNSURF."

All competitors will receive free-surfing time in the URBNSURF lagoon separate to their competition heats.

Limited entries are now open via surfingvic.com



Korumburra badminton winners, back from left, Dale Orchard, Don Creed, Jesse Orchard, front, Elysa Dubois, Caroline Dunlevie and Bianca Wicks.

Net Ninjas 5/141 defeated Racket Raiders 3/102.

Racket Raiders/Net Ninjas: Jake Peters / Maurice Simpson 13 v Dale Orchard / Jesse Orchard 21

Maurice Simpson / Brad Dubois 2 v Jesse Orchard / Don Creed 21

Jake Peters / Brad Dubois 19 v Dale Orchard / Don Creed 21

Aiden Marshall / Krystal Clark 23 v Bianca Wicks / Caroline Dunlevie 21

Krystal Clark / Jasmine Smith 6 v Caroline Dunlevie /

Elysa Dubois 21

Aiden Marshall / Jasmine Smith 21 v Bianca Wicks / Elysa Dubois 15

Jake Peters 15 v Dale Orchard 6

Maurice Simpson 3 v Jesse Orchard 15

Total: 102 v 141.

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, Stoney Point +40

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
September 19	September 20	September 21	September 22	September 23	September 24	September 25
2.38am 8.25am 2.41pm 8.40pm	3.14am 8.59am 3.12pm 9.11pm	3.50am 9.33am 3.44pm 9.43pm	4.28am 10.08am 4.15pm 10.16pm	5.09am 10.45am 4.48pm 10.52pm	5.56am 11.21 am 5.26pm 10.30pm	6.49am 12.02pm 6.14pm 11.32pm
1.56m 0.55m 1.52m 0.37m	1.60m 0.57m 1.52m 0.33m	1.62m 0.60m 1.50m 0.31m	1.60m 0.64m 1.47m 0.30m	1.50m 0.69m 1.43m 0.30m	1.50m 0.75m 1.39m 0.32m	1.43m 0.80m 1.34m

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au

Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling

2s COMPANY: 1st on 20pts King Pins, 2nd on 17pts Tinabe and 3rd on 17pts Mustang Alley.

ABL: 1st on 119pts Pimpals, 2nd on 113pts Knackers and 3rd on 110pts Kool Kats.

Phantom: 1st on 11.5pts Dragonfly, 2nd on 11pts Allegator and 3rd on 10.5pts Barks.

This week the top four teams from each Thursday night business league battled it out in a knockout round to see who would be crowned this season's champions!

In the third and final round JD's & Turkey Slappers went head-to-head with JD's taking their first win on a collective 644 pins with Turkey Slappers just missing out finishing on 628 pins!

The finishing ladder for the evening:

1st JD's, 2nd Turkey Slappers, 3rd S&R Clarke Auto, 4th Wooly Rollers, 5th Dynamic Painting, 6th City Lights, 7th Old Timers and 8th The Redundants.

Top scores all leagues:

Men - Ian Cookman 212, Justin Porthouse 204 and Rob Wilkinson 201.

Woman - Jacque Kent 164, Karen Klym 163 and Barbara Burns 155.

Bridge Club news

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

MASTERPOINT winners on September 12 at Wonthaggi:

First: Ruth Harvey and Nev Chapman 61.11.

Second: Fay Rowlands and Clive Hope 54.86.

Third: Alan Johnston and John Sutton 52.78.

Third: Denise Allitt and Chris Hall 52.78.

The club's spring teams event, played at Inverloch last Friday, has the Johnston team leading after week one from the Rowlands team, with the Farr and Quayle teams in third and fourth place respectively.

Final results next week.

PHILLIP ISLAND

SIX and a half tables competed on Monday, September 11.

Neville Chapman and Lorrie Read came first for North/South with a score of 63.21 per cent, followed in second by Deborah Anglim and Greg Nicholson on 55.71 per cent. In third place was Don and Trish Stewart Uden.

Wendy and Graham McKergow were first for East/West with a percentage of 61.67 per cent. Second were Clare and Jim Murphy on 55.0 per cent, and third Moya Crowley and Leng Haggith on 53.75 per cent.

Wednesday was a Nationwide event.

Congratulations to Diane Coleman and Moya Crowley in first place with a score of 62.71 per cent. In second place, Bronwyn Sund and Shirley Weaver with 59.26 per cent followed in third place by Shirley Stewart and Jill Short on 55.32 per cent.

Thursday saw some new faces at Social Bridge.

If are looking to brush up on your bridge or just feel like a social game, please join in on any Thursday.

No partner necessary.

Call Wendy on 0459 200 265.

SPORT | BOWLS



This week's South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners were Frank D'Unienville (2), Jenny Smith (L), John Nicholson (S) and Rob Jeffreys (3).



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's Luke Monckton (3), Jan Brown (L) and Michael Dady (S) were the best one game winners on Thursday.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club Saturday winners Michael Raman, Frank Cimino and Syd Gostling.

INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH social bowls on Thursday was a great, sunny day with 38 players.

There were 10 teams made up of fours and triples with two two-game winners.

The team of John Duthie, John Sutcliffe, Bill Massier and Allan Johnstone was runner up with 29 points.

The team of Mal Marshall, Jon Justin and Linda Gilbert was the winning team with 32 points.

LEONGATHA

ALTHOUGH not winners - John Hall and Scott Witaker had that honour - Harry Forrester and Bruce Fidler looked resplendent and happy to get out the summer gear.

For club members, lists are on the board for those wishing to take part in the club events.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

SUMMER came early on Thursday - what a marvellous change it made.

Thirty-seven of the bowlers turned up to bask in the sunshine and also have a couple of games of bowls.

A few wrong bias bowls seemed to be the order of the day, but the Royal Children's Hospital will be grateful for the donations.

There was a fair amount of laughter and banter around the green, which always lifts the spirits and seems to improve everyone's game.

There were some new bowlers as well as the return of one of the club's own bowlers from a few years ago.

The green was in excellent condition, and surprisingly, a little quicker than expected, which was a pleasant surprise.

The winners on a score of 36 were John Nicholson (S), Rob Jeffrey (3), Frank D'Unienville (2) and Jenny Smith (L).

Runners up on 32 points were Mark Andreatta (S), David Talbot (3), Neil Andreatta (2) and Elaine Williams (L).

Best one game winners were Michael Dady (S), Luke Monckton (3) and Jan Brown (L).

Thanks must go to Peter, Pauline and John for all the work they do every week to keep the game going.

Thanks also to each of the clubs that host the games.

To members presently in hospital or just out of hospital, keep yourselves safe and healthy and the club will see you soon.

Next week, bowlers will be moving to Lang Lang, so the club looks forward to having as many of its members turn up.

Could everyone please try to be on site by 10am, as it makes



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's David Talbot (3), Elaine Williams (L), Neil Andreatta (L) and Mark Andreatta (S) (inset) came in second at Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club this week.



Harry Forrester and Bruce Fidler at Leongatha Bowls Club.

it difficult to get the games arranged if people are late.

Meanwhile, hope everyone has a safe and pleasant week.

See you next Thursday.

WONTHAGGI

SPRING has sprung, with the weather being perfect on Wednesday.

There was a smaller number of bowlers were on the greens because of the Phillip Island Triples.

The club still had good numbers, with the winners being Steve Bruynen, George Stein and Dawn Jensen with a score of 2 wins and 29 points.

Saturday saw a sunny but windy day, but still good for this time of the year.

With the good conditions, the club had 43 bowlers, including a number of visitors, grace the greens over two games of 10 ends.

There were teams of triples plus one four to balance the numbers.

There were three teams that were two game winners with the runners up being Bev Stephenson, John Kappler and Allan Bolding.

The winners on the day were a team of three and they were Michael Raman, Frank Cimino and Syd Gostling with a score of two wins and 32 points.

Bowls this week: Wednesday social bowls at 1pm, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am and Saturday social bowls at 1pm.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

A TOTAL of 47 players took part this week.

The winners on Tuesday with a plus 18, winning both their games, were Lia Smith, Mary Spooner, Brian Newman and John Rook.

Coming second with a plus seven, also winning both games, were Pat Novak, Jenny Bakker, Jim Rodhi and Fred Demenech.

As the annual general meeting was on Friday, bowlers played shorter games of eight ends.

The winners with a plus 15, winning both games, were Glenda Binch, Helen Rook, Jeanne Slocombe and Jos Kemper. Runners up on plus nine, also winning both games, were Judy Sweetnam, Lia Smith, Fred Demenech and Laurie Culp.

A reminder next week is the last week of bowling until October 17 due to the referendum.

Congratulations to the new members voted on to the committee - looking forward to the following year.



Wonthaggi Golf Club's Ladies Stableford winner Catherine Bolding with the runner-up Simone Lindsay.



Woorayl Golf Club runners up Elly Berryman and Sherrill Winkler with sponsor Janet Thompson, and winners Linda Forrester and Sharyn Rayson.



Korumburra golfers played at the Par 3 Devil Dams last week, and the winners and runners up were Dianne Maskell, Trudi Mantell, Deb Wrigley and Lyn Leppin.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, September 12. Stableford: 26 players. A Grade: Steve Bromby (0.0) 37 points.

B Grade: Mark Marotti (33) 32 points.

NTPs: first Ian Gibson, seventh Ross Besley, 10th Steve Duffield and 13th Steve Bromby.

Thursday, September 14: Stableford: 12 players.

Winner: Neil Spargo (15) 34 C/B.

NTPs: first Steve Duffield, seventh Robert Goss, 10th Neil Spargo and 13th Bill Watson.

Raffle winner: Greg Wilson.

Saturday, September 16: Par: 33 players. Sponsor: Tim Fowles.

A Grade: Donald Van Rooye (11) +1.

B Grade: John Kerr (20) square.

NTPs: first Brian Pope, 10th Paul Hopkins and 13th Nick Besley.

Ladies

SEVENTEEN women played the Par 3, nine-hole course at Devil Dams, near Inverloch, in idyllic weather last week.

They were also fortunate to have a large number of past players join in for a tasty lunch and enjoyable catch up after the golf game.

Deb Wrigley won A Grade and Trudi Mantell was runner up.

B Grade was won by Lyn Leppin and Dianne Maskell was runner up after a c/b with Julie Hislop.

NTPs were Dianne first, Shelley Snooks 4th and Merrissa Cosson on the eighth.

On Saturday, Aliesha Wrigley was the winner with 32 points and Karen Sorrell was runner up 29 points.

BDL went to Trudi Mantell.

NTPs were Karen on the first (Kelly's Bakery voucher) and Merrissa 13th, plus a Birdie.

Best wishes to Merrissa Cosson, Shelley Snooks, Steve Bromby and Mat Wrigley and all the South Gippsland Country team squad members for the matches in Gippsland next week.

The club appreciates the time and effort given and knows everyone selected will be great representatives for the district.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, Stableford: September 12.

Another delightful spring day saw 58 players in the Stableford competition.

A Grade winner: Christopher Leaver (9) with 36 points on a countback. A Grade runner up: Garry Rotteveel (17) with 36 points.

B Grade winner: Peter Stivic (19) with 33 points. B Grade runner up: Michael Delaney (28) with 32 points on a countback.

NTP 14th: Winton Knop at 3.41m. NTP 16th: Craig Hutchinson at 5.20m.

Extra balls comp prizes went to Malcolm Gin, Winton Knop, Bob Smith and Gordon Morrison.

Thursday Gentsomes Stableford: September 14.

Eighty-three members/guests played in this Gentsomes Stableford event, with the three best scores taken on each hole, after hitting from the best drive, with three drives to be taken from each player.

Winners: Grant McRitchie, Tim McCarthy, Mitchell Gin and Conor Hosking with 127 points on a countback. Runners up: Garry Rotteveel, Ross McRobert, William Howson and Antony Gedye with 127 points.

NTP 14th: Peter Clough at 2.30m. NTP 16th: Antony Gedye at 2.18cm.

Saturday Stableford: September 16.

On a beautiful spring day yet facing quite a breeze, 85 players entered this Saturday's Stableford event.

A Grade winner: Craig Hutchinson (7) with a score of 36 points. A Grade runner up: Warren Stewart (10) with a score of 32 points.

B Grade winner: Darren Read (17) with a score of 34 points on a countback. B Grade runner up: Grant McRitchie (16) with a score of 34 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Barry Wright (18) with a score of 35 points. C Grade runner up: John Moor (20) with a score of 34 points.

D Grade winner: Michael Delaney (28) with a score of 37 points. D Grade runner up: Connor Hosking (24) with a score of 36 points.

NTP 14th: Phillippe Du Plessis at 2.07m. NTP 16th: Brendon Richards at 1.13m.

Extra balls comp prizes went to Lou Fuataga, Kent Hams and Peter Hartigan.

Ladies

THE Golf Australia Doris Chambers Foursomes Qualifying round was played in near perfect spring weather and enjoyed by

the 36 competitors.

The top score of the day went to Maxine Eabry and Mel Wilder with 32 points, six points ahead of their nearest rivals.

Mel and Max will now head off to compete in the finals against all the other Eastern District Victorian club qualifiers at Yering Meadows.

Wendy Brown and recently appointed life member Dot Stubbs were runners up with 26 points.

Balls down the line were awarded to Ev Indian and Nicole Whiteside 25, Pat Pease and Jenny Teasedale 23, Anne Gibson and Wendy Parker 23, and Joc Howson and Else Gedye 22.

Nan Meagher won the nine-hole competition with 11 points.

MEENIYAN

Ladies

OVER the past eight weeks, some of the ladies have enjoyed a game of golf at Woorayl.

The club thanks them for their hospitality.

With all the rain that the district has had over the winter, their course held up very well.

Some of the winners were:

August 2: Winner: Jo Graeme 39 points. Runner up: Irene Holm 28 points.

August 9: Winner: Veronica Park with 36 points. Runner up: Tanya Thorson 33 points.

August 23: Winner: Veronica Park with 38 points. Runner up: Heather Poletti with 32 points.

On September 13, the club again had 11 players play at Woorayl with Irene Holm winning with 35 points and Heather Poletti runner up with 30 points.

Thanks once again to lady captain Elly Berryman and the ladies at Woorayl for making everyone so very welcome.

MIRBOO NORTH

THURSDAY, September 14, Stableford:

A Grade: N. Rutledge (14) 37 points.

B Grade and day winner: R. Pentland (20) 37 points.

DTL: T. Tomada 35, N. Baker and Tom Traill 34.

NTP: fourth D. Taylor, sixth J. Smeriglio, 13th B. Bradshaw and 16th S. Woodall.

Birdies: sixth J. Smeriglio.

Saturday, September 16: Single Stableford and 4B Worst Ball.

A Grade: B. Bradshaw (12) 37 points.

B Grade: S. Beitz (20) 38 points.

DTL: N. Baker, J. Smeriglio 35, Tim Traill 33, N. Rutledge and A. Liebe 32 c/b.

NTP: fourth M. Payne, sixth M. Payne, 13th P. Draper and 16th P. Draper.

Birdies: sixth R. Jenkins and 16th N. Baker.

4Ball Worst Ball: A. Liebe and N. Bracecamp 24 points.

PHILLIP ISLAND

Tuesday September 12 Mens 18-hole Stableford

A Grade winner was Neil Williams (16) with 36 points c/b from Craig O'Neill (12).

B Grade winners Alf Micallef (17) with 40 points from Ray Jansson (19) with 39 points.

C Grade winners Peter Innes (27) with 40 points from Christian Zderski (29) with 39 points c/b.

BDL to 34 points C/B. NTP 5th Ron Young 7th Christian Zderski (hole in one) 10th Luke Kelly 17th Rod Ward

9-hole Stableford

Winner Ian Bray (32) 22 points from Chris Hailes (35) 21 points c/b.

BDL to 17 points.

Wednesday September 13, Ladies Stroke Monthly Medal Sponsored by EML Consulting (Club member Liz Gleeson)

A grade winner Lesley Meadowcroft (16) 70 Nett.

B Grade winner Marily John (31) 72 nett.

BDL 77 Nett c/b.

NTP: 7th Emma Hall 10th Trish Jamieson 12th Marlene Gibson 17th Jo Disher.

Nine-hole winner was Gaye Da Silva Carias (45) 18 points c/b to Lyn Ward (33).

Thursday September 14, 18-hole Open Stableford

A Grade Winner was Phil Bencraft (14) with 46 points from Anthony Johns (13) with 41 points.

B Grade winner Stephen Mack (17) with 37 points c/b from Phil Foster (21).

C Grade Winner Bez Moustafa (23) with 37points c/b from Gerald Taylor (23).

BDL to 36 points C/B. NTP: 5TH Paul Ledwith 7th Ricardo Meder 10th Rowan Wales 17th Bez Moustafa

9-hole Stableford

9-Hole Winner John Niven (24) with 19 points c/b from Ian Brown (35) with BDL to 17 points c/b

Saturday September 16 Mens 18-hole Stableford

A Grade Winner was Adrian O'Gorman (9) with 37 points from Neville Thurgood (5) with

35 points c/b.

B Grade Winner Ron Owen (17) with 39 points from Ron Magill (13) with 38 points c/b.

C Grade Winner Paul Walsh (38) with 43 points from Ken Wallace (20) with 38 points.

BDL to 34 points C/B.

NTP: 5th Ian Smith 7th Brett Saunderson 10th David Nicoll 17th Travis Johnson.

Ladies 18-hole Stableford Winner was Megan Elbaz (32) 38 points from Emma Hall (6) with 36 points.

BDL to 32 points c/b.

NTP 5th Ada Anglin 7th Loraine Hammon 10th Rhonda Boyd 17th Ada Anglin.

Saturday Open 9-hole Stableford

Winner was Basil Moloney (16) with 19 points from John Rodakis (37) 18 points.

Winner Robert Pascoe (16) with 20 points from Basil Moloney (16) with 18 points.

BDL to 16 points.

WONTHAGGI

Ladies

ON A beautiful blue warm day, Wonthaggi Golf Club had 13 players enjoying a round of Stableford last Wednesday.

There was a ripper of a score which defied the soft course with Catherine Bolding the runaway winner with (20) 37 points. The runner up was Simone Lindsay (37) 29 points which included a birdie two on the eighth, which earned her the Pro Pin Balls.

Yvonne Everitt claimed the 17th NTP.

BDL went to Yvonne Everitt 26, Jan Beaumont 25, Marg Johnson 25, Heather Wintle 23 and Wendy Cross 23.

The nine-hole event was won by Anne Tschiderer.

WOORAYL

Ladies

WOORAYL Golf Club thanked Janet Thompson very much for her sponsorship on Wednesday.

The format was Stableford and the event was Medley – American x 6 Ambrose x 6 Canadian x 6. 1/2 Handicap.

The weather was beautiful, and 16 players competed.

Winners for the day were Sharyn Rayson and Linda Forrester 43.

Runners up were Sherrill Winkler and Elly Berryman 39.

BDL went to Ann Poole and Inge Gilham 37.

NTP on eighth and 17th was Elly Berryman and Sharyn Rayson on the 11th.

Umpires wanted

IF YOU are interested in cricket there is an opportunity to join the local LDCA Cricket Umpires Panel. Most cricket is played on Saturday afternoon starting a 1pm finishing at approximately 5.30pm in three Divisions A, B and C. There are also some Sunday Gippsland games played within the LDCA Seniors, Juniors and Girls Competition and some school games.

Our numbers have been affected over the COVID years and with retirement and people moving away from the area there is an opportunity to earn up to \$180 a Saturday umpiring.

We have very few issues in local cricket with players looking after the association and the Association management strong on behaviour issues, you can have the best seat in the house umpiring.

If interested we are holding a meeting at Leongatha Town Rooms (Horn Street, Leongatha - back of school) Tuesday Night at 7pm to register and give umpires a chance to enrol in various courses online to update their Levels.

If interested just turn up or Contact Geoff Wyatt 0413 081136. You will enjoy the experience; we have a lot of our umpires with over 10 years in umpiring willing to help you.

Goannas gear up for new season

THE Gippsland Goannas Veterans Cricket Club held its annual meeting recently, with the following positions filled:

President: Neil Meredith.

Vice president: Ian Southall.

Secretary: Ian Gibson.

Treasurer: Ray Smith.

Committee: Ken Bailey and Ray Floyd.

The 2022/3 presidential report, from Neil Meredith contained the following points:

Many thanks to the following:

- All players in the Over-50, Over-60 and Over-70 teams who competed in the past season.
- The outgoing committee of the Goannas Cricket Club.
- The Gippsland cricket clubs who hosted the games during last season.
- The Bundalaguah and Glen-garry Clubs for the use of their practice facilities.
- Deidre Hunter, who did the scoring for the >60 team.
- Club sponsors: Sporting Legends, Gippsland Real Estate, Gippsland Lifestyle Magazine, Glengarry Hotel and JSM Embroidery.
- The various captains of the three teams.
- Importantly, players partners for their support and encouragement throughout the season.

The three members who were selected for national teams were congratulated:

Ray Smith, who toured England with the Over-60 team, Ian Southall and Kevin Lanigan who toured England with the Over-70 team, and Ian Gibson who was the team manager for the Over-70 tour.

All club members who earned selection in State >50, >60 and >70 teams and played in National Championships were also congratulated.

How Sam Docherty added another chapter to his amazing story

SUPERLATIVES absolutely fail when you are talking about Sam Docherty.

Everyone knows the key aspects of his incredible story.

As the first player from Phillip Island to be drafted into the AFL his career was eagerly followed by local fans.

Between 2012-2013 he played 13 games for the Brisbane Lions before being recruited to Carlton around the same time as Dale Thomas. But it has been a bumpy ride from the sudden death of his father Eddie from a heart attack at age 53 just as he was starting his journey at Carlton in 2013, to his first John Nicholls Medal in 2016, All-Australian honours in 2017, anterior cruciate ligament injury late in 2017, and being named co-captain with Patrick Cripps in 2018 before doing his knee again at the end of 2018.

And in between two diagnoses for cancer, in November 2020 and August 2021, 'Doc' came back and continued on to complete a total of 166 games, to the point now where he's on the cusp of something really special at one of the huge clubs in the AFL.

And as they say, "cometh the hour, cometh the man" and



Phillip Island's Sam Docherty enjoys a moment with Channel 7's 'Roaming Brian' after Carlton's thrilling win over Melbourne on Friday night. There in support were Sam's mum Annabel and brother Josh.

in Friday night's semi-final against Melbourne, with less than a minute on the clock, that man was Sam Docherty, winning a one-on-one contest on the flank, getting clear, taking a bounce and kicking superbly to the advantage of Blake Acres, who had been up and down the ground all night.

With the massive 95,000 crowd pulsating with life, Acres kicked a low shot through, squeaking past the

goal post, to put Carlton up by a point.

They won it out of the centre again, and scored a point with only seconds to go to ice the game and set up a preliminary final meeting with Brisbane, Docherty's first club, next week.

And all that after dislocating his shoulder in the second quarter, and coming back on after half time to play a crucial role in the win.

As coach Michael Voss said after the game you come to expect that from Docherty.

"Yeah, pretty amazing but it doesn't surprise me with him," said Voss.

"We spoke at half time and I said to him what have you got for me and he said he would give it his all."

"We strapped it up and he hasn't come up too bad."

"It certainly won't feel right if we've got to go forward without him."

Speaking on Sunday, Docherty said he expected to play on Saturday night.

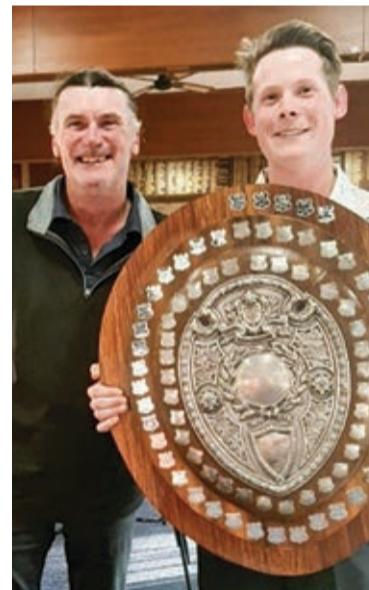
"I've had the scan this morning but it feels really good. I've got really good range of movement and I'm really confident I'll be able to get there," said Docherty on ABC Radio.

"To be perfectly honest, I don't think the scan will be saying whether I play or not."

Former team mate now ABC commentator, Marc Murphy, attested to Doc's great mental strength, the fact that he had been getting back to form after a calf niggle and also his immense value on the ground, not only as a player but also as an on-ground coach.

He said he firmly expected him to pursue coaching after his playing career was over.

Buckland secures All Gippsland Golf Championship victory



All Gippsland Golf Championship winner Chris Buckland (right) with his caddy Andrew Naylor.

FOSTER Golf Club's Chris Buckland triumphed at the All Gippsland Golf Championships held in Sale recently.

Competing in the 36-hole scratch event, Chris came away with scores of 71 and 70, and ultimately won the day by six shots.

He was one of 60 top players from East, West and South Gippsland to contest the event.

"I was in the second group to tee off and after the first 18 holes I had a two-shot lead," he said.

"I was excited and nervous at this point. I knew the course was playing tough."

In the second round, he put it to two inches on his second shot to birdie on the ninth hole, after bogeying on the sixth and eighth.

After a double bogey on the 14th, he managed to birdie to shoot even par, and knew he would be tough to beat.

Regardless, he sat through

a nervous three hour wait after finishing his second round in two hours and two minutes as his competitors completed the course.

Chris said he didn't expect to win but was excited and proud when he secured the championship.

"The competition was tough, so it was great to win by six shots," he said.

"I went in to just do my best and have fun. My goal was to be in the top five. It certainly exceeded expectations."

The day offered the golfers perfect conditions.

"It was around 19-20 degrees with a little bit wind. It was really foggy in the morning, but that cleared up quickly. The course presented really well," he said.

Chris - now 23 years old - had a handicap at just eight years old and received his first set of clubs at around four

years old.

He was inspired to get into the sport by his father, who he'd watch play on Saturday.

Recently, he's received weekly lessons from Scott McDermott in Melbourne.

"I met (Scott) during a Mirboo North junior camp when I was 15 and we kept in contact. I didn't start having lessons with him until last year," he said.

Chris also won the South Gippsland Fourball Championship with Leongatha's Michael Thomas at the Foster Golf Club on Sunday, September 10.

He will be competing in Country Week at the end of month.

Country Week will be played in Traralgon, Trafalgar and Yalourn.

"We won both our games last year. Hopefully the team can perform the same, if not better, this year and win the whole thing," Chris said.

Changes to bolster black bream fishing future in Gippsland lakes



New regulations have been put in place to support black bream fishing.

THE future of black bream fishing in the iconic Gippsland Lakes is being bolstered for future generations with a bag limit change for the popular recreational species.

As part of ongoing work to return the lakes to a recreational fishing mecca through the Gippsland Lakes Recreational Fishery Plan, a 2023 survey of fishers showed clear support for additional measures to protect the species and ensure its sustainability.

The daily bag limit for black bream in the Gippsland Lakes and tributaries has been lowered from 10 to seven.

The legal size range of 28-38 centimetres, also known as the slot limit, remains

unchanged, helping protect larger bream that are more prolific breeders.

Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO Travis Dowling said the bag limit change will leave more black bream in the water whilst still allowing anglers to take home a meal of fresh fish for the dinner table.

Introduced in 2021, the slot limit - consisting of a maximum length of 38 centimetres for fish caught in the Lakes in addition to the statewide minimum size of 28 centimetres - was underpinned by modelling indicating 12 per cent more breeding black bream would remain in the fishery.

Scientific surveys of the

Gippsland Lakes showed a spawning record for black bream last year, more than twice the previous peak since surveys began in 2010.

The changes apply only to the Gippsland Lakes and its tributaries, including the Tambo, Mitchell and Nicholson rivers, but not Lake Tyers.

Elsewhere, the bag limit for bream of all species remains unchanged at 10, with a minimum size of 28 centimetres and no maximum size.

To stay across all size and bag limits, download the free Vic Fishing app via your app store or by heading to vfa.vic.gov.au/vicfishin-gapp.



Gippsland Soccer League Senior Men's premiers the Leongatha Knights.

Knights secure two premierships

SENIOR Women's Grand Final: Leongatha Knights FC v Wonthaggi.

The Gippsland Soccer League hosted its grand final day at Lang Lang Soccer Club on Sunday, September 17.

The Senior Women's game saw unbeaten league champions Leongatha Knights take on second on the ladder finishers Wonthaggi Soccer Club.

With the sun and wind playing havoc on playing conditions, it was set to be an interesting and entertaining match.

Wonthaggi kicked with the wind in the first half and set up many attacking runs through their star striker Alicia.

However, Leongatha's counterattack through young Lisse Bath proved fatal with Bath scoring the first goal of the match. Wonthaggi hit back fast with a breakthrough run from their striker sending an on shot strike that was saved by Leongatha Knights goalkeeper Bethany Milkins outstretched toe.

A one all score at half time kept the game lively as both teams battled the sun and fatigue to keep up attacking runs. However, the dominating midfield of Naomi Eaton and Jasmine Garry again worked its magic getting excellent balls through to the forward line.

Most Valuable Player of the match Lisse Bath went on to score an impressive four more goals in a ripper day up front. Wonthaggi secured another in the net with a strong break of the Knights defensive line.

However, it wasn't enough to keep the Lady Knights at bay as they ended the match back-to-back champions. Congratulations to coach Peter Milkins and his team.

Senior Men's Grand Final: Leongatha Knights FC v Trafalgar.

At 3.15pm, the hotly anticipated matchup between league champions Trafalgar Victory and the underdogs Leongatha Knights FC kicked off and it was a stellar match to watch.

With equal possession and attacking runs it was hard to determine an advantage to



Leongatha's James Heneghan scored the winning goal in the grand final.

either team early on as Knights forward Hayden Clark caused some concern up front for the Trafalgar defence.

However, it was a scrambled attack on Trafalgar that saw Leongatha Knights junior substitute James Heneghan score with the support of a roaring crowd.

Trafalgar were not to be deterred but Leongatha's backline centre backs John Stephen and Ed Benedict and fullback Jack Bainbridge confidently disrupted their possession.

A half time lead saw the Knights cautiously optimistic and determined to get the win.

Heading back to the pitch with an unchanged formation but a plan to mitigate fatigue the Knights were determined to make club history.

Midfielders Ethan Bath and captain Sven Gebele battled it out against a strong Trafalgar lineup with the wing runs off Aidan Hall and Henry Mbuthia ensuring the ball moved forward in Leongatha's favour.

Darcy Johnstone and Luke Knights in their switching play brought renewed energy to the attack.

Despite Trafalgar leading the majority of the attacking runs in the final 15 minutes, Leongatha Knights goalkeeper Chris Gale proved unbeaten

in goals, performing a number of magnificent saves along with his backline to maintain a clean sheet. Junior River Thomas and Aidan Scott provided respite for a hard-fought Leongatha defence and a magic last five minutes from Deaf World Cup bound Sam Bainbridge ensured that Leongatha safety ended the match with their first ever grand final win with Leongatha's John Stephen being awarded the player of the match.

Coach Bethany Milkins continues to make league history as the first female to coach a Senior Men's team to a grand final win.

Congratulations Leongatha Knights FC on taking out both senior cups.

Dragon's upset Inverloch Stars

DROUIN and Inverloch took to the pitch in hot and blustery conditions to battle it out in the Gippsland Soccer League Under 12a Grand Final 2023.

Drouin came out strong with midfielder Max Lyons scoring in the first ten minutes. Despite creating strong plays through the centre and breaking through to the Drouin defence, Inverloch were not able to convert. The Drouin defence was too tidy, with strong central midfielder Caleb Brown

shutting down attacks and goalkeeper Will Martin confidently scooping up Inverloch's shots. Half time finished with Drouin 1 - Inverloch 0.

After some half time fruit Inverloch came out a different side. Inverloch's midfield passed forward as a unit to let Teerawhat Panyo break through and score an equaliser in the first five minutes. After another 10 minutes of play a long range shot from midfielder Ben Bellairs hit the back of the net bringing Inverloch into the lead, but not for long. Some fast footwork from Drouin striker Tom Stevenage bringing the scores level again, then just one minute later it was Panyo (proving anything you can do I can do too) who brought Inverloch up.

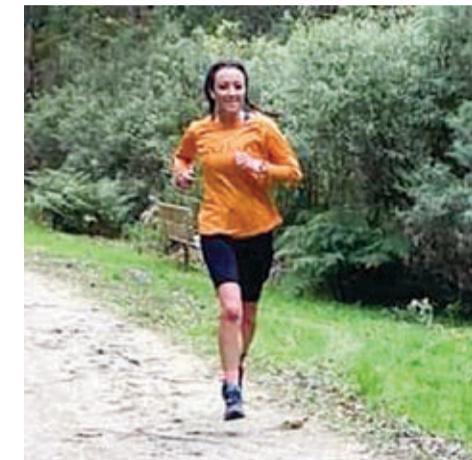
Now the intensity really picked up, spectators felt like they were watching tennis rather than football. Both teams drove hard out of their defence and pushed forward at every opportunity. Inverloch's Flynn Toomey worked tirelessly to run the ball forward up the wing, but the Drouin defence stayed strong and held off some neat plays.

Inverloch goalkeeper Lachlan Moore performed some spectacular saves under pressure from a string of attacks from the Drouin midfield. In the end Drouin midfielder Peter Brandeggen-Taylor broke through to convert, bringing the scores level in the last two minutes of full time play.

Overtime brought no relief for supporters, both teams again proving how evenly matched these teams are, scores remained three apiece and the game headed into penalty shootouts. Both goalkeepers showed fantastic skills managing to defend shots, however it was Drouin who remained calm under pressure and came out victorious. The end of the match saw both teams participate in a giant group hug, cheering for what they knew had been a hotly contested game of football. Congratulations to Drouin Dragons Maroon!



Brooke at the parkrun turn around marker.



First finisher Bryanna at the Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun.

Records reached at Grand Ridge parkrun

IT was a wonderful start to the weekend for 12 participants and volunteers at the Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun last weekend.

It seemed everyone was rushing to get to the sporting finals or buy bread from the market, as many people came close or got their fastest time yet.

As the seasons change, it is the perfect time to put a spring into your Saturday mornings.

You are welcome to walk at your pace or challenge others to achieving a milestone run.

parkrun is always free thanks to sponsors and all you need to do is register for a barcode.

Visitors and locals meet every Saturday at 7.45am.

They hope to see you soon.

Gippsland Soccer League Grand Final

SUNDAY September 17 at Lang Lang Community Recreation Precinct

Senior Mens: Leongatha Knights 1 d Trafalgar Victory 0

Senior Womens: Leongatha Knights 5 d Wonthaggi United 2

Mens Reserves: Trafalgar Victory 2 d Drouin Dragons 0

Under 17 Mixed: Phillip Island 3 d Drouin Dragons White 0

Under 14 Mixed: Korumburra City 8 d Phillip Island 6

Under 12A Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon 3 (3) d Inverloch Stars 3 (1)

Under 12B Mixed: Phillip Island Blue 6 d Phillip Island Red 1

U12B Mixed match Most Valuable Player - Harry Sivori (Phillip Island Blue)

U12A Mixed match Most Valuable Player - Teerawhat Panyo (Inverloch Stars)

U14 Mixed match Most Valuable Player - Addison Greig (Korumburra City)

U17 Mixed match Most Valuable Player - Tate Russell (Phillip Island)

Mens Reserves Most Valuable Player - Christopher Tigas (Trafalgar Victory)

Senior Womens Most Valuable Player - Melisse Bath (Leongatha Knights)

Senior Mens Most Valuable Player - John Stephen (Leongatha Knights)



Ella Cocksedge is congratulated on being Fish Creek's best player in its upset win in the 17 and under Grand Final against MDU. A11_3823



Best on Court Kate Lafferty enjoys the moment after helping guide MDU to the C Grade premiership against Yinnar. A23_3823



Fish Creek players enjoy the moment after claiming the 17 and under premiership. Back row: Latisha Smith, Misha Gange, Amala Liepa, Ella Schauble (coach) and Lily-Ann Bright. Front row: Grace Wilson, Hayley Bourke, Ella Cocksedge, Kayley Williams, Ruby Lane (coach) and Remi Gange. A12_3823



The ball is in dispute during the B Grade Grand Final clash between Fish Creek and Yinnar. A28_3823

Fish Creek ends MDU dominance to take the flag

FISH CREEK is celebrating an upset win in the 17 and under netball Grand Final, toppling Meeniyan-Dumbalk United by 16 goals to end the Demons' long unbeaten run.

It was a great result for the Kangaroos after losing last year's decider to MDU by four goals.

"It was a fantastic game to come out on top of and by that much of a margin," Fish Creek co-coach Ruby Lane said.

She outlined the reasons she believes the upset occurred.

"I think it was a little bit of

Meeniyan expecting to win but our girls really came together and fought hard and wanted the win more than they did," Ruby said.

While Best on Court Ella Cocksedge was too emotional to speak to the Sentinel-Times just after the game, coach Ruby wasn't lost for a word regarding her talented skipper.

"Ella always plays amazingly and she's always that in our eyes; she even thought she didn't play very well but obviously that's wrong," Ruby declared.

Kangaroos co-coach Ella Schauble reflected on the

team's accomplishment.

"We're just so proud of them all and we're glad we managed to get out on top today," she said.

Like all of Saturday's Grand Finals, the match was played in glorious but energy-sapping conditions under the unrelenting sun.

However, there's little doubt Fish Creek's players and coaches found the energy to celebrate their well-deserved accomplishment in style, and the premiership cup sat nicely alongside its senior footy counterpart.



MDU players celebrate victory over Yinnar in the C Grade Grand Final. Back row: Beth Gibson, Amanda Calder, Taz Boden (co-coach), Mel Harris, Hannah Engel. Front row: Kate Lafferty, Nikya Toomey, Jodie Arnup, Lillyca White, Rach Cameron (co-coach), Sheree Livingstone. A22_3823

Meeniyan experience wins in C Grade decider

MEENIYAN-Dumbalk United powered to a commanding win, doubling the score of C Grade Grand Final opponent Yinnar to win by 16 goals.

Kate Lafferty starred as the Demons' Goal Shooter, with her 29 goal-performance earning her the Best on Court Medal.

Goal Attack Jodie Arnup scored MDU's other three goals.

"Everyone kept their composure in the hot weather," co-coach Taz Boden said, noting that was a good achievement for a side with players aged mostly over 35.

Clearly the experience of the side paid off.

Boden summed up what the Demons did well in addition to Lafferty's impressive shooting.

"Mel (Harris) and Amanda (Calder) defended well and

ensured Yinnar had to shoot from a distance, with Rach (Cameron) and Sheree (Livingstone) bringing it down the court and Jodie (Arnup) feeding it into Kate (Lafferty), and Beth (Gibson) did some awesome intercepts," Boden said.

Mia Cheffers, who divided her time between playing Centre and Goal Attack, topped the beaten Magpies' scoring with seven goals.



TOORA's Under 13 netballers are recovering after an incredible win on Saturday against Boolarra at Ronald Reserve. From left, back, Jade Humphrey, Willow Butinar, Tara Hollier (coach), Evie Stone, Jaimee Boyd and Bella Sanders, front, Tess Hollier, Hazel Stone, Zaira Walsh, Abbey Best, Ella Bacon and Shahana Jothiravi.

The ball is fiercely contested by the Magpies of Toora and Yinnar during Yinnar's A Grade premiership win. A37_3823



Zanthe Flewin snatched the ball before her opponent's eyes for the U15's at Morwell East. Photo: Annie Holland.



Phillip Island's under 17 premiership winners (players) from left, Isla Cousins, Jazz Mau, Lily Mewett, Matilda McKenna, Maya Huther, Meika White, Ruby Anderson, Sienna Trew and Sophia Hungerford. Ns373823



Renee Pilkington and Jarrad Walker proudly hold the premiership trophy. Ns503823



Inverloch-Kongwak C grade premier players, from left, Amy Hodge, Brianna Pupetti, Hannah Smith, Liza Burrows, Megan Hawking, Rachael Millar, Rebecca Hawking, Ruby McCartney, Sam Hume and Sarah Green. Ns413823



It was jubilation all around as Phillip Island U17's secured the Grand Final trophy. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.



It was all smiles for Inverloch-Kongwak's C grade premiers after taking the win against Dalyston. Ns433823



Inverloch-Kongwak A grade premiership winning players, from left, Amity McInnes, Amy Scott, Ella Sadler, Ivy Hunter, Kelly Boyd, Kelsey Buxton, Lanni Pryor, Linsey Boddy, Millie Sadler and Renee Pilkington with coach Jarrad Walker. Ns483823



Amy Hodge (GS) was on point throughout the game. Ns473823

GIPPSLAND

PRELIMINARY FINAL

A Grade: Morwell 48 d Leongatha 45
 B Grade: Traralgon 47 d Leongatha 46
 C Grade: Leongatha 43 d Bairnsdale 21
 17 & Under: Sale 29 d Leongatha 26
 15 & Under: Traralgon 37 d Leongatha 14
 13 & Under: Sale 66 d Moe 37

ELLINBANK

GRAND FINAL

A Grade: Neerim South 52 d Ellinbank 34
 B Grade: Ellinbank 35 d Trafalgar 31
 C Grade: Ellinbank 21 It Nilma Darnum 28
 17 & Under: Trafalgar 25 d Ellinbank 20
 15 & Under: Buln Buln 41 d Yarragon 33
 13 & Under: Buln Buln 22 It Catani 31

MID GIPPSLAND

GRAND FINAL

A Grade: Yinnar 46 d Toora 41
 B Grade: Yinnar 37 d Fish Creek 23
 C Grade: MDU 32 d Yinnar 30
 D Grade: Fish Creek 27 It Yinnar 30
 17 & Under: MDU 23 It Fish Creek 39
 15 & Under: Boolarra 46 d Mirboo North 33
 13 & Under: Boolarra 16 It Toora 24

WEST GIPPSLAND

GRAND FINAL

A Grade: Inverloch-K 45 d Tooradin-Dal 36
 B Grade: NNG 44 d Tooradin-Dal 33
 C Grade: Inverloch-K 30 d Dalyston 29
 D Grade: NNG 21 d Inverloch-K 20
 17 & Under: Phillip Island 39 d Kor-Bena 29
 15 & Under: Phillip Island 24 It NNG 33
 13 & Under: NNG 24 d Tooradin-Dal 20
 11 & Under: Tooradin-Dal 17 d NNG 15

THIS WEEKEND'S GAMES

GIPPSLAND

Grand Final - Morwell (Sat, Sept. 23)
 A Grade: Moe v Morwell
 B Grade: Drouin v Traralgon
 C Grade: Maffra v Leongatha
 17 & Under: Traralgon v Sale
 15 & Under: Sale v Traralgon
 13 & Under: Traralgon v Sale



Action from Saturday's A Grade grand final between Leongatha and Morwell.



Leongatha centre Jade Cashin fires the ball into shooter Emma Ton with the whips cracking in a cracker of a B Grade preliminary final.



Gemma Meadley jumps high to make a spectacular intercept near the Traralgon goals in the Under 15s preliminary final.



Leongatha under 17s centre Lara Gill gets the ball going her team's way early in the preliminary final match against Sale on Saturday.

Leongatha all the way in Grade prelim final

LEONGATHA'S C Grade girls have booked their place in the Gippsland League grand final with an all-the-way win over Bairnsdale at Sale in the blazing sun on Saturday.

It was the perfect celebration for club stalwart, Tegan Renden, who was able to celebrate her 200th senior game in style.

The Parrots got it out to a 10-7 lead at the first break with Bairnsdale making a good contest of it front and back at this stage.

But Leongatha were just a little more self-assured right across the court with Kinesha Anderson making good position mid court and Bronty White up and down the court carrying the ball as well as getting down court to combine with Lily Hume in goals.

Bairnsdale closed the gap with a run of goals at the start of the second quarter, their burst of scoring stopped after three by Elly Egan using her height to advantage in defence.

Elicia Garnham was working well with the goalies to improve their positioning and Lily Hume was making all the shots she needed to from close range.

When Bronty White also chimed in on the scoring, the Parrots got it out to a five-goal lead half way through the second quarter.

Kinesha Anderson had been moved across to Wing Defence and her defensive athleticism kicked in to the Parrots' advantage, highlighted by a fine come-from-behind intercept to see Leongatha out to eight. Even at this stage, late in the second quarter they looked like getting Leongatha's first win of the day.

Half time scores: Leongatha 21 to Bairnsdale 12.

In the third quarter Leongatha played solid netball to edge further away from Bairnsdale with Molly Heber coming into GK, working with the experienced Jude Reynolds GD to set up a formidable barrier.

Lily Hume was going aggressively at the ball after the rebound as required and with Audrey McGannon coming into Goal Attack, the Parrots had plenty of fire power.

Tegan Renden playing her 200th senior game was in everything through the mid court anticipating the play well and partway through the last quarter they were out to a very comfortable lead of 20.

Wings Kinesha and Elicia were teaming well with Tegan through the centre as they played the transition game to perfection while also getting their hands in the way to make it tough for Bairnsdale. It was all Leongatha as the final siren sounded.

The final score Leongatha 43



Madeline Caddy takes a catch on the run in mid court for Leongatha's preliminary final winning C Grade team last Saturday.

to 21.

After the game Tegan Renden ran through her 200-game banner with daughters Harlow and Sadie but no one could catch young Nash Renden who was doing laps of the court. It was the ice-breaker Leongatha fans wanted to see on a big day for the club.

Parrots oh so close in B Grade heartbreaker

IN THE B Grade preliminary final the tempo lifted appreciably as Leongatha and the Traralgon Maroons went at it goal for goal in the first quarter.

It was a see-sawing affair with Stacey Gilliam starting to impose herself in mid court and up front but a couple of missed shots by the Parrots allowed Traralgon to equalise and then go ahead by one 24-23 at half time.

The game was clearly anyone's at this point but Leongatha might have had the edge in general play.

Defenders Alicia Marshman and Kasey Thorson had their hands full with a couple of good Traralgon goalers, Nic Jennings and Isabelle Bettridge, willing to take ground and work in close to improve their shooting percentage. The game was a cracker as the players went to half time.

Traralgon stole a bit of a march on Leongatha at the start of the third quarter, but the Parrots came back to cut the lead mainly on the back of some great defence by Kasey Thorson in GD. With Kate Sperling was finding her range in goals, strongly supported by Emma Ton, they evened

qualifying final but it was 'game on' after a goal-for-goal first quarter where the players got down to the business, with no nerves, from the get-go.

A 14-12 opening was the result with no holds barred under the Leongatha ring where Kate Browne and Hannah Flanders were fighting off all sorts of pressure from Courtney Garth and Anna Solomon.

Up the other end, Laura Higgins and Lauren Redpath had a winning strategy on Claire Marks, limiting her attempts but Daisy Hill was off the chair, hitting 11 and an adjustment was needed.

Lauren Redpath went to her as her direct opponent, which rebalanced the scales, cutting their scoring to nine, while Leongatha pulled a couple of goals back to go in at half time, 23-all.

Through the centre, Nicola Marriott was getting more clear air than Morwell wanted and they made a swap at half time, taking Chloe Radford off and swinging Rachel Tattersson on while also moving Saslia Enjes to centre.

With Kate Brown temporarily out of goals, Morwell got the mismatches they wanted and they went on a game-winning run, piling on 15 to Leongatha's 8 and looking like the only team to beat Moe during the season.

They went into three quarter time up by 7 but the Leongatha players gritted their teeth at the last change, declaring they could still win it from there... they just about did.

Immediately after the restart, Kate Browne and Hannah Flanders scored a goal each to cut the lead to five, quick as a flash, though, Morwell had them back again. Hannah Flanders dropped off the pressure to take an easy pass and goal, and up the other end, Laura Higgins and Lauren Redpath were superb against to opposition.

A great intercept by Lauren Redpath produced a goal at the other end and Leongatha were whittling down the Tigers' lead to 5, then 4. When both Kate and Hannah dropped long bombs, the gap was down to two then one off a sensational intercept by Taylah Brown.

The teams swapped goals off the centre pass before another intercept by the Leongatha WD in midcourt and when Hannah hit the next one the scores were level and they had the chance to get the go-ahead goal, after more great work by Lauren and Laura at their end, but the shot didn't drop.

Leongatha levelled it again a few minutes later, but they never headed Morwell who held their nerve, despite a flutter of form partway through the last quarter, scoring 10 to Leongatha's 14 to make it a three-goal difference in the end.

LEONGATHA PARROTS

C GRADE NETBALL
Get behind our Leongatha C Grade squad this weekend - the team are all online!

www.sgst.com.au



Parrots set up blockbuster for the ages

THE ultimate has happened for South Gippsland sports fans with Leongatha and Wonthaggi set to do battle for the Gippsland League Premiership of 2023.

Not since they narrowly lost in 2002 as Wonthaggi Blues and again in 2014 as Wonthaggi Power, has Wonthaggi even appeared in a Gippsland league grand final, but it has been 62 years since they've played arch-rivals Leongatha in any sort of football grand final.

That was back in the old South Gippsland League, when Leongatha won the 1961 grand final by 26 points, and prior to that, Leongatha beat them again in 1931 by 52 points, so will third time be the charm for the Power?

Whatever happens, there's history here in the making and all roads will lead to Morwell on Saturday, September 23, for a match starting at 2.30pm.

For Leongatha footy fans, their Reserves are also involved, playing off against Sale at 12.30, while the C Grade Netballers play Maffra from 12.15.

The Parrots came through a physical clash at Sale last Saturday against a rejuvenated Moe side, ultimately tackling the Lions to a standstill before running out 33 point winners in a relatively low-scoring affair, played in superb conditions, probably better suited to the beach than football.

But the Parrots set up the win with a dominant first quarter with the likes of big Benny Willis in the ruck, Aaron Heppell and last year's league best player Tom Marriott somewhere near his best out of the centre.

Missing this week was the Parrots' foil for talented intercept marking defender Declan Keilty, Luke Bowman, who was left on the sidelines with injury.

There was no love lost between the teams and that was evident in the first five minutes when Moe's Bill Gowers dumped Leongatha's Noah Gown into the turf with a bruising tackle, but while the umpire was looking on, kept his knees in the back of the prone onballer.

Gowers took off with the ball to where James Blaser pushed Jack Hume gratuitously over the boundary line, earning a free kick near goal when Sean Westaway retaliated. Blaser passed to Jacob Balfour within close range, and it might have been an inauspicious start for the Parrots – but he missed a sitter.

The Parrots also avoided further embarrassment when Cade Maskell kicked into the man on the mark before an alert Will Littlejohn helped him clear the ball.

A quick transfer of play was initially repelled by Keilty but ultimately Aaron Turton got the Parrots on board at the six-minute mark, Olden and Marriott involved in the build up.

Thereafter, the Parrots kicked into gear.

The Parrots' forward pressure was immense, resulting in free kick to Drew, who handed off to Maskell coming down the ground.

He'd already experienced the



Josh Hopkins hunts the ball on the Parrots' forward line as one of those to get the team going early and applied pressure throughout.



Defender Will Littlejohn played his role in a strong performance by Leongatha's back six in Saturday's preliminary final.

strength of the breeze kicking out from full back and bombed this one from 55 metres, with it sailing through post high. The Parrots got around him as the two flags went up.

The next passage of play, straight out of the centre by Gown, produced a double blow for the Lions, their key defender Keilty injuring his shoulder in the play, and Jenson Garnham awarded a free at close range which he promptly converted.

Adding insult to injury in their next forward thrust, Harry to Vanderpligt, the pass found Ginnane who out-marked an injured Keilty, unable to get his arm up for a trademark spoil or intercept mark.

Ginnane, who had a watching brief on Keilty in the absence of Bowman, went back and kicked the Parrots' fourth.

Whatever the trainers did for Keilty, he was able to mark and rebound the Parrots' next attack but they had the wall across half back, with Maskell, Westaway and Harry engaged, and Leongatha went again.

Ben Willis used the body to nudge his opponent Chris Prowse out of the way to take a mark on the flank which translated directly into the

Parrots' fourth goal, without a response from Moe. Drew to Garnham on the lead was silky smooth.

It was a five-goal head start for Leongatha and Moe didn't look to have the answer.

The Parrots were suffocating the Lions' efforts but finally, on the back of more good work by Riley Baldi, Moe forced the ball forward to big Nick Prowse, who handed off to James Blaser, who kicked from 50 metres to get their first goal at the 23-minute mark.

Moments later, Moe's Jacob Wood single-handedly got the ball forward to Nick Prowse, first with a tackle on Willis and then with a twisting turning run, but Prowse, from no more than 15 metres out, missed a sitter.

The Parrots were doing everything right, but Moe was giving them a chop out as well.

It had been a most productive quarter for the Parrots, back to something like their trademark running and pressure play of the past few years, winning their share of the stoppages and quickly releasing their outside pace to produce multiple forward entries.

It was to be the best quarter by either side on the day, and thereafter, it was a fairly

defensive affair with a winning pressure and tackling game by the Parrots, evident all over the ground, and great defensive effort by the back six led by Cade Maskell and Sean Westaway back to his very best with Jackson Harry, Will Littlejohn, Sam Forrester, Wil Dawson matching Nick Prowse for height, others playing their roles and the likes of Marriott, Drew, Vanderpligt and Heppell happy to get back there in support.

It was by far the Parrots best all-team performance for months and they seem to have recaptured some of their very best form at exactly the right time of the year.

The Parrots threatened to ice the game on several occasions with plenty of other gettable shots for goal but in the end, they strongly protected that first-quarter lead and were clearly the better side on the day in general play.

Moe received a warm round of applause from their fans for a great ride this season, as they left the field, and in turn the Lions' players returned the favour, clapping the clubs' volunteers and supporters as they disappeared into the rooms.

Final scores: Leongatha 10.13.73 def Moe 5.10.40.

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

PRELIMINARY FINAL

73

40

LEONGATHA

MOE

Leongatha 5.2 8.5 9.8 10.13 (73)

Moe 1.4 3.4 4.8 5.10 (40)

GOALS, Leongatha: Jenson Garnham 3,

Kim Drew, Jack Ginnane, Jack Hume,

Cade Maskell, Mason McGannon,

Cameron Olden, Aaron Turton 1 each

BEST: Sean Westaway, Thomas Marriott, Aaron

Heppell, Cade Maskell, Kim Drew, Josh Hopkins

GOALS, Moe: James Blaser, Harrison Pepper 2,

Nick Prowse 1

BEST: Riley Baldi, James Blaser, Trent Baldi,

Ben Maslen, Jacob Wood, Luke Mulqueen

RESERVES

Maffra 0.1 1.2 4.2 4.3 (27)

Sale 4.3 8.4 10.7 12.7 (79)

GOALS, Maffra: Will Brunt 2, Owen Gallagher,

Daniel Stubbe 1 each

BEST: Brent McKenzie, Sam Walker, Kallan

Killoran, Chris Smart, Will Brunt, Max Gravener

GOALS, Sale: Liam Place 3, Christopher Laverty,

Zak Russell 2, Thomas Campbell, Shane Fyfe,

Bradley McKay, Thomas Wrigglesworth 1 each

BEST: Shane Fyfe, Christopher Laverty, Thomas

Wrigglesworth, Liam Place, Benjamin Jones,

THIRDS

Traralgon 0.2 2.4 6.6 6.9 (45)

Maffra 1.2 3.4 5.7 8.9 (57)

GOALS, Traralgon: Joshua Hamilton 3, Campbell

Booth, Rhyley Guiney, Hunter Little 1 each

BEST: Harper Fox, Campbell Booth,

Cooper Brown, Joshua Hamilton, Rogan Rutter,

Ethan Roscoe

GOALS, Maffra: Noah Christy 4, Darcy Davis,

Jos Dimarco, Seth Smith, Noah Szabatura 1 each

BEST: Jett Killoran, Zach Felsbourg, Jonathan

Boyd, Chase Henry, Max Stobie, Ashton Wright

FOURTHS

Maffra 3.4 8.6 11.9 13.11 (89)

Bairnsdale 0.2 2.4 4.5 7.9 (51)

GOALS, Maffra: Jack McQuillen 4, Sam

Anderson, Zachary O'Keefe 2, Elijah Berry,

Jye Brickley, Will Burgiel, Thomas Phillips,

Leo Stephenson 1 each

BEST: Sam Anderson, Lachlan Harrington,

Zachary O'Keefe, Jack McQuillen, Will Burgiel,

Archer Stobie

GOALS, Bairnsdale: Wil Malady 3, Albie Clarke,

Kael Frith, Max Neate, Jonah Walker 1 each

BEST: Jobe Froud, Charlie Cook, Riley Lieuwen,

Jesse Bills, Wil Malady, Leo Sykes

THIS WEEKEND'S DRAW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

GIPPSLAND

GRAND FINAL

Saturday, September 23

Morwell Recreation Reserve

Seniors: Wonthaggi v Leongatha

Reserves: Leongatha v Sale

U18: Warragul v Maffra

U16: Traralgon v Maffra

Leongatha Umpires Association Panel

Leongatha Town Rooms

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2023 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE

LEONGATHA PARROTS



Jake Van Der Pligt

Young, skilled player still on the up. Consistently in the best, capable on-ball, solid defensive game and can score.



Sam Forrester

Highly reliable and experienced defender who knows what is expected in finals football. Safe clearance player who gets the best small forward.



Josh Hopkins

Parrots' X-factor and experienced finals' campaigner with great defensive skills, endurance and determination. A potential match winner.



Tallin Brill

Has worked hard all season to become an important part of the Parrot forward line and kicks a number of goals each week.



Jackson Harry

Highly versatile defender and relieving ruckman who can take a key role on opposition lead-up forwards. Offers coach a Plan B.



Tom Marriott

One of the most respected onballers in country football, by teammates and opponents alike. A key to Parrots' ambitions on the day.



Kim Drew

Tough and skilful onballer who is able to break a tackle and propel the ball forward, he will be difficult for the opposition to match up.



Jack Hume

Established a key role in attack as a fast-leading forward, but can now take a role on the ball, and as a go-to player around the ground.



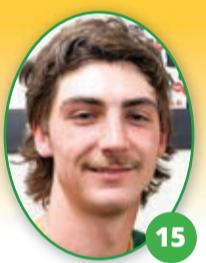
Steve Forrester

Experienced backman, able to shut down the key forwards with his strength around the packs, huge work ethic.



Noah Gown

New to the club this year, strong highflying mark, long kick and creative around goals, has played onball or forward this season.



Aaron Turton

One of the younger players in the team but has experience in finals from previous year. Consistent performer that can play defensive or push forward.



Jenson Garnham

Recruited in the pre-season has settled into the club, a young player, strong mark and accurate kick with the ability to score multiple goals.



Ben Willis

Experienced ruckman, key to Leongatha's contested possession and clearance count. Competes in the air and on the ground.



Jack Ginnane

Fast leading forward with vice like hands, able to kick goals from beyond fifty and a player to watch in the final.



Aaron Hillberg

Lead-up forward who has also developed his goal-assist and forward pressure roles. Can be a match winner.



Cade Maskell

Fantastic defensive and clearance player with the full range of skills. Strong mark and capable of immediate impact if he goes forward.



Sean Westaway

Leads by example in defence. The consummate team player and a great reader of the play. The glue that holds the defence together.



Cam Olden

Talented half forward flanker and goal kicker. Hard match-up and one of Leongatha's possible match-winners.



Will Littlejohn

Pacy, skilful, young defender who plays an important role in the switch out of danger with excellent foot skills and decision-making.



Jess Burns

Electrifying forward, can turn any opportunity into a goal, plays a major role in the Parrot forward line.



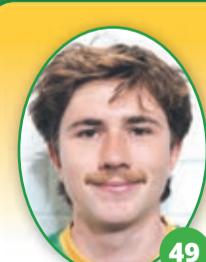
Cameron Stone

Tenacious, goal-kicking wing man. A key to Leongatha's transition to attack, has been in great form in recent weeks.



Travis Nash

Young, reliable back pocket player has returned from injury and has hit top form at the right time of the year.



Mason McGannon

Has developed into an important wing, half forward player, can move the ball quickly into the forward half and will be creative on the day.



Luke Bowman

Tall, mobile, marking onballer who is a hard match-up for the opposition. A key at the stoppages, in the middle and around the ground.



Wil Dawson

Young, tall, athletic player who has returned from Gippsland power duties. Is a high marking forward who can kick a bag of goals.



Aaron Heppell

Creative, goal-kicking forward and talented onballer as the need requires. A key to Leongatha's success.



2023 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE

WONTHAGGI POWER



1

Shannon Bray

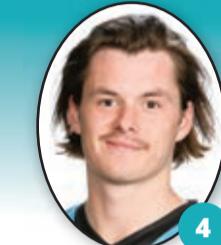
Athletic hybrid defender. Elite competitor that enjoys the contest. He brings great leadership and direction to the back half of the ground.



2

Ryan Sparkes

Gippsland League's MVP – Elite midfield runner and contested ball player. Good looking fella with great qualities.



4

Thomas Murray

Loves the hunt of the footy. Strong explosive player who has come up through our juniors.



8

Troy Harley

A product of our club. Strong competitive forward that hangs on to every opportunity. Loves a tune.



9

Tim Knowles

Past VFL player and as sounds as it gets, leader, teacher and competitor.



10

Toma Huther

Third generation player that has come through our junior ranks and grown into one of the most respected rucks in the league. Never knocks off.



11

Jarryd Blair
The 2010 AFL Collingwood Premiership player brings leadership and class. Educational coach with a heap of empathy.



12

Hunter Tiziani
Just out of our junior program. His courage and commitment shines on matchday.



14

Noah Anderson

A WPFNC U14 premiership player that is silky smooth. Turns on a two-bob watch and enjoys a tackle.



16

Jordan Staley

Controls the airspace and great user of the football.



19

Jakeb Thomas

The son of a club premiership player. Smart, strong and composed. A treat to watch.



20

Harry Dawson

Absolute pressure machine. No concern for his own health on the field. Very quick.



22

Brodie Mabilia
The son of a past club premiership captain. Elite awareness and agility. Workhorse.



23

Cooper McInnes
A huge inclusion this year. Aerial contests and big sticks are his forte.



24

Joshua Schulz

Another U14 premiership player. Ball reader and contest mad. Quick over the grass.



25

Fergus O'Connor

Club leader who provides good times and energy. Hardworking and brings experience at this time of the year.



26

Joshua Bates

Elite endurance and rarely loses a contest. Very smart footballer that keeps it simple.



27

Tom Davey

Good luck if you get in his way. Hard working hit up forward that keeps turning up.



29

Isaac Chugg
2022 AFL Collingwood player. Has quickly settled in at Wonthaggi and respected and loved by all. 1-V-1 machine and quick over the grass.



30

Mitch Hayes
Past VFL player that provides leadership and experience to our midfield. Workhorse.



31

Jack Hutchinson
Contested hardworking forward that covers a lot of ground. Excitement machine.



40

Jaxon Williams
Third generation and son of a premiership player. Continues to show his ability to take on what ever come his way.



53

Jack Blair
Gippsland League B & F. Creative defender that rarely gets beaten. Brings VFL experience and a heap of energy to the side.



2023 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE

Wonthaggi lost but weren't that bad in 1961

LEONGATHA and Wonthaggi have met in a grand final on at least two occasions, once in the South Gippsland Football Association in 1931 and once in the South Gippsland Football League in 1961. On both occasions Leongatha triumphed.

In 1931, Leongatha 14.8.92 defeated Wonthaggi Town 5.10.40.

In 1961 Leongatha 10.12.72 defeated Wonthaggi 6.10.46.

A newspaper article in the Korumburra Times on Wednesday, September 20, 1961 didn't think much about Wonthaggi's performance with a heading "All dressed up with nowhere to go".

"Wonthaggi approached the game in a more or less disinterested manner. They lacked the pace and altogether appeared like a team that wasn't sure where they were going."

Bit harsh. And the reporter named names, specifically unloading on Gerry Parker who had reportedly won the game for Wonthaggi the week before.

"He finished the day with a tally of four kicks," according to the article.

It couldn't have been that bad though, because Wonthaggi only trailed by nine points at half time, Howard and 'Tassie' Heywood the goal kickers for Leongatha in the first quarter and Huther scoring "a sixer" for Wonthaggi. Both teams scored a goal each in the second quarter, to Ralph Miller for Leongatha and Gerry Parker for Wonthaggi but there were a string of points, six to Leongatha and one each to Tessari and Huther of Wonthaggi, in what the reporter claimed was a low-standard spectacle.

Sounds like a typically tight first half in a grand final.

The third quarter was the premiership quarter for Leongatha however, as they added four goals to one, again with Wonthaggi offline, scoring a further five points, but it was 14 scoring shots to 11 by the last change.

The article reported it was "all Leongatha" in the last quarter, however both teams kicked three goals each and Leongatha finished 28 points to the good, Leongatha 10.12.72 to Wonthaggi 6.8.44, to claim the 1961 flag.

Wonthaggi's J Parker was listed as best on the ground, McCully "in fine form on the wing", Milkins prominent, defenders McRae and Cook mentioned with Huther and Foster the best on the forward line.

Paynter starred for Leongatha, Ritchie in the ruck was good, Howard "played a real captain's game", the Miller boys Ralph and Glen roved well while Fennell "was always dangerous" finishing with three goals.



Stuart Gilmour tracks the ball in the 2002 West Gippsland Latrobe Valley grand final with Paul Brosnan completing a tackle on his Maffra opponent.

The two that got away from Wonthaggi

WONTHAGGI Blues or Wonthaggi Power has so far figured in two major league Gippsland grand finals, one as Wonthaggi Blues in 2002 and the other as Wonthaggi Power in 2014; both games Wonthaggi was in a position to win.

This one, on Saturday, September 23 at Morwell against Leongatha will be their third, but will third time be the charm? Only time will tell.

Wonthaggi won their way into the 2002 grand final, against Maffra, at the start of that great club's run of success in the Gippsland league, via a stunning display of forward craft by Tim Hooper in the preliminary final against Moe.

In a thrilling third quarter, Wonthaggi Blues kicked a record that still stands in the Gippsland league history of 11.1.67, many of them kicked by Hooper in a performance that no one who saw it will ever forget.

He finished with a record 10 goals in a preliminary final, bettered only by Maffra's Adrian Burgiel in a 2007 preliminary final against Garfield

in 2007, literally kicking them from everywhere in a mind-boggling performance.

Wonthaggi Blues made a great fist of their first Gippsland grand final, just 15 points in arrears of Maffra, final score 13.20 to Wonthaggi's 13.5, after which big things were predicted for the club, but two years later they were gone.

Named in the best in 2002 were J Murray, C Zun, N Garnham, A Mabilia, W Everitt and S Brosnan with Chris Day kicking 4, Tim Hooper 3 and former Port Adelaide player Steve Brosnan 3.

That grand final was during their first stint in the major Gippsland league from 1995 to 2004 after which Blues and Rovers merged and joined the Alberton League between 2005 and 2009, before being forced back to the Gippsland league in 2010.

The club's other appearance in a Gippsland league grand final was in 2014 and several of the players who figured in that game, against Morwell, are still playing with the Power

today.

The Latrobe Valley Express reported the winning margin at 18 points in Morwell's favour but that "the Tigers withstood a gallant effort from the Power, who threw everything at the reigning premiers, to triumph 8.7 (55) to 5.7 (37) in front of more than 4100 spectators at Morwell Recreation Reserve".

"The majority of the final quarter was played in the Power's attacking half, but there was to be no repeat of the heroic preliminary final comeback against Sale, as Morwell clung on to win its 14th senior flag."

Former Collingwood star Tarkyn Lockyer finished with three goals, to be the difference between the sides.

"Shannon Bray and Byron Dryden were immense for the Power, defending superbly and rebounding well the other way, while ruckman Earl Shaw and on-baller Mick Kelly were other standouts.

"As has become their trademark, the Power ran the game out better and had they kicked

straighter would have been even closer, as Morwell lost some of its renowned composure."

Morwell's coach Harmit Singh paid tribute to the Power's efforts.

"They were such a good side, full of quality people and I really respect them highly as a club," he said.

"Through interleague I got to play with Aaron Ware and got to know Jack Blair and Aiden Lindsay and Rob (Railton) is such a fantastic coach and a good bloke who gets a lot out of his team, and they'll be a force for years to come."

In a low-scoring affair, three goals in four minutes by Morwell in the second quarter told the tale of the day, although Wonthaggi had several opportunities to cut the margin in the run to the line.

An Eli Richards goal in the last quarter reduced the margin to 10 points, but a final goal by Morwell's Daniel Hutchison, where several Power players missed opportunities, sealed Wonthaggi's fate.

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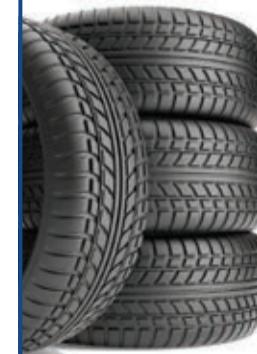
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2023 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE

Why this might be Power's year

REALITY is, there's absolutely nothing to choose between near neighbours Leongatha and Wonthaggi as they prepare for the first meeting between the clubs in a senior grand final in 62 years.

Both have had slightly different line-ups in each of the three games this year, also with players coming back from injury or carrying niggles into the game, so the three results this year need to be taken with a grain of salt.

The outcome will be all about attitude on the day, and especially taking your chances in front of goal. If there's anything both teams should finish off with on the track this week it should be play sequences leading to goal kicking.

The bureau is predicting a perfect day for footy on Saturday, cloudy and 19 degrees the top, with only a slight chance of a shower. The wind will be wafting from the highway end of the ground, straight up towards the Morwell town end, a south to south-westerly of 15 to 20 km/h, offering a slight advantage but there can be no excuses, apart from nerves, for those kicking for goal.

But, purely on the face of the three match-ups so far this season, Wonthaggi go in as the slenderest of favourites.

They led Leongatha at the last change at Leongatha in April, before losing by three. They then completely locked down Leongatha after half time at Wonthaggi to win by 22 points, and in the Second Semi-final two weeks ago, on the same ground, they led at every change and ran out 22-point winners.

They've had the week off to get cherry ripe, while Leongatha had a physical challenge in warm conditions at Sale, which could go either way for the Parrots' preparation. They played some of their best footy of the year, on top of the ground at Sale, with Marriott, Heppell, Willis, Westaway and Maskell in some of their best form of the year, and with the Parrots' role players all engaged. They looked good.

So, on balance, the Power have to be considered favourites on form alone, but it's all about the contest now, contest after contest for the ultimate prize.

Since they re-entered the main

Gippsland competition in 1969, the Parrots have won 11 premierships and might be considered unlucky not to add one or two more in the COVID years of 2020 and 2021 when play was abandoned.

But, in their two stints in the Gippsland League, as Wonthaggi Blues and Wonthaggi Power, Wonthaggi have never won a senior Gippsland premiership, despite appearing twice in 2002 and 2014 when they were right in the mix. If they win on Saturday, it'll be the town's first major league title in more than 100 years.

Players to watch for the Parrots include Tom Marriott in the centre, Cade Maskell down back and Cameron Olden up forward, but there's quality right across the ground for Leongatha with tackling pressure and fast breaking away from the contests the key.

For Wonthaggi, Tim Knowles coming off half back, Ryan Sparkes a playmaker on the ball, Brodie Mabilia, Isaac Chugg running the flanks and the coach himself, Jarryd Blair, with his trademark skills, are among those to look out for but the three-pronged attack of Jack Hutchinson, Cooper McInnes and Noah Anderson are the future of the club, ready to put their stamp on a new era. The team's much-vaunted defence, with Jack Blair, Tim Knowles and Jakeb Thomas among them, is also a force to be reckoned with.

But, do yourself a favour, and get across to Morwell to see history in the making and a celebration of South Gippsland football, which to be fair, is in fine fettle after this district dominated grand finals last weekend – congratulations to Inverloch-Kongwak's footballers and netballers, and the Fish Creek seniors and Tarwin Shark's reserves.

For locals, the day at Morwell starts at 12.15pm with the C Grade Netball Grand Final between Leongatha and Bairnsdale, the Reserves Grand Final between Leongatha and Sale starts at 12.30pm and the seniors grand final between Wonthaggi and Leongatha starts at 2.30pm. May the best team win.



The pressure game is where it will be won and lost in the Gippsland League grand final this Saturday.

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2023 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE



A melees breaks out on the Moe half forward line, during the last quarter, as play gets messy with the result already decided in Leongatha's favour.

Hume in doubt after last quarter incident

THE Leongatha Parrots are at risk of losing one of their key goal kickers of the past few years, Jack Hume, as a result of an incident in the last quarter of their preliminary final against Moe, at Sale on Saturday, with the result of the match already well and truly decided in Leongatha's favour.

Following a number of loose incidents involving lingering tackles and niggles off the ball, Moe's James Blaser pushed Leongatha's Kim Drew over off the ball with Jack Hume coming in to remonstrate.

As a result, Hume has been reported for allegedly striking Blaser who was awarded a free kick and a 50 metre penalty, before kicking the easiest of goals.

A melees of players broke out on the Moe half forward flank, with reserve umpires coming on to support the field umpires in controlling the incident.

As a result, Hume has been offered a three-match ban, expected to be challenged at a tribunal hearing this Wednesday night.

Hume had been running into some good form for the Parrots during the match, particularly linking up on transition into attack, and if he does miss the grand final on Saturday against Wonthaggi, it will be a significant loss for the Parrots.

THE MATCH-UPS:

Great ruck battle in prospect

PLAN A for both clubs in the Gippsland League Senior Grand Final this Saturday, September 23 at Morwell, Wonthaggi Power and Leongatha, will be "play your role".

Both sides have their strengths forward, back and in the middle and you'd be a fool to ignore that, but across the lines, you've also got player-after-player who knows how to do their job.

Plan B, of course, would have to include locking down on Leongatha's playmakers Tom Marriott and Aaron Heppell and the in-form forward Cameron Olden but equally, both Connor McInnes and Jack Hutchinson for Wonthaggi are capable of getting off the chain in attack, while Isaac Chugg provides blistering pace and a super boot off the wing; so how far do you go?

Also, up forward for Wonthaggi, Troy Harley, and a revelation in attack this year, Noah Anderson, can turn it on in bursts, as too can Jack Hume, Jenson Garnham and Jack Ginnane for Leongatha.

Wonthaggi gets a lot of its drive from Ryan Sparkes, Isaac Chugg, the coach himself Jarryd Blair and both Jack Blair and Tim Knowles coming out of defence but Leongatha's Cade Maskell at half back and Sean Westaway on the full back line lead a defence that is at least the equal of Wonthaggi's.

So, overall, simply matching up the opposition's strengths isn't really an option, which makes this game such an absorbing wildcard in prospect.

But, there will still be some terrific matchups to look out for.

Key among them will be in the ruck, and around the ground for the team's two main ruckmen, Ben Willis of Leongatha and Toma Huther for Wonthaggi. They are the classic contrast in ruckmen, Ben Willis with the strength and bulk, but with an uncanny ability to capture the loose ball around the packs to put



The contest between ruckmen Toma Huther of Wonthaggi and Ben Willis of Leongatha will go some of the way to deciding who wins Saturday's historic grand final between the Parrots and the Power.

it to advantage. Huther is the complete big man, highly experienced as a tap ruckman, capable mark, athletic, mobile and instinctive.

Expect them both to play crucial roles for their teams but the secret as to who wins the rucking role on the day could come down to Wonthaggi's ability to have several players sharing the load;

Jakeb Thomas, Troy Harley and Jordan Staley among them while Leongatha's go-to relief ruckman is Aaron Hillberg, admittedly in some of the best form of his life.

On-the-ball too, both teams have matching strengths; the 2022 Trood Award and Rodda Medal winner Tom Marriott starting to hit form at the right time of the year,

Aaron Heppell, Noah Gown, Kim Drew, Jake van der Pligt and Luke Bowman for Leongatha and the likes of Ryan Sparkes, Aiden Lindsay, Brodie Mabilia, Jarryd Blair, Tom Murray and Mitch Hayes for Wonthaggi.

Either Aiden Lindsay or Brodie Mabilia may have an accountable role on Marriott, while also doing their own thing, but the others will most likely be playing to their own strengths, a contest-after-contest battle for the ball, with history in the making.

They say that premiership teams are always built on defence and here, in Leongatha and Wonthaggi, we have defensive units of the highest order, admittedly with two similar intercept marking and distributing stars, Kyle Reid for Wonthaggi and Guy Dickson for Leongatha missing, more's the pity.

The unavailability of these players, for different reasons, cancel each other out but there's a lot to like about the "back six" both will put out on Saturday; for Wonthaggi Shannon Bray, Jakeb Thomas, Jaxon Williams, Fergus O'Connor, Tim Knowles and Jack Blair with Josh Schulz and Jordan Staley also likely to work through there as well. And for Leongatha Sam Forrester, Cade Maskell, Will Littlejohn, Travis Nash, Sean Westaway and Harry Jackson with tall Gippsland Power defender, Wil Dawson also a possible inclusion, dependent on match-ups.

Both groups are capable of matching it with the different strengths that the opposition forwards bring; their high marking, fast leading and creative skills, and each team has midfielders and flankers capable of lending a hand. So it won't be easy and you'd have to expect a low-scoring affair, with the defence of both sides on top, regardless of the weather which is expected to be absolutely ideal for the grand finale to the 2023 Gippsland League competition.



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2023 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE



Leongatha coach Trent McMicking addressing his players after winning through to successive Gippsland League grand finals. He says the "South Gippsland Clash" will be enormous.

Clash 'enormous' says Leongatha coach

CHECKING his phone for a final score from the Tarwin Reserves versus Yinnar grand final, at Morwell East on Saturday, a delighted Leongatha coach Trent McMicking had time to reflect on two happy events on the day, after Leongatha won through to successive Gippsland League grand finals.

"Yes, they won," said McMicking of his former club, the Tarwin Sharks.

Brother Johnathan McMicking had kicked a goal in the Sharks' 32-point victory.

But the focus soon turned to next week.

"Rest and recovery to start with, it was pretty warm up here today and then, I think, we just go

ahead and enjoy it. We've got the South Gippsland clash a lot of people wanted, which is enormous for us all, and we just go forward with whatever we've got and try and get it done."

Whatever happens, it will be a virtual clean sweep of local premierships with Fish Creek and Inverloch-Kongwak also claiming the Mid Gippsland and West Gippsland titles at the weekend.

Asked about the preliminary final against Moe, he said it was physical.

"Slufest would be the first thing that comes to mind. I thought we were super early, super-skilled, super-polished and we were able to put the pres-

sure on in the second half. We had a lot of opportunities but couldn't quite get the goals, kicking I think 2.8 in the second half. But our pressure was A1, and, thankfully, that's why we go into another grand final."

McMicking said the team had a strong contribution from all 22 players, an improvement on the previous week against Wonthaggi, with a pleasing response from on-field leaders including Tom Marriott and Aaron Hepbell on the ball, Marriott also helping to kerb the efforts of Moe star Riley Baldi. Cade Maskell and Sean Westaway, in his best form of the season, were others mentioned.

LEONGATHA PARROTS RESERVES

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'What we do stacks up,' says Blair

JARRYD Blair's influence is all over the Wonthaggi Football Netball Club, from junior development, which he has insisted involves the club's senior players, right through to the club's development squad in the reserves and the senior team.

You can see his meticulous preparation in the players, his own skill set including clinical passing, personal responsibility to get the ball, and willingness to provide selfless options and support.

There's also a calm understanding of what's required, built on his own stellar career at Collingwood, where his never-say-die attitude won him a place in the 2010 Premiership team, life membership and several club honours that were more about the man than the ball.

Getting him back to Wonthaggi at the start of the 2021 season, after two years as a playing assistant at Port Melbourne, was a recruiting coup for the Power and they've rallied around him, with quality local players coming through the ranks or locally, adding pace, balance and enthusiasm to the nucleus of an already



There's a calmness and a resolve to the way Wonthaggi Power coach Jarryd Blair approaches it.

competitive unit.

Despite the challenges that come with being at the furthest end of the Gippsland competition, they finished on top and earned only their third place in a Gippsland grand final at Morwell two weekends ago.

"It's even better that we got challenged a number of times and I thought we had more to give. We stuck to the task all day. It's like this boys, all of the opposition you come up against at this time of the year are quality but we know that what we do stacks up," he

said after the game.

It was then all about preparation and if ever a Wonthaggi team is ready to win the town's first Gippsland premiership in 100 years, it's this Power team under Jarryd Blair, and don't underestimate the value of having a coach on the ground who can influence the result first-hand.

The players had a one-and-a-half-hour competitive session last Saturday, with Jordan Staley training and available. All players, apart from Kyle Reid, are available for selection.

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2023 MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL



Lachie Poljack's leap of faith on Saturday was unfortunately not enough for the Tigers to win against Yinnar in the U18 division. Photo: Annie Holland.

Tigers defeated by Magpie thirds

By Rover

YINNAR won its third Mid Gippsland thirds football premiership since 1964 when it defeated 2022 premier, Mirboo North, by 19 points in the 2023 grand final at Ronald Reserve, Morwell East on Saturday.

The Magpies' previous thirds flags came in 1991 and 1993 against Newborough and Mirboo North respectively.

The opening term saw Yinnar kicking with the wind in bright sunshine on Morwell East's fast and firm surface, as both teams attacked the ball with energy, enthusiasm and self-belief.

Mirboo North was soon on the scoreboard when Max Woodall banged through the first of his two goals for the quarter, that gave the mighty Tigers a six-point lead after 20 minutes of play.

Scores were level a split second before half time, until Clancy Mills goaled on the siren from close range for the Magpies.

Yinnar took control of the game in the second half, recording 3.7 to two straight Mirboo North majors from Clancy Snell and Xavier Berquez.

Yinnar's pluck around the contests was superb and more Magpie tackles stuck, than those of the Tigers.

The Magpies' big-framed spearhead, Billy Durea, who booted four goals for the day, caused Mirboo North's defence massive problems without him moving more than 20 metres away from the big white sticks.

Others who dominated for Yinnar were Luke Cheffers, Flynn Schill, Mills, Jay Rogałsky and Hudson McCulloch.

Tigers frequently in the spotlight included Max Woodall, Jesse Chila, Oliver Budd, Blake Peters, Hayden Barnes and Sam Bradley.



Max Woodall took the ball for a run down the line for the U18 Tiger's. Photo: Annie Holland.



Tarwin celebrates their Reserves premiership. From left, back, Jackson Bloom, Ethan Senior, Daniel Cardy, Jake Cochrane, Jayden Best, Stu Kilsby, Tom Giroud, Tim Gedye, John Kilsby and Harrison Cumming; middle, Josh Carmody, Ben Chalmers, Nick Tucker, Ed McMicking, Travis Cameron, Daniel Hales, Hayden Browne, Dale Lawton, Royce Patterson and Sam Burns; and front, Gabe Brennan, Bill Blundy, Todd Lomax and Rob Houston. A30_3823

Sharks bite to win Reserves



Nick Tucker enjoys the moment with his kids after playing in Tarwin's Reserves premiership side. A31_3823

CELEBRATIONS erupted as Tarwin achieved Grand Final success, toppling Yinnar by 32 points in Morwell East on Saturday.

Dale Lawton led the way for the Sharks under glorious but energy-sapping sunshine, being Best on Ground and finishing with a goal.

Hayden Browne was the multiple goal scorer for the winning team, slotting three majors.

Tarwin set up a strong position by the long break, leading by four goals and having allowed Yinnar just one maximum score to that point.

The Magpies applied pressure in the third term, booting a couple of goals and keeping Tarwin scoreless to trail by just 10 points heading into the final term.

The Sharks ensured Yinnar didn't trouble the score board

operator for the remainder of proceedings, while finishing with three majors of their own.

Tarwin coach Jake Cochrane credited the tenacious opposition offered by Yinnar, saying the Magpies are a well-coached outfit for which he has "heaps of respect".

He then delivered a raucous message to his team.

"Job's done!"

That sparked resounding cheers that only grew louder as the Sharks took hold of a well-earned premiership cup.

Premiership player Nick Tucker soon after posed proudly in the rooms with his delighted kids who appeared spellbound by the new trophy, something players are sure to celebrate for days to come.

Daniel Webster was best for Yinnar, with the beaten team's three goals all singles.



Celebrating his team's victory Tarwin coach Jake Cochrane raises the 2023 Reserves premiership cup. A32_3823



Dale Lawton is named Best on Ground in Tarwin's impressive Reserves Grand Final win over Yinnar. A29_3823



Tarwin and Yinnar battle for aerial ascendency early in the Reserves Grand Final. A33_3823



Fish Creek players enjoy the moment after upsetting unbeaten Newborough in the Grand Final. From left, back, Lachy Gale, Tom Cameron, Jack Hayes, Jake Staley, Jarrod Walker (Coach) and Pat Pekin; middle, Brent Cooper (Runner), Tom Valenta, Jordan Shaw, Matt McGannon, Sam McGannon, Will Voorham, Ayden Wilson and Jake Anderson; and front, George Bovill (Trainer), Levi Cocksedge, Stewart McCooke, Matt Watkins, Roland DeBiase, Jye Stefani, Damien Scully, Blaine Coates. A40_3823

Roo's secure thirty-seventh premiership

By Rob Popplestone

SO MUCH was expected of the 2023 Grand Final between Newborough and Fish Creek, both sides with impressive performances leading into the Big Dance.

The Bulldogs had been unbeaten, but the Kangaroos had got within a kick just a fortnight prior.

The weather was near perfect, the ground excellent, but for Newborough that's unfortunately where it stopped, the premiership favourites not able to get themselves in the game at any time.

Craig Skinner, Newborough coach noting, "beaten, I know it was only four goals in the end, but we were beaten from the start, almost through to the end. It didn't really seem like we were in it at any stage."

The Kangaroos jumped out of the blocks courtesy of a two maybe three goal breeze, inaccuracy in some ways keeping the Bulldogs in the game.

Newborough stopped the bleeding by half time but didn't bridge the seventeen-point gap.

There was reason for concern, but it was not yet a crisis.

"Newborough have been the benchmark, and it was probably not a bad place for us to be coming into the game as underdogs," Fish Creek coach, Jarrod Walker said.

"With Newborough coming into the game undefeated, there was a bit of pressure on them, and they are going to be a strong team for a long time to come, but it wasn't to be their game today."

The third quarter was when the Kangaroos put some space between themselves and the Bulldogs, a thirty-six point margin was always going to be a bridge too far with just

twenty-five minutes of football remaining.

"Look I'll be honest, I'm starting to get sick of this feeling," Coach Skinner added.

"It's not what we play footy for, but I've got a very good group of footballers and outside of footy they are really good people. The whole thing is that you gotta keep turning up and doing your best and that's what we have done."

Newborough's best was not good enough on the weekend. Every door they opened was quickly closed, but that didn't stop them trying to break the door down, their last quarter, their best as they cut the margin but still fell short by just over four goals.

"When we play our best footy, we have the full twenty-one. Definitely today we had a few stand out as well - McGannon, Jack Hayes down back, a few dangerous forwards, Blaine Coates through the midfield as well, but the whole team did very well," Coach Walker stated.

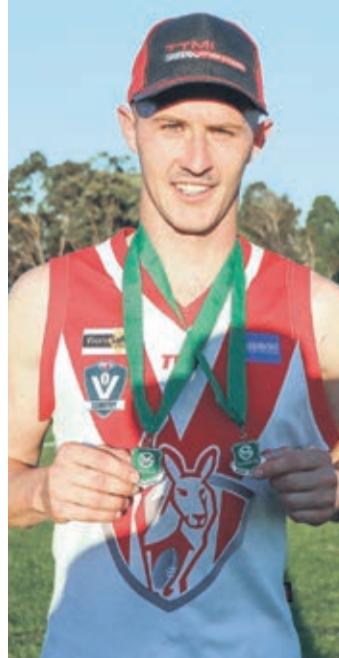
Fish Creek maintain their title as the most successful team in regional Victoria, their 2023 premiership, their thirty seventh, keeping them at the top of all clubs in country Victoria.

"I think just our physical game that we started to play through the season, through pre-season we worked on being fit and being competitive, you know we've got some skilful players, but we base our game on that pressure, and it really pays dividends in the end," Walker concluded.

Season 2023 has been quite possibly one of the more competitive years in the MGFNL's long and respected history, and Fish Creek have proved themselves worthy premiers rising above the pack of talented teams.



Fish Creek accepts the 2023 premiership cup. A42_3823



Matthew McGannon displays his premiership and best player medals after Fish Creek's Grand Final triumph against Newborough. A41_3823



Fish Creek continues to display high intensity late in its Grand Final win over Newborough. A44_3823

MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

GRAND FINAL

 **38**

 **66**

NEWBOROUGH

FISH CREEK

Newborough	0.1	2.2	3.4	5.8 (38)
Fish Creek	2.6	4.7	8.10	9.12 (66)

GOALS, Newborough: Jake Bowden, Joel Mitchell, Hayden Prestidge, Jack Robinson, Matt Rowlings 1 each

BEST: Josh Monacella, Luke Webber, Jake Bowden, Tyler Mander, Nathan Wheildon

GOALS, Fish Creek: Matthew McGannon 3, Thomas Cameron, Jai Stefani 2, Jake Staley, Willem Voorham 1 each

BEST: Blaine Coates, Jack Hayes, Matthew McGannon, Tom Valenta, Jai Stefani, Willem Voorham

RESERVES

Tarwin	2.2	5.3	5.3	8.7 (55)
Yinnar	1.1	1.3	3.5	3.5 (23)

GOALS, Tarwin: Hayden Browne 3, William Blundy, John Kilsby, Dale Lawton, Jonathan McMicking, Nick Tucker 1 each

BEST: Ben Chalmers, Stuart Kilsby, William Blundy, Harrison Cumming, Todd Lomax, Dale Lawton

GOALS, Yinnar: Jarryd Garlick, Cameron Le Page, Ryan Mayo 1 each

BEST: Daniel Webster, Mitch Renwick, Lachlan Alexander, Ryan Mayo, Gabe Olver, Thomas Russell

THIRDS

Mirboo North	2.1	4.1	5.1	6.1 (37)
Yinnar	1.1	5.1	7.6	8.8 (56)

GOALS, Mirboo North: Xavier Berquez, Max Woodall 2, Sam Bradley, Clancy Snell 1 each

BEST: Max Woodall, Jesse Chila, Oliver Budd, Blake Peters, Hayden Barnes, Sam Bradley

GOALS, Yinnar: Billy Durea 4, Luke Cheffers, Noah McCafferty, Hudson McCulloch, Clancy Mills 1 each

BEST: Luke Cheffers, Flynn Schill, Clancy Mills, Billy Durea, Jay Rogalsky, Hudson McCulloch

ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE RESULTS

GRAND FINAL

 **65**

 **35**

BULN BULN

NEERIM SOUTH

Buln Buln	3.3	5.3	5.8	9.11 (65)
Neerim South	0.1	4.3	4.3	5.5 (35)

GOALS, Buln Buln: Jake Baker, Reece

Campbell 2, Daniel Axford, Hayden Baker, Trent Baker, Matthew Gray, Mitch Nobelius 1 each

BEST: Daniel Axford, Mitch Nobelius, Matthew Gray, Jake Baker, Dylan Cann, Trent Baker

GOALS, Neerim South: Lachlan Bambridge 3, Matthew Edwards, Kody Wilson 1 each

BEST: Kody Wilson, Tyssen Morrow, Jack Blakey, Brock Dorling, Matthew Edwards, Dean Stringer

RESERVES

Neerim South	2.1	6.4	7.9	10.11 (71)
Lang Lang	2.2	2.2	3.3	3.4 (22)

GOALS, Neerim South: Rhys George 4,

Dane Fawcett, Tom Gill, Jeremiah Jones, Eddie McGillivray, Fletcher Robertson-Edgar, Tom Zeldenryk 1 each

BEST: Adam White, Aaron Mitchell, Rhys George, Fletcher Robertson-Edgar, Jarrod Meggetto, Harry Notman

GOALS, Lang Lang: Liam Hetherington, Nathan Perkins, Mitchell Tribuzi 1 each

BEST: Jesse Hand, Andrew Thompson, Liam Edgar, Rhys Harvie, Dwayne Harvey

THIRDS

Neerim South	1.3	2.4	3.5	3.6 (24)
Ellinbank	0.0	1.4	5.5	7.9 (51)

GOALS, Neerim South: Kai Mounsey,

Chad Owen, Patrick Sheehan 1 each

BEST: Chad Owen, Jay Ladson, Kyson Cornwall, Isaac Guy, Nate Chandler, Xavier Muir

GOALS, Ellinbank: Joel Armstrong 3, Jack Champion 2, Liam Lisle, Ronan McNamara 1 each

BEST: Patrick Alger, Thomas Bingham, Rick Rosser, Jack Champion, Joel Armstrong, Jonty Kennedy

FOURTHS

Ellinbank	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.6 (24)
Neerim South	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2 (2)

GOALS, Ellinbank: Hugh Cunningham,

Vincent Onslow, Luke Rollinson 1 each

BEST: Joel Armstrong, Logan Joyce, Ayden Clarke, Archie Martel, Nate Murphy, Charlie Armour

GOALS, Neerim South: Blair Loft, Kyson Cornwall, Keegan Friedlander, Max Williams, Riley Morehu, Bryson Stephens



2023 WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION GRAND FINAL



Bailey Hennessy launches from the sideline. Ns043823



Phillip Island's under 16s West Gippsland League premiership players from left, Jeremy Kelly, Xavier Williams, Benjamin Chihotski, Noah Williams, Bailey Hennessy, Jack Kennedy, Isaac Savona, Jack Briggs, Oliver Duggan, Charlie O'Garey, Charles Martus, George McCausland, Max Taylor, William Hill, Harry Arceo, Cade Wragg, Parker Trappett, Cooper Walton, Lachlan Eastwood, Tommy Newman, William Peppard, Blake Murphy, Yianni Caffieri, Jack Larsson, Jasper Cashman, Finn O'Brien, Heath Womersley, Archie Ross, Max Kelsey, Harrison Carlon, Joel Robinson. Photos: Nick Sinis

Bulldogs hold onto their U16's title

KOO WEE RUP Football Netball Club turned it on, on Saturday, when the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition played its final act of 2023, with a day of blockbuster Grand Finals.

In beaming sunshine, the momentous and eventful day began with a scintillating match up in the under 16s between reigning premiers Phillip Island and their challengers Warragul.

Conditions for the entire day were immaculate, with only a slight breath of wind to open proceedings in the fourths where it was underdog Dusties getting away to a

hot start.

The boys from Warragul slammed on three first quarter goals and kept the 'Dogs to just one, to take a 12-point lead at the first change, led beautifully by their skipper and 15-year-old prodigy Cody Templeton.

As every good side does though, the undefeated Bulldogs came roaring back into the contest, booting three goals to none in the second term to wrestle back the momentum and take the lead at half-time, albeit by just eight points.

Following this, it seemed as though Phillip Island may

pull away and pour on a big lead, but the Industrial's lads weren't having that, coming out and dominating the third quarter.

Despite winning a huge majority of possession and holding the ball in their scoring arc for almost the entire quarter, Warragul just could not find a way to kick a goal, having their hearts broken late, when the Islanders kicked truly in the dying moments of the term.

The Dusties never stopped fighting, but a 13-point three quarter time deficit proved too much, as the Doggies' party got started in the final

quarter, kicking three goals to one to seal the title.

Tom Logan kicked two majors in the loss and fought hard alongside Benjamin Allsop and Jarrod West.

But it was again the Islanders' day, as Finn O'Brien led the way for Yianni Caffieri and Oliver Duggan who all contributed, the latter with three goals.

Jack Briggs had the best performance though, winning the medal for best afield.

Congratulations Phillip Island, the 2023 West Gippsland Under 16s premiers, and now, back-to-back under 16s premiers!

The Bulldog's swarm after Oliver Duggan sinks another. Ns063823



Max Taylor takes the mark for the Dogs Under 16s. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.



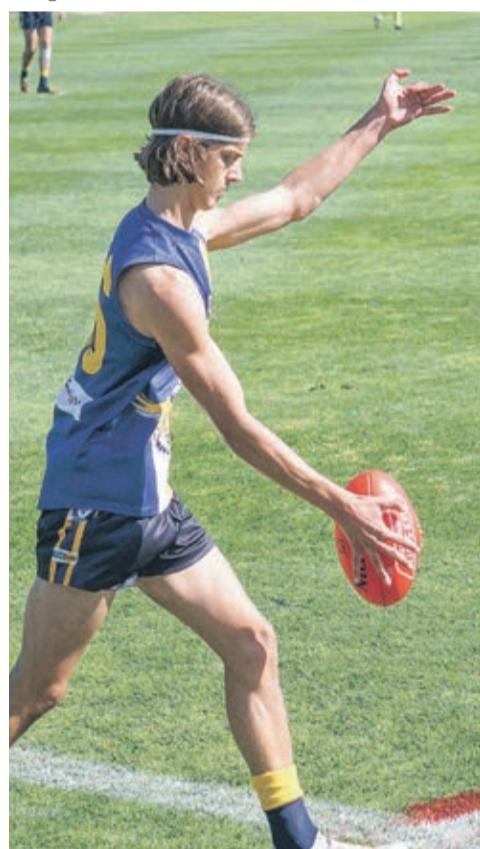
Phillip Island secured the win on Saturday in a 54 to 27 showdown against Warragul Industrials. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.



2023 WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION GRAND FINAL



Blake Green and Noah Muller contend for possession. Ns123823



IK's Jobe Scapin takes his time before booting it. Ns133823



Inverloch-Kongwak's William Turner was strong on the field against Phillip Island. Ns113823



Inverloch-Kongwak under 18s West Gippsland League premiership players from left, Luca Gleeson, Jack McNally, Finn Wilkinson, Harry Butcher, Cade Brown, Oscar Ward, Callum McLeod, Jai Williamson, Luke Williams, Bayleigh Cowell, William Turner, Charlie Dawson, Tate Rigby, Callan O'Flynn, Zak Box, Patrick Dwyer, Isaac Seuren, Jed Rosenow, Augustus Finsterer, James Rowe, Rem Dal Pozzo, Jasper Cousins, Blake Green, Jobe Scapin, Jarvis Harvey, Charlie Shaddock and Jordan Bertacco. Photos: Nick Sinis

Sea Eagles thirds go back to back

AFTER seeing their club claim the ultimate success in the fourths, the supporters from the kennel got to see the under 18s in action as reigning premiers Inverloch-Kongwak took on Phillip Island.

In a division that has improved once again in 2023, many onlookers saw a fast and extremely impressive game, where the ball went end to end with pace and precision and the pressure was high.

Following a few nervous opening minutes, thirds leading goal kicker Jarvis Harvey got the major scoring underway with his first goal.

The 'Dogs were able to reply relatively quickly though through Jack Johnston and things heated up once again just before quarter time.

The Bulldogs took a slim two-point lead into the first break and looked to hold the momentum going into their huddle up and about, even though both sides had only converted two of their combined eight shots at goal.

This inaccuracy continued in the second, as the wind began to pick up but wasn't really favouring either end, instead swirling around the ground.



The trophy is held high by Inverloch's under 18s. Ns103823

The Sea Eagles had most of the play and looked the aggressors at the coal face, but missed key opportunity after key opportunity, keeping Phillip Island in the game, when they should've been put away.

At the main break, the teams had only added two behinds each to their scores, and the margin stayed at two points in favour of the red, white and blue.

Box, kept the 'Dogs to just one behind.

Their dominance in the premiership quarter meant the reigning premiers held an 11-point lead with one quarter to play, looking to hold on and bring home another flag.

And that's exactly what they did, holding off a brave and potent Phillip Island charge and stopping them in their tracks, the Sea Eagles kept their spirited opponents scoreless in the term.

They also booted two goals of their own, as Harvey finished with two and co-skipper Will Turner sealed it with one of his own to kick off the celebrations.

Beau Davies and Noah Muller were standouts for the Island, but their fans were unable to celebrate a double delight.

Harry Butcher was named best on ground in a monster performance in defence as his side, as they had all season, showed belief and composure beyond their years and proved they are a powerhouse in the junior division.

Congratulations to Inverloch-Kongwak, the 2023 West Gippsland Under 18s premiers, and now, back-to-back premiers in the division!

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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION - GRAND FINAL

Seniors: Inverloch-Kongwak **10.15.75** d Phillip Island **6.4.40**

Reserves: Inverloch-Kongwak **9.8.62** d Tooradin-Dalmore **1.9.15**

U18: Inverloch-Kongwak **5.6.36** d Phillip Island **1.7.13**

U16: Phillip Island **8.6.54** d Warragul Industrials **4.3.27**

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE - PRELIMINARY FINAL

Seniors: Leongatha **10.13.73** d Moe **5.10.40**

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Barry Withers juggles an awkward ball position. Ns193823



IK's Lucas McMillan takes a great mark under pressure. Ns173823



The Bayles CFA firetruck had a tight squeeze to battle the blaze.

Grassfire threatened to upset final

AN INTENSE but short grassfire had the potential to cause a significant threat to the final's action at Koo Wee Rup Recreation Reserve on Sunday.

The fire began during the reserves football match of the West Gippsland League grand final, spreading in trees and shrubs behind the football oval right next to hundreds of attendees with large plumes of smoke engulfing the surrounding area.

Fortunately, local CFA trucks and fire-fighters were quick to arrive on scene and put the fire out within minutes.

It was certainly a close call!



Inverloch-Kongwak's reserves premiership players from left, Barry Withers, Xavier Hughes, Dylan Taylor, Matt McCaughan, Campbell Scott, Zachary Caughey, Harry McInnes, Lachlan Crook, Todd Mackie, Josh Williams, Jacob Strickland, Jamie-Son Soumilas, Liam O'Neill, James Scott, Andre Toussaint, Tyler Leonard, Lachlan Johnson, Emmet Taranto, Corey Casey, Jasper Kempster, Lucas McMillan and Malachy O'Flynn. Photos: Nick Sinis.

Blazing glory for IK reserves

AS ONE Sea Eagles side headed into the change rooms to belt out the song, another emerged to take their place in Grand Final history, as Inverloch-Kongwak faced off with Tooradin-Dalmore in the Reserves decider.

As the wind picked up once again, the fancied Seagulls took to the field, sporting their incredible recent record, which only includes two losses in almost three years of play.

This didn't matter to the Inverloch-Kongwak side though, who, in simple terms, blew them out of the park.

From the opening bounce, this battle was all gold, white and blue as the Sea Eagles just appeared hungrier, faster and stronger, despite giving up clear size advantages across the ground, and being the clear underdog.

They took an extraordinary 21-0 lead into the first break, disallowing the reigning premiers any decent possession inside forward 50.

This defensive masterclass continued in the second quarter, led by their inspirational leader Barry Withers, allowing just three Seagull behinds.

In tough conditions with



Inverloch-Kongwak reserves pile in to relish in their final's cup glory. Ns163823

the wind, IK were able to add another major, as Lachlan Crook and big man Campbell Scott wreaked havoc in the middle.

At half-time, the lead was Inverloch-Kongwak's, to the tune of 24-points, their performance so hot on the field that a grassfire ignited behind

the hill in the nearby Koo Wee Rup bushland.

This literal fire wasn't enough to quite ignite the boys in red and green though, who still appeared to be shellshocked after they were jumped early.

Play continued on as a 20-metre tree was engulfed

in flames and the minor premiers were able to finally kick their first goal of the match, but two more to IK meant they were still up against it.

The Sea Eagles held a commanding 34-point lead at the final change and fully deserved that margin, playing seniors level football from the outset.

Their ball movement, set ups and structures were masterfully sound, impressing the thousands in attendance, they booted three more goals in the final term as the 'Gulls went wayward, booting just six behinds.

Corey Provan and Blair Robinson were gallant for Tooradin-Dalmore, as was their lone goal kicker Joshua Trezise.

But the stars of the show were livewire forward Zach Caughey, who finished with a bag of five goals, Crook who was mega in the middle of the ground and the big man in the middle, Campbell Scott was awarded best on ground honours having an outstanding game in the ruck.

Congratulations Inverloch-Kongwak, the 2023 West Gippsland Reserves premiers!



2023 WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION GRAND FINAL



Phillip Island's Mark Griffin just misses as Inverloch-Kongwak's Taite Cumming looks to secure the mark. Ns243823

Sea Eagles seal the deal

From page 60

Unfortunately for the two-time premiers though, they had met their match, as the Sea Eagles shone under pressure and avoided another miraculous Bulldogs fourth quarter comeback.

Everything stemmed from the tremendous performance of the IK defence, which really has been their backbone all year, and their strength allowed Will Hams to go completely off the chain in the second half, gathering an insane number of possessions both inside the contest and out, lacing out teammates and generating run for fun.

Of course, it had to be that man Will who sealed it too, with the goal of the day, on the run, tucked up against the left-hand boundary, sliding a left foot dagger through the middle of the big sticks for his third, it was truly his day.

The Inverloch-Kongwak co-skipper Toby Mahoney put the icing on the cake on the siren, booting his first goal and covering his side in premiership glory.

The injury gods were against the Island as they lost their captain Jack Taylor to a head knock in the fourth, as Pedersen returned to the field but battled with his knee injury.

Will Hams was undisputedly announced best afield, in a massive showing from the recruit in the 35-point win.

Congratulations to Inverloch-Kongwak, the 2023 West Gippsland Senior Premiers!

A special congratulations is also in order to Jaz Walker and the truly extraordinary Inverloch-Kongwak netballers, the club winning the C grade premiership and clean sweeping the competition in the A grade division to claim their second straight title, making that a truly remarkable and unprecedented five premierships on the day for the club!



Bulldog's coach Cam Pedersen takes the grab despite extreme pressure from Clinton McCaughan in Saturday's Grand Final. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION RESULTS

GRAND FINAL



75



40

INVERLOCH-K

PHILLIP ISLAND

Inverloch-K 3.3 4.9 7.12 10.15 (75)

Phillip Island 0.0 1.2 4.3 6.4 (40)

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Will Hams 3, Nicholas Baltas, Taite Cumming, Clinton McCaughan, Archer Reid, Lachlan Scott, Oscar Toussaint 1 each

BEST: Will Hams, Ethan Park, Dylan Clark, Andrew Soumilas, Nicholas Baltas, Shem Hawking

GOALS, Phillip Island: Max Blake 2, Hayden Bruce, Orlando Kane Gillard, Travis Woodfield 1 each

BEST: Mark Griffin, Daniel Pearce, Jack Taylor, Billy Taylor, Damien Holmes, Max Blake

RESERVES

Tooradin-Dal 0.0 0.3 1.3 1.9 (15)

Inverloch-K 3.3 4.3 6.7 9.8 (62)

GOALS, Tooradin-Dal: Joshua Trezise 1

BEST: Corey Provan, Blair Robinson, Brett Coffey, Jake O'Donnell, Joshua Trezise, Adam Galea

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Zachary Caughey 5, Harry McInnes, Jamieson Soumilas, Dylan Taylor, Andre Toussaint 1 each

BEST: Lachlan Crook, Zachary Caughey, Andre Toussaint, Tyler Leonard, Barry Withers, Xavier Hughes

THIRDS

Inverloch-K 1.2 1.4 3.6 5.6 (36)

Phillip Island 1.4 1.6 1.7 1.7 (13)

GOALS, Inverloch-K: Jarvis Harvey 2, Rem Dal Pozzo, Jack McNally, William Turner 1 each

BEST: Harry Butcher, Cade Brown, Zak Box, Jobe Scapin, William Turner, Jordan Bertacco

GOALS, Phillip Island: Jack Johnston 1

BEST: Beau Davies, Finn Cashman, Zac Walker, Noah Muller, Leo Savona

FOURTHS

Phillip Island 1.1 4.4 5.4 8.6 (54)

Warragul Ind 3.1 3.2 3.3 4.3 (27)

GOALS, Phillip Island: Oliver Duggan 3, Jack Briggs, Benjamin Chihotski, Charlie O'Garey, Max Taylor, Heath Womersley 1 each

BEST: Jack Briggs, Finn O'Brien, Yianni Caffieri, Oliver Duggan, Charlie O'Garey, Jasper Cashman

GOALS, Warragul Ind: Tom Logan 2, Thomas Cornwall, Cody Templeton 1 each

BEST: Benjamin Allsop, Jarrod West, Thomas Vickery, Cody Templeton, Joshua Lee, Stephen Oling



Phillip Island Football Netball Club

(West Gippsland Football Netball Competition)

Seeking applicants for the following positions to join our senior coaching panel - led by Cameron Pedersen - for 2024

• Senior Development Coach (Reserves)

- Under 18 Head Coach
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Applications should be made in writing by October 1, 2023 to:

Football Operations Secretary
Phillip Island Football Club
PO Box 541, Cowes Vic.3922
footy@pifnc.com.au

Expressions of interest and to obtain selection criteria contact Phil Bourke on: 0418 381 749 or footy@pifnc.com.au

Email your reports to news@sgst.com.au



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The victorious Grand Final Premiership Senior Football and A Grade Netball teams. Photo: Rob Carew - Pakenham Gazette.

Sea Eagles seal the deal

AFTER an eventful morning and early afternoon, and an extinguished fire, the main event could begin.

For the first time in the current West Gippsland competition's history, Inverloch-Kongwak and Phillip Island would do battle for the ultimate prize.

IK gunning to even the ledger at two premierships apiece, while the Islanders were looking for their third.

The build-up and anticipation for this Grand Final was near indescribable, but when things finally got underway it was the experienced Bulldogs who dominated the opening minutes.

They failed to get any decent scoring shots away though, and this was really the story of the

By Aiden Box

day, as Shem Hawking and Tate Short got their intercepting eyes in, and IK got themselves going.

Shaking off the nerves they found Semi Final star Taite Cumming for the first major, then their big 200+ centimetre inclusion Archer Reid got involved.

The projected AFL first round pick began to prove a big headache for Cameron Pedersen and his men, looking exceptional on the lead, taking grabs in the air and using the ball equally as well on the ground.

Just as their Reserves had in their decider, the IK Senior squad shocked their opponents out of the gates, dominating clearances through the work of

ruckman Marcus Toussaint and star midfielders Andrew Soumillas, Ethan Park and Will Hams, shockingly holding the Bulldogs scoreless in the opening term.

The wind became a real factor in the second quarter, howling towards the netball courts at the Koo Wee Rup Recreation Reserve, misdirecting kick after kick, sending almost all of IK's forward drives out on the full.

The Island couldn't capitalise on the Sea Eagles atrocious skills though, failing to move the ball past Short, Hawking and the stingy IK defence.

The favourites were also dealt a huge blow, losing Reid to a finger injury after a marking contest inside 50.

The second quarter was an

old-fashioned tug of war match, but both teams were able to add to their tallies and the 'Dogs got on the board, as the minor premiers' lead stood at 25-points at the main break.

Despite their continuous inaccuracy in front of goal, things opened up for both teams in the third, as the Island found surges of momentum to get themselves going through the bravery of Hayden Bruce, who was returning from a serious facial injury, and their inspirational leader Cameron Pedersen who continued to play through an apparent serious knee injury.

Though the Bulldogs just couldn't reel the lead back in, they held their heads up, chasing and pressuring IK at every opportunity.

Tom Hams' had led his side brilliantly, ordering his troops to change angles, run and carry the football and link up with handball, which worked perfectly to cut through the Doggies defence and create opportunities for their forwards.

Daniel Pearce, Billy Taylor and Kai McKenzie were deeply inspired by their fallen coach's final address of the season at three quarter time and came out firing in the last quarter of the season.

The Bulldogs kicked the first of the final term, and though they still trailed by 21-points and were without the services of their superstar in Pedersen, they still believed, such is the undeniable nature of their club.

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