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PUBLIC MENACES

- Kids walk free after outrageous incident on our roads

"THEY flew past me at well over 200kms."
"Nearly got killed by one when they overtook three cars and nearly had a head-on with me."

"The black Alfa passed me on double lines, round a blind corner at probably 150 near Nyora."

That's just some of the feedback on the Sentinel-Times' Facebook last week after police arrested four youths, three of them from the local area, involved in a fearful incident on South Gippsland and Bass Coast highways last Thursday morning, September 19.

"Well done to the police for keeping us all safe. Those people could have killed someone or themselves."

That message was typical of the strong support for police, but also an indication of concern about what else might have happened.

The incident, which started with two stolen cars in the Melbourne suburbs last week, came to a dramatic conclusion in the middle of Wonthaggi's busiest intersection around 11am last Thursday when police stopped the cars involved and arrested the

four male youths, two aged 14 and two aged 15 years.

Three of the offenders are from South Gippsland and one from the Latrobe Valley, at least one of them involved in a series of aggravated burglaries and car thefts in the Leongatha, Inverloch and Cape Paterson areas.

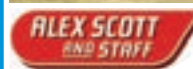
The youths have since been charged with a range of serious offences, with three released on bail and one remanded in custody.

Continued page 3

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Public menaces: Kids walk free after outrageous incident on our roads

From page 1

Interviewed shortly after police had arrested the youths, Senior Sergeant Jason Hullick of the Wonthaggi Uniform Branch said the whole incident is believed to have started with the theft of two cars in the Melbourne metropolitan area – an Alfa Romeo stolen from the Yarraville area two days earlier, and a Mercedes stolen from Newport overnight on Wednesday, September 18.

Senior Sergeant Hullick said police believe the cars and their occupants were involved in a series of crimes, including aggravated burglaries, thefts of property and the theft of petrol in the metro area before they were spotted travelling in convoy in the Narre Warren area on Thursday morning prior to 9am.

Police, he said, have attempted to intercept the vehicles, but the drivers failed to pull over and due to the risks involved police disengaged.

The Police airwing was deployed and located both vehicles in the Pakenham area and followed them.

The cars split up, with the Alfa headed towards Korumburra on the South Gippsland Highway before doing a U-turn on the west side of Korumburra and heading back towards Melbourne.

Locals reported seeing the police helicopter in the Loch area at the time.

At the roundabout near the intersection of the South Gippsland Highway and the Bass Highway at Lang Lang, they've turned and travelled



Police detain one of the four offenders at the conclusion of the incident in Wonthaggi.

towards Phillip Island.

The driver of the Alfa had U-turned again at San Remo, shadowed by police, and headed towards Wonthaggi.

Again, members of the San Remo community reported seeing the helicopter circling overhead.

Bass Coast Highway Patrol officers successfully deployed stop sticks at Dalyston.

They were deployed again near the 20 Shaft Mine Memorial outside Wonthaggi by Wonthaggi Uniform Officers, before it all came a head outside the KFC store in McKenzie Street at about 11am.

The Alfa was headed for a rendezvous with the other stolen car, the Mercedes, at the

intersection of McKenzie and Graham streets (Bass Highway) and the two occupants of the Alfa have left their car and attempted to get into the Mercedes but all four occupants of the two cars were stopped by police with arrests made at the scene.

There was also a minor collision with a police car at the location.

The four offenders were then interviewed by Casey Criminal Investigation Unit Police at the Wonthaggi Police Station during the afternoon on Thursday.

Speaking with the Sentinel-Times, police were asked to comment on public reports that the offenders drove the cars in an extremely dangerous manner on local roads during the three-hour ordeal.

Officers noted the tracked vehicles reached speeds of 150-160km/h with CCTV captured by Police Air Wing to form part of the criminal investigation case that includes multiple dangerous driving offences. Police have also requested any witnesses with dash cam or CCTV footage to come forward to Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit (5671 4100) or Crimestoppers (1800 333 000).

Concern has also been expressed about young criminals, some repeated offenders, being released on bail.

"Well done, now let's hope the court system doesn't just let them all walk with a slap on the wrist, wasting your time, and allowing the public to be in danger once more."

Kilcunda getting back to a new normal

KILCUNDA is getting back to a new sort of normal this week.

On Friday morning, September 20, the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning turned on the traffic lights at the pedestrian crossing in the middle of Kilcunda.

And finally, it's safe for people to cross the highway from the busy Bass Coast Rail Trail and the popular Kilcunda Oceanview Holiday Park to the shops and the Killy Pub on the other side. Phew!

And what a view!

It would be hard to imagine a more spectacular view as you safely cross the road, looking over the magnificent ocean vista along the rugged Kilcunda Surf Beach.

Turning on the lights was a major milestone in the \$7.8 million Kilcunda safety and access improvement project.

And while there's been plenty of pain for the retailers, who've taken the opportunity to do some renovating themselves, it's all finally starting to look shipshape again.

Contractors have completed road widening and drainage works for the westbound lane towards Melbourne and similar works on the eastbound lane are well advanced.

Underground works to prepare for new street lighting and new pedestrian signals have also been completed as have upgrades to existing street lighting.

Traffic management will be in place periodically but pretty much down to landscaping and finishing touches at this stage.

- The upgrades include:
- Pedestrian-operated traffic lights opposite Kilcunda General Store to improve pedestrian safety and access to and from the Bass Coast Rail Trail and main retail area in Kilcunda.
 - Increased car parking with 39 new car parks being created (including two disabled car parks).
 - Dedicated right-turn lane into Kilcunda Foreshore Reserve and Bass Highway Service Road to improve safety and access for road users.
 - Dedicated left and right-turn lanes into the caravan park/holiday retreat entrance, Kilcunda Ridge Road, Peppermint Road, Carew Street.
 - New concrete footpath connecting the pedestrian-operated traffic signals facility with the Bass Coast Rail Trail.
 - Pedestrian refuge on Bass Highway at Bass Coast Rail Trail crossing point.
 - New bus stop facilities each side of Bass Highway.
 - New street lighting to improve pedestrian safety and visibility for both pedestrians and road users.
 - Painted median/separation of opposing traffic from west of Kilcunda Ridge Road to west of Ridgeway Road, to reduce the risk of crashes.

Korumburra Senior Citizens an election issue

OPENED in November last year, at a cost of \$7 million, it seems that the Korumburra Community Hub, and more specifically the refusal by the local senior citizens club to embrace the facility looks set to be a major election issue in Strzelecki ward.

Frankly, apart from some bleatings by one of the candidates in another local publication, there isn't much else going on.

President/treasurer of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Janne Grenon has invited the five Strzelecki candidates to a 'Meet the Candidates' opportunity on Thursday, October 3,

at 2pm-4pm and/or 6.30pm-8.30pm at which the issue of the seniors' old clubrooms is sure to be raised.

"We'll give each of them the opportunity to make a statement but it will be mostly public questions and answers," Mrs Grenon said.

"I imagine the clubrooms and the hub will come up. It's still an issue for us. We never should have been made to leave," she said.

Mrs Grenon said members of the seniors club had no intention of using the hub "because it's too dangerous" but she didn't know if using the old

clubrooms might be reviewed after the election.

"We say we own it, so I don't know how they think they can get rid of it."

Mrs Grenon said there were plenty of issues including the shire's high level of rates, the state of the roads and lots of other things.

She said the sessions would be convened by an independent chair.

Following the close of nominations and the ballot draw last week, 17 candidates have emerged for the nine vacancies on council. They are:

Coastal Promontory (5):

Emma McKay, Scott Rae, Steve Finlay, Sarah Gilligan, Michael Poore.

Strzelecki Ward (5): Nathan Hersey, Jennifer Keerie, John Kennedy, Jim, Forbes, Bron Beach.

Tarwin Valley Ward (7): Clare Williams, Brad Snell, Don Hill, John Schelling, Kathleen Murray, Aaron Taylor, Rosemary Cousin.

Voting packs will be sent out from Monday, October 7 with voting closing on Friday, October 25 at 6pm. There's a \$96 fine for not voting if eligible. You can check your enrolment on the VEC website.

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Rain, easing later.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: SW 20-30km/h
8° 14°



THUR | Sep 26
Cloudy.
Wind AM: SW 15-25km/h
Wind PM: Light
7° 14°



FRI | Sep 27
Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light
5° 17°



SAT | Sep 28
Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light
7° 21°



SUN | Sep 29
Showers.
Wind AM: N-NE 20-30km/h
Wind PM: NW 15-20km/h
12° 19°

Blinky Bill browses Meeniyan IGA

MEENIYAN IGA owner Kaelene Shervell has become a media celebrity since a koala browsed the store on Monday, chatting about the experience on ABC radio, Channel 10 news, the Today Show and with The Guardian and the Sentinel-Times.

"I've even had contact from a French newspaper asking for permission to use my photos," Kaelene said, with the now famous koala pictured on the Meeniyan IGA Facebook page as he checks out the product range.

Kaelene was pleased to see the good news story putting smiles on people's faces, and while the koala only browsed for about 20 minutes, he fitted in plenty of exploring.

"It was a long 20 minutes because he didn't want to leave," Kaelene said of the visit from the modern-day Blinky Bill, explaining she was concerned about his safety and not wanting to stress him out.

"I was more stressed than him," she concluded.

The intrepid marsupial spent

time behind the counter, being lured out by staff member Jye Davey who brandished gum leaves.

However, getting the furry browser out of the store proved a real challenge as he was intent on wandering further into the shop.

"We were using the little trolley to try and herd him back out the door but he was rushing to get past," Kaelene said.

"He took a little tour down the aisle and back up again, then came over to the water bottles and had a look at the soft toys." A close inspection of dried herbs and spices also appealed, with a climb up the display rack.

The koala was encouraged to move onto a platform ladder that was on wheels.

"We slowly moved it away and then we wheeled it out the front door and around the back of the shop and he disembarked," Kaelene said.

The koala found his way into a neighbour's gum tree after being kept safe from cars.

Kaelene said staff, customers

and other local business operators worked together to determine the best approach, with a customer contacting a wildlife expert who provided advice, including not crowding the koala or trying to pick him up.

She was relieved he made it back where he belongs, saying the visit was the first such experience at the store and hopefully the last for the sake of the wildlife.

The wildlife rescue worker arrived after the koala was removed from the store, confirming it is male and judging by its size likely young.

While nobody thought to name the visitor during his time in the store, the 'modern day Blinky Bill' tag was suggested in a social media post.

Kaelene joked on ABC Regional Radio about having a naming competition but is happy to leave the koala in peace in his own environment.

'Blinky' proved an indecisive shopper, leaving empty-handed, perhaps having failed to spot any eucalyptus products.



While there are no soft toy koalas, something is clearly of interest.

New jetty for Mahers Landing nears completion

A FOUR-million-dollar upgrade of the Mahers Landing jetty on Anderson Inlet is almost finished with workmen putting the finishing touches on the new jetty and boat ramp, and asphaltting the carpark.

The whole structure has been elevated to increase the slope of the ramp providing access to deeper water and a greater range of tides.

A major new feature is an L-shaped jetty to provide a spot for boats to tie up.

Non-slip decking has been used on the pedestrian ramps and rubber fenders are being fitted to the jetty.

A new toilet block has been added to the carpark and drainage works are now complete despite challenging weather during construction.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale believes the upgrades at Mahers Landing will make a big difference for local and visiting boaters, windsurfers and kayakers.

Mahers Landing is an all-tide facility that will help take pressure off the busy Inverloch boat ramp which is due for maintenance.

The Inverloch ramp will need to be closed while work is underway but will remain open for the school holidays.

Bass Coast Shire expects work on the Inverloch jetty will be finished before Christmas.

To maintain access to Anderson Inlet the upgraded Mahers Landing ramp will be completed before the Inverloch project begins and is set to reopen at close of business on Thursday, September 26.



Chris, Andy, Shaun, Andy and Euen completing the multi-million-dollar Mahers Landing upgrade. B13_3924

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Bauer, Temby, Robertson win Bass ballot draw

THE names are in, the flag has dropped, and the race is on for seats on the Bass Coast Shire Council and three candidates have already had a win of sorts in the ballot draw staged on Wednesday last week.

They are sitting councillor Ron Bauer in the Island ward, Caitlyn Robertson in the Bunurong ward and Jon Temby in the Western Port ward.

All three have drawn the number one position on the ballot, worth upwards of five per cent of the vote, especially among those electors who don't know the candidates but simply want to avoid the \$96 fine.

Ron Bauer was delighted when VEC Election Manager Graeme Patterson hit the button on the ballot draw computer and his name shuffled to the top with the number 1 beside his name.

"Yay. Does that mean I win a new car?"

He doesn't get a car but the top position on the ballot could prove crucial in an election where there are nine candidates vying for the three Island ward positions on council.

"It used to be worth five per cent or even 10 per cent once but people take a lot more interest in who they are voting for these days, so maybe three per cent but I'm not complaining," said Ron after the ballot draw.

"Much more important is the very strong expression of community sentiment in Cowes last night (meet the candidates' night) that people want the council to get on with developing the sports precinct as a matter of urgency," he said.

Jon Temby of West Creek (not Tenby Point!) was just as pleased to have drawn the top position in Western Port ward.

"We've been coming to the area since I was six or seven years old and moved here permanently when I retired. People have urged me to run because of my professional experience on boards and in risk management here and overseas. I think I've got something to bring to the table."



After the ballot draw at Bass Coast are back. Glenda Minty, Darrell Sliva, Meg Edwards, Nikole Schellekens, Jon Temby, Prudence Scholtes, Brian Robinson, and front, Ron Bauer and Rochelle Halstead.



Jon Temby drew the number 1 position on the ballot for the Western Port ward and will be looking to represent his (almost) namesake, Tenby Point after the October council elections.

With previous experience in farming, Jon also has a strong environmental bent as a member of the Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group and also a recently recruited member of the Save Western Port Woodlands Group.

Bunurong ward candidate Caitlyn Robertson was also pleased.

"Delighted, of course, but I think it's just terrific to see so many people passionate about making this area the best it can be. I'm really impressed to see nine

candidates, all with something to offer, prepared to put their hand up and work to make Bass Coast a better place. It can only be a good thing," said Caitlyn this week.

While much of the tradition has gone out of the computer-generated ballot draw these days, election manager Graeme Patterson had one of time-honoured 'bingo ball' style machines on standby, with 10 wooden balls in case the computer failed.

"These haven't been used in state elections since 1999

and council elections since 2008 but we've got one on standby in case the computer system fails," said Mr Patterson.

It didn't fail and the ballot draw in each of the three wards came up on the screen in a matter of seconds.

The candidates in Bunurong ward, covering most of Wonthaggi, Cape Patterson, Inverloch and rural areas east of Wonthaggi are (in ballot order): 1. Caitlyn Robertson. 2. Brett Tessari. 3. Meg Edwards. 4. Prudence Scholtes. 5. Brian Robinson. 6. Eddie Halajian. 7. Mat Morgan. 8. Leticia Laing. 9. Les Larke.

The candidates in Island ward, covering all of Phillip Island are (in ballot order): 1. Ron Bauer. 2. Darrell Silva. 3. Marnie Chadwick. 4. Tracey Bell. 5. David Rooks. 6. John Trigt. 7. Tim O'Brien.

The candidates in Western Port ward, covering North Wonthaggi, Dalyston, Kilcunda, San Remo, the Waterline towns and rural areas from Archies Creek and Lance Creek to the outskirts of Lang Lang and Loch are (in ballot order): 1. Jon Temby. 2. Rachelle Halstead. 3. Glenda Minty. 4. Brian O'Farrell. 5. Nikole Schellekens. 6. Janice Thompson.

Fortunate three at top of South Gipps ballot

THREE South Gippsland Shire Council candidates are likely to benefit from the good fortune of being drawn in the number one position on the ballot paper for their respective wards at last Wednesday's ballot draw.

New Coastal Promontory Ward candidate Emma McKay, along with councillors of the last three years Nathan Hersey (Strzelecki Ward) and John Schelling (Tarwin Valley Ward) form that trio.

Top spot on the ballot is estimated to be worth upwards of five per cent of the vote.

John dismissed the significance of who is listed where on the ballot paper.

"I don't think it makes a lot of difference; people should vote for who they think is the best candidate," he said of how voters determine their preferences.

The passionate sports fan, who loves watching matches throughout Gippsland, is the president of the Leongatha & District Cricket Association.

John identified a key challenge for councillors that will continue into the next term.

"We have to fiercely protect our agricultural land," he said, stressing that renewable energy generation projects should not come at the cost of losing prime producing land.

Emma is chuffed to be at the top of the Promontory Ward ballot.

"It's very fortunate," she said, adding with a touch of humour, "It's in tune with 'Vote 1 for Emma McKay'".

Describing herself as a social person, she is currently secretary of both the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre hall committee and the Foster Arts Music & Drama Association (FAMDA).

Emma identified helping to maintain council's financial stability as a key priority should she be elected.

"Financial stability is an important thing for all councils, as that in turn supports thriving communities and enables the council to provide services such as responding to emergencies," she said.

"We need to find new and innovative ways to ensure people are supported."

With the Sentinel-Times only requesting comment from the three candidates yesterday afternoon, Nathan was unable to respond by deadline with his thoughts on being allotted the number one spot in Strzelecki Ward.

The highland cattle breeder, who has served as mayor and deputy mayor, says in his candidate statement on the VEC site that council must support its communities and continually improve the quality of services.

"Our local economic growth will be driven by innovative agriculture, tourism and industry," Nathan stated.

The order of candidates on the ballot paper for the Coastal Promontory Ward are: 1. Emma McKay. 2. Steve Finlay. 3. Sarah Gilligan. 4. Scott Rae. 5. Michael Poore.

For the Strzelecki Ward (ballot order): 1. Nathan Hersey. 2. Bron Beach. 3. Jenni Keerie. 4. Jim Forbes. 5. John Kennedy.

For the Tarwin Valley Ward (ballot order): 1. John Schelling. 2. Clare Williams. 3. Rosemary Cousin. 4. Brad Snell. 5. Kathleen Murray. 6. Aaron Taylor. 7. Don Hill.

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FOR BUNURONG WARD



Rescind the 'BURT' strategy, they say

WHAT is the 'BURT Strategy'? Well, you may ask. BURT stands for 'Bass Coast Unlocking Regional Tourism Strategy' and it is being blamed for the decision by the Victorian Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny, in June this year, to overturn an earlier VCAT decision and give the go-ahead to the development of a \$50 million new National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Newhaven.

But it has taken since the strategy was adopted by the Bass Coast Shire Council meeting in Council on March 15, 2023 to realise the implications for the environment and for farming, especially on Phillip Island.

At a meeting called by the Phillip Island Conservation Society at St Philips Hall in Cowes last Friday night, a packed hall almost unanimously passed a motion calling on the council to rescind its BURT policy.

However, they are unlikely to be able to do so until after the new council is installed.

President of the Bass Coast Branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation, Bill Cleeland was among those at the meeting.

"Quite a few of us are concerned that what happened with the Vietnam Veterans Museum could happen elsewhere and you'll end up with a \$50 million tourist development on the farm next door," said Mr Cleeland. "I don't think that's what the shire council intended at all with this policy but going by the reasons given by the Minister, for allowing the museum to go ahead, because it was in line with the BURT, there's got to be a risk that the policy will be used again to support more inappropriate developments on farming land."

Mr Cleeland said the policy was a particular threat to Phillip Island, where the demand for tourism developments was felt most, but it could also clear the way to incompatible developments elsewhere in the shire.

"No one is against farm stay type businesses and smaller service businesses establishing in farming areas, but you don't want to see one of these big developments plonked on the farm next door because of this policy," he said.

The strategy was also a subject of discussion at a candidates' forum in Cowes on Tuesday last week with Cr Ron Bauer critical of the limited community consultation ahead of the development of the flawed policy.

You don't have to look deeply into the 103-page strategy document to see the problem. The key objectives of the strategy don't mention the words farming or agriculture.

"The outcomes of this study will address key objectives initially outlined in the Council Plan. The study will: Ensure land use planning and economic development are aligned and supporting business investment, the creation of new jobs, diversifying the visitor economy and facilitating holistically sustainable economic resilience. Protect and enhance our environment and landscapes including vegetation and native wildlife protection initiatives."

Ultimately, however, the protection of agriculture is listed as a rural tourism objective: "To ensure the shire remains competitive as a rural tourism destination by attracting investment in rural tourism products that is sympathetic to and enhance the protection of environmental assets, landscapes, heritage values and agricultural activities."

Cowes sports failure savaged at candidates' night

THE development of new sporting facilities on the 'Carnival Land' at the corner of Phillip Island Road and Ventnor Road on Phillip Island has become a major election issue.

At last week's Bass Coast Shire Council meeting, the final public session before council went into 'Caretaker Mode' ahead of the October council elections, there were no fewer than six questions about the sports facility and the lack of progress during community question time.

And, it was also the hot topic of conversation at a 'meet the candidates' night, organised by Island Voice last Tuesday night, addressed by all seven Island candidates (in ballot order): Ron Bauer, Darrell Silva, Marnie Chadwick, Tracey Bell, David Rooks, John Trig, and Tim O'Brien.

Why, it was asked, can't the Council use some of the \$25 million they want to spend on the Cowes Streetscape developing some playing facilities on the Carnival site? They already own the land.

"It's a very popular thing tonight, the sports facility," noted Cr David Rooks.

"It always has been!" fired back Cr Ron Bauer.

"I've always been very supportive of outdoor activity," responded Cr Rooks.

In fact, according to a spokesperson for the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, its president Chris Ross, the shire council only needs to look 50km down the road, at Lang Lang's new recreation reserve on Soldiers Road, Caldermeade, to see what's required at the Carnival site.

"It's not just enough to plonk an oval there. You need lights, changeroom facilities and some of the other things, like they have at Lang Lang," said Chris Ross this week.

The Phillip Island Football Netball Club has upwards of 500 active footy members, male, female and junior, and 160 netball members who can't all fit on the overstressed Cowes oval.

At the opening of the Lang Lang complex a couple of years ago, Monash MP Russell Broadbent, who organised a \$1.5 million contribution to the cost of the pavilion from the Federal Government's



Cr David Rooks and the lack of progress on the Phillip Island sports precinct were savaged at a meet the candidates' night in Cowes last Tuesday night.



What Phillip Island needs, as stage one of its recreation reserve precinct project, is the type of sporting facility developed at Caldermeade for the Lang Lang community recently.

Building Better Regions Fund, said the facility should be a model for others to follow.

"I'd like to see this standard of sporting and recreation facility across all of my electorate. This is a wonderful sporting and community precinct," he said.

The cruncher, of course, is that the Cardinia Shire Council contributed \$5.7 million to the reserve project with local contributions of \$3.3 million. The pavilion was funded through the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund (\$1.5 million) and Cardinia Shire Council (\$3 million). All up it's a total of \$13.5 million but nowhere near the cost of Berninnet, the Cowes Streetscape or the projected \$52 million it might cost to build an aquatic centre (including 25-metre pool, 24-hour gym and two indoor sports courts).

Can't wait 20 years

President of the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group and a former Bass Coast Councillor, Peter Paul, chaired the candidates' night putting a series of questions to them about the Berninnet cultural centre, the lack of progress on the sports facility, Cowes parking problems and generally about the lack of transparency and accountability from the council before handing over to public questions.

He asked about the priority given by council to the \$23m-\$25m Cowes Streetscape project and the fact that a significant loss of parking was projected when the community clearly wanted and needed more sports facilities.

"The community can't wait 20 years for sports facilities, would you support a review if elected to council?" asked

Mr Paul.

Council candidate Tracey Bell said the streetscape was ugly but it's not a priority compared to sports facilities.

"I've got a seven-year-old son he'd be 27 by the time they built it. No way. Sports facilities before streetscape," said Ms Bell.

Another of the seven Island councillors who attended the 'candidates' night', Marnie Chadwick agreed.

"The main street is not broken so there's no urgent need to fix it. Money for the recreation project is the priority," she said.

Question of intent

Among the questions asked at the council meeting last week was this one by council watcher, Graham Jolly, of Cape Woolamai:

What are all the constraints stopping council from constructing a new sporting oval during the 2025/26 year, costing approximately \$4 million to \$5 million on council-owned land known as the Hilton Chadwick Reserve as identified in the councils Phillip Island Recreation Master Plan 2023?

Council response: Capital works projects within the shire are guided by Council's adopted 10-year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2021-31. Currently, the actions identified in the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan, adopted in September 2023, are not included in the LTFP. The LTFP is scheduled for review in 2025.

More details can be found on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au

Melina BATH MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

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Spotlight on design, function and cost of Berninneit

THE \$32 million Berninneit cultural centre in Cowes has not been the runaway success that the Bass Coast Shire Council would have you believe that it is.

At a meet the candidates' night last Tuesday at the Phillip Island RSL, the facility was roundly criticised for its design, cost, lack of space for artwork and for displaying the Island's history and hire charges.

Convenor of the pre-election event, former councillor Peter Paul, the President of Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group Inc, put several questions to the candidates about the cultural centre and its shortcomings.

"The space set aside for a museum is incapable of displaying our history which is now stored in a container, unable to see the light of day. Will you support a place being found to display our history?"

Candidate Tracey Bell said she believed Berninneit was a wonderful building but lamented that the award-winning facility had "a lot of wasted space".

"Arts groups and a lot of other community groups have been shafted by what's been done. There's a lot of area upstairs not being used. I don't know why they need it when a lot of staff work from home," Ms Bell said.

Cr David Rooks said there may be other spaces in town to display the Island's history.



Former councillor Peter Paul put the focus on Berninneit and how well it was serving the local community at a meet the candidates' night in Cowes last week.

Cr Ron Bauer said he was appalled that the history of the Island had to be wrapped up and put away. He also said he didn't accept that some of the Island's important works of art couldn't be displayed on the walls of the cultural centre.

Tim O'Brien said it was clear there needed to be more gallery space and more history space.

Other candidates including Darrell Silva, John Trigt and Marnie Chadwick also

supported getting to the bottom of art and history display problems created by the development of Berninneit.

Mr Paul also wanted to know why the shire was commissioning a \$140,000 artwork for Berninneit when it didn't have the space to display the John Adam collection, Eric Juckert's bicentennial mural or the Phillip Island 150th Anniversary Tapestry.

Tim O'Brien said it was very important these things were

on display.

"It's very important that the things that are invisible to the community are made visible to the community."

He said he favoured a complete review of the operational policies and fees associated with Berninneit.

"Are we getting value for money? There are large areas of unused space because of the way it has been designed," he said.

It was also noted the Phillip Island Football Netball Club had wanted to stage its annual ball in the facility a few months ago, and while it came to terms with the cost of hire, the restrictions on operating hours and the fact that the shire insisted on operating the bar and taking the proceeds were unresolvable points.

The comment was also made that a Phillip Island Literary Luncheon, featuring award-winning author Jock Serong, had to be staged at the Phillip Island Winery on Friday, October 25 because Berninneit was too dear.

Cr Bauer said there was plenty of wall space and he didn't accept the tapestry and mural couldn't be mounted there.

Cr David Rooks said there were problems with putting them up in Berninneit and suggested the school was interested in hosting some of the works.

Response from some candidates but not others

IF YOU'RE not already sick of hearing about the local council elections, you will be.

In the past week, the Victorian Electoral Commission finalised the list of candidates for Bass Coast and South Gippsland, conducted the ballot draw and on Friday, and issued their questionnaire responses on the VEC website.

Of the 22 candidates contesting the nine vacancies on the Bass Coast Shire Council, only veteran Bunurong councillor Les Larke declined to fill out the questionnaire in full. Asked, "what is your vision for the municipality of Bass Coast", Cr Larke responded "refer candidate statement".

In South Gippsland, four candidates declined to complete the questionnaire including the Mayor Cr Claire Williams and candidate in the Tarwin Valley ward Brad Snell, Bron Beech in Strzelecki and Steve Finlay in Coastal Promontory.

The candidate statements will come out with the voting pack, posted over four days from Monday, October 7.

Here's an example of what some of the other Bass Coast candidates had to say. It's your decision whether Cr Larke was right not to add his thoughts.

- David Rooks' vision for Bass Coast (Island): A resilient community who are connected to, and experience a sense of belonging to their local area. A community living and working sustainably, who give back to their environment increasing biodiversity and habitat levels.
- Eddie Halaijian (Bunurong): My vision for our municipality is to foster a vibrant, inclusive community with sustainable growth. I aim to enhance local services, support small businesses, improve infrastructure, and champion local sports teams. Additionally, I am committed to protecting our natural environment and addressing ecological challenges for a healthier community.

For all the responses to the questionnaire, type the following into your browser 'VEC Bass Coast candidates' or 'VEC South Gippsland candidates' and hit the red 'Find candidates' button.

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P plate driver cleared by Highway Patrol

RELIEVED to have his car and licence back after being accused of excessive speed a Dalyston P-plate driver has gone to extraordinary lengths to prove his innocence.

The driver's mother always backed her son's version of events. Beau told his mother "Mum, I didn't do it" and that was enough proof for Jacqui Allamby.

The week of high drama for Beau Dobbins began early evening on the outskirts of Wonthaggi on the road from Inverloch where a new sixty-kilometre-an-hour speed restriction applies.

Highway Patrol claimed to have clocked Beau travelling well in excess of the speed limit.

"One-hundred and twenty-six kilometres an hour" is what they claimed said Jacqui.

Beau's probationary licence was suspended for a mandatory twelve months, and his Statesman sedan impounded.

"Local police are constantly patrolling main roads and back roads, and this type of dangerous behaviour will not be tolerated in Bass Coast and South Gippsland" Bass Coast Police Service Area posted on 'Eye-watch'.

Beau Dobbins claimed he was not speeding, and that his white car had instead been overtaken by another vehicle, possibly a red Mazda sedan which was obscured to police.

"I'm going to go doorknocking to see if I can get some footage," Beau told his mother.

Going door-to-door to find a business with surveillance video, Beau struck gold.

Days later a business owner posted she had provided footage that clearly shows a red car flying by, seconds before Beau drove by, hope it helps.

It certainly did help.

Senior Sergeant Jason Hullick from Bass Coast Police said once police became aware of the new information they reversed the suspension of Beau's licence, dropped all charges and returned his car.

"We spoke to Beau personally," said Senior Sergeant Hullick.

Police have not yet been able to locate the driver of the red vehicle.

Experience is crucial for the next four years

"THE next four years are going to be tougher and harder than the last four," Candidate for Bunurong Ward, Bass Coast Brett Tessari explained.

"When times are tough it's easy to walk around banging the drum, saying you'll do this and you'll do that, when you don't really know how you're going to do this or how you're going to do that.

"It's time for a restock, a little bit of common sense, and experience. The community needs someone with local knowledge that's willing to go in and continue fighting for the community they have lived their whole life in."

Brett is a familiar face, a third generation Wonthaggi resident, who, alongside his wife, Leanne have raised their three children in the local area. He is also deeply embedded in the local community; a member of the Rotary Club, operations manager of the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition and former president of Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club, to name but a few.

"I want to continue working with the community to discover what works best and what is viable," Brett explained.

"Council will always be criticised. It's the role of a councillor to accept that criticism, weigh up the options, listen to the people and make a call on what they think is the best call for the area. I'm incredibly proud of what we achieved (particularly in my first term four years ago)."

And it would be remiss to dismiss the challenges of the last four years.



Supporting local hospitality venues, Candidate for Bunurong Ward, Brett Tessari has been out and about speaking with constituents. C05_3924

"The world has changed – money got really tough, for everybody. The state has less and they're throwing less down our way, and we rely heavily on that. There's no doubt."

The last four years have also brought with it, its own changes, COVID and the public's changed expectations post pandemic, a new CEO and different dynamics within Council.

"I will always champion community groups and sporting groups, in particular. Over my time, there has been a lot of upgrades to sporting groups throughout the shire, there's still more to do, but that is one thing that I will always go into fight for with what I consider a fairly high success rate. I'm also really proud of the Bass Coast Country University Centre (CUC), my proudest achievement (to date). It's changed the lives for a lot of people."

Moving forwards Brett is

said, noting he would like to see a community precinct, that includes the library, fill the space alongside housing and parking.

"We also need to finalise a plan for the Inverloch precinct. Work with the traders and get something that works for everyone. They are two really big priorities that I will continue to push for."

As far as other initiatives, Brett is looking forward to continuing what he has always done and continues to do, "work with the community to discover what works best for them, what is viable and what is doable."

"It's one thing to come up with all these fantastic plans, but you've got to be able to fund them. Plans that are achievable are crucial. Working with the expectation of the community to make something that is achievable and getting the advocacy structure right, to go out and get the funding."

Aquatics for Bass Coast "is definitely one area that needs to be advocated for."

"It's going to be a tight four years – they are going to be tougher than the last four. There are a lot of people doing it really tough in the community, and they need an experienced person to be their representative."

"I'm proud of the eight years I have served the community, and the fact I can still walk around the streets that I've represented and be fondly spoken to and treated no different to how I always have been, that shows that people have had confidence in what I've done, or respected what I've done. I wouldn't do it otherwise."

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Stony Creek Racecourse improvements to continue

VISITORS to Stony Creek Racecourse will benefit from new facilities, with Minister for Racing Anthony Carbines visiting the track on Tuesday to announce funding for a major upgrade of customer facilities and the outdoor dining area.

The refurbishment will include upgrades to the public bar, the TAB area that will feature a new customer service hub and the race day office.

There will also be a new alfresco deck and shade sail.

Construction has begun on the customer service hub and race day office and is expected to be completed in October, while other works are expected to start later this year.

The State Government has contributed \$100,000 towards the project through a Regional Customer Facilities Program grant, with the Stony Creek Racing Club providing over \$128,000.

Minister Carbines said the program helps give clubs a bit of a lift and the opportunity to generate greater income, noting racecourses host a variety of community activities throughout the year.

Stony Creek Racing Club CEO Jason Benbow expressed his appreciation for the assistance through the current grant and previous ones.

"We would like to thank the



Minister for Racing Anthony Carbines and Stony Creek Racing Club CEO Jason Benbow stand near the track that now features a new irrigation system. A06_3924

Victorian Government for awarding our club with significant grants to help improve our racecourse and customer facilities," he said.

Benbow praised the foresight of the club's recent CEO Adam Olszanski in applying for grants.

Minister Carbines told those in charge of the Stony Creek Racing Club why the government is happy to help make improvements possible.

"I have a lot of respect for the work that you do and

the racecourse, to which the Victorian Government contributed \$319,000, with that the biggest project at the racecourse in over two decades.

Completed in April this year, the new system enables consistent watering across the track while reducing the risk of leaks, overwatering and pooling.

The watering system will improve the track condition for the club's five annual race meetings and up to four official trials and jump-out meetings.

As a club that predominantly races in the summer months, it is vitally important for these works to have taken place to ensure a fair and consistent racing surface.

Stony Creek Racing Club committee member and Life Member Rob Meyer is delighted with the fact the new irrigation system will provide a more consistent surface and that customer facilities will be upgraded.

"It's a great thing; we can provide a better and safer experience for the whole racing community," he said.

Since 2014, the State Labor Government has provided more than \$840,000 to support six racing events and 12 infrastructure projects at the Stony Creek Racecourse.

Racing at the track gets underway on Monday, December 30.

Registrations open for the Gippsland Circular Futures Initiative

THE Gippsland Climate Change Network is excited to launch the Gippsland Circular Futures Initiative, a free program designed to help locals unlock the benefits of a circular economy.

Consumption and waste are a growing global problem. While the world is adopting more circular economy-based models, where 'wastes' are reused, recycled, or repurposed to generate additional profits and better environmental outcomes, Australia is falling behind.

Registrations are now open for small to medium-sized enterprises and not-for-profit organisations representing all sectors, from agriculture to retail, to participate in this tailored program designed to kick-start local business solutions.

"This program offers a unique opportunity for businesses and not-for-profits to thrive while actively contributing to a more sustainable Gippsland. It's not just about reducing waste – it's about rethinking how we operate, innovate, and grow sustainably," Amy Barry-Macaulay, Gippsland Circular Futures Initiative Program Officer said.

The program is supported by two program offers, with workshops delivered by Federation University. These will cover circular economy fundamentals and how to adapt circular economy principles within your operations. Tools and actions will be tailored to each business's needs. There will also be networking opportunities with like-minded organisations.

Key dates include October 16, 23, and 30, with workshops running in Bairnsdale, Sale, Leongatha, Warragul, Morwell, and online.

Registrations close on October 2. Contact either tammy.logan@gccn.org.au or amy.barrymacaulay@gccn.org.au for more information and to apply.



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South Gippsland Shire Council News

Spring School Holidays in South Gippsland

As the old saying goes, spring has well and truly sprung in South Gippsland. There is much to do now that the weather has turned, and the spring school holidays are a great time to get out from indoors and enjoy the season.

From daffodils to daisies, the fresh spring blooms set a magical backdrop to a leisurely stroll or a perfect picnic, with friends and family. Wander through lush gardens, such as the Korumburra Botanical Park or explore the bushland of Wilsons Promontory National Park, where you can marvel at a vibrant array of native flora and fauna.

Our many tracks and trails provide hours of fun as you travel from town to town, by bike or foot. Getting out in the fresh spring air is the perfect way to fill in

those unplanned days during the school holidays.

Spring brings with it a calendar full of festivals and events that celebrate the season and the local culture. From markets to musical gigs and weekend-long festivals, there is always something happening in South Gippsland during this vibrant time of year.

If you would like to find out more about things to see and do, please drop-in to our local Visitor Information Centre in Foster or contact the team on 1800 630 704. They are passionate about South Gippsland and love helping locals and visitor create exciting itineraries. You can also find out more via our website: visitsouthgippsland.com.au

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

2024 Garage Sale Trail



South Gippsland Shire Council is supporting the Australian Wide Garage Sale Trail campaign.

Being part of the Garage Sale Trail, whether you are selling or purchasing goods, is a great way to save many perfectly good items from ending up in land fill.

Registrations for the garage sale trail are officially open. So why not sift through the backs of your dusty cupboards and make a few bucks selling off those forgotten goods.

You can look for sales across the country using the interactive map and get first dibs of the sales taking place this November.

To register your garage sale or check out what sales are happening near you, head to: www.garagesaletrail.com.au/South-Gippsland

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 2 October 2.00pm
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

Dates are also listed on Council’s website at:
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

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Certified by South Gippsland Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Kerry Ellis, in accordance with section 290 and section 304 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Jenni Keerie vies for second council term

AFTER three years as a South Gippsland Shire Councillor, Korumburra's Jenni Keerie is confident she has plenty left to give, prompting her to nominate as a candidate for the Strzelecki Ward in October's election.

Should she succeed in being re-elected, Jenni believes her experience during the current term of council will set her up for the next four years.

Having worked extensively with the community through her long-term role as manager of Korumburra's Milpara Community House, Jenni is confident in her ability to represent the community as a councillor.

After being elected previously, she learned to use her representational voice as distinct from her individual voice.

"Sometimes the individual voice is at odds with your representational voice; you're acting as a representative for residents in your ward or across the shire and it's not your personal perspective," Jenni said.

She acknowledges that councillors can't always please everyone and tough decisions need to be made to achieve the best outcomes, taking account of financial constraints.

"It's about making good strategic decisions that are going to have positive long-term benefits for the whole shire," Jenni said.

Of course, decisions are



Jenni Keerie is excited about the future of South Gippsland.

not made individually but through a vote of councillors.

Jenni has enjoyed working with the other councillors, noting that while they don't always agree they have respectful relationships, understand each other's perspective and are able to compromise and move decisions forward to achieve positive outcomes.

Being part of planning for South Gippsland Shire's future is something she loves doing.

That includes looking at

future development opportunities and how to protect the shire's agricultural land, Jenni stressing the importance of striking a balance between growth and development with what keeps South Gippsland unique and special.

Reflecting on her time as a councillor, Jenni mentioned council's efforts to ensure wind energy projects are situated appropriately and provide benefits to South Gippsland Shire communities.

Advocating on that and

other matters on behalf of those communities is an important part of council's role, with Jenni having relished her involvement in that process and the chance to build professional relationships with relevant stakeholders.

While South Gippsland Shire Council has developed numerous strategies and plans over the past three years, Jenni highlighted the importance of the Coastal Strategy that addresses the need to protect the shire's coastline and determine actions required for land subject to inundation.

With the recent adoption of a new waste management plan and the need for innovative approaches in that area, Jenni looks forward to seeing what transpires and to community members being enlisted in the mission to reduce what goes into landfill.

"I'm excited about the waste management education (that will be introduced) because I think we all have a responsibility to manage our footprint," she said.

Should Jenni again be selected to represent those in Strzelecki Ward and across South Gippsland Shire, it will be a different experience to last time, with council then emerging from two years under administrators.

With nominations finalised, five candidates are competing for the three Strzelecki Ward positions.



AS South Gippsland Shire Council is now officially in the Election Period, I will be taking over our weekly column so you can all stay in the loop with what's happening in our region and at Council.

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who has put their hand up in the 2024 Council Election. There has been 17 people in total nominate as a candidate across our three wards – Coastal Promontory, Strzelecki and Tarwin Valley. Being a Councillor is a great honour and shows that the community has trust in you to represent them. It is definitely not a job to take lightly.

To help candidates better understand what the first few months of their Council term will be like, a pack will be sent out in the coming week. The Induction Program is a requirement from the State Government, and ensures incoming Councillors complete the required training to set them up for success in their term.

I look forward to working productively with the new Councillor group, and so does our organisation.

Election Information

If you are looking for some extra details on the Council elections, Council has a dedicated webpage with some of the key information, including voting information, Council policies, how to spot misinformation and key dates. Please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/election

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) runs the Council elections and as such, is also a trusted source for information. There is a VEC office in Leongatha at 6-12 Smith Street (Carinos) if you would like to have a face-to-face chat. You can also browse their website: www.vec.vic.gov.au

Changes to Reception

From the end of September, South Gippsland Shire Council will be opening a new customer service counter at the Korumburra Community Hub.

To accommodate this change, opening times at our Leongatha office will be changed. The new hours will be:

- Leongatha: Monday and Wednesday – 10am to 3pm.
- Korumburra: Tuesday and Thursday – 10am to 3pm.
- Both counters will be closed on Fridays.

There is no change to our phone-based services, which will continue to be available Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm. Council's website is also available.

For more information on the change, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/customerservicecounter

What's Happening in South Gippsland

The Visit South Gippsland website is your home for all things local events. We all know that South Gippsland is the place to be, and we are attracting some fabulous events to our region, as well as the events run by our hard-working volunteers.

Every weekend there is at least one local market, musical act, gallery opening and local gathering so you can have as busy a weekend as you like. Some upcoming events include the Mirboo North Market, SOS: The Australian ABBA Tribute Show at the Korumburra Italian Social Club, Out on the Weekend Goes Country at Coal Creek, Meeniyah Marty Gras, and the much-loved Halloween at Coal Creek.

You can browse the events here: www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au/events

It is also free to add your event to the Visit South Gippsland website, so please consider adding yours to the website to get the word out.

Youngest candidate focused on energy solutions

AT 24 YEARS of age Aaron Taylor is the youngest candidate to run for Council by about 18 years and he is focused on helping shape more energy-resilient communities.

After the February storms hit Mirboo North, Aaron was without power for three weeks and he believes it is necessary to find a better way forward.

"After the two or three storms that have now hit in the last year, I wanted to run on the position of trying to get more energy independence in the communities," explained Aaron.

"One of my hopes was, if we can get larger batteries placed in town centres it would mean that we don't have to wait nearly so long for the power

to come back on; and encouraging people to get their own if they can afford their own batteries; and just increasing community resilience against these disasters."

Aaron has been involved in unions for the past five years, is currently studying Politics and Philosophy at Deakin University and is also experienced in IT and customer support.

Aaron formed strong links to the community while working with the Storm Cell Volunteers and is extending these connections by volunteering with the Cub Scouts in an effort to become a Scout leader.

"Part of the reason I'm running is that the community has been fantastic since the storm hit. We had volunteers in two

days and being a part of that, and seeing the community just spring into action really made me want to get involved as well. This is one of the ways I know I can help."

While greater energy resilience is Aaron's key focus, he is also seeking to free up some of the red tape around council authorisation processes.

"There's a lot of damage that still needs to be repaired and a lot of it has been slowed down by planning permissions, so I was hoping to look at trying to get rid of some of the restrictions," explained Aaron.

Aaron is one of seven candidates running for the Tarwin Valley Ward in the South Gippsland Shire Council elections.



Aaron Taylor is a candidate for the Tarwin Valley Ward in the South Gippsland Shire Council elections and he is focused on creating energy resilient communities.

Rosemary Cousin in the running for Tarwin Valley Ward

ALLAMBEE South farmer Rosemary Cousin is one of seven candidates in the running for the Tarwin Valley Ward for the South Gippsland Shire Council elections.

Rosemary is an organic fine food producer alongside her husband Richard and they are well known locally for frequenting farmers markets across the region.

With experience in three levels of government across WA, Queensland and Victoria, Rosemary brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the urban and regional planning space.

Holding a Bachelor of Applied Science and a Master of Public Administration, Rosemary has managed the first and second iteration of the

Building Better Cities Programme federally, and with the State Government for the western suburbs of Melbourne.

"I've got urban renewal, economic development, and community regeneration all in my experience," said Rosemary.

This candidate of many talents would like to see a number of improvements take place across the council and her areas of passion are contracts, supporting communities and the environment.

"I'd really like to see improvement in the way the contracts are issued and to make sure that we get value for money for all of our Council expenditure," said Rosemary.

"I want us to support the

communities, strengthen our communities and also support volunteer groups because the volunteers have pulled us through so much.

"I want to also improve our environment. We've got a lot of damage out there and we need to try and shore ourselves up for climate change, which is increasingly affecting us."

Rosemary is dedicated to working together with the community, the Council and more effectively with other levels of government to see greater attention and funding being allocated to South Gippsland communities.

In wrapping up her first day as a candidate Rosemary said,

"I love conversations. I love talking to people, and I hope to do well this election."



Rosemary Cousin is running for the Tarwin Valley Ward and is passionate about contracts, council expenditure, the community and the environment.

Millie asks us to dig deep for My Room charity

THE Sunday Footy Show will be asking us to dig deep for children's cancer when San Remo girl Millie appears as the face of this year's My Room Grand Final telethon.

Millie was diagnosed with a soft tissue tumour twelve months ago and has since undergone chemotherapy, two operations and radiation treatment.

Millie and her parents are grateful for the support they received from My Room.

"It's been a challenge," said Millie's mother Paige.

The whole family keen Bombers supporters, Millie and her two brothers were given the chance to run onto the MCG with the Essendon players.

Millie's favourite Bombers are Peter Wright and Andy McGrath.

"We also ran onto the ground with the GWS Giants," said older brother Nathaniel.



Millie with her mother Paige and brothers Nathaniel and Jude. b10_3924

Paige says her children helped paint the boots of players to raise money for children's cancer.

"Millie's diagnosis was very hard, knowing it was a tumour," said Paige.

"But you end up coping."

Millie is currently in what doctors describe as the maintenance phase of her journey.

Daily oral chemotherapy at home and weekly visits to the Monash Children's Centre for an infusion of chemotherapy are all part of that journey.

"Millie has a heart of gold," said Paige.

"One of Millie's favourite things to do is to make things for the people in her life. It is her number one hobby."

"Millie is super creative and along with crafting she enjoys singing and dancing along to musicals like Matilda and The Greatest Showman."

Millie also loves spending time with her family and friends.

"I love school," explained Millie, who also likes everything Disney, bunny rabbits and the family's two pet dogs Nina and Lottie.

The My Room Grand Final Spectacular will go to air on Thursday, September 26 at 7.30pm, live from the Palms at Crown Melbourne on Channel 9.

Host Eddie McGuire will be joined by News Presenters Alicia Loxley and Clint Stanaway.

"The children have already been introduced to the Footy Show's Tony Jones, Matthew Lloyd, Nathan Brown and Damian Barrett," said proud mum Paige.

Demand grows for GSHS Urgent Care Centre

GIPPSLAND Southern Health Service has launched a campaign to help local people to better understand the role of its Leongatha Urgent Care Centre (UCC).

CEO Lou Sparkes said many people misunderstood the function of the UCC, leading some to attend the centre when they could consult their doctor during normal hours.

There has been a big upswing in demand for the services, particularly in evenings, with more than 400 people per month seeking help from the Leongatha Urgent Care Centre.

The influx follows the introduction of a new medical workforce model at the Leongatha Hospital which has helped to improve services.

While GSHS consistently surpasses mandated response times, the extra demand is leading to increased waiting times for non-emergency cases, especially in the evenings.

CEO Lou Sparkes said the community was well served by the UCC.

"We're open and it's operating really well and providing an essential service to the community," Ms Sparkes said.

"While we're really happy to provide this service and we're always here, there are other options that people can consider such as Nurse on Call or visiting your local GP if it's not a really urgent matter," she said.

"Our busiest times are after 6pm and although we know it won't always be possible, we'd like to encourage people to attend earlier in the day if they can or wait until the following day and make an appointment with your GP if it's not an emergency."

"Late in the day gets quite busy and there could be a wait time."

Ms Sparkes said the community could be reassured that the UCC is available when people need it, with a doctor and nurses on site during the day.

After 9 pm or during very busy times, GSHS uses telehealth systems; My Emergency Doctor and a referral chest pain program.

The UCC is not an Emergency Department and all people presenting will be assessed and treated but if they can't be managed locally will be transferred to a larger hospital's Emergency Department.

Urgent Care demand continues to grow with more than 400 patients per month in June, July and August. In July 2023, GSHS had 262 Urgent Care presentations for the month. In May 2024 that had risen to 358 people, and that trend has continued into the new financial year.

Seafood and eat it enjoyed by all at San Remo Tidal festival

IT MIGHT have been cold and stormy outside but inside the huge marquee on the foreshore at San Remo on Friday night the hospitality was warm and the food and friendship inviting as diners at the cocktail dinner kicked off the 2024 San Remo Tidal Seafood Festival in style.

The clouds then cleared on Saturday and Sunday for a weekend of activities including the blessing of the fleet, seafood cooking demonstrations, seafood eating of course, children's activities and more.

Opening night featured an eight-course roaming menu curated by the Westernport-Hotel and the Phillip Island Vineyard and Winery of local lobster, Phillip Island scallops, king prawns and gummy shark.

There were Boomer Bay oysters served three ways and a traditional, sumptuous seafood paella served with well-matched wines, cocktails and beers.

To round it all out on the homeward bound part of the night was dessert buffet to die for and live music for dancers and minglers looking to soak up the atmosphere.

Despite the weather, even because of it, the night was a big success and with the weather improving the crowds turned out on Saturday and Sunday to enjoy the flavour of the festival.

RIGHT: Sunshine, food trucks, music and kids' activities were all part of the fun. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Ignite arts exhibition at Berninneit an inspiration for all

IF YOU missed opening night of the IGNITE! Youth Arts Fest in the community room at Berninneit last Friday night, don't be alarmed, the exhibition continues on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 24 and 25 this week.

But Friday night's opening of the arts fest was quite the occasion for local youth with a smorgasbord of music, art and food to delight the mind and the tastebud, all organised by the YMCA, YES Youth Hub and the Bass Coast Youth Advisory Council.

The group sent out invites to all of the local schools to contribute art to the exhibition with more

than 50 paintings, sculptures and photos assembled and a number of the works selling on the night and in the days that followed.

The event was supported with funding from the DFFH Engage! 2025-2027 program and Feeza with music by Finn, F.O.I.L. and Why Goats Why.

There was a viewers' choice competition as part of the event with the winners announced during a visit by Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman and Bass MP Jordan Crugnale on Wednesday this week.

The exhibition is open during opening hours for Berninneit.



Rylee Dagg and her entry in the Ignite Youth Arts Fest exhibition at Berninneit in Cowes entitled 'Shann'.





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School Holiday Fun at Myli!

THESE school holidays, Myli libraries are packed with exciting activities for all ages. From hands-on workshops to creative crafts and Youth Fest celebrations, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

In Bass Coast, get ready for action with Bike Maintenance workshops led by Danny from Inverloch Bike Hire, or marvel at Mr T's Mathematical Marvels. Little ones can bring their favourite cuddly toy to the Teddy Bear Sleepover or explore the wonders of marine life with our Life in the Rockpools StoryTime session. Creative minds are invited to join us for Pop-sicle Stick Dreamcatcher crafting, Games Days and Flower Sponge Art, plus many more fun-filled activities!

In South Gippsland, the excitement continues with Youth Fest Silent Discos, Movie Sessions, and the Books and Snacks Youth Book Club, where young readers can connect over their favourite reads. Get creative with our Mosaic Magic workshop and explore a variety of other activities and events happening throughout Myli libraries for even more holiday fun!

Beyond events, Myli offers the perfect space to unwind, with free Wi-Fi, a cosy atmosphere, and a wonderful collection of books, e-books, audio-books, and online resources. Whether you're looking to learn something new or just relax and enjoy some downtime, Myli has something for everyone.

For more details on Myli events and to make a booking, visit our website at myli.au/events. To learn more about Myli - My Community Library, check out our website at myli.org.au or reach out to our Support Team on 1800 44 6954, available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Up close and personal these school holidays

EVER imagined yourself face-to-face with koalas in the treetops or catching a glimpse of the elusive Eastern barred bandicoot at night?

Phillip Island Nature Parks will showcase its resident koala and bandicoot populations with two new guided tours, giving visitors rare and exciting insights into how the iconic Australian animals live and interact in the wild.

From September 26, the Nature Parks will introduce an immersive guided koala walk through the treetop boardwalks at the Koala Conservation Reserve in a natural educational experience from Thursdays to Sundays.

The new Manna Gum Café is now also open daily to visitors offering a hint of native spices and flavours on the menu including lemon myrtle, strawberry eucalyptus gum, tamarillo and wattle seed.

In addition, bandicoot tours will become a regular school holiday fixture after the run-away success of a trial of nocturnal night walks on Churchill Island earlier this year.

The spotlight bandicoot experience will be hosted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from September 23 until October 4, allowing participants to spot the animals emerging from vegetation, foraging in paddocks and lawns, and searching for grubs.

Tour guests will also be asked to help count adult and juvenile bandicoots - important data used by the Nature Parks to further understand Churchill Island's bandicoot population.



New flavours and new tours it's all happening these school holidays at Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Daniel Kallstrom, Attraction Manager Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island said eco-tourism was a crucial element in the successful conservation efforts at the Nature Parks and educating the community about how to best protect native wildlife.

"These discovery tours give young people and their families first-hand experience of iconic koalas and Eastern barred bandicoots, which have largely avoided extinction thanks to dedicated conservation efforts," Mr Kallstrom said.

The endangered Eastern barred bandicoot is a success story for Phillip Island, which now has a thriving population of the species since it was reintroduced to Churchill

Island in 2017, effectively saving them from extinction in the wild.

"Koalas face many threats in the wild on Phillip Island, including habitat loss, disease, climate change, dogs and road traffic, which have all contributed to the decline in population over time.

"Teaching the community about these animals, their habitats and how to best support them in the wild will go a long way to minimising the impact of these threats."

Since 1991, the Koala Conservation Reserve has offered a protected area where the marsupials can thrive in a semi-wild environment. The 45-minute guided koala tour runs in all-weather conditions and participants need to be

able to stand and walk on uneven ground.

Guests on the bandicoot 1.5-kilometre walking tour require reasonable fitness and an ability to traverse uneven surfaces and some in low light and very dark conditions. The walking tour is not suitable for prams. Closed shoes, non-reflective weather protection and warm clothing is recommended.

Tickets are limited and bookings are essential. For more information and bookings, visit penguins.org.au

All tickets for the Penguin Parade are sold out for the Victorian school holidays. If you are planning to visit the Penguin Parade in future, please remember to book ahead to avoid missing out.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN — AT MYLI

Be part of the fun with Myli's FREE school holiday events! visit: myli.au/sept2024



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Powering up local live music in Bass

INVESTING in gigs and festivals that light up our music industry, Jordan Crugnale MP announced last week that The Lost Cowe on Phillip Island and The Westernport Hotel in San Remo have been successful in receiving \$10,000 and \$5000 respectively in the first round of 10,000 Gigs: The Victorian Gig Fund. These much-loved local venues join with 142 others across the state to stage paid gigs by local artists.

The Victorian Gig Fund is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to back 10,000 live music gigs across the state over the next four years. Established Victorian live music venues can apply for up to \$10,000 a year to go towards Victorian artists' fees for gigs at their venues.

"We love live music and we continue to back our local venues, musicians, creatives and festivals through these funding programs," Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale said.

“Whilst the live music sector continues to face challenges across the country, this investment will help strengthen our local industry, champion local musical talent, showcase contemporary music which benefits creatives and our local economy too.”

These latest grants are part of a \$35.4 million package delivered in the Victorian Budget 2023/24 to support Victoria's live music industry at all levels and in all parts of the state.

The Lost Cowe on Philip Island, hosts live music every Friday and Saturday



Jordan Crugnale MP with owners Matthew Walters and Foster Noonan from the Lost Cowe on Phillip Island.

night year-round as well as selected Thursday and Sunday nights. It is one of the only live music venues in the main centre that focuses on supporting the local musicians, artists and creatives in the region.

"We are so thankful to be awarded this grant from the Victorian Government, it will allow us to continue to support the local live music industry on the island and in Cowes, ensuring musicians are regularly booked and that our regular and new patrons receive that amazing entertainment experience over

dinner and drinks locally at our venue on the Cowes Esplanade every Friday and Saturday night, rather than having to go elsewhere," Foster Noonan and Matthew Waters, The Lost Cowe.

The Westernport Hotel in San Remo has a long history of offering live original music, having hosted such iconic acts as the Skyhooks, San Cisco, Tash Sultana, The Pierce Brothers and The Waifs through to supporting local musicians as a regional springboard to stardom. Currently offering live music three nights per week

year-round, they have won numerous awards under its current ownership of 18 years.

The Labor Government's Live Music Festivals Fund will see 22 festivals in Victoria receiving grants of up to \$50,000 to help them stage new or existing events. Also, part of the package, \$1 million of Music Works grants will support 92 projects involving 600 music industry professionals – giving both emerging and established artists the opportunity to take the next step in their careers.

For a full list of recipients
visit: creative.vic.gov.au

Activities at Leongatha Community House

IF YOU'RE looking for fun and productive activities this school holidays, Leongatha Community House is offering two fantastic programs tailored for teens.

Sewing Skills for Teens:

Unleash your creativity and learn essential sewing skills in this hands-on workshop. Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, you'll have the chance to work on your own project or complete a ready-made one provided by the instructors. All materials and sewing machines are supplied, but feel free to bring your own if you have one. This workshop is perfect for updating op shop finds or creating something completely new! Sessions are running on Thursday, September 26, and October 3 from 1pm to 3pm, costing just \$15 per session. Bookings are essential, so make sure to reserve your spot by contacting Leon-gatha Community House.

Teen's Self Defence:

For a more active option, try the Teen's Self Defence program! This aerobic-style class is designed for teens aged 12 to 18 years, combining self-confidence, fitness, and self-preservation. The classes are fun and interactive, and participants will learn valuable skills that can be applied in everyday life. The program runs on Tuesday, September 24, and October 1 from 1pm to 2pm, and costs only \$10 per session. According to regular attendees, "We hit things, kick things, and do lots of laughing." No experience is necessary, and you'll build new skills each week in a friendly, supportive environment. It's a fun way to boost confidence and fitness, so don't miss out!

For more information or to book, contact Leongatha Community House by phone (5662 3962), SMS (0497 899 481), or email (info@leongathacom-munityhouse.org.au). Get involved and make the most of your school holidays!

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ExxonMobil

Esso's decommissioning of platforms in Bass Strait

Esso Australia Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its' Gippsland and Bass Strait facilities safely and effectively.

After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait oil fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As planning for decommissioning progresses, Esso is focused on safely shutting-down non-producing facilities and ensuring they stay safe throughout the entire decommissioning process.

Community Information Session and Drop-in

If you'd like to know more about activity plans for **Decommissioning of platforms and pipelines in Bass Strait**, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting a community information session and drop-in at the following locations:

- **Wednesday 25 September 2024 - Welshpool**
Welshpool Memorial Hall
49 Main Street, Welshpool
10am – 1pm
- **Wednesday, 25 September 2024 - Leongatha**
South Gippsland Trade Skills Alliance (SGBLLEN)
71 Ogilvy Street, Leongatha
3pm – 7pm
- **Thursday, 26 September 2024 - Foster**
Manna Gum Community House
33 Station Street, Foster
3pm – 7pm

A presentation about decommissioning activities will be provided at 11am for the AM sessions and 3.30pm and 5.30pm for the PM sessions. We encourage you to come along and ask questions or to raise any concerns you may have.

To register your attendance, please email us at: consultation@exxonmobil.com

If these dates and times don't suit, please contact us at consultation@exxonmobil.com or by phone on 03 9261 0000.

The Esso Consultation Team will also be available to discuss all current activities, including:

- Bass Strait Decommissioning
- Jack-Up-Rig Well Plug and Abandonment
- Gippsland Basin Geophysical and Geotechnical Investigations
- Kipper - Sub-Sea Drilling
- Turrum Phase 3 Drilling
- South East Australia Carbon Capture & Storage (SEA CCS) Project
- Bream Greenhouse Gas Appraisal Environment Plan (SEA CCS)



Like to be consulted about these activities?

Esso is working to identify and consult with relevant persons [stakeholders] whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by one or more of Esso's proposed activities. Please fill in the Esso Consultation Questionnaire (sli.do) in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted or have any questions or feedback.

Please refer to the NOPSEMA brochure Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans brochure.pdf (nopsema.gov.au) to understand more about consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans assessed under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023

Your feedback and our response will be included in the relevant regulatory application documentation and submitted to the regulator.

Please connect us with other interested people

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.

To find out more information

For more information about Esso's activities and other projects, please go to the Esso Consultation Hub at:



<https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach>

JAC2604



Director Yashmita Mahindra is expanding the C-Bay General Store and opening a café due to popular demand within the growing community of Coronet Bay. Z01_3924

New café opening in Coronet Bay this summer

THE C-Bay General Store re-opened its doors under new management in June last year. Since taking over – now operating as a family business, director Yashmita Mahindra and her husband Harmeet Singh Sidhu have prioritised expanding the store's grocery variety and all-day menu, moving beyond its initial limited offerings.

Customers can now enjoy a broader selection of alcohol, groceries, and diverse food options, including country fried chicken, homemade Indian cuisine and beloved pub-style dishes like the classic chicken parmigiana. Operating from breakfast through to dinner, the store caters to both the local community and tourists flocking

to the area.

To meet the growing demand for dining options, Yashmita and Harmeet saw the opportunity to make efficient use of their space and open a new on-site café with plans to welcome indoor dining with a new breakfast menu.

"We're planning a place for locals and visitors to enjoy their coffee and a café style meal," Yashmita explained.

The management and staff are excited about the store's potential and look forward to becoming a staple in the community, with plans for the café's official opening this summer.

"We've also expanded our variety in-store with a large range in the grocery and confectionery aisle."

Yashmita has ambitious plans for the future, including the re-opening of the fuel station. In a discussion with the Sentinel-Times Yashmita highlighted the importance of the general stores' central location, which is just 100 metres from the Coronet Bay Foreshore Reserve, the Bronze Yarns Sculpture Walk and Coronet Bay Launching Facility. This prime spot makes it an ideal hub for locals and visitors alike.

Stay tuned for more updates as C-Bay General Store & Café continues to evolve and serve the needs of its patrons. Visit the friendly staff at 100 Cutty Sark Road, Coronet Bay from 8am until 8pm.

Milestone success for mouse matchmakers

PRECIOUS Pookila pups have been spotted in Wilsons Promontory National Park, signalling an early success for a genetic rescue mission.

In September 2023, six female Pookilas were released to the Prom in the hopes that they would couple up with local males. This flagship cohort were bred as part of a conservation breeding program at Melbourne Zoo and Moonlit Sanctuary.

Now, a year later, six pups have been seen frequenting burrows near the release sites.

The small burrowing mouse is native to south-eastern Australia and inhabits open heathland and coastal areas.

Habitat destruction and predation by cats and foxes has caused the species to become extinct in seven of its known 12 Victorian locations. The remaining wild populations are fragmented and susceptible to inbreeding and further decline with the effects of climate change.

Small tissue samples taken from the wild-born pups will help researchers monitor the genetic health of the remaining wild populations, with the hopes of documenting an increase in diversity with each new generation.

This month, a further four female Pookilas have



Pookila pups at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

been released to the Prom to continue the mouse matchmaking initiative.

Shy and nocturnal, Pookilas are soil engineers who build complex multi-generational burrow systems, which aerates the soil and contributes to the spread of seeds and fungal spores. They can be distinguished from the house mouse by their bicoloured tail, large eyes, soft, thick fur, and a lack of 'mousey' odour.

The five remaining Victorian sites, believed to contain fewer than 3000 Pookilas, are in Gippsland – including at Wilsons Promontory and Loch Sport. An additional population was established in Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in May.

The Victorian Pookila Conservation Breeding and Reintroduction Program is a joint project between the Department

of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Gippsland Water, Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park, Parks Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Zoos Victoria, and partners in Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

The Victorian Government has committed \$690,000 to the protection of Pookila through its Nature Fund, along with Zoos Victoria's Bushfire Emergency Wildlife Fund donations and generous philanthropic contributions in safeguarding our native species. We are proud to contribute to the recovery of this endangered mouse and look forward to continued success as more Pookilas are released into their natural habitat.



Building a healthier community in Leongatha

As a rural hospital, GSHS is there for its community, providing a wide range of services, from Urgent Care to Midwifery and Allied Health to surgical services.

Maternity

Our maternity unit ensures that you and your baby receive the highest quality of care. Our close-knit, collaborative team – including midwives, lactation consultants, GP obstetricians, theatre staff, and allied health professionals – works seamlessly together to deliver comprehensive care. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact us today. Let's make your birth experience exceptional.

Allied Health

Our Allied Health Department offers services to people across the lifespan, from young babies through to older adults. Services include Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Speech Pathology, Podiatry and Occupational Therapy services. Individual consultations are offered as well as a host of group programs, which include IMPACT (Chronic Pain Management), Falls Prevention, Physio Rehab groups, and Feeding groups for children.

Community Services

Alcohol and Drug Services (AOD) – Offering qualified and experienced Alcohol and Drug counsellors and nurses that provide one-on-one support. Access to AOD services is through the Australian Community Support Organisation (ASCO) on 1300 022 760.

Diabetes Education offers education and support with diabetes self-management to all people with diabetes including Type 1, Type 2, gestational diabetes and pre-diabetes.

Social Work – Our social workers assist people to improve their lives, with a focus on their personal and social wellbeing, including one-on-one consultations or group-based services to the community.

Home Care Packages – The HCP Program supports older Australians (65 years or 50 years or older for First Nations people) with complex ageing-related care needs so that they can continue to live safely and independently at home for as long as possible.

Social Support/Planned Activity Groups offer group-based services to adults of all ages, aiming to support participation in community life and enhance social inclusion through activities, outings and healthy eating that contributes to physical and emotional wellbeing.

Home Care Services – The GSHS community care worker team supports clients (HCP and NDIS) with home and community-based services including personal care, home care, community access, meal preparation, shopping, respite and transport.

Urgent Care Centre

The Urgent Care Centre at Leongatha is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and staffed by highly qualified nursing professionals, including Nurse Practitioners, Rural and Isolated Practice Registered Nurses and Registered Nurses who are supported by our medical staff and virtual Emergency Department specialists for our virtual care model. The virtual model is utilised overnight and when a doctor isn't present. These are just a sample of the services provided by GSHS.

Do you want to know more?

Visit gshs.com.au or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. You can call 5667 5555 to ask about our services.



GIPPSLAND SOUTHERN HEALTH SERVICE
66 Koonwarra Road, Leongatha



Jan Hutton is holding a launch event in the hopes of forming a South Gippsland Toastmasters Club and everyone is invited to come along and try it out. A03_2624

A launch for a Toastmasters club in South Gippsland

WHAT began as a small club to help young men learn the art of public speaking in 1924 grew so much in popularity that now, a century later, has eight million members worldwide.

Toastmasters is what the club is called and now includes all genders, with members across 148 countries; and Korumburra local Jan Hutton is hoping to start a South Gippsland club.

The club provides an opportunity for people to come together regularly to prepare and deliver speeches, respond to impromptu questions, and give and receive constructive feedback.

It gives people a space in which to fine-tune their communication and leadership skills, build confidence and self-awareness, network and make new friends in a fun and safe environment.

"In every Toastmasters session, there are evaluations of everything that people do, and you get feedback all the time. You'll get different sorts of feedback and often it's very helpful because it will be something simple, like, if you use your hands like this, people will be able to connect with you better," explains Jan who works as a coach and in training and leadership.

"Most people are frightened of public speaking. They'd rather be in the coffin than speaking at a funeral, and why is it so? Where does this come from? Did it come from our teachers or our parents growing up, were we traumatised when we were taught we had to speak up in class? So where does that come from? And this is about undoing that."

Earlier this year at a Lions Club event Jan, who is now the Korumburra Lions Club President, gave a speech, which many reported was the best they'd ever heard.

"I was able to do that, and people there at that event, that night said, 'oh my God, that speech was great. How did you do that?' And I said, Toastmasters. Toastmasters was able to help me with that," recounts Jan.

There are different themes for each meeting, to help people grow in different areas of their lives, and Jan believes the meetings are for everyone, including people who want a better job, people who want to feel heard, parents who want to lead their kids better and people who want to be able to learn to speak up and anyone really, who is looking to grow.

Jan invites everyone to come along and try out a Toastmasters event at the launch, which will be held at the Korumburra Hub on Tuesday, October 15 at 7 pm. Cost \$4.

Gippsland walking group for rescued greyhounds

GREYHOUND owners from Inverloch, Wonthaggi and surrounding areas have formed a large walking group to share their passion for rescuing greyhounds.

Gippsland Greyhound Walkers share a common love for their dogs and meet weekly for shared walks and a catch-up coffee.

The on-leash walks can be through the Wonthaggi wetlands, Inverloch, Loch, Korumburra, Leongatha or Cape Paterson.

"We decide on the day," said group convenor Sharon Kraehenbuehl.

"After our walk, we decide where our next walk will be."

Averaging between twenty to thirty greyhounds on each walk, the greyhounds are often pets of visitors or people who have a holiday house in the area.

"We always finish with a coffee," said Sharon.

Gippsland Greyhound Walkers are a diverse group, with different ages, backgrounds and experiences with greyhounds.

"Some walkers have one dog, some have four, some are new to greyhounds while others have owned many greyhounds."

"It's great for the dogs to be with their own kind."

On the last Sunday in September, greyhound owners around the world will participate in a Great Global Greyhound Walk.

Sharon Kraehenbuehl says the Great Global Greyhound Walk is an annual dog-walking event bringing together



Gippsland greyhound walkers Carolyn Handley from Bena with Glenda Conlan and Sharon Kraehenbuehl of Inverloch. B17_3924

greyhounds, lurchers and other sighthounds with their owners to raise awareness of the breed and show the public just what wonderful pets greyhounds can make.

Last year eleven thousand sighthounds walked together in four-hundred and fifty walks across thirty-six countries.

"It is not a political day," said Sharon Kraehenbuehl.

"It is not about making noise about the racing industry but a day just to be together to enjoy these quirky kids."

Greyhound enthusiasts Carolyn Handley and Glenda Conlan say

greyhounds are very affectionate.

The walkers agree greyhounds are the most beautiful, gentle and kindest dogs.

"They love children."

Dogs rescued from the racing industry undergo a home familiarisation program.

"It is often their first time in a car, first time with other breeds of dogs and first time sleeping on a couch."

According to the Gippsland Walkers Group, it can take three months for a dog's personality to emerge and twelve months for a greyhound to fully adjust.

"They love exercise," said Sharon.

"But they also like sleeping on the couch," agreed Carolyn and Glenda.

This year's Great Global Greyhound Walk will be hosted at the Wonthaggi wetlands reserve on Sunday, September 29 followed by coffee at the State Coal Mine Café.

For more information about rescuing greyhounds go to Jakes Place, Toongabbie at petrescue.com.au/groups/12208/JakesPlace, Racing2Rehome at racing2rehome.org, or Greyt Greys Rescue at greytgreys.org.

Korumburra's Avis Tilley turns 99 with a positive mindset

KORUMBURRA lady, Avis Tilley celebrated her 99th birthday last week on Monday September 16 with family and with friends at the Top Pub in Korumburra.

Ms Tilley's life has been filled with ups and downs, tragic times and joyful times and she never thought she would reach 99 years of age.

"I never expected to get here. I had a very bad car smash nearly 14 years ago, and I ended up in the hospital for five months because I was very badly smashed up," said Ms Tilley.

"You fight. It doesn't matter what you got. You fight."

"I survived. I always do."

Two long tables were filled with Ms Tilley's friends last Tuesday following having celebrated with her family on Monday over lunch, also at the Austral Hotel.

She comments that she didn't expect to receive presents that day and shed a few tears of gratitude when presented with a large, decorated birthday cake, a bunch of flowers and everyone singing Happy Birthday.

"I'm a bit emotional today," she admitted.

Each week Ms Tilley stays active and joins the Legacy Group and RSL ladies for lunch at the pub and when they go out to explore different places; and previously volunteered at Coal Creek for many years.

"I just do what I can do and if I can help anybody I will because that's who I am. You've got to, you can't just be for yourself,"



Surrounded by friends at her 99th birthday celebrations is Avis Tilley (middle seated), with (from left) Maree Henshaw, Mary Fields, Janne Grenon, Juliet Wylie and Eunice Walker. ob06_3924

she said.

The nonagenarian still lives at home alone, still drives a car and still does everything for herself that she needs to do, including the washing and ironing.

The only thing she can't do is gardening, but she has lived in the same home for the past 21 years and said she has a wonderful landlord who will come and check on her and help her out.

Ms Tilley lives by some key pieces of wisdom that have

helped her to get through hard times, of which she has experienced many, including her mother passing away when she was just four years old, her father being a hard man, and suffering as an adult in a bad marriage.

"I always think positive. Always. Never look on the opposite side," she said.

"It's just daily. Everything's daily. One day at a time. Open your eyes, have a look at the weather, whether it's a good day

or if it's lousy, just go day by day."

Ms Tilley has two daughters and a stepdaughter, a tribe of stepsons and had seven grandchildren, but tragically lost one of her grandsons to cancer.

"I'll never get over that because you expect to go before them," she said.

"It's hard, but I've got all these good things."

And she looks forward to receiving a letter from the King when she turns 100 next year.

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Opening this Thursday, the Phillip Island Community Art & Craft Gallery has found a new home in the old CFA station.

Gallery reopens after absence of home

FOR OVER twenty years local not for profit, Phillip Island Community Art & Craft Gallery were located in the old cultural centre. Demolished in 2020, PICAL kindly offered the community group a place in their facility.

“For two years we were very fortunate to still have a small community Gallery operating from PICAL in Church Street,” a spokesperson for the committee said in a recent statement.

“Again in 2022 we found ourselves without a space to operate from with PICAL moving into their new facility.

“It was in November of 2022 that we closed our doors and all we could do was hope that eventually we would have a new location to operate from.”

And their new location is opening this week. Thursday, September 26 from the old CFA building, now called the Creative Arts Station, 119 Settlement Road, Cowes.

“We share our wonderful new Creative Arts Station home with three other arts and crafts groups from the island (AS-PIR, PICES and Boomerang Bags) and right out the back is the PICAL community garden which looks amazing.

“We are very proud of our new gallery, and we have loads of beautiful new arts and crafts on display and for sale.”

All of their products are handmade by members and residents of Bass Coast.

The Phillip Island Community Art & Craft Gallery has a long history in the community.

In 1993 in Chapel Street the Art & Craft Centre was established, the Phillip Island Arts Council handed over the management of the centre to The Artists’ Society of Phillip Island Inc in 1994. The premises in Chapel Street was sold in 1997 and the council offered the Gallery a space at the renovated Cultural centre. The Art & Craft Gallery continued to run as an umbrella group of the Artists’ Society of Phillip Island until 2001. In April 2001 a new separate organisation called The Phillip Island Community Art & Craft Gallery Inc was incorporated.

The new gallery is open Thursday to Sunday 11am – 3pm. For more information visit phillipislandgallery.com.au.

More ticketing options for V/Line passengers

AVAILABLE from Wednesday, September 18, the new electronic ticketing option on V/Line services provides passengers with a link to their ticket via SMS or email when they make a reservation for a long-distance train or scheduled coach service – rather than visiting a staffed station to buy a ticket or have one mailed by post.

The eTickets are available on V/Line scheduled coach services as well as the Albury, Ararat, Bairnsdale, Echuca, Maryborough, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Warrnambool train lines.

Tickets can be added to a passenger’s Apple or Google Wallet, or downloaded as a PDF which can be printed at home and brought with them when they travel.

The tickets will also cover additional travel on Victoria’s public transport network, such as metropolitan trains, trams and buses, in the same way that a paper ticket currently does.

Passengers can still choose to collect tickets online from their nearest staffed V/Line station, V/Line ticket agent, or premium Metro station, or have them sent via post before they travel.



Large Cub Scouts Unit of the Year went to Leongatha.



Scout of the Year was awarded to Charlotte Plowman (1st Mirboo North).



Venturer of the Year went to Mia Kelly of Phillip Island.



Mirboo North was named Small Cub Scouts Unit of the Year.



Karrie Whitten (Group Leader – Leongatha) was named the 2024 South Gippsland District Scouts Scouter of the Year.



Cub of the Year Kyran Barns of Korumburra.



James Nieuwesteeg (Korumburra) and Chase Couper (Leongatha) were awarded Joey of the Year.



Leongatha was awarded Joey Unit of the Year.

South Gippsland District Scouts shine

THE South Gippsland District Scouts ARAP (Annual Report and Presentation) event was held earlier this month at the historic Wonthaggi State Coal Mine. The gathering, which drew an impressive turnout from local youth members, leaders, and their families, was a vibrant celebration of the district’s achievements and the accomplishments of its young members.

Many of the district’s youth members took on leadership roles in organising and running parts of the event, with the support of district leaders, who were on hand to present awards across various sections, recognising both individual and group achievements.

The event featured highlights from Jo-eyes, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers, who shared their personal stories and celebrated their achievements. Among the standout achievements were many youths achieving the prestigious Grey Wolf Award and the Australian Scout Award, as well as participation in a diverse array of camps, programs and community activities.

Individual awards were presented to Scouts and adult members, who demonstrated outstanding commitment and excellence in their respective categories:

- **Joey Scout of the Year:** Chase Couper (Leongatha) and James Nieuwesteeg (Korumburra)
- **Cub Scout of the Year:** Kyran Barns (Korumburra)



Scout Unit of the Year 1st Mirboo North.

- **Scout of the Year:** Charlotte Plowman (1st Mirboo North)
- **Venturer of the Year:** Mia Kelly (Phillip Island)
- **Scouter of the Year:** Karrie Whitten (Group Leader - Leongatha)
- **District Commissioner Special Award:** Tiffany Wightman (1st Fish Creek)

Group awards were also presented, highlighting the achievements and efforts of units across the district:

- **Joey Unit of the Year:** Leongatha
- **Cub Scouts Unit of the Year (Small):** 1st Mirboo North
- **Cub Scouts Unit of the Year (Large):** Leongatha
- **Scout Unit of the Year:** 1st Mirboo North
- **Public Relations Award*:** Inverloch
- **Shirley Reeves OAM Good House-keeping and Presentation Award:** Phillip Island

District Commissioner, Wombat Lyons, summed up the feelings of many at the event by stating, “South Gippsland District Scouts is an amazing community to be a part of, and I thank you all for the part you play in creating that environment.”

For anyone interested in joining the Scouting community and making a difference, more information is available at scoutsvictoria.com.au.



The District Commissioner Special Award went to Tiffany Wightman.

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30,955kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4 double cab SN: W101707



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2022 Isuzu D Max X-Terrain
61,990 DRIVE AWAY

29,910kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4 SUV SN: W101845



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211,053kms, 5 speed CVT manual 4x4 cab chassis SN: L101215



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14,990 DRIVE AWAY

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Sentinel-Times COMMENT

Truth needs to come out about Berninneit

THE development of the Berninneit cultural centre in Cowes has been shrouded in secrecy from the day it inexplicably took over from the development of a new Phillip Island Recreation Centre, on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor Road, as the Island's number one priority.

How did that even happen and who made it happen, given the huge demand for sporting facilities for an expanding, younger Island community?

For goodness sake, the words "sport", "pool" and "aquatic" aren't even mentioned in either the 2024 Federal Advocacy Priorities or 2024 State Advocacy Priorities, key documents used by the shire to go after Federal and State grants.

Notwithstanding that the shire believes it will cost \$52 million to develop a full-service aquatic centre on the 'Carnival Site', they should at least be applying for the \$10-\$15 million it would cost to develop stage 1 of the sporting facility, along the lines of what has already been built for the Lang Lang community at Caldermeade.

Incredibly, the Bass Coast Shire hasn't even made an application to Round 2 of the Federal Government's Growing Regions Program, which opened on September 5, 2024 and will close on October 10, 2024 with \$393 million up for grabs for projects exactly like the one proposed for the Carnival Site.

It's almost 12 months since Berninneit was opened with so much haste, to fit in with ex-mayor Cr Michael Whelan's program, that it still didn't have the right windows in place, much less be ready to try and pass its much-vaunted Passivhaus certification.

And yet we still haven't seen how it has performed financially or heard how it suits community needs and what changes might be made.

At a 'Meet the Candidates' Night' in Cowes last week, it was clear the community still has a lot of questions to ask about Berninneit and equally clear, that if the shire council had insisted on more transparency about what has easily been the biggest capital works project in the shire's history, much better results might have been achieved.

The building is there now, and there are a lot of things to like about its style, form and function.

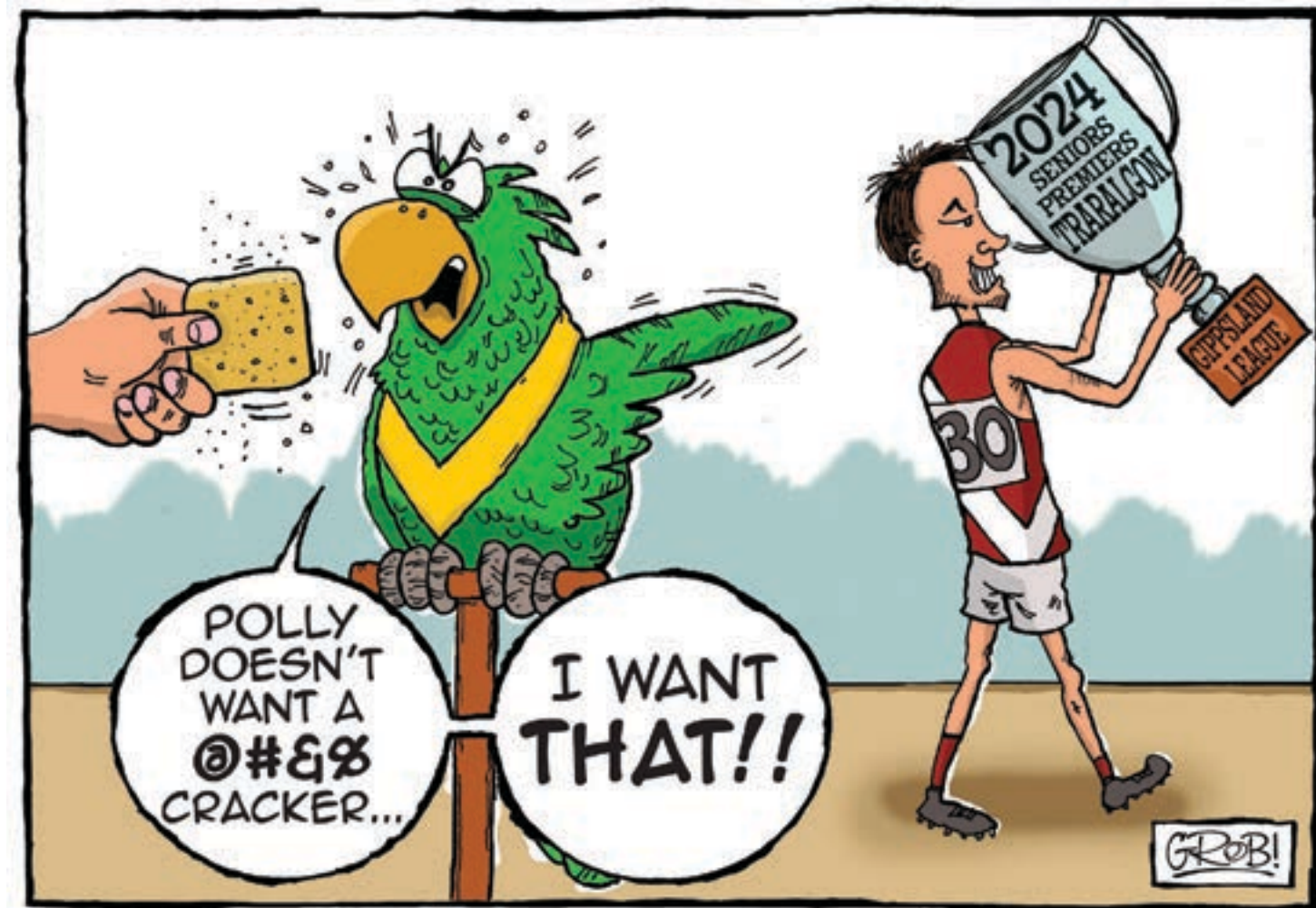
But one of the first orders of business for the new council, after it is elected next month is to call for a full review of the project, its cost, what still needs to be done and all aspects of its operations including fees and rules governing its use by the local community.

It's entirely appropriate, after 12 months of operation, that we find out if we're getting value for money and what might be done to improve its operations.

Truck tsunami along Bass Coast

THE Victorian Government report: Extractive Industries in South Gippsland-Supply Chain Study 2019, provides a warning to everyone living along the Bass Coast today. It predicts a rapid increase in 40 tonne gravel trucks moving crushed rock from Leongatha to Greater Melbourne along the Bass Highway.

South Gippsland has been prioritised by the Victorian Government to supply much of the crushed rock and gravel needed



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grob' Robinson.

for construction works in Greater Melbourne. A projected 21 million tonnes per year of crushed rock is expected to be transported from the only available hard-rock quarry in South Gippsland at Leongatha South. This will be achieved by up to 5000 truck movements per day, running 24/7. 5000 heavy truck movements per day will move from Leongatha South via Inverloch-Wonthaggi-Dalyston-Kilcunda and Grantville to and from Melbourne.

This catastrophic volume of heavy trucks will not reach 5000 movements per day until 2050 but it has already started and the consequences have not been addressed by government at any level yet. Consequences include the mechanical destruction of the existing Bass Highway, extreme hazards to local traffic and pedestrians as well as the health issues of noise, sleep loss and air pollution.

All levels of government need to be challenged and urged to find a less destructive alternative to supplying construction materials to Melbourne. We could start with the upcoming Local Government elections in October this year.

Edward Minty, North Wonthaggi

Champion local residents

A CONSISTENT theme runs through many of the letters to the editor about the qualities local ratepayers wish to see in their prospective candidates for the approaching council elections.

I think the following truism captures the essence of the feedback and should act as guide to all candidates.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

That does mean, if elected, please listen to your constituents, and in the knowledge of what matters to them within the Bass Coast council precinct, advocate for them and be a champion of initiatives to satisfy local needs.

It does not mean baying at the moon and wasting scarce council funds on national and global issues about which you and council will never have influence or control.

I think many ratepayers would love to see a council charter developed to encapsulate these simple principles, and to have all councillors be prepared to stand accountable annually relative to those principles.

David Jones, Inverloch

Vast majority want unity

ROB Parsons, The Gurdies, got to the nub of the issue in last week's Sentinel Times, in his article headed 'No more woke councillors'.

There are too many special interest groups, political parties and religious groups, who are pushing ideological agendas that do nothing but divide us into tribes or disparate assemblages, where the greater good of society is undermined.

We have a never-ending proliferation of so-called communities, all promoting their own societal importance, when in fact we ought to be highlighting the fact, we are one community, the Australian community, encompassed under the one flag, the Australian flag, working for the greater good.

If the silent majority remains silent, then it won't be long before the lifestyle, productivity, health and enjoyment of a way of life, once deemed commonplace and an entitlement, will be irretrievable.

Rob, I'll take your 65 per cent of ratepayers being in agreement with your view and see you to 80 per cent of the folk that I communicate with being of a similar outlook.

It would have been good if Rob Parsons had nominated for Council in this latest attempt to uncover quality incumbents to service the community and guide Council management.

David Vance, Inverloch

Rates are for services not ideology

YOU might well ask... what makes Meg Edwards unique from every other new candidate for Bunurong, who am I and what are my values? The short answer is that I'm the only new candidate for Bunurong whose values are firmly right of centre. I'm not a swinging voter or centrist.

While council is firmly for local issues, it is important for you to understand your candidate's values as to whether they align with yours in casting your vote.

With compassion and respect for others, I stand up for what I believe are mainstream values: the rights, responsibilities and freedoms of all, with lean government. That while you are personally free to believe any or no ideology you choose, it isn't up to rates and taxpayers to fund it.

Our rates are for providing back-to-basics services and infrastructure, protecting our coastline, footpaths, lighting, local roads, accessible buildings and everything

done with full transparency (except in rare cases that require justification).

You may have heard of me. Now 51 years old, I schooled at Newhaven and my first real job was at the Penguin Reserve. We live in Inverloch and also have a farm in neighbouring South Gippsland (where I was an effective councillor in a previous term). We have two boys.

In 2022, a few weeks before the state election, the Labor government quietly released a plan to roll out thousands of 340-metre-high industrial wind turbines subsidised by your taxpayer money just 5km from our shores from the Nobbies on Phillip Island, in front of Inverloch right through to inside Waratah Bay – put bluntly, environmental vandalism.

With the support of some great locals, when I entered the election with the purpose of raising the alarm and changing policy, most of the candidates were not even aware of it, one was trying to hide it, none openly fought against it. In every respect that campaign was successful.

Meg Edwards, Inverloch. Candidate for Bunurong ward.

Editor: Ms Edwards provided some background details which have been edited for space.

Inverloch inundation

Editor: DEECA's storm tide inundation map of Inverloch shows small areas on the western and eastern edges of Inverloch that may be impacted by temporary inundation as sea levels rise but predict that only one per cent of the town's general residential area will be impacted by permanent inundation out to 2100 indicating that barriers would protect property from events. This is one of the latest maps from DEECA. The writer asks if these maps are up to date.

Are inundation maps up to date

I would encourage you to see if you can find further information regarding the predictions of water levels in the Coast-to-Coast project.

We have moved back to the area, choosing to purchase in Inverloch, but a reliable contact told us not to purchase near the water and that the current "public" data is not up to date and the new data is worse.

I don't understand why the Coast-to-Coast report wouldn't update this information for the public as asking for feedback on incorrect data is a waste of time for everyone.

Name and address supplied.

Don't destroy the honour

KONGWAK'S Avenue of Honour was first planted during the Great War by the people of Kongwak as 'a living memorial' to those who enlisted from the district. The Avenue was extended after the Second World War to recognise again those men and women who served both at home and overseas: those who returned and those who died overseas.

For over a hundred years this iconic piece of South Gippsland's heritage has been maintained by Kongwak's people. It is often visited by the descendants and friends of the people honoured. Many admire its beauty and value its significance.

In 2009, in the spirit of care and renewal, local people with assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs extended the Avenue of Honour into Church Road in order to especially remember the eight local men who gave their lives in service to their country during World War Two. Eight trees and a memorial cairn were dedicated on Remembrance Day, November 11, 2009.

Recently I learned that there is a plan to create a road through the Avenue of Honour in order to provide access to accommodation cabins for the proposed Butter Factory Development. This road would dissect the line of trees creating two separate islands and disturbing the commemorative area where visitors stand to read the cairn and reflect on those lives commemorated. Neither the cairn nor the fact that the trees are an avenue of honour are shown on the architect's plan for the project.

The war is a long time ago, but the families of these servicemen still live here; there are still those alive who knew them. Three were members of the RAAF: Lawrence Scott, Alan Bell and Arthur Graham who lost his life on June 8, 1942, two days before his 21st birthday flying his second mission over the North Sea. Three

were prisoners of war: James Elmore, Keith Wylie and Wesley Williams, each one suffering and dying at the hands of the Japanese in Ambon and Burma. Two men, Arthur's brother Christopher Graham and Norman Rippon were members of the local militia and accidentally killed on their way to training in Korumburra. Lives so full of promise never to be fulfilled.

A road cutting through the Church Road Avenue of Honour destroys its integrity and purpose. Such a proposal is disrespectful to the men who died and those who seek to remember them: Lest We Forget.

Jillian Durance, Moyarra

Better communication needed

THE reading of the report on the 2024 Bass Coast Council Survey is one of the reasons I have chosen to stand for the Bass Coast Council election.

The summary highlighted the focus areas of "...transparency and communication around its decision-making and consultation processes."

These areas were ranked lowest by residents and those aged 65+. I believe the cause is the seemingly exclusive use of electronic media (social media/web pages to communicate. This ignores the fact that many in the above demographic are unable or unwilling to use those means.

I recall other councils in the state provide information on plans and projects via print included in the quarterly rate notices. Bass Coast could adopt this method of communication as well as the use of print media to better illustrate reasons for decisions and to demonstrate clear direction for ratepayers. To reduce waste, this could be an "opt-in" program.

If elected to council, I will advocate for

more inclusive means of communication for a better-informed community

Darrell Silva, Candidate for Bass Coast, Island Ward.

Be careful who you vote for

TO THE residents and ratepayers of the South Gippsland Shire and more specifically, of the Tarwin Valley Ward, can I offer my sincere thanks for giving me the opportunity to represent you over the past three years, to restore stability and credibility to our Council.

Together with my fellow Councillors and the management team of the Shire, I believe that we have taken our region back to being a premier destination for people to live, work, visit and enjoy and be a region that others look at with envy.

This was no mean feat and was created through collaboration, thinking outside the square, and showing respect for each other by sticking to our original plan of holding each other to account for our actions and using democracy as our mantra in all decision-making.

We didn't always get it right, but we showed that by letting our actions speak louder than our words, that we could create good for our Shire.

We had our detractors, those with negative attitudes who tried to undermine us personally and as a group, but by sticking together and listening to our people, I believe that we got the job right more often than not.

To look around the South Gippsland region and see what has been achieved over the past three years makes all those hours of reading, listening, emailing, phone calls, discussing and making decisions seem very worthwhile.

To look at the Leongatha streetscape, the Korumburra Hub, the new lights on the sporting ovals at Fish Creek,

Toora, Mirboo North and Meeniyan, the upgrade of Peters Street in Mirboo North or the sealing of Simons Lane at Leongatha South and the upgrade of Ross Street in Meeniyan, as well as the planning for the Poowong North road sealing and the growth of Nyora that is upon us and then to marvel at a rail trail that now extends from Nyora through to Yarram, is extraordinary.

Our focus as a group has been to protect what we have, plan for what we don't have, collaborate with others who provide services to the community to ensure we are on the same page and listen to what our people would like.

This I believe is the secret to success and is why we now have other local Government sectors reaching out to our shire officers to ascertain how we have achieved unity. Working together as a team, showing respect for each other's ideas, understanding our roles and meeting expectations is the key and once you realise that there is no 'I' in team, then you can make it work.

I look forward to the upcoming elections and ask that you choose wisely when casting your vote as there are upcoming challenges that will require unity and strong decision-making as we plan for the future. So, please take the time to search out the best representation available for your ward so the success of the past three years can be built upon.

John Schelling, Leongatha. Candidate for Tarwin Valley ward.

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.

GIPPSLAND GRAMMAR
SEX ABUSE
INFORMATION WANTED

Rightside Legal is working for a number of men who were abused while students at Gippsland Grammar in Sale in the 1980s and 1990s.

One of the abusers was Phillip Hazeldine, a Teacher at the College.
Hazeldine has been convicted of abusing multiple students, but Gippsland Grammar say they are not responsible.

If you have information or memories of Hazeldine that may help the survivors, please contact Chris Prast on 0432 250 492 or info@rightsidelegal.com.au.

www.rightsidelegal.com.au

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Cardiologist Dr. Swati Mukherjee leads the new Cardiac CT service at Gippsland Southern Health Service.

Heart disease can be prevented

CARDIAC disease kills more people in South Gippsland than any other condition, but Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) is proactively addressing the issue.

Cardiovascular disease kills 185 men each year and 129 women. In men, deaths from cardiac disease nearly double the next most deadly disease, lung cancer, which claims 95 lives per year.

In 2022, a new CT scanner was installed at GSHS and in 2023 the health service received funding from the Department of Health to establish an advanced practice Cardiac CT service, bringing new expertise to the area.

At the time, medical imaging manager Greg Butler said one of the drivers for the Cardiac CT funding from the Department of Health was to provide advanced practice services to the local rural community.

"The new CT scanner gives us the capability of high-quality cardiac scanning, so the next step was to make that happen," he said.

Cardiac CT radiographer Karris Chen has joined GSHS to lead development and delivery of the service, which is now established in consultation with Imaging Associates and Victorian Heart and Lung Clinic and visiting cardiologist Dr Swati Mukherjee.

There have been 127 Cardiac CT Coronary angiogram scans carried out at GSHS since the first in August 2023.

While most of the scans have been for patients within the local community, the service has also served people who travelled from as far as the Gippsland Lakes catchment area.

Having the service at GSHS means these patients don't have to travel to Melbourne for Cardiac CT Coronary Angiography (CTCA) as they would have previously to access this type of service.

Dr Mukherjee said the CT service was a very good example of great collaboration.

"What we are doing here with the CTCA service is a good example of collaboration using a CT scanner, local radiographer expertise, Imaging Associates and Victorian Heart and Lung clinic," she said.

"This service is getting very good feedback," she added.

The range of cardiac CT imaging services available at GSHS include CT Coronary Angiography, CT Coronary Artery Calcium Scoring, CT Pre-TAVI workup and CT CABG patency assessment.

Calcium Scoring is beneficial for patients without symptoms who are concerned about the future risk of Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI). It is best for patients aged 40-75 years with an intermediate risk, and may help decide if statins or aspirin therapy are appropriate.

To access this service at Leongatha Hospital, people will need a request for a CT Coronary Angiogram or Calcium Score from their doctor. To make an appointment call the Medical Imaging Department on 5667 5579, fax 5667 5677 or email your request form to medical.imaging@gshs.com.au.

GSHS also provides cardiac rehabilitation programs on a regular basis at the Korumburra site led by cardiac qualified Registered Nurse, Kathryn Croatto.

Inspiring hope after heart surgery

PEOPLE who undergo heart surgery can be left feeling physically diminished which can negatively impact their sense of self and their hope for the future, but John Carter of Wonthaggi is helping change that.

Earlier this year, after having undergone the trauma of open heart surgery and rehabilitation process himself, Heart Support Australia asked John if he would be willing to establish and run a Peer Support Group in Wonthaggi.

John agreed and three people attended the initial meeting in March. Fast forward six months and up to 16 people are attending the monthly meetings.

Members go along and share their stories, find and offer support, advice and encouragement, which is particularly important after such a huge medical event, according to John.

"Us humans, we're pretty blasé. We take our lives for granted, we're going to live forever, and we're pretty much bulletproof."

"When you have a heart event which involves major surgery, it does leave you feeling a little bit less than what you were before it happened. You do feel somewhat diminished. And that's a mindset that folks do develop."

To inspire and encourage group members to think differently about themselves and what they can achieve following heart surgery, John has organised a special



John Carter leads the Heart Support Peer Group in Wonthaggi and is helping to inspire others to have hope after heart surgery.

guest speaker to attend the group's next meeting.

Colin Carter of Trufficulture not only got on with his life after heart surgery but went on to thrive and grow in new ways – one of these was founding and operating a very successful business with his son.

While John plans on having guest speakers attend meetings on occasion, he

believes there is a lot of inspiration within the group itself.

"One fellow there, he's incredible. He's only a young boy about 50 years of age. He's looked death in the face about three times. He's a brave fellow and has got a great sense of humour. He can have a joke on himself. To me, he's inspirational."

John tells of another

member who used to walk everywhere but prior to her surgery could only walk the length of her kitchen table and she lost all confidence in her own physicality, which impacted her mental health.

"She's back walking everywhere again. She got up and fought back and as far as I'm concerned, she is inspirational," said John.

"So, it won't just be people that I'll get to come in and have a chat and build us up, but our own members are pretty good at that as well."

The meetings are a welcoming, safe and friendly place for people to attend, which John puts down to trusting one another, being able to talk about one's own experience in a non-judgmental space, and both sharing and taking advice from each other.

"We trust that each one of us is not knowingly going to do any others any harm and that they'll be doing the best to look out for each other."

"This is what they do, and they go away from each meeting feeling pretty good."

"By having our group, we are contributing in a positive way to the wellbeing of our South Gippsland community," said John.

Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month from 10am at the Wonthaggi Senior Citizens Centre.

For further information contact John on 0408 556 061 or email john.carter48@bigpond.com.



Dr David Chieng Cardiologist, Registered Nurse student Maggie Gibson, patient Geoff Abbott and Rapid Access Atrial Fibrillation Clinical Nurse Consultant Angela Tiziani during a cardiac test at Wonthaggi Hospital.



Bass Coast Health Cardio Clinical Nurse Consultant Jane Ori with client Stewart Donald at a Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Group at Wonthaggi YMCA.

Bass Coast Health provides first class cardiac care

BASS Coast Health (BCH) is delivering a range of leading Cardiology services to the community of Bass Coast and South Gippsland, optimising health outcomes while reducing the need for patients to travel for care.

BCH offers atrial fibrillation, chronic and rapid access cardiology clinics with Cardiologists from The Alfred, drawing on the expertise and resources of this leading Victorian tertiary

health service.

The Cardiologists visit BCH's Wonthaggi Hospital site weekly and monthly in Cowes.

BCH also provides TTE (echocardiogram) and stress ECHO testing for assessment and monitoring of cardiac conditions.

Our knowledgeable and skilled Clinical Nurse Consultants give consumers support and advice, and co-ordinate cardiac/heart failure rehabilitation programs.

These involve group exercise and education sessions at Wonthaggi Hospital and Phillip Island Health Hub at Cowes, where consumers can undertake tailored programs to support their rehabilitation goals and needs following a cardiac episode.

"We have an expanding and ageing community, and therefore there is a high need for excellent cardiac care locally," BCH CEO Jan Child said, ahead of World Heart Day on

September 29.

"We are committed to providing a comprehensive suite of Cardiology care so that our community's health needs can be met and closely monitored by a team focused on enabling our consumers to live as fulfilling lives as possible."

To make an appointment with any of BCH's Cardiology services, ask your medical practitioner to email a referral to access@basscoasthealth.org.au

Shadow Victorian Health Minister tours Maryvale private hospital

THE Victorian Shadow Health Minister, Ms Georgie Crozier toured not-for-profit private hospital, Maryvale Private Hospital in Morwell on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. The Victorian Shadow Health Minister's visit coincided with three days of free community 'Shane Warne Legacy Health Checks' at Maryvale Hospital.

Latrobe Health Services is a not-for-profit private health insurer and the owner of Maryvale Private Hospital. As a Founding Partner of Shane Warne Legacy, Latrobe Health has committed to extending their partnership nationally for another two years as part of its annual community investment of \$5 million. It also recently completed a \$16 million redevelopment of Maryvale Private Hospital to provide start-of-the-art acute medical facilities to care for people in the Gippsland region.

During the tour, the Shadow Victorian Health Minister met the Latrobe Health Services CEO and Maryvale Private Non-Executive Director, Ian Whitehead, and CEO of Maryvale Private Hospital, Dan Scholtes, along with other local Members. Since its establishment in 1991, Maryvale Private Hospital has cared for more than 60,000 patients.

Ms Crozier undertook a free 15-minute Shane Warne Legacy Health Check which tested risk factors for cardiovascular disease using blood pressure, heart rate, body composition, and diabetes risk.

Ms Crozier congratulated the program and Latrobe Health Services, "Maryvale Private Hospital is not only providing



Susan Chan, Dan Scholtes, Anne-Maree Thompson, Helen Nolan, Ian Whitehead, Noel Duncan, Shadow Health Minister Georgie Crozier, Derk Pol, Ormond Pearson, Martin Cameron and Matthew Koce during the tour of Maryvale Private Hospital in Morwell.

high-quality services and care to the Gippsland community but their owner, Latrobe Health Services, is partnering with the Shane Warne Legacy to promote vital health checks that will save lives."

"Latrobe Health Services, Maryvale Private Hospital and Shane Warne Legacy should be congratulated on such a worthy initiative that is reaching hundreds of thousands of Australians and providing them with on-the-spot health information," she says.

Latrobe Health Services' CEO, Mr Ian Whitehead, said, "We are delighted to welcome the Shadow Victorian Health Minister to Maryvale Private Hospital, which is a valuable asset to the Gippsland region.

Maryvale Private Hospital plays a critical role in supporting public and private health and acute services."

"Through our partnership with the Shane Warne Legacy and SiSU Health, we are making a real difference in the lives of Australians, particularly in rural and regional areas where access to healthcare can be challenging," he said.

Maryvale Private Hospital works with local public hospitals through effective coordination and a streamlined referral pathway, giving the community confidence and assurance in local health care.

Shane Warne's untimely death sparked an increase in public interest in heart disease and heart attacks. Medicare

reported a 62 per cent increase from March 2022 to January 2023 in heart health checks. But, despite the increase, participation rates for eligible females and males remain at less than two per cent of the total Australian population in the period November 2022 to October 2023. Average participation rates for all genders remain low at 0.7 per cent for 35- to 44-year-olds, 1.3 per cent for 45- to 54-year-olds, and two per cent for 55- to 64-year-olds in the past 12 months.

For more information and to find out where you can access a free Shane Warne Legacy Health Check, please visit latrobehealth.com.au/shane-warne-legacy.

A world of rivers in West Gippsland celebrated on Sunday

ON WORLD Rivers Day Sunday, September 22, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) reflected on the importance of rivers and how they are working with Traditional Owners, partners and community to protect and enhance them.

"We love rivers and are proud to be tasked with protecting, enhancing and advocating for over 40,000 kilometres of designated waterways across the catchment of West Gippsland," said Martin Fuller, CEO of West Gippsland CMA.

"All these waterways flow to the Victorian coast, discharging through the world-renowned Gippsland Lakes, or directly into Bass Strait and the Southern Ocean."

Every river in West Gippsland is unique from the short and sharp Agnes River near Toora in South Gippsland that supports dairy farms, forest and agriculture and flows into the world recognised Corner Inlet Ramsar site to one of Victoria's iconic rivers the Durt'Yowan (Latrobe).

With a focus on rivers and their catchments, the CMA works every day to improve catchment health through a range of programs and projects spanning from working towards self-determination for



Flowing through rich farmland, the Tarwin River supports agriculture and biodiversity across West Gippsland's landscapes.

Traditional Owners, partnering with legends like Landcare, Trust for Nature and Greening Australia and building relationships with the amazing landholders and community who are willing to work for river and catchment health.

The CMA delivers programs for rivers to remove weeds, fence and revegetate rivers, recover from floods, deliver water for the environment to bring rivers back towards their natural flows, restore wetlands and work with farmers to be at the forefront of sustainable agriculture.

This work ultimately flows on to a more healthy and resilient home for wildlife and the

West Gippsland community.

In 2023-24, the CMA:

- Fenced 50 kilometres along West Gippsland's rivers to protect them and prepare for planting the banks.
- Planted over 104,050 trees over 152 hectares to restore rivers and provide shade and shelter for stock and wildlife.
- Treated 993 hectares of weeds to restore biodiversity.
- Delivered 34,476 megalitres of water for the environment to restore natural flows for native fish and replenish wetlands

"On World Rivers Day and every day, we thank everyone for supporting the work of the

CMA to protect and restore West Gippsland's rivers – the lifeblood of the region."

Become a river lover

Find out more about the work WGCMA do and sign up to their e-news for updates wgcm.vic.gov.au

Agnes Shorts film comp and event

If you live in the Toora, Welshpool area along the Agnes or Franklin Rivers – why not share the love for your rivers by preparing and submitting a short film in the Agnes Shorts competition?

You can also join the free event on Wednesday, October 30 at Toora Hall to view the films and hear from members of the West Gippsland CMA team about the journey of river restoration and the work they do.

Enter and more info wgcm.vic.gov.au/agnes-river-shorts/

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of our rivers, strives to increase public awareness, and encourages the improved stewardship of all rivers around the world. Rivers in virtually every country face an array of threats, and only through our active involvement can we ensure their health in the years ahead.

Ecology expert to lead saltmarsh walk and talk

On Saturday, October 26, the Bass Coast Landcare Group community is set to host a special guest, Dr. Vishnu Prahalad, for an insightful "walk and talk" focused on the ecology and biodiversity of temperate saltmarshes. Dr. Prahalad, a Senior Lecturer in Geography, Planning, and Spatial Sciences at the University of Tasmania, has over 15 years of experience in saltmarsh ecology and management. His expertise covers the intricate relationships between plants, animals, and their environment, with a strong emphasis on conservation and restoration efforts.

Dr. Prahalad has collaborated with various government and non-government organisations and local groups in Tasmania. He is widely published, with over 50 journal articles and reports to his name. His work includes a field guide to the plants of saltmarsh wetlands, atlases for saltmarsh regions across Tasmania, and the development of the 'Saltmarsh Matters' citizen science app. His efforts have earned him a Landcare commendation and the prestigious Tall Poppy award, with his contributions also being featured on ABC's Gardening Australia.

The event kicks off at 10.30am in the Bass Hall with a presentation from Dr. Prahalad, followed by a morning tea. After a BBQ lunch, participants will carpool to John Carney's farm, where Dr. Prahalad will guide a walk through a five-hectare saltmarsh and bushland area that has recently been protected from livestock. The site is currently undergoing restoration efforts through weed control and supplementary planting, offering a unique opportunity to observe real-world conservation in action.

This is a rare opportunity for the local community to learn from a leading expert in saltmarsh ecology, gaining valuable insights into the delicate balance of biodiversity in these ecosystems.

Biosecurity measures will be in place on the day. Please ensure your vehicles and footwear are clean prior to this event.

This project is supported by John Carney and Bass Coast Landcare Network, a big Thankyou to John for sponsoring this event.

For more information call 5678 2335 or visit basscoastlandcare.org.au

Event Details

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 10am – 3pm at the Bass Hall and John Carney's Farm at Grantville. Lunch and morning tea provided

What to Bring: Gumboots, gloves, water bottle and wet weather gear

RSVP: david.bateman@basscoastlandcare.org.au

Help the GRPHU engage with the community

GIPPSLANDERS have the chance to have their say on how the region's local public health unit can better communicate with community. The Gippsland Region Public Health Unit (GRPHU) has developed a draft Community Participation and Engagement Plan with the aim to better engage for a healthier Gippsland.

The GRPHU developed the draft plan by gathering feedback at local events, surveys, face-to-face conversations, and looking at the engagement plans from other organisations.

But now they need your help to make sure they are heading in the right direction.

Latrobe Regional Hospital will be keeping the community posted in how they are progressing with this plan on their website, with a formal review to be scheduled for 2027.

To view the draft plan, visit lrh.com.au/news/help-the-grphu-better-engage-with-the-community/

How to Provide Feedback

Survey: forms.office.com/r/UsWF-C657cK. **Email:** grphu@lrh.com.au, subject: Attention: Community Engagement Lead. **Phone:** 5173 5451. **In writing:** Community Engagement Lead, 64 Church Street, Traralgon 3844 Victoria (Ground Floor).

Feedback will be accepted between Monday, September 23 to until Sunday, October 6, 2024.

Luncheon connects students with industry mentors

IN A display of community and career inspiration, the recent Inspiring Young People Luncheon, held in Leongatha, brought together 55 enthusiastic students and 23 industry mentors from across South Gippsland and the Bass Coast. The event, aimed at bridging the gap between education and industry, offered students a unique opportunity to engage directly with professionals from a diverse array of fields.

The luncheon was a vibrant gathering where students and mentors mingled, shared experiences, and explored various career paths over a two-course lunch. The highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by Dan Eddy, a Leongatha local and renowned author, historian and podcaster, whose speech left a lasting impression on the audience.

His speech centered around the themes of perseverance, embracing opportunities, and the importance of stepping out of your comfort zone. He shared personal anecdotes and lessons learned from his own career, emphasising the power of knocking on doors and seizing every opportunity that comes along.

The luncheon also gave students the chance to engage in one-on-one discussions with mentors from various industries, including trades, arts, music, science, emergency services, business, health and local government. These conversations provided invaluable insights into different career paths and allowed students to ask questions about the realities of working in their fields of interest.

The Inspiring Young People Luncheon served as a testament to the power of mentorship and the importance of creating opportunities for young people to explore their future careers. As the event concluded, many students left feeling motivated and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead in their professional journeys.

The event was organised by the South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Education. Network, a local organisation dedicated to fostering career development and industry-school connections. For more information about how to get involved in upcoming events and programs aimed at career development and industry engagement, contact info@sgbellen.org.au.

Bass schools receive over \$995,000 in maintenance funding

TWO schools in Bass are receiving a boost to essential maintenance projects, thanks to the Allan Labor Government.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale last week announced two local schools are amongst 59 to share in over \$20 million in funding for maintenance projects under the Planned Maintenance Program (PMP).

Bass Coast College and Newhaven Primary School will receive \$942,752 and \$52,833 respectively.

The PMP provides funding to address high-priority maintenance issues across Victoria's government schools and ensures they can undertake essential work in classrooms and other school buildings such as fixing roofs and replacing windows, painting, and resurfacing floors, as well as some external works like improving pathways.

"As I continue to work for a major upgrade for Bass Coast College's Dudley campus, this funding is for the complete rebuild of 15 ramps and minor work on two ramps ensuring students have good safe access to facilities to match the quality education they receive," Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale stated. "It is on top of the College's recent \$569,552 with the majority going to this campus for roof works, repainting and switch board works."

"Newhaven Primary is a great local school, and I'm pleased they are getting the maintenance funds they need."

Works are determined by a rolling facilities evaluation process, which provides up-to-date information on the condition of schools to create a faster and more targeted allocation of funding. Poowong Consolidated Primary School has also received \$101,626.99 in the latest funding announcement.

Newhaven College Junior School production a triumph



Year 4 students Leith Cameron as 'Frank Green' and Sage van der Walt as 'Splash' lead the ensemble.



The Narrators, from left, Charli Pope, Ethan Moyle, Ray Johns, Flynn Chaston, Rose Deery, Chloe Shapardon, Sophie Blake, Indigo Northover, Olivia Clark, Francis Werner and Evelyn McCabe.



Year 3 student Audrey Mantel takes the mic during the song about mountain water being pure bliss, with Indyana Van Damme and Dallas Latham.

NEWHAVEN College's Junior School students dazzled on stage in last week's performance of *Just a Drip*. The College is incredibly fortunate to have the talented duo of Nina and David Prideaux, who directed the show and were responsible for writing the scripts and lyrics, composing the music and choreographing the performances. Every one of the 231 students, from Prep to Year 4, participated, turning the production into a professional and polished event.

The Junior School production offers every child an invaluable opportunity to perform in front of an audience, a skill many students view as a natural part of their school experience. From Junior School assemblies and choir performances to daily classroom activities, students are consistently exposed to public speaking and performance, building their confidence and skills in these areas.

Just a Drip is a heartwarming tale of *Splash*, played by Sage van der Walt, a very melodious bottle of water. She travels from the supermarket refrigerator where she never gets picked for parties, to snow-capped mountains, to the sewers under the city. *Splash* discovers every drop of water has a song, and she begins to learn about the importance of water more than she ever thought possible. *Splash* travels with Frank Green, played by Leith Cameron, through a chorus of quirky lands, all relying on the special qualities of water. Along her journey, *Splash*

learns about the importance of water with fun and wonder.

Staff, students and parents worked diligently to bring the final production to life. Nina, David, and many Junior School staff put in tireless effort throughout the term to make the show a reality. Students dedicated their lunchtimes and after-school hours to rehearsing, memorising lines and perfecting songs. Junior School parents generously volunteered their time to organise props and costumes. Those who attended the performance were truly impressed by the exceptional acting and singing skills the students displayed on stage.

The sets were created by Tony Kellett and students from the VET Building and Construction class. The sets certainly supported the professional image of the show. The live music, performed by College staff, completed the overall performance with style.

"To see the students perform with energy, enjoyment and confidence is a credit to all of us" said Head of Junior School, Cath Huther, "we are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated teachers who, as a dynamic duo, have contributed immensely by directing 'Just a Drip,' writing scripts and lyrics, composing music and choreographing the performances."

"The College would like to personally thank the wonderful band of parents who have worked tirelessly on costumes, labelling, props, sets, painting, make up and many other things required to stage a performance like this."

Operation Christmas Child embraced at Leongatha Primary



Leongatha Primary School students Harlow, Leni and Tara sort donated items for Operation Christmas Child. A09_3924



Operation Christmas Child volunteer Doreen Western, accompanied by teacher Tanya Starkey, issues friendly instructions on how to pack gifts to ensure recipients get a variety of items. A10_3924

WHILE it's only September, the festive spirit was thriving at Leongatha Primary School on Thursday, an enthusiastic band of students sorting and packing presents for youngsters in need overseas.

The shoeboxes filled with stationery, toys, hygiene items and clothes will be distributed through Operation Christmas Child, an annual initiative run by Samaritan's Purse.

Thirty-six boxes were filled, with long-term Operation Christmas Child volunteer Doreen Western pleasantly surprised that the current cost of living challenges failed to reduce donations.

In fact, they increased from last year.

The school encouraged its families to contribute items if they could.

Members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) from grades 2 to 6 pitched in, assembling boxes and filling them with a variety of items, some functional and others fun.

They were supervised by teachers and SRC coordinators Tanya Starkey and Jessie Evans, along with Doreen.

Seeing a small yellow glider, a yo-yo and a spinning top transported this scribe back to childhood, Tanya sensibly ensuring the glider

was packed in a box in mint condition before any student or journalist was tempted to launch it on a test flight.

Grade 5 student Tara was delighted to play a part in Operation Christmas Child.

"I feel grateful and proud that we're giving stuff to the kids," she said, expressing her appreciation of the generous donations from across the school community.

Doreen explained that the contribution of Samaritan's Purse extends beyond Christmas gifts.

"When they deliver the shoeboxes, they look at the villages and see if there are other needs such as water pumps," she said.

Last year, Operation Christmas Child delivered gifts to children in Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Ukraine.

It is yet to be determined where this year's festive shoeboxes are most needed.

There is still time for members of the community to contribute to Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes can be collected from the New Beginnings Bookshop in Leongatha's Bair Street, with filled boxes to be returned by the first week in October.



Victorian State Concert Orchestra to perform at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on October 20.
Photo: Agatha Yim, Polyphonic Pictures.

Bringing harmony to regional communities

ESTABLISHED in 1926 by Mr John Meagher, the Victorian State Concert Orchestra has woven itself into the cultural fabric of Victoria's rural communities, creating a legacy of musical enrichment that has spanned nearly a century. Through its tireless efforts, this orchestra has championed the cause of making live music accessible to those in areas where it is less prevalent, and its commitment to this mission remains as strong as ever.

After playing annually in Leongatha for over 49 years, the Victorian State Concert Orchestra will perform live at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on October 20 from 2pm until 4.30pm. Their final performance of the year.

President of the Victorian State Concert Orchestra and Concertmaster Loretta Frances Meagher said the orchestra is renowned for its iconic

programming, entertaining Victorians of all ages.

"This programme includes a mix of classical and popular music, orchestral works and solo performances, appealing to a wide audience."

In a time when the global pandemic disrupted many cultural institutions, this orchestra's dedication to its cause never wavered. Though the COVID-19 lockdown temporarily paused their performances, the orchestra's resilience has shone through as they work diligently to resume their pre-pandemic concert schedule of six performances a year: determined to reach 20 performances annually. Their recent return to the stage in regional towns marks a significant step in their recovery and ongoing efforts to enrich rural Victoria with the joy of live music.

What sets this orchestra apart is not just its historical

significance but its inclusive approach to musical performance. With a diverse roster of musicians ranging from university students to seasoned retirees, the orchestra reflects a rich tapestry of experience and enthusiasm. This blend of youth and experience creates a dynamic and engaging program.

Opening with the Australian National Anthem with composer Peter Dodds McCormick and finishing with Time to Say Goodbye – (Duet) with composer Sartori/Quarantotto.

The orchestra's collaboration with local councils has been instrumental in reaching these remote areas, bringing the magic of live music to communities that might otherwise be overlooked. Each performance is more than just a concert; it is a celebration of local culture and a testament to the power of music to unite and inspire.

As the orchestra sets its sights on expanding its reach even further, it is essential to recognise the broader impact of their work. By bringing music to the heart of Victoria's rural towns, their efforts help to bridge the gap between urban and rural experiences, ensuring that the joy of live music is not confined to city limits.

In 2026 the Victorian State Concert Orchestra will reach their centennial year, let us celebrate the orchestra's remarkable journey and support their ongoing mission. Their dedication to making live music accessible to all, coupled with their ability to adapt and overcome challenges, serves as a shining example of how the arts can thrive even in the most challenging of times.

Tickets are available online, visit victorianstateconcertorchestra.com/events/wonthaggi-2010-24



Have you considered opening the doors to your garden for Bass Coast Edible Gardens? Maybe it's time to reach out to Maddy and Sharon.

Opening the doors to your garden

SPRING is sprung – albeit in fits and starts – and gardeners are starting to pull out flagging winter vegies, feed their emerging fruit trees and recondition their garden beds with compost and other nutrients. At Bass Coast Adult Learning (BCAL) moves are afoot to recruit candidates for the next Bass Coast Edible Gardens event, to be held on February 8 and 9, 2025.

Event coordinators, Sharon Willcox and Maddy Harford want to hear from people who think they might like to open their garden next year.

"An important feature of Bass Coast Edible Gardens is diversity," said Sharon.

"Edible Garden visitors like to view different types of gardens, size of gardens and approaches to gardening. Our aim is to inspire people to grow their own food and enjoy the financial, health, social and (especially) taste benefits!"

We aim for 15 gardens spread across Bass Coast shire, from Phillip Island and the Waterline, to Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Cape Paterson and into the Hinterland of Glen Forbes, Almurta, Glen Alvie, Woolamai and all points in between!"

"If you think you might like to participate and open your garden next February, we'd love to hear from you", said Maddy.

"You can email us on bceg@bc.al.vic.edu.au and we'd be happy to visit and discuss what is involved. You can also go to our website and hit the Opening Your Garden tab for more information."

Art Connect Open Studios returns

AFTER last year's success, Art Connect South Gippsland Open Studios is on again, running each weekend from October 12 until November 3 and on November 4 and 5 for the Melbourne Cup holiday.

The works of over 70 artists will be featured across 27 venues.

Art Connect is a not-for-profit organisation promoting all forms of artistic creativity in South Gippsland Shire, with Open Studios again set to provide a thoughtfully curated collection of artworks.

Featured talent includes painter Lucy Hersey, who works with natural pigments and earthy materials, sculptor Matt Williams (Rust Me), metal artist Regina Dudek (The Mad Queen) and tonal realist painter Fiona Bilbrough.

Visitors and locals can meet the artists in their studios, discover what inspires them and learn more about their creative techniques.

"After last year's success, visitors and locals this year will be taken on a journey to travel, discover and inspire, from Loch to Toora and surrounds," George Manis of Art Connect said.

He encourages those coming to enjoy the open studios to explore South Gippsland's historic sites and villages.

"Experience first-class hospitality in our cafes and restaurants while also staying in one of our many accommodation providers dotted around our region," George said.

Open Studios will be open from 10am-4pm.

Head to artconnectsouthgippslandinc.com.au for more information, including the Open Studio brochure.

CWA stall shines a light on community outreach efforts

WITH many people often marred by division and isolation, the Country Women's Association (CWA) stands as a beacon of community solidarity and compassion. Recent discussions with branch manager Heidi Vanzet from the CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women shed light on the organisation's remarkable outreach efforts and commitment to enhancing the lives of those in need.

To help those affected by the cost-of-living crisis or social isolation the CWA evening branch are hosting a fundraising stall at the Wonthaggi Plaza on Saturday, September 28, selling homemade treats, gluten-free sweets generously made by Coal Mine Café owners Nicole and Macy, hand-made soaps, and more varied goods.

"We can't thank the community enough for their generosity and a special thanks to Nicole and Macy from the Coal Mine Café because their unwavering kindness is heart-warming," said Heidi.

"Our fabulous CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women meet at the Coal Mine Café on the second Wednesday of the month from 12pm until 4pm and our focus is on creating bonds and friendships among local ladies to fight off social isolation."

One of the standout initiatives supported by the CWA is the YES Youth Hub, a crucial resource for young people navigating challenging circumstances. Their contribution extends beyond financial



Carol Maygar, Anthea Harris and Heidi Vanzet of the CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women are holding a fundraising stall at Wonthaggi Plaza on Saturday, September 28 raising funds to continue their support of local women and youth.

support; they have also provided four backpack beds for homeless youth, a gesture that not only offers practical aid but also conveys a message of care and dignity within the community.

The CWA's impact doesn't stop there. The women support the Wonthaggi Library Community Pantry which offers discreet access to food for individuals and families facing hardship.

"This pantry is more than just a source for groceries; it's a lifeline that ensures no one in our community has to go without."

In addition, the organisation has assembled to collect numerous donations of toiletries

and jackets for the colder months.

"It's the generosity that addresses those essential needs," Heidi says. "And this care is what makes our group so special."

Social interaction is another cornerstone of the CWA's community efforts. Regular social catchups at the Coal Mine Café and library have fostered a sense of belonging among residents. These gatherings are not only well-received but also draw a diverse mix of regular attendees and newcomers, strengthening the fabric of the community through shared experiences and mutual support.

The community fundraisers

represent a vital opportunity to rally community support and further the CWA's mission of outreach and aid, with the CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women also supporting the Steve Plum Memorial Fund.

"We meet for craft sessions, for a cuppa or just a social catch-up, you don't have to be able to cook or craft to join. All women from Wonthaggi and surrounds are welcome," said Heidi.

To join the CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women, join them for their monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month at the Wonthaggi RSL Hall, Graham Street from 7.15pm, or call Heidi Vanzet on 0405 966 808.



Five grain Bread

By Meg Viney

AND another good bread. If you have a bread maker, you can cook the whole thing in it.

Ingredients

- ½ cup cornmeal
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 cup beer
- ¼ cup molasses
- 2 tbs honey
- 1 1/3 cup white flour
- 1 cup rye flour
- 2 tsp yeast
- 1/3 cup warm water
- Pinch sugar
- 1 ½ cups rolled oats
- 1 cup buckwheat flour
- 3 tbs butter
- 1 tbs salt
- 2-3 cups wholemeal flour

Method

In a large bowl, combine ½ cup cornmeal with 1 cup boiling water, 1 cup beer, ¼ cup molasses and 2 tablespoons honey.

Stir in 1 1/3 cups white flour, 1 cup of rye flour

Proof 2 tsp yeast in 1/3 cup warm water and a pinch of sugar. Leave 10 minutes.

Add to the bowl along with 1 ½ cups rolled oats, and 1 cup buckwheat flour, 3 tablespoons melted butter 1 tablespoon salt, and 2 – 3 cups wholemeal flour (you are looking for a silky dough, not sticky).

Mix for a few minutes on a low speed until pliable and silky.

This will make two loaves, so grease two pans well and place the dough into the pans.

Leave in a warm place (if it is a cool day, boil a kettle and put water in a bowl on the lower shelf of the oven. Bread needs steam when cooking, so leave it there.

When risen, remove whilst you preheat the oven to 200, then cook for about 25 – 30 minutes, until golden and making a hollow sound when tapped.

Turn out onto a wire rack.

Photo: Wesual Click on Unsplash.

Free climate action film screening

ON Wednesday, September 25 at 5.30pm the Newhaven College Performing Arts Centre will host the community film screening of "The First Wave" and Walanbaa Ngiyani 'stronger together'.

The First Wave presented by Rising Tide is a story of how thousands of people blocked the world's largest coal port in Newcastle, Australia. Whilst Walanbaa Ngiyani 'stronger together' is a screening on climate change and community voice.

The evening will include a discussion panel, a community meal and live music.

The discussion panel will feature Joseph Thompson (a 17-year-old national organiser with School Strike 4 Climate, and Newhaven College student), Dr Laura Brearley – an environmental artist and educator and longtime advocate for climate action on Phillip Island, Jamie Longmuire, an organiser with Rising Tide, and Oliver Jobe, a year 10 student at Bass Coast College, who is passionate about climate justice.

To view the trailer visit: risingtide.org.au/the-first-wave. This is a free community event. Register at movebeyondcoal.com/community_film_screening



The Leongatha Dragonflies String Ensemble, Monty Gilligan-De Wolff, Solomon Stechway, Olive Stechway, Olivia Young, Martha Grigg, Finian Stechway and Alexandra Budge will be performing at the Metal and Memoir concert.

Leongatha Dragonflies String Ensemble to take to the stage

A GROUP of talented young string players will be involved in their biggest performance yet at the upcoming Metal and Memoir concert in Fish Creek.

The Leongatha Dragonflies String Ensemble are set to play three songs on stage, the first as a standalone orchestra and the other two in collaboration with Stringz Costero.

The Dragonflies are made up of seven members, all under the age of 18 and from different schools or home-schooling with members playing violin, viola, cello or double bass.

A year ago Laura Gibb, who has been teaching music for 11 years, decided to put together the beginners group after she found there was some

demand for it.

"I teach cello and it's really good for kids who are learning an instrument to be able to play in the group regularly," explained Laura.

"I reached out (to other music teachers) and said have you got any kids who would like to come and play in a group? It's really enjoyable, and for a lot of people, the whole point of learning music is to be able to play with other people."

While the Dragonflies have previously played to an audience of about 80 people, this will be their biggest public performance yet, and they are both excited and nervous.

"I've only played once before

in front of people and it's a great feeling looking out the audience and playing with all these amazing people, so I'd love to do that again," said violinist Monty Gilligan-De Wolff.

"I do get a little stage fright, but once I start playing I just forget about everything else and play."

Metal and Memoir will be a concert featuring local community string ensemble, Stringz Costero, who will play classical and Baroque music, and they'll also be branching out into heavy metal, a bit of jazz and some pop.

It's a family-friendly event and will be fun for all ages with music to be heard from Piazzolla, Metallica, Boccherini,

Billie Holliday, Dvóřak, Richard Meyer, The Verve and others.

The Dragonflies welcome new string learners, both children and adults and for more experienced musicians Stringz Costero also accepts new players.

For more information about either of these groups contact Laura Gibb on 0477 525 890.

Metal and Memoir will be held on Saturday, October 12, 7.30pm – 9.30pm at the Fish Creek Memorial Hall, 13 Falls Road, Fish Creek. Tickets: \$15 per person (Children under 18 years free). Bookings via Trybooking: trybooking.com/CTHKH (cash is also accepted at the door).

South Coast FM Trivia challenge night for music buffs

WHO first recorded 'Proud Mary', a song made famous by Ike and Tina Turner?

Too easy, try this one.

Who sang the SpongeBob SquarePants movie theme?

If you scored two out of two, then the South Coast FM Music Trivia Night on Saturday, 12th October at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club could be the place for you.

This annual event is a chance for music buffs to prove their musical knowledge.

Better still, round up your friends and book a table for ten to enjoy a great night out and an opportunity to prove your teenage years were not completely wasted.

"There will be prizes galore," said Trivia Night co-compere and South Coast FM presenter Shana Bremner, host of 'Noughties to Now' every Saturday night from 8pm.

"I've always loved radio.

"I caught the bug early in my teenage years, winning radio competitions."

Shana is passionate about the role local radio plays in keeping communities



Music Trivia Night co-compere and South Coast FM presenter Rohan Worthy.

connected and offering kids opportunities that they might not otherwise have in regional areas.

"I also regularly bring you the weekend weather update, and occasionally I'm allowed into the Breakfast Club," said Shana.

"Come and meet new people at our music trivia night or lock in your own table," added

Shana's co-compere, Rohan Worthy.

Rohan hosts '80s Compilation Corner' every Friday night on South Coast FM at 9pm.

"I learnt so much about so many different artists when I was young," says Rohan.

"That was the starting point of my musical journey through life."

Rohan plays compilation

discs from the eighties on 'Compilation Corner' that include well-known hit songs, not-so-well-known songs from well-known artists, in addition to music gems listeners may have long forgotten about.

The South Coast FM Music Trivia Night promises loads of fun, laughter and raffles to support the continued operation of South Coast FM.

Doors open at 6.30pm at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club and the entry charge of \$15 includes a light supper.

To make a booking call the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club on 5672 1083 or go to wonthaggi-workmens.com.au and click on South Coast FM Music Trivia Night.

South Coast FM broadcasts on 88.1, 89.1 and 89.5.

Last question for true music devotees.

"Which guitar icon's mom was a clothes designer for the likes of John Lennon, Ringo Starr, David Bowie, Linda Ronstadt and The Pointer Sisters?"

Answers to our Music Trivia Night questions can be found on the Crossword Puzzle page.



Don't miss your chance to be swept away by the enchanting musical directed by Karen Milkins-Hendry, opening this Thursday.

Local talent shines in Bright Star

AUDIENCEs will be swept away by the enchanting musical "Bright Star," produced by The Wonthaggi Theatrical Group in their very own theatre at The State Coal Mine. This heartwarming production, featuring an incredible cast of local talent, promises to be an unforgettable night of music, storytelling, and emotion.

Director Karen Milkins-Hendry was full of praise for her 18 performers, 10-piece

band and passionate crew. "I am constantly amazed at the level of skill and talent right on our doorstep bringing to life a demanding piece of love, laughter and redemption".

"Bright Star," written by the renowned Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, weaves a tale of love, hope, and the power of dreams set against the backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s. With its bluegrass-inspired score and

poignant lyrics, the show invites you on a journey through joy and heartbreak, reminding us all of the enduring spirit of resilience.

Everyone involved has poured their hearts into this production, showcasing not only their remarkable singing and acting talents but also the vibrant creativity that exists within our community. You'll see familiar and new faces, each bringing their unique

flair and passion to the stage.

WTG welcomes you to an evening of laughter, tears, and unforgettable music. Whether you're a long-time musical lover or new to theatre, "Bright Star" offers something for everyone.

Opening this week you can join us in this magical experience at one of our eight shows. Tickets are available now at trybooking.com/CTWIT.



Wonthaggi ArtSpace Curator, Ursula Theinert preparing for the 2024 ArtsPrint exhibition.

Highlighting local printmakers

A STRIKING collection of printed works assembled for the 2024 Wonthaggi ArtSpace ArtsPrint exhibition provides further evidence of the growing strength of the local arts community.

The fine art of original printmaking is taken to an elevated level for ArtsPrint by artists from throughout South Gippsland and the Bass Coast.

The works change regularly so each time you visit, expect to see something different.

ArtsPrint 2024 will feature limited edition silkscreen prints, woodcuts, engravings, etchings, linocuts, monoprints, lino-prints, linocuts, hand-coloured prints, woodblock prints, nature prints, collage and mono-prints and dry point.

Among the thirteen printmakers selected for ArtsPrint 2024 are Mandy Gunn, Susan Hall, Meg Viney, Robert Logie, Wendy Fletcher and Hanna Lewis.

"Print exhibitions have become very popular," says ArtSpace Curator, Ursula Theinert.

"Gippsland has lots of printmakers and all are accomplished artists."

Susan Hall, a well-established printmaker herself curated the exhibition and selected the printmakers.

Artworks and artisan gifts for sale at the ArtSpace gallery include limited edition prints, photography, glass art, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, jewellery, handcrafted wood, literature, and artist cards.

All items on display at ArtsPrint will be for sale at affordable prices, framed and unframed.

"Past prints have proven to be very collectable," says Ursula Theinert.

This year's ArtsPrint collection includes regional landscapes, local seascapes, abstract themes, and figurative works.

"Mandy Gunn and Meg Viney have both exhibited at the regional gallery in Sale."

Located alongside the Wonthaggi Centennial Centre in the heart of Wonthaggi, ArtSpace is a not-for-profit gallery showcasing regional artists and craftspeople.

ArtSpace is home to the region's highest quality fine art and crafts providing space for regular exhibitions and monthly theme displays. The ArtSpace Gallery is open daily from 11am to 3pm and can be found at artspacewonthaggi.com.au. The 2024 ArtsPrint exhibition is open to the public from September 24 to November 3.

WTG
BRIGHT STAR

Music, Book & Story by STEVE MARTIN
Music, Lyrics & Story by EDIE BRICKELL

SEPTEMBER 26TH - OCTOBER 5TH
WTG.ORG.AU

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Sentinel-Times

It won't cost a cent to see them in print!

South Coast FM
88.1 89.1 89.5

WONTHAGGI
BINGO

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★ LUCKY NUMBER JACKPOT



Robert Rainbow and Stony Creek Racing Club committee members Jye Davey and Mary Hefel attend Tuesday's funding announcement by Minister for Racing Anthony Carbines. A01_3924



Stony Creek Racing Club members Angela Bonser and Peter Flahavin enjoy the official opening of the track's new irrigation system and the announcement of funding to improve facilities for attendees. A02_3924



Committee Member and Life Member of the Stony Creek Racing Club Rob Meyer and Barry Coulthard are pleased with the improvements taking place at the track, enjoying Tuesday's opening of the new irrigation system and the announcement of funding for community facility improvements.



Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien and South Gippsland Shire mayor Clare Williams attend Tuesday's funding announcement by Minister for Racing Anthony Carbines at the Stony Creek Racing Club. A04_3924



Avis Tilley and friend Mary Fields celebrate Avis turning 99 years old over lunch with many friends. ob01_3924



Thelma Faragher and Juliet Wylie were helping to celebrate Avis's 99th birthday, who they said is a special lady and a great friend. ob02_3924



Juliet and Kevin Wylie celebrate Avis Tilley's 99th birthday over lunch at the Top Pub in Korumburra. ob03_3924



Judy Silcock and Maree Henshaw believe that 99 year old Avis Tilley is an inspiration to everyone. ob04_3924



YMCA area manager Rebecca Wilson and Bass Coast Youth Advisory Council Chair Bailey Webster were delighted with the opening of the Ignite Youth Art Fest at Berninneit last Friday night.

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Stony Creek Racing Club funding announcement, Avis Tilley's 99th Birthday Celebrations, Inverloch Primary School Pirate Day, Ignite Youth Art Fest and San Remo Tidal Seafood Festival launch.



Don and Helen Lyon-Jones, Noel and Barbara Walker and Pam Coulston were catching up over lunch at Avis Tilley's 99th birthday celebrations. ob05_3924



Macy, Lenny and Jyah dressed up as pirates at Inverloch Primary School. Tk64_3824



Eva, Henry and Coco enjoyed the pirate theme at Inverloch Primary School. Tk65_3824



Inverloch Primary School's Sunny, Maya and Harmony dressed up as pirates to raise money for the Amazon Shipwreck Project. Tk66_3824



Inverloch Primary School students Zara, Charlie and Cooper have enjoyed learning about the Amazon shipwreck recently. Tk67_3824

Sentinel-Times

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Angel Partington of the Bass Coast College San Remo Campus contributed this Japanese Koi inspired piece to the Ignite Youth Art Fest exhibition at Berninneit.



At the cocktail party launch for the San Remo Tidal Seafood Festival at the weekend were Gary Hannah, Chris Hawker, Stephen Dorman and Matt Madge.



Enjoying the gala San Remo Tidal Festival seafood and cocktail party on the foreshore were Matt Drennan and Leonie Peacock.

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

OUR Term 4 program is ready and brimming with learning courses, social groups, lunches and other events for community involvement. Please look through the program and sign up (milparacommunityhouse.org.au/term-program)!

The end of the year is looking busy and inspiring! We start the term in October – Seniors Festival month. Milpara is hosting a Seniors

luncheon on Thursday, October 10 at 1pm. With the support of Frankie's Community kitchen, it should be a great get together. Milpara is partnering with LyLi to offer some free taster classes for seniors, in Chair yoga on October 8, and Quigong on October 15. In addition, we have our ongoing Tai Chi for Arthritis classes every Wednesday morning, which we welcome you to attend.

November has National Recycling Week and Orange the World, activism against violence. Both are important issues and Milpara is offering some great community events relating to these campaigns.

We have our NBN Local representative coming back to offer information talks on the NBN and MyGov.

Of course, we encourage you to enrol in any number of our ongoing social

activities including Social Mahjong, Crafts with Barb. Let's play 500 or Sunshine Spreaders amongst many other things to do here at the Hub.

If any of the above are of interest to you, please get in touch, we're happy to help.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

LEONGATHA Community House is looking forward to warmer weather in Term 4 and meeting new people. Our program is up and running and ready for bookings and we are happy to offer direct online bookings for all our paid programs and bus trips which will make booking so much more efficient and seamless.

We have a couple of programs available during the school holidays for young people aged 12+. Self Defence for Teens will be held here on both Tuesdays from 1pm-2pm at only \$10 per session. Followed by Teen Sewing Ba-

sics held from 1pm-3pm on both Thursdays at just \$15 per session. See school holiday feature for more information.

Women's Self Defence returns for Term 4, on Tuesday evenings at 5pm. As one participant put it – "We hit things, kick things, and do lots of laughing. We have a wide range of skills amongst those already attending, and match people accordingly – so no one feels out matched! Plus, it's fun to watch us all get stronger as the term goes on. Highly recommend ladies" The program is open to women from the age of 12+

and currently we have women attending from 12-66yo. Participants learn valuable skills and benefit from renewed fitness at any level. Newcomers are warmly welcomed.

Some new workshops running in Term 4 include:

Photography with the knowledgeable Roy (five weeks) to learn the tips and tricks of your camera starting on Tuesday, October 8, 7pm-9pm

Exploring Drawing Portraits with Constance Barker (three sessions), Thursday, October 10, 24 and 31 from 5pm-7pm

Pat Dale returns with a Saturday Beginners Basketry Workshop, a very popular

session with all materials supplied on October 2, 10am-3.30pm.

Beginners Sewing has taken off and will return on Thursdays 1pm-3pm with numbers limited so book in now for four-week blocks starting on Thursday, October 10.

Head to our website leongathacommunityhouse.org.au for instant bookings or call us on 5662 3962 9am-3.30pm Monday-Friday.



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

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

THE Practical Music course capped off the term by taking their experience to the next level with a recording session. Facilitator Lisa arranged for a producer to visit the group with a professional setup with lots of classic microphones combined with sophisticated recording software.

The group had been practising for weeks to prepare for the session and when the time came, they really brought their A-game. Four songs were completed in just one morning, which is really good going!

What's more, three of the four songs were original compositions by the participants. One of the songwriters had no musical experience before joining the class.

Last week, producer Elian sent the finished mixes to the group and they sound amazing!

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit bcal.vic.edu.au or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

There's much to like about the humble leafy greens – survivors of this season's hail, frost and bitter, gale force winds.

And while kale may have lost some of its superfood fans, it too, remains a dependable cold weather staple in the veggie patch.

Silver beet, rainbow chard and a mix of kales are plentiful in the garden now, as are low growing, green oak leaf lettuces.

A small troupe of toddlers and Bass Coast Child Care staff took samples of the greens back to the centre after their visit last week, for families and colleagues to enjoy. It's always a pleasure to share what's growing.

For more information about the garden contact tgordon@westnet.com.au, BCAL on 5672 3115 or drop in on Thursdays between 10am and noon to see for yourself.

WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

Sessions are more popular than ever at the workshop, and several members are attending multiple sessions to work on the same piece.

Some pieces require multiple

techniques and disciplines. For example, one member is creating a box and drawer in the joinery group but is using kumiko designs as well.

Other crafters use pyrography to add the final flourish to objects they created on the lathes. This is comically referred to as turn'n'burn.

All sessions will continue as normal throughout the school holidays including the Grand Final holiday.

For more information, visit wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or visit the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 www.bcal.vic.edu.au

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

AS IT is the school holidays and some of our facilitators may have extra child duties, we are having just a few groups operating in the first week of the holidays. The Craft groups on Monday (How to make a quilt which goes from 9.30am to 12.30pm) and Friday (the Craft & Cuppa group creating away from 10am to 12noon) and the Chess group on Monday afternoon from 1pm. The AA, Al-Anon and the Narcotics Anonymous groups will continue to meet. Narcotics Anonymous is on Monday from 7pm to 8pm, contact Peter for more information on 0456 000 844. AA is on Wednesday, 7pm to 8pm, for more information call Sean on 0425 707 480 and Al-Anon will be going ahead on

Friday 10.30am to 12noon. It is a group who help families and friends of those who have a problem with alcohol. For more details contact Karen on 0409 354 038.

Mitchell House will only be open by appointment for the second week of the school holidays and then re-open at the beginning of term 4, Monday, October 7.

And here is a reminder that our AGM will be on this Thursday, September 26 at 2pm. All members, supporters and interested others are welcome and encouraged to attend. It'll be interesting to hear what's been going on over the past 12 months and you'll get a good idea of how the groups are going and what actually goes on.

As a member you can have a say on the future direction of the WNC and consider if you, as a member, would be interested in being part of the Committee of Management. Information is readily available at Mitchell House.

Then on Wednesday, October 2, 10am to 1pm there will be a volunteer's meeting. We haven't had one for a while and it'll be great to see everyone there.

And while on the topic of volunteers consider this: Here at the WNC our volunteers find it can be a rewarding experience knowing that in such a role there exists an opportunity to help the Centre fulfil one of its most important goals, to assist in building community and to reach out to those most in need

to make a difference. If you have a spare few hours each week to do a shift at the reception desk or some other role, we would be very pleased to have you. Complete the online volunteer form available on the website, phone the office for a chat or better still drop in for a face-to-face conversation with our manager Leslie Adams.

Just remember: That it's good for you, brings people together, you learn a lot, it promotes growth and self esteem and strengthens your community and you make a difference.



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

The Salvation Army to enhance support services in Wonthaggi

THE Salvation Army is pleased to announce a redevelopment of their site in Wonthaggi to help bolster support services for vulnerable individuals and families in Wonthaggi. This project marks a significant step towards addressing community needs and promoting well-being throughout the region.

The Salvation Army, renowned for its churches and community outreach, brings decades of experience in providing essential services such as shelter, food assistance, spiritual care, and counselling. The new facility will deliver spiritual care, emergency relief and work alongside trusted local resources and other agencies specialising in family violence support and intervention.

Together, multiple organisations will work to expand their reach and effectiveness in Wonthaggi and surrounding areas. By pooling resources and leveraging respective strengths, they aim to offer a more comprehensive suite of services to those facing hardship or crisis situations within the community.

"This partnership represents a shared commitment to enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families in Wonthaggi," said Simon Damen Area Officer of The Salvation Army.

"By combining our efforts, we can better address the complex needs of our community members and ensure that they receive the support and care they deserve."

These partnerships will focus on improving access to services, streamlining referral processes, and implementing joint initiatives to raise awareness and support for vulnerable people in Wonthaggi.

• FAITH FACTOR

Our longing for home

By John Williams, Wonthaggi Christian Life Centre

IN THE Bible there is a wonderful story told by Jesus, often called the story of the two sons or the prodigal son. The location of the story could be just about anywhere. In the story the younger son asks his father for his portion of the family wealth so he could search the world for a more exciting life. But it is in his wandering that he finds out things are not what he expected.

He runs out of money and friends, and life proves to be disappointing. He begins to long for home, and as he comes to his senses, he realises the grass on the other side of the fence is not as green as he first thought. He remembers the food, the family, the sense of belonging of home.

The sense of home exercises a powerful influence over all of us. We spend millions of dollars annually looking for our historical roots to provide us with a place of where we have come from. We think that if "home" can be found, it would provide us with a sense of peace and fulfillment and our identity.

But the idea of home can be elusive.

In the story we are taught that God is the Father of that home. Just like in the story, we like the idea of living in a place away from God's interference. Only to find a world that no longer fits our deepest longings, we are subject to loneliness, disease, aging, and ultimately death. We look for love that lasts but we are disappointed, and we strive to make a difference but experience frustration.

The Bible story of the wayward son is a story about all of us. We are all exiles. As the singer of the rock band U2 wrote – "I still haven't found what I am looking for".

Ultimately the story of the prodigal son is about when we choose to return Home to reconnect with our heavenly Father – we find acceptance, joy and a sense of belonging, a place where our mistakes and our misadventures (sin) are not counted against us.

My friends as you read this my questions to you are – Where are you? Are you ready to return Home to the arms of the Father?

New tax another slug for Gippsland tourism

THE introduction of another new tax by the State Government will be another setback for Gippsland tourism according to The Nationals Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien.

Mr O'Brien said the tax, which focuses on short stay accommodation provided through such platforms as Airbnb and Stayz will not address the problem it is targeted at.

"The Government is quite rightly seeking to encourage housing to be returned to the rental market given the housing crisis we have in this state but it has provided no evidence that the 7.5 per cent tax on short stay accommodation will do that.

"Already landlords are faced with increased land tax, a suite of new rental laws introduced in 2021 and new forthcoming minimum rental standards later this year.

"If the Government thinks that all those disincentives will be overcome by imposing a tax on Airbnb, then it has clearly failed economics."

Mr O'Brien said the tax would hurt many small, regional and often female homeowners who seek to make a little money.

"The Government itself says that 50 per cent of short stay accommodation residences are in regional Victoria, but its Bill proposal is only returning 25 per cent of that to our regions in new social housing funds.

"It will also be a disincentive for people to holiday in our regions while doing very little to address the shortage of rental accommodation.

"The Government needs to go back to the drawing board with its rules around renting in this state because it has clearly provided a disincentive to rental providers to put properties on the market and rents have been soaring across the state as a result."

The short stay levy, should it pass the upper house, is scheduled to be introduced from January 1, 2025.

Higher prices worsen affordability

VICTORIA'S housing market has faced a severe downturn in affordability, as revealed in the latest PropTrack Housing Affordability Report 2024 that was released on Saturday.

The report, utilising PropTrack's comprehensive Housing Affordability Index, paints a grim picture for Victorians across the income spectrum. Affordability has deteriorated to its worst level on record, driven primarily by high mortgage rates and rising home prices.

"Housing affordability is a critical issue affecting Australians in 2024," PropTrack Senior Economist Paul Ryan said.

"Above average increases in home prices, along with interest rates at the highest level in the past decade, have resulted in the worst housing affordability conditions since our records began.

"Households across the income distribution could afford the smallest share of homes on record over the past year, with a noticeable decline from just a year ago. First-home buyers, or renters looking to buy, who often rely on significant borrowing to enter the housing market are facing incredibly stretched affordability."

According to the report, a median-income household in Victoria can afford only



Housing affordability will require more than just rate cuts.

about 12 per cent of homes sold in 2023-24. This is a stark drop from the previous years, where affordability had significantly improved in 2020-21 amid record-low mortgage rates. Since then, the affordability index has plunged.

"National home prices rose for the 20th consecutive month in August to be 6.6 per cent higher over the 2023-2024 financial year, the equivalent to around a \$50,000 increase of the national median price."

The report emphasises that mortgage costs are now consuming a larger portion of

household incomes. For example, mortgage repayments on a typical home in Victoria have risen to 35 per cent of a household's income, a figure that has not been seen in decades, since the late 80s early 90s, and is higher even than when mortgage rates hit eight per cent before the Global Financial Crisis'. With interest rates remaining high and home prices continuing to grow, many households are struggling to access the property market.

First-home buyers are finding it especially difficult to break into the market. While affordability had been

more favourable just a few years ago, the rapid rise in home prices and borrowing costs has pushed the goal of homeownership further away for many. The time needed to save a deposit, although slightly improved from its peak, still takes around six years in Victoria.

As stated in the report 'a median income renting household could afford just 11 per cent of homes over the past year (and just nine per cent of houses)' in Australia.

"Over the past year, mortgage rates hit their highest level since 2011, and this has had a drastic impact on housing affordability, reducing borrowing capacities by as much as 30 per cent for new borrowers and increasing repayments for existing borrowers by up to 50 per cent in just two years," Mr Ryan said.

It's not all doom and gloom with lower interest rates, expected over the next six to 12 months to bring some relief.

"Housing affordability is expected to ease when interest rates fall, which could be as soon as within the next six months. But meaningful improvement – returning to a period where a typical household could afford half of homes – requires change on many fronts to build more homes across the country."

Wonthaggi Garden Supplies

Exceptional Business Opportunity

Wonthaggi Garden Supplies is a thriving and well-established garden supply business with a strong reputation and impressive profitability. Located on the prominent Bass Hwy/Inverloch Road, this business benefits from high visibility and a steady flow of potential and existing customers. With a proven track record of success and a robust operational structure, this is an excellent opportunity for a new owner to step into a flourishing enterprise.

Helen Foote
0437 092 011

Alfie Brown
0428 044 262

obrejudithwright.com

AUCTION

180 & 245 Gwyther Siding Road, Leongatha South
Friday 25th October 2024 1pm - Koonwarra Hall

Approximately 231 Acres in Two Titles.

Order of Sale:

Lot (1) - 180 Gwyther Siding Road, Leongatha South 172 Acres (69.60Ha)
A 3 bed, 1 bath brick veneer home. A 24 S/O Herringbone Dairy with 8,000L Packo Vat.

Lot (2) - 245 Gwyther Siding Road, Leongatha South
59.9 Acres (24.27Ha)
Subdivided in to 7 paddocks with stockyards.
Watered by permanent spring dam.

Terms: 10% Deposit Balance in 60 Days or Earlier By Agreement
Inspections Strictly By Appointment Only.

Barry Redmond
Ph: 0477 622 292

Office: 47 Bair Street, Leongatha VIC 3953

Metricon’s Langdon wins at the Eastern HIA Awards

FREEDOM by Metricon Langdon 26 in Drouin, at the Ferntree Ridge Estate, has won the Best Volume Builder Display Home \$400,000 - \$500,000 in the 2024 Eastern HIA Awards for 2024.

The award was announced at a gala dinner on Friday, September 13 at the RACV Cape Schanck Resort, Cape Schanck.

Nestled in the picturesque Ferntree Ridge Estate in Drouin, the Langdon 26’s award winning features exemplifies contemporary elegance and functionality. Featuring a captivating modern façade, this home is designed for families seeking a blend of practicality, style, and value.

The Langdon 26’s four spacious bedrooms, with the primary bedroom strategically placed at the front for added privacy, caught the judges’ attention. The home also includes two generously appointed bathrooms and an expansive open-plan layout that maximises natural light and airflow.

At the heart of the home is a meticulously crafted kitchen, with a central position and a walk-in pantry, combining functionality and style. Designed

with year-long entertainment in mind, this space flows to a generous outdoor room at the rear.

This award win comes amidst unprecedented interest from new home buyers in Gippsland, highlighting the region’s appeal for a unique tree change and country living experience.

Jason MacGregor, Metricon’s Gippsland Regional Manager, expressed his excitement: “We are over the moon to have the Langdon 26 recognised in the \$400,000 - \$500,000 category. Once again, this award reflects our commitment to crafting homes that meet the evolving needs of growing families and is a testament to our team’s hard work.

He added, “The Langdon 26 display showcases the strong demand for regional living at its finest. We are proud of our team and grateful to the Eastern HIA for this recognition.”

The Langdon 26 is located at 21 Illawarra Boulevard, Drouin, 3818, Victoria and is open Friday – Tuesday weekly. For more information about Metricon and its homes, visit metricon.com.au or call 1300 638 742.



Freedom by Metricon’s Langdon 26 display in Drouin has taken out the Best Volume Builder Display Home \$400,000 - \$500,000.

Elders

Real Estate

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

2920 GRAND RIDGE ROAD, HALLSTON

‘AMBERDOWNS’ – 137HA/339 ACRES

‘Amberdowns’ is considered by many locals as one of the finest properties in the renowned Hallston district. ‘Amberdowns’ has a proven history of reliable dairy farming or would make a magnificent beef or mixed farming property. Superbly located just 17km from Leongatha and 13km from Mirboo North on the picturesque Grand Ridge Road. ‘Amberdowns’ has 5 titles surrounded by a commanding road frontage.

- Highly productive gently undulating land
- Excellent balance of 50% red soil and 50% grey soil
- 23 swingover herringbone dairy
- Magnificent water supply including 89 Megalitre water licence
- 3-bedroom home & excellent shedding
- Superb shelter plantation throughout

Inspection by private appointment only

EOI Closing Thursday, Nov. 7 at 4pm

Web ID: 300P22663

Contact: For further information please contact Don Olden on 0417 805 312 or Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487

Elders Leongatha | 37 Bair Street, Leongatha

eldersrealestate.com.au

Corner of Stuckeys Lane and Princess Highway, Flynn

- 375 Acres • 2 Bores
- 400 Megalitres underground water
- 23 Megalitres turkey nest dam
- Underground irrigation main line
- Irrigation mix of hard hose and lateral sprays
- 2 Bedroom residence attached to machinery shed
- 20 Unit Herringbone dairy with 8600 litre vat
- 216 Square metre machinery shed
- 40 Square metre two bay storage shed

- Previously milked 240 cows
- Currently used for fattening and grazing
- Central laneway system

Price on Application

Paul Bourke 0428 451 366

gippslandrealestate.com

118-120 Johnson Street, Maffra

Ph: 5147 2200

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 | 33

Don't miss this unique opportunity to own a piece of paradise in the Loch region of South Gippsland. Inspections are strictly by appointment with the selling agents only. For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Don Olden on 0417 805 312, Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487 or Sharon Turton on 0447 604 796.

Don Olden 0417 805 312
Ben Townsend 0400 594 487
Sharon Turton 0447 604 796



Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523

Welcome to 5 Dowel Court, Korumburra

NESTLED in a quiet court, this exceptionally built three bed, two bath home has been meticulously maintained, and with recent modern updates including a complete new kitchen creating an elegant home that will delight the most passionate of home cooks.

Stepping inside you will experience the light filled home with soft colour scheme and inviting views out to the spacious backyard that provides an oasis to those who love to garden with mature landscaped plantings and garden beds to grow and create.

With two living areas, dining and the beautiful new kitchen, this combines to be the heart of this lovely family home.

The kitchen is fully complete with Caesar stone benchtops, Belfast sink, dishwasher, custom made cabinetry with drawers, pull out pantry shelving, all so user friendly and who can go past the stunning Smeg Induction cooktop and various ovens.

The living room features a new natural gas fireplace, creating luxurious cosy ambience in winter with a reverse cycle air conditioner for summer.

The second living room, currently a formal sitting room, leads to the master bedroom complete with ensuite and walk-in robe.

Bedrooms two and three are both complete with built-in robes.

The family bathroom with bath, vanity, shower and separate toilet alongside the neat laundry that provides excellent storage and bench space.

The double car garage is extra big allowing for great workshop space and storage to the front, access directly into the home and rear yard. Externally there is a garden shed and neat paved areas allowing entertaining space for those lovely spring days in the backyard.

Additional updates with new drapes, pelmets and blinds, flooring and an exceptional 20 panel solar system with storage capacity, new solar electric hot water, the connection of natural gas to the home, has this beautiful home all set up ready to enjoy for many years to come.

A great opportunity here to secure an exceptional home, in a great location, for further information and to arrange a personal inspection please call Irene Walker at SEJ Real Estate 0429 045 632.



3 2 2 920m²

5 Dowel Court, **Korumburra**
For Sale \$695,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
Irene Walker 0429 045 632

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FOSTER
Ph 5682 2800

IRENE WALKER
0429 045 632
iwalker@sej.com.au

LEONGATHA
Ph 5662 4033

ALBERTON WEST

- Luxury homestead on 9.7 acres
- Four BRs, master with ensuite
- Double auto garage, 4 bay, covered annexe
- Fully fenced manicured grounds

\$1.406,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

FISH CREEK

- Updated, repainted, new roof
- Quiet no-through road, walk to Primary school
- Study or 4th bedroom
- Covered entertaining area

\$530,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

KORUMBURRA

- 7 Catherston Close, Korumburra
- Generous titled 792m²
- Build your dream home
- Walk to shops, rail trail & cafes
- House plan options available

\$319,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

KARDELLA

- Expansive & stunning views
- Generous home on 2 acres
- 5 bed, 2 bath, 2 car
- 12m x 12m barn shed
- Low maint. Garden & 3 paddocks

\$1,135,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

TOORA

- Former Uniting Church circa 1939
- Magnificent polished timber floors, exposed trusses
- Internal WC's, kitchen/utility area
- Zoned township

\$370,000-\$400,000 +GST

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

FOSTER

- BV unit in central location
- Modernised for low maintenance
- No body corp. fees
- Plenty of room for a shed
- Sunroom or 3rd bedroom

\$439,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

DUMBALK

UNDER OFFER

- Classic Country Weatherboard
- 3 bed, 1 bath, 1 car
- Polished timber floors
- Spacious low maint. Block
- Peaceful location

UNDER OFFER

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

MEENIYAN

NEW PRICE

- 24HA/60 acres (approx.) Grazing
- Ideal fattening & turnout block
- Flat to undulating & sheltered
- Good stockyards & fencing
- Exc. Water, dams & troughs

NEW PRICE \$745,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 | 35



SET ON 4737m², created by an award-winning landscape designer, this beautiful property is a sanctuary awaiting your inspection. The property features a large single level home, with big spaces and outdoor areas that seamlessly connect to create resort style living. A big undercover outdoor dining area leads into an open plan kitchen and a spacious living area with polished timber hardwood floors.

The master bedroom is more like a suite, it has a walk-through robe, large ensuite and looks out to a secret garden. A second master bedroom connects to the second bathroom and the third bedroom is big enough for a king size bed. The home has secure entry from a two and half car garage. As you would expect the property has a beautiful swimming pool with a Bali style gazebo and a walled fire pit to enjoy those family get togethers under the stars.

The garden is established with many native plants and sweeping expanses of lawn plus a fenced vegie garden. The property has a 10x10 metre workshop large enough for the biggest boat or caravan plus an adjoining studio with its own bathroom. The property is designed to be self-sufficient, 18kw of solar power, big rainwater tanks and a spring fed bore mean smaller power bills and no water bills. Close to one of the Island's best north facing beaches, a short walk to the Silverleaves General Store and The Phillip Island Golf Course, your new lifestyle awaits.

Phone Alex Scott & Staff on 5952 2633 to arrange your private inspection, you will be impressed!



3 2 2

4737m²

20A Settlement Road, **Silverleaves**
For Sale \$2,200,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Cowes Office 5952 2633

Elevated and elegant

WELCOME to 16 Eden Crescent, a charming and well-maintained residential house nestled in an elevated position. Situated on an approximate 813 sqm block of land, this property offers views of the neighbouring farmland. Whether you are a family looking for space, a treechange from the suburbs or a local looking to up or downscale, this beautiful property is worth a look.

With four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and two spacious living areas, this residence provides ample space for the whole family. The central kitchen is equipped with a dishwasher, wall oven, ample bench and cupboard space making meal preparation a breeze. The bedrooms feature carpet to three, and built-in robes to two, while the master bedroom boasts a split system, ensuite, and walk-in robe. The formal living area is a highlight of the home, with an open fireplace and a set of floor-to-ceiling windows allowing this room to be drenched with morning sun. The second living area features two sets of French doors opening onto the wrap-around verandah. This allows for seamless indoor-outdoor living, perfect for entertaining or simply enjoying the serene surroundings.

Outside, the fully fenced backyard provides a safe space for children and pets to play. The concrete driveway leads to a double-car garage/workshop that includes a concrete floor and power which offers plenty of storage and workspace. The raised garden bed is ideal for growing your own herbs and vegetables, while the kids will love the cubby house and sandpit. The property also features mature trees, including fruit trees such as orange and lemon, adding to the overall charm and ambience.

This property is ideally located within walking distance to the schooling precinct, local playground, BMX club, and main street of Leongatha. Don't miss the opportunity to make this character-filled residence your own. Contact us today to arrange an inspection and experience the beauty of 16 Eden Crescent.



4 2 2

813m²

16 Eden Crescent, **Leongatha**
For Sale \$640,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
Dan Huther 0418 334 801



<div>FOSTER</div> <div></div> <div>10 Old Hat Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Lifestyle and income advantages360 acres, 5 mins from FosterHerringbone dairy, shedding, WB house<div>\$3,780,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>12 Queen Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Prime PositionFlat 876m² block3 bedroom, 1 bathroom<div>\$525,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>11 Waldorf Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Open plan living, undercover alfrescoFully fenced yard with room for boat/caravan3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car<div>\$850,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>46 Turner Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Large family homeExcellent sheddingSpacious and secure yard<div>\$999,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>2/15 Allison Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Tenanted, 2 bed, 1 bath unitQuality built by local builderPrivate courtyard & close to shops<div>\$520,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>Unit 5, 49 Guys Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">2 bedroom, 1 bathroom brickDucted heating and coolingGreat Investment<div>\$390,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>2/20 The Esplanade</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Steps away from Cowes main beachUpstairs/downstairs north facing verandas3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car<div>\$1,200,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>8 Sussex Court</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">4 bedroomsAdjacent a Children's playgroundSolar power with battery back up<div>\$600,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>59 Peart Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">3 bed, 2 bath with huge rumpus roomPotential plus propertyClose to Leongatha CBD<div>\$495,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KONGWAK</div> <div></div> <div>Lot 2, Wolonga Estate Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Approx 152 acresVarious sheddingHeavy carrying cattle country<div>\$1,596,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>23 Pembrey Loop</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Corner allotment across from reserveLight filled open plan living with balcony4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car<div>\$760,000 - \$800,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>164 Reed Crescent</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Excellent 5261m² allotment4 bedroom, 3 bathroom family homePrivate treed location<div>\$975,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>MEENIYAN</div> <div></div> <div>26 McIlwaine Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Prestigious family home on 6.39 acres4 bed 3 bath with inground poolMassive 18.5mx15.5m shed plus more<div>\$1,795,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>Units 1-4, 8 Ruddville Avenue</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">3x1 bedroom and 1x2 bedroomReturning \$800pw (7.2%)Instant income<div>\$575,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>SAN REMO</div> <div></div> <div>359/17 Potters Hill Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Holiday escape with high income potentialOpen plan living2 bedroom, 1 bathroom<div>\$295,0000 - \$310,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>5 Strickland Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Prime location close to CBD12m x 6.5m shed with lane accessCharming renovated cottage<div>\$569,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>

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Selective spraying with a view to conserving and protecting existing indigenous vegetation
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*forestry mulching is a regenerative
& cost effective approach to the war on weeds!*

Call Shane: 0409 381 308



Our 14T excavator with forestry mulcher is great for clearing areas on steep terrain, dam and creek banks.

We have machines that are ideal for mulching gorse, blackberries and other unwanted weeds into an even layer of regenerative mulch. This in turn retards new growth for ongoing weed management.

Our 110hp track loader with forestry head is great for clearing large areas of land.



Contact Shane 0409 381 308 or shane@razorland.au

razorlandmanagement www.razorland.au Razor Land Management

WAR on WEEDS



Family owned South Gippsland business Razor Land Management are experts at weed removal, forestry mulching and land clearing.

Keeping local land clear and weed free sustainably

KEEPING land tidy and clear of weeds, especially along fence lines and creek beds, and managing bushfire risk can be a mammoth task for land owners, but it is what Shane Cook waited twenty-five years to do.

Three and half years ago Shane gave up the stressful work of running a manufacturing business with twenty employees, downsized to two employees and started doing what he loved.

Armed with advanced technological machines, Razor Land Management was born and low-impact forestry mulching, land clearing, weed removal and bushfire mitigation are now Shane's every day.

Razor Land Management has the capability to clear, slash and mulch in highly challenging terrain.

It is a method that is not only cost-effective for landowners but is also beneficial to the land itself and it reduces soil erosion.

"The beauty of forestry mulching is that you can be selective about what you mulch, such as the invasive vegetation instead of losing the native stuff," explains Shane.

Tackling and ridding properties of large invasive weeds like blackberries, gorse and hawthorn through

mulching is a quick, safe and environmentally sustainable method of control.

"It's putting the nutrients back into the ground instead of taking that away. It suppresses a lot of new weed growth and it can be up to 12 months before you get weeds grow back through a lot of the time," said Shane.

Razor Land Management is based in South Gippsland and the team spent some time volunteering in Mirboo North after the storms, also working alongside Cut360.

Their advanced machinery allowed them to help out with a wide range of tasks in the community, as attachments include mulchers, log grabs and loader buckets which maximise their capabilities, so no job is too big for them to tackle.

When Shane isn't keeping the local land tidy weed and bushfire-free, he is kept busy making sure his athletically gifted kids get to all their sporting events – another love of his.

Razor Land Management work across South Gippsland and can cater to the wider region.

To have a chat about what you need, contact Shane on 0409 381 308 or shane@razorland.au or for a quote visit razorland.au.



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Environmentally friendly FireHawk Bioherbicide weed killer launched

CONTACT BioSolutions is bringing an innovative and environmentally friendly weed killer, free from harmful chemicals to the Australian market.

“With the rising global demand for non-toxic herbicides, Contact BioSolutions is launching its new break-through innovation in non-toxic, environmentally friendly weed control – FireHawk Bioherbicide – to Australia.”

“FireHawk Bioherbicide offers a comprehensive solution to weed control that will have a positive impact on our environment, food chains and public health,” said Dr Frank Glatz, Managing Director of Contact BioSolutions.

The advanced technology is based on scientific research using natural ingredients. FireHawk Bioherbicide is formulated for high performance. It is not only effective at killing a wide range of weeds on contact but readily biodegradable and beneficial to soil microbiology and fertility.

As an Australian born and bred company, Contact BioSolutions shows homage to its roots by naming



The environmentally friendly, free from harmful chemicals, FireHawk Bioherbicide. Day 0 (left) and Day 5 (right).

FireHawk Bioherbicide after the Australian group of birds called firehawks. The association between these birds and fire is common in many Aboriginal Dreaming Stories, some of which tell of firehawk birds picking up branches from cooking fires or wildfires and spreading the flames to new areas to flush out prey and regenerate the land.

Contact BioSolutions has spent the last three decades focusing on research,

development, and production of non-toxic products to provide alternative weed control solutions. They improve public health, foster regenerative agriculture and benefit the environment.

Contact BioSolutions will begin its FireHawk Bioherbicide launch in Australia, followed by USA, New Zealand and Japan. To learn more about Contact BioSolutions and purchase FireHawk Bioherbicide, visit contactbiosolutions.com.au.



Day 3 Cape Weed.



The latest technology for effective and safe weed control for your home and garden.

Partnerships Against Pests Grants now open

ROUND 3 of the Partnerships Against Pests grants program is now open for applications from community groups through Agriculture Victoria. You can apply for grants valued between \$10,000-\$50,000 to plan and deliver education and training programs that provide local and long-term solutions to invasive weeds and pests.

The program aims to improve the capacity of land managers to manage established weeds and pest animals on their land. A study by the Australian Bureau for Agriculture and Resource Economics and Science estimates that the cost of management and lost production to Victoria's agricultural landowners, due to established weeds and pest animals is \$869 million per annum.

For information on applying and how to apply visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/partnerships-against-pests-grants-program

Applications close at 11.59pm on Friday, October 11.

Weeds: Landcare can help with an educational session

THE Loch-Nyora Landcare Group are holding a free weed control educational session at 11am on October 6 at the Loch Public Hall. President Malcolm Brown is inviting the community to join the talk and take control of their garden this spring.

Malcolm and the committee can assist farmers or landowners to gain a better understanding of effective weed management through a combination of techniques.

The Loch Public Hall is located at 16 Smith Street, Loch.

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BIOHERBICIDE

Effective and enviromentally

friendly non-toxic weed control

BIOHERBICIDE

HIGH PERFORMANCE

FAST ACTING

SUPPORTS SOIL HEALTH

PATENTED TECHNOLOGY

FireHawk Bioherbicide's unique benefits

• Break through innovation in weed control through patented delivery technology

• High performance bioherbicide

• Fast acting & effective

• Proven benefits for soil microbiology

• Effective on many glyphosate resistant weeds

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and all in-between.

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 | 39



MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Smaller yarding of store cattle

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded around 1750 cattle at last week's VLE Leongatha store sale.

The yarding was mixed with only a handful of good heavy grown steers and a few pens of nice weaners with the balance being lighter weights, Xbreds and dairy types

With a reduced number on offer, only a couple of regular feedlot buyers attended and operated with a larger percentage of the yarding being purchased by local graziers.

Prices generally held pretty firm in line with quality for the steers and heifers but there was a price lift for the cows and calves which improved in quality.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024

Grown Steers

I Francis 10 BB	611kg	\$3.94	\$2410
Ln Heyden 12 Hereford X	605kg	\$3.73	\$2260
I Francis 10 Angus	571kg	\$4.16	\$2380
Dr & JI Osment 10 Angus	560kg	\$3.98	\$2230
Glen Alvie Pty Ltd 12 Angus	495kg	\$4.18	\$2070
C Stewart 10 Angus	418kg	\$4.16	\$1740

Weaner Steers

D&R Hardy 10 Angus	391kg	\$4.19	\$1640
Rd & Jf Atherton 10 Angus	388kg	\$4.02	\$1560
Windyridge 16 Angus	380kg	\$4.42	\$1680
Sj & Ca Carbone 12 Angus	354kg	\$4.60	\$1630
J Weekly 12 Speck Park	353kg	\$3.73	\$1320
A J Chatfield Services 11 Angus	351kg	\$4.04	\$1420
Ea & Je Bennett 12 Angus	341kg	\$4.72	\$1610
Jcm Farms 10 Angus	320kg	\$3.53	\$1130
L Glare 11 Angus	319kg	\$4.26	\$1360
L Thomson 10 Angus	317kg	\$4.06	\$1290
J Weekly 10 Angus	310kg	\$3.96	\$1230
M & H Brown 10 Angus	302kg	\$4.37	\$1320
G Davine 12 Angus	287kg	\$4.98	\$1430
M Hughes 10 Angus	280kg	\$4.78	\$1340
Deep Creek Farm 10 BB	272kg	\$4.30	\$1170
G Jacobson 12 Angus	265kg	\$4.33	\$1150
Deep Creek Farm 12 Hereford	225kg	\$4.48	\$1010

Heifers

Deep Creek Farm 10 Hereford	371kg	\$3.04	\$1130
Jcm Farms 10 BB	359kg	\$3.11	\$1120
Deep Creek Farm 11 Hereford	345kg	\$3.07	\$1060
Woods & Johnson 13 Char	331kg	\$3.92	\$1300
Anderson Prop 12 Simm	323kg	\$3.93	\$1270
J Weekly 11 Angus	311kg	\$3.60	\$1120
G Jacobson 12 Angus	280kg	\$3.25	\$910
The Pommerai 17 Angus	277kg	\$2.74	\$760
Deep Creek Farm 14 Hereford	231kg	\$2.98	\$690
N Strachan 15 Angus	224kg	\$3.12	\$700
Ad Spencer 18 Angus/FF X	328kg	\$2.56	\$840
J Hume 19 Angus/FF X	302kg	\$2.54	\$770

Cows & Calves

J Dean 18x18 Angus	\$2825
J Dean 4x4 Char	\$2600
Yering Cattle Co Angus 14x14	\$2525
S Eden 9x9 Angus X	\$1900

Springers

First Snowman P/L 11 AA/FF X	\$1800
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Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, September 16, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x	\$17 to \$45
Friesian Bulls	\$20 to \$94
Friesian Heifers	\$30 to \$80
Beef Bulls	\$22 to \$180
Beef Heifers	\$25 to \$96

Number of Calves: 517

Number purchased to rear: 227

Farm exports set to take off with third runway

THE GREEN lighting of a third runway for Melbourne Airport will be an economic boom for South Gippsland according to the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF).

South Gippsland is one of Australia's biggest dairy-producing regions and dairy is one of the airport's biggest export earners.

Third-generation farmers Schreurs & Sons export celery, leek and baby leaf daily by airfreight and believe the third runway will have a positive impact for all international trade and travel.

With seven properties spanning one thousand acres, Schreurs & Sons are one of the largest suppliers of celery in Australia with both local and international customers.

The current cost of airfreight can be quite prohibitive for reaching international markets according to Schreurs and is one of the biggest competitive disadvantages on the export stage.

"If a third runway helps in reducing freight costs, then this will only be a positive for all exporters competing internationally," said Schreurs & Sons.

Schreurs & Sons specialise in celery, leek and baby leaf lines including spinach, rocket and snow pea tendrils, and take pride in delivering high-quality products to their customers year-round.

"Whether a third runway for Melbourne Airport translates to cheaper airfreight remains to be seen."

Kilcoy Global Foods at



Fresh celery destined for local and export markets from Schreurs & Sons.

Lance Creek transports premium Australian beef, lamb and high-quality protein brands to more than thirty-five countries.

"An additional runway means more options logistically for a global company like Kilcoy Global Foods," according to a company spokesperson.

Key exports transiting through Melbourne Airport include dairy, meat, vegetables, fruits and nut products.

Victoria's largest export markets include China, the United States, Japan, South Korea and Indonesia.

VFF President Emma Germano backed the expansion and said the move would help secure jobs in agriculture and ensure more of

Victoria's internationally renowned food and fibre products are enjoyed across the globe.

"Victorian produce has never been in such demand on the global market," said Ms Germano.

"Critical infrastructure such as Melbourne Airport ensures we retain our mantle as Australia's most valuable agriculture exporting state.

"The extra capacity that a third runway brings means new jobs are created in the agricultural supply chain and our produce remains competitive on domestic and international markets."

Ms Germano said the VFF was proud to join industry partners in advocating the need for the third runway to the Commonwealth.

"The government's announcement to green-light the runway is great news for Victorian agriculture.

"Victorian produce has a reputation as a clean, green, fresh premium product and we're seeing demand go through the roof with efficient and fast air freight to key markets in Asia and the United States.

"Approximately a third of the nation's air freight market has flowed through Melbourne over the past decade, with Victorian produce constituting a significant portion of these exports."

Last financial year the value of food and fibre exports through Melbourne exceeded one and a half billion dollars representing nearly ten per cent of the state's agricultural exports.

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Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
		Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

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		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
		Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
WONTHAGGI		Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Maree Malloy	0408 316 715
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National Farmers Rally in Canberra.

Vegetable industry facing mass farmer exodus

NO FARMERS means no food, Australian households have been warned with up to a third of vegetable growers considering leaving the industry in the next twelve months.

A survey of the Australian vegetable industry by peak farmer group AUSVEG has revealed half of growers, including vegetable, potato and onion growers from Gippsland are financially worse off than they were twelve months ago.

National Party Leader David Littleproud says if farmers leave the industry, supply will go down and prices will go up.

“Australia risks a third of growers quitting, and no farmers means no food,” claims Mr Littleproud.

“This is a worrying sign amid a cost-of-living crisis, with the outlook even worse than it was in June last year.

“Families have cut back on discretionary spending, but they still need to buy food.”

A mass farmer exodus threatens the viability of all growers, risking an increase in prices at the check-out,” The Nationals Leader warns.

AUSVEG’s latest Vegetable Industry Sentiment Report shows almost half of vegetable,

potato and onion growers surveyed indicated they were experiencing workforce shortages across full-time, part-time and casual positions, as well as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled vacancies.

“The report found threatened changes to the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme under Labor rendered it unworkable for many growers,” Mr Littleproud said.

“Labour costs are a major challenge at around thirty-eight per cent of a grower’s costs. Worryingly, the overwhelming majority of farmers surveyed believe employment problems will remain the same or worsen into the future.”

“There is enormous concern over the removal of the eighty-eight-day backpacker rule, which requires backpackers to work in regional areas.”

“Nearly two-thirds of growers have indicated that the removal of the eighty-eight-day specified work requirement would have a severe or critical impact on their business.”

“This is on top of increasing costs, poor retail pricing, lack of operating profit and compliance and regulation burdens,” said Mr Littleproud.

A formula for staff retention in Gippsland

THE staff at Franklin Downs Dairy aren’t just workers to Gippsland farmers Tania and Clint Staley – they’re more like family.

“We have two workers from Kenya who we sponsored to come to Australia. To them, I’m sort of like their Australian mum,” Tania explains.

“We look after them, so they enjoy their time. I think that’s what helps us to retain staff. They know we are invested in them. We’re interested in them as people.”

Clint and Tania found a Dairy Australia course that focused on people in dairy, particularly useful. They said that while it was more about how to recruit and retain staff than how to train them, it was useful in forming their approach to managing people.

Clint and Tania have been farming in their current location, which is an amalgamation of three farms, for 10 years. As well as the home farm, they run a 280-hectare ‘support’ block, which is used for grazing dry cows and cutting silage. A contractor does pit silage for the enterprise but everything else is done in-house.

The Staleys turned to migrant workers when they were having difficulty finding local staff. As well as the sponsored migrant workers, they employ backpackers.

It’s not unusual for backpackers to have no previous experience in dairying when they arrive. Clint and Tania do some of the initial training themselves and also have existing staff show newcomers the ropes. But formal training is also part of

upskilling their workers.

While some of their staff had previous experience working in dairy, they were familiar with a completely different system that operates in other countries. Learning about pasture management was an important component of upskilling them for work in Australia.

“We have sent people on courses for chemical use, calf rearing, first aid, pastures, and Milking and Mastitis Management,” Clint says.

The Staleys are always moving stock between the support block and the home farm, as well as gravel and silage around the place. A development opportunity was identified, with two of their young workers upskilled to obtain a heavy truck licence.

“It’s great having them to be able to move stock, silage and gravel,” Clint says.

Clint points out that one of the most important things he and Tania do with staff is to spend time talking with them.

“We have staff meetings monthly and we regularly have social activities after work on Fridays,” Clint says.

Tania says staff are invited over for dinner sometimes.

“It’s a good time to informally discuss things and build relationships, which helps retain staff.”

To find out more about how Dairy Australia provides support with employing and managing people, and building skills for successful careers in dairy farming, contact GippsDairy or visit dairyaustralia.com.au/people.

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PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c B.M & G.H Missen, Woodside (SEJ)
45 Angus steers, 18 mths, VB, GF & ABF, Leawood & Pinora blood
A/c P & S Campbell, Mardan (SEJ)
29 Angus steers, rising 2 yrs, 3 x 5in1, Merlewood blood
A/c EST AA Birss, Stradbroke (NUTRIEN)
25 Angus steers, 2 yo, Kunuma blood
A/c Holleywoods Past Co, Giffard (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 18 mths
A/c R & M Kenney, Dumbalk (SEJ)
7 Angus steers
8 Speckle Park steers
22 mths, 2 x 5in1
A/c P & A Chisholm, Archies Creek (NUTRIEN)
15 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, By Merlewood Stud Bulls, NE Accred
A/c N & S Walker, Korumburra (SEJ)
13 Angus steers, 16-18 mths
A/c J Moncur, Rosedale (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus steers, 2.5 yo, VB, GF & ABF
A/c DT & DJ Cameron, Valencia Creek (NUTRIEN)
12 AA X steers, 16-18 mths, VB, NE Accred
A/c “Peedamulla”, Tarwin (SEJ)
12 Angus Hereford X steers, 14-15 mths
A/c BD Hayes, Woodleigh (SEJ)
10 Angus steers, Harris Farms blood 16 mths, GF & ABF

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c BD Hayes, Woodleigh (SEJ)
20 Angus heifers, Leawood blood 16 mths, GF & ABF

WEANERS

A/c Brookeville Angus, Benambra (NUTRIEN)
190 Angus heifers, 8 mths, Dunoon & Alpine Angus blood, weaned, GF, AF & NE Accred
A/c Markarna Park, Flinders (NUTRIEN)
Ex Agistment
70 Angus steers
70 Angus heifers
11 mths, Landfall blood, Markarna Park Bred, GF & ABF
A/c L & S Marriott, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
85 poll Hereford heifers, August-September 2023 entire drop, 2 x 5in1, Vetmec & Pestigard 26/8/24, By Days Whiteface, Injemira & Elite poll Hereford bulls, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred, JBS assured, EU Accred, A rare opportunity to purchase future breeders with over 85 years of breeding
A/c G Wade, Willow Grove (SEJ)
60 Angus steers, Bowman & Murdeduke blood, 11-12 mths, VB, GF & ABF
A/c L Missen, Kilmany (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus heifers, 9-12 mths
10 Angus steers, 9-11 mths
Leawood blood
A/c S & L Campbell, Mardan (SEJ)
40 Angus steers, 12-13 mths, weaned May, Leawood blood, 2x5in1
A/c S Auteri, Morwell (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus mixed sex, 12-14 mths
A/c G & C Hosking, Woodside (SEJ)
30 Angus Heifers, Leawood blood, 12 mths, VB, GF and ABF
A/c Gaph Pastoral, Dollar (SEJ)
30 Angus M/S, 12-14 mths. Yard weaned, GF & ABF. Harris Farms blood.

A/c MD Gordon, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
22 Angus mixed sex calves, 9-10 mths, By Wattlewood Stud Bulls
A/c Ross Lawson, Tanjil Sth (NUTRIEN)
22 Angus heifers, 10 mths
A/c Annsfield, Rosedale (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 12-13 mths, Millah Murrah, Hazeldean & Battersby blood, NE Accred
A/c Dale Smith, Parkside (PHC)
20 Angus/Hereford X mixed sex weaners, 14-15 mths, weaned & quiet, VB
A/c C & G White, Fish Creek (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned, VB, GF & ABF, Banquet blood
A/c Dr Hall, Fish Creek (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred
A/c J Diggerman, Nerrena (SEJ)
20 Speckle Park heifers, 12 mths, weaned, VB, GF & ABF
A/c B & A Spiden, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
18 Hereford mixed sex calves, 8-12 mths
A/c SJ Conway, Traralgon (NUTRIEN)
16 Angus heifers, 11-12 mths, By Latrobe Park & Bowman Bulls, Drenched with Cattlemax & Swish Lice treatment 10/8, weaned
A/c J & D Stevens, Kardella (SEJ)
12 Angus steers, 10-12 mths
A/c S Williams, Toora (SEJ)
12 Angus steers, 12 mths, yard weaned, Harris Farms blood
A/c U Kratzat, Yinnar (NUTRIEN)
8 Angus steers, 11-12 mths

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c DP Pearce, Hallston (NUTRIEN)
60 AA X mixed sex, 12-14 mths
A/c Cadagri P/L, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
35 Friesian Hereford X steers,
5 Friesian Hereford X heifers,
20-24 mths
A/c Wiabuna P/L, Woolamai (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus/Friesian X heifers, 10-14 mths
20 Speckle Park mixed sex, 10 mths
A/c U Kratzat, Yinnar (NUTRIEN)
20 X Bred mixed sex, 11-12 mths
A/c M Stephens, Moe (NUTRIEN)
13 Lim/Sim X steers, 11-12 mths
A/c Jelbart Dairies, Leongatha Sth (NUTRIEN)
40 Friesian steers, 14 mths
A/c L Crack, Tanjil Sth (NUTRIEN)
20 Friesian steers, 18-22 mths
A/c M & J Whiteside, Korumburra (NUTRIEN)
12 Friesian steers, 18 mths

COWS & CALVES

A/c Greig’s Creek Angus, Won Wron (PHC)
9x9 Angus heifers with Angus calves at foot, 10-12 wks, By Leawood Nugget, not rejoined
A/c J Diggerman, Nerrena (SEJ)
5 X 5 Speckle Park cows & calves, 3-4 yo

JOINED FEMALES

A/c GI & LIM Webster, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
7 Friesian/Angus X heifers
20 Friesian/Hereford X heifers
1 Friesian/Sp X heifers
PTIC to Leawood Angus Bull, to calve early Oct.
A/c B & A Spiden, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
18 Hereford mixed sex calves, 8-12 mths

5662 4033

5662 2291

0429 050 349

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 | 41

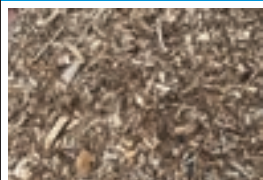


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Neil Darby
0418 595 265



5941 0299

Darryl Adams
0408 385 872

Andrew Mumford
0407 803 360



LB1406

New directions for dairy heifer exports

THE live export of dairy heifers – particularly to China – has been a lucrative market for Australian dairy farmers in recent years, offering significant trade opportunities and attractive prices for dairy cattle.

But with Chinese demand for dairy heifers waning – as China grapples with an oversupply of domestic raw milk production – and trade risks around Australia's live export policy, the future prospects for the sector are far less certain, according to a new industry report by Rabobank.

In its recently-released report, New directions for Oceania live dairy cattle exports in a slower market, the agribusiness banking specialist says bearish farm sector fundamentals in China – a market that is irreplaceable – point to slower trade for the foreseeable future.

Report author, RaboResearch senior dairy analyst Michael Harvey said from 2013 to 2023, exporting dairy heifers to China – as the country moved to build its domestic milk production – has provided a lucrative opportunity and income diversification for both Australian and New Zealand dairy farms.

"The recent boom in Chinese import demand and subsequent high prices came on the back of a wide-ranging industry revitalisation strategy implemented by the Chinese government in 2018. This strategy very successfully fuelled farm expansion and herd building,"



Where to next as China live dairy exports set to slow?

Mr Harvey said.

Trade had been cyclical over the past decade, with import volumes peaking in 2022 (at 233,00 head for Australia and New Zealand combined). But by 2024, trade volumes had slowed significantly.

"The growth journey of China's milk supply – a key driver of increased heifer exports – is at a critical juncture. The industry is grappling with an oversupply of raw milk, leading to falling local milk prices and lower farm profitability," he said.

The Rabobank report said moving forward, a recovery in Chinese heifer demand is possible. However, it will require a combination of improved milk prices, increased farm profitability, and further government policy to support farm expansion and herd rebuilding.

"For Australian dairy farm businesses engaged in the live

dairy heifer export sector, this era of sluggish trade may require a reconsideration of breeding programmes and strategic goals," he said.

Other export markets

With China having consistently accounted for more than 80 per cent of all heifer export numbers from Australia and New Zealand, the hunt may well be on for new and emerging market opportunities, the report says.

The Rabobank report said collectively, the Southeast Asian markets – including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines – are a large milk-deficit region, with self-sufficiency rates ranging from one per cent to 50 per cent.

Based on RaboResearch modelling, the combined import deficit totalled more than 10 billion litres of liquid milk

equivalent in 2023.

"More recently," Mr Harvey said, "there has been a renewed focus on local herd expansion and milk supply growth – through private and public investment – across some Southeast Asian economies to specifically address supply chain and milk price risks.

"This initiative secures a small but steady flow of live dairy heifer exports into the region."

The report says reduced demand from China for dairy heifers provides a more attractive opportunity for buyers in Southeast Asia, which might lead to an increase in trade moving forward.

However, Mr Harvey said as history shows, the Southeast Asian region cannot replace China in volume terms, with annual volumes never surpassing 25,000 cows.

Australian Policy watch

In Australia, the report said, the broader policy environment around live exports also provides a cautionary tale about trade risk for the dairy heifer trade.

"While there has been no shift in policy on the live exports of dairy cattle, in May 2024, the federal government announced that the export of live sheep by sea from Australia will end on 1 May 2028," he said. "And this is another consideration those involved in Australia's dairy sector trade need to take into account."

Four hundred trees planted at Thompson Reserve working bee

THE South Gippsland Conservation Society held its September working bee at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve on Sunday, September 15.

The working bee was scheduled off the back of National Tree Day, where 25 volunteers gathered to plant 400 trees.

Before the planting day, an active wasp nest was discovered and cut the efforts that could be completed during the day short.

The team spent the rest of National Tree Day planting on Carneys Road as part of Wonthaggi Hidden Gem Project.

The Wonthaggi Rotary Club provided a barbecue on the day.

On Sunday, a small contingency of the volunteers returned to

finish off the plot with another 150 plants.

They also contributed to some of the weeding in the bushland.

The South Gippsland Conservation Society has been working tirelessly to protect and promote the natural environment surrounding Thompson Reserve for several years.

Their next project will be to plant Western Australian Bluebell, a peaceful vine that will creep over the bushland to try and keep weeds and pest plants under control.

The goal is to continue to minimise and replace pest plants with natural alternatives.

This working bee will take place on Sunday, October 20.



John Cuttriss, Rhonda Sutton, Graeme Rowe, Lynn Seymour, Andrew Nowland, Susannah Marshall and Ed Thexton took part in the South Gippsland Conservation Society's September working bee on Sunday. Tk63_3824

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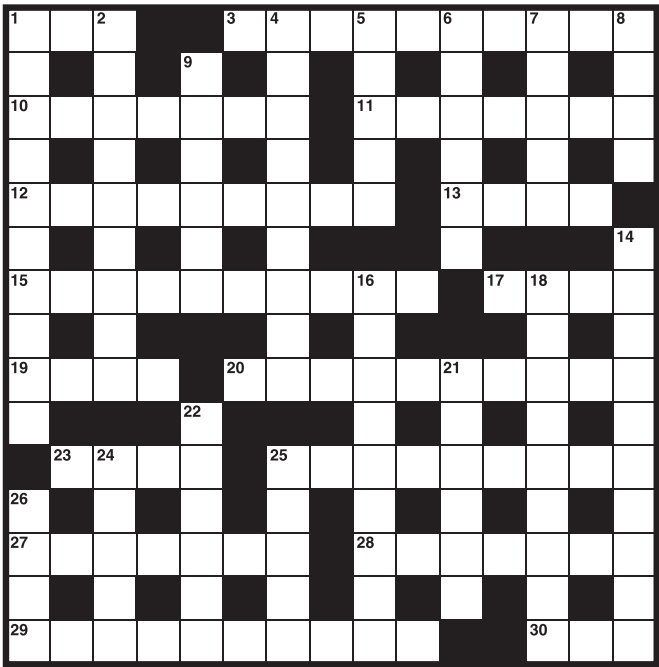
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CROSSWORD

No. 246



- ACROSS**
- 1 Alehouse (3)
 - 3 Compulsory (10)
 - 10 Examines (7)
 - 11 Part (7)
 - 12 Unconvinced (9)
 - 13 Align (4)
 - 15 Absurd (10)
 - 17 Edible rootstock (4)
 - 19 Undiluted (4)
 - 20 Methodical (10)
 - 23 Minute skin opening (4)
 - 25 Canadian city (9)
 - 27 Suggests (7)

- 28 Fragile (7)
 - 29 Reinforce (10)
 - 30 Point (3)
- DOWN**
- 1 Note written after the writer's signature (10)
 - 2 Person who serves alcoholic drinks (9)
 - 4 Essentially (9)
 - 5 Urge (5)
 - 6 Detain (6)
 - 7 Bulb used in cooking (5)
 - 8 Tug (4)
 - 9 Marked by great excitement, activity, confusion, haste (6)
 - 14 Synchronous (10)
 - 16 Insupportable (9)
 - 18 Triggered (9)
 - 21 Short-sighted (6)
 - 22 Decorative pattern; plan or sketch (6)
 - 24 Of equal value (2,3)
 - 25 Call on (5)
 - 26 Area on the body consisting of pelvis and upper thigh bones (4)

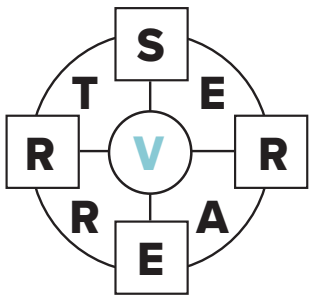


9-LETTER

No. 247

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

- Today's Aim:**
- 16 words: **Good**
 - 24 words: **Very good**
 - 32 words: **Excellent**



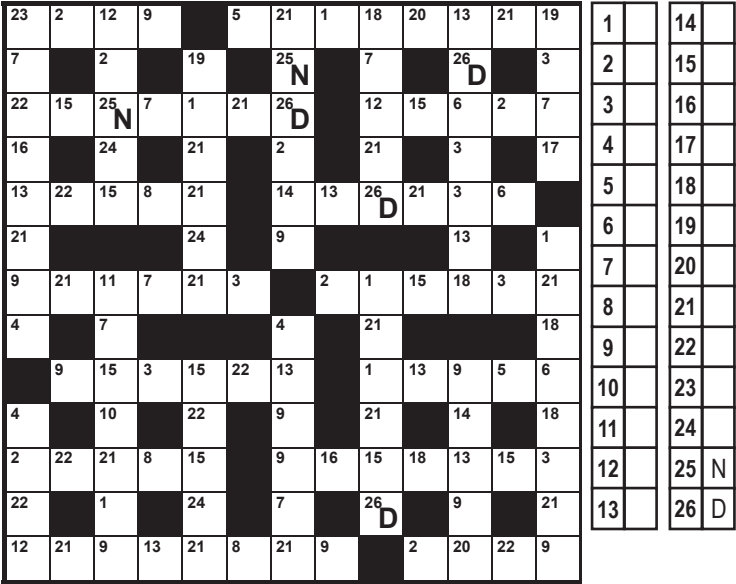
SOLUTION

aveit, aveit's, ever, revert, reave, reaves, revert, reverts, reverts, revs, save, save, serve, server, sever, stave, stave, traverse, TRAVERSE, vase, vast, vastier, veer, veers, verse, vest, vets

CODEWORD

No. 206

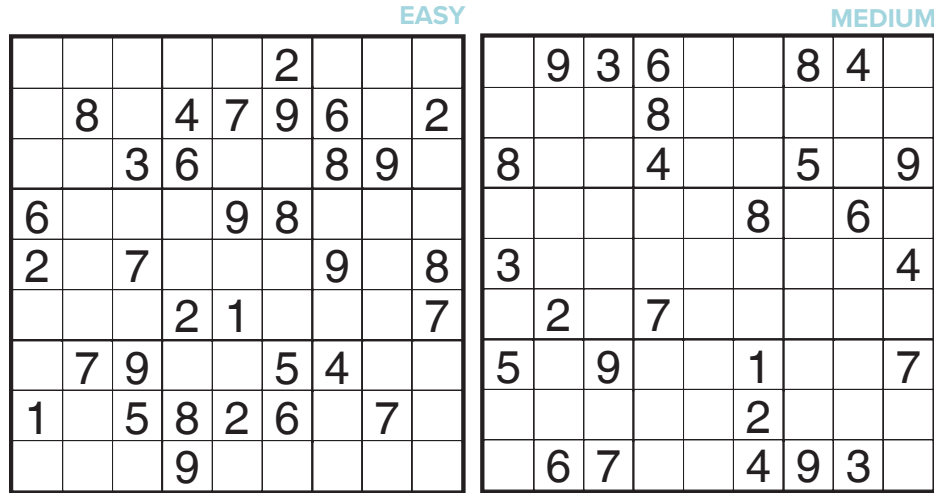
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



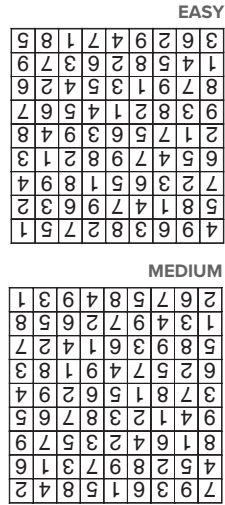
SUDOKU

No. 246

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

- 1. What is the capital of Guyana?
- 2. Paul Mescal (pictured) co-starred with Olivia Colman and Dakota Johnson in which 2021 film?
- 3. Name the 2018 novel by Trent Dalton that was adapted into a Netflix limited series.
- 4. What protein is the main substance that makes up fingernails?
- 5. The Costume Institute Benefit is the formal name for which annual fashion event?
- 6. Which Central American country is often referred to as 'the land of lakes and volcanoes'?
- 7. Canon, Nikon and Olympus are well-known brands of what?
- 8. Which actor do the films *Morning Glory*, *Doctor Strange* and *The Time Traveler's Wife* have in common?
- 9. Who painted the famous fresco *The Creation of Adam*?
- 10. Which of the big cat species is typically the largest?



ANSWERS: 1. Georgetown 2. The Lost Daughter 3. Boy Swallows Universe 4. Keratin 5. The Met Gala 6. Nicaragua 7. Cameras 8. Rachel McAdams 9. Michelangelo 10. Tigers

WORD SEARCH

No. 156

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|
| ARGON | EUROPIUM | RADON |
| ARSENIC | FERMIUM | RHENIUM |
| BERYLLIUM | FLUORINE | SAMARIUM |
| BISMUTH | GOLD | SILICON |
| BORON | HELIUM | SODIUM |
| CARBON | INDIUM | TANTALUM |
| CERIUM | IRON | TIN |
| CESIUM | LEAD | URANIUM |
| CHROMIUM | MERCURY | XENON |
| COPERNICIUM | NEON | YTTRIUM |
| CURIUM | NICKEL | ZINC |
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Sentinel-Times Classifieds

DEATHS

HENRY, Vanice Mildred:

Our hearts are broken, our tears are falling, special memories are ours to keep.

Thank you for the years we shared, the love you gave and the way you cared.

We are so lucky to have you as our Nanna Vanice.

Until we meet again, loving you always, Michelle, Daryl, Hayden, Leah, and Dean xo.

PEARCE, Susan Patricia:

29.06.1967 - 17.09.2024.

Passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her adoring partner, and her beloved dogs.

Loving sister of Greg, Lisa, and their families.

Forever in our Hearts.

PUGH, Jim:

Passed away peacefully on September 17, surrounded by family.

Courageous in life, courageous in death.

Rest easy brother.

RICHARDS, Glenister (Glen) Michael:

24.02.1944 - 17.09.2024.

Loved and loving husband of Carolyn.

Father of Tim and Jo.

Proud Pa Pa of Britt, Citty, and Michaela.

Father-in-law of Di.

Finally at peace and no longer suffering.

With our appreciation to all the staff at Rose Lodge for their loving care and support to Glen.

There will be no funeral as per Glen's wishes.

RICHARDS, Glen:

A wonderful family man, of great integrity, and commitment to his local community.

Glen was a hard-working member of numerous local organisations including sixteen years as Board Member of Rose Lodge, and chairman for four.

He was a wonderful friend, and steadfast supporter of our family, and we will miss him greatly.

Sincere condolences to Carolyn and family.

-- Paula, Alan, and family.

DEATHS

RICHARDS, Glen:

Members of the Wonthaggi Branch of the Liberal Party mourn the passing of our esteemed member Glen Richards.

Glen was a decades long member of the Wonthaggi Branch and was both admired, respected, and appreciated for his valued contribution.

He will greatly be missed by all members.

SCOTT (nee Calder), Lois Vivian:

Passed away peacefully at Woorayl Lodge Leongatha, on Sunday September 15, aged 96.

Loving wife of Niel (dec.).

Loved mother and mother-in-law to Brenda and Sam, Alison and Rob, Ian and Kaye, Deborah and John, Murray and Gwen, Daniel and Karen.

Grandma to 15 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

A wonderful person so loving and kind, what beautiful memories you leave behind, sharing and caring wherever you went, always content, loved and respected wherever you went.

SCOTT (Calder), Lois Vivian:

Born 12.01.1928.

Passed away 15.09.2024.

Mum, there are no goodbyes from us even though our hearts are broken.

For those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.

Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.

-- Muzz and Gwen.

Grandmother to Bianca, Josh, great grandmother to Evie.

Step grandmother to Alex and Jac, Adrian and Kate, Alburee and Chris, Addison and Laura.

Step great grandmother to Jamie and Robert; Ada, Ari and Leo; Zaid, Saphira, Veyda and Raven.

Treasured memories of a beautiful lady.

Forever in our hearts.

DEATHS

SCOTT, Lois:

The greatest gift you gave us was your time.

You will be greatly missed by us and your grandchildren, Dalzeil and Jevon.

We love you Mum, rest easy, you earnt it.

-- Danny and Karen Scott.

SCOTT, Lois:

Special memories of a good friend.

I will miss you Lois.

-- Barbara.

FUNERALS

GUY:

The funeral of Mr Andrew John Guy will arrive at the Toora Lawn Cemetery for a service commencing at 1pm on Monday September 30, 2024.



HANLEY:

Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mrs. Sarah (Sadie) Hanley will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi WEDNESDAY WEEK October 2, 2024, commencing at 11am.

At the conclusion of Mass, the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

For livestreaming go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au



HENRY:

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Vanice Mildred Henry will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Monday September 30, 2024, commencing at 11am.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Kilcunda Cemetery.



CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS Call 5672 1888 to place a notice

FUNERALS

PUGH:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Jim Pugh will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi next THURSDAY WEEK October 3, 2024, commencing at 2pm.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations to Cancer Council would be appreciated as per Jim's wishes.

Please wear a splash of gold, to acknowledge Jim's lifetime passion for gold prospecting.



SCOTT:

The Funeral of Mrs. Lois Vivian Scott will be held at Dakers Centre, 23 Smith Street, Leongatha TODAY TUESDAY September 24, 2024, commencing at 1.30pm.

At the conclusion of the Service the Funeral will leave for the Leongatha Cemetery.

Garden flowers would be appreciated. Donations to Woorayl Lodge would be appreciated, envelopes available at the service.

Lois's funeral will be live streamed. To view the service, go to www.handleyfunerals.com.au.



IN MEMORIAM

BOLDING, Gladys:

27 years have passed. Missing you always. Your loving families.

MARTYN, Barrie:

4 years have passed. We talk about you still, We talk about you always, You will never be forgotten, We hold you close to our hearts. -- Sophie and family.

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Sentinel-Times



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Applications to be submitted to:
recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au
Applications close Monday 7 October 2024 at 5 pm

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.

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For a full job description please call 5662 2782 or email Helen for a copy on: manager@leongathahealthhub.com.au

To apply, please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your experience and qualifications and email it to: manager@leongathahealthhub.com.au

**Applications close
Monday, September 30, 2024.**



Premier
and Cabinet



Call for applications for the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

The Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins is calling for applications from Victorian Traditional Owners to become members of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council.

What is the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council?

The Council protects Aboriginal Cultural Heritage for the enjoyment and benefit of all Victorians. The Council's principal functions are:

- advising the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria
- making decisions about applications from Traditional Owners to become Registered Aboriginal Parties
- overseeing the reporting and return of Ancestral Remains and Secret or Sacred Objects
- promoting awareness and understanding of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

The Council was created under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. The Act protects Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria, just as other forms of heritage are protected under Victorian law.

The Council is comprised entirely of Traditional Owners, in line with the principle of self-determination.

Expressions of Interest are sought to fill vacancies on the Council

The minister is seeking expressions of interest from Aboriginal people who:

- are Victorian Traditional Owners
- live in Victoria
- have relevant experience and knowledge of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria.

Consideration will also be given to experience in governance and previous work under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Council welcomes applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, including people of different genders, people of all ages, people with a disability, and LGBTIQ people.

Council members are expected to have adequate time to commit to Council. They are paid a sitting fee and are reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with Victorian Government guidelines.

Please email your written expression of interest, addressing the above criteria to:
vahc@dpc.vic.gov.au

Expressions of Interest must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 16 October 2024.

For further information, please contact the Office of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council.

E: vahc@dpc.vic.gov.au
T: 03 9922 7002
W: aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au

Diesel Mechanic / Farm Mechanic

Tarwin Lower 3956 location with travel between sites required.

Multi-site vegetable growers and processor supplying major national retailers and export customers throughout S.E. Asia and the Middle East in South Gippsland & South East Melbourne

- Qualified mechanic with 5+ years hands on experience
- Proven experience in working with diesel engines
- Previous experience with trucks, tractors or agricultural equipment (highly advantageous)
- Experience with heavy machinery / earth moving equipment also considered
- HR licence and Forklift licence (desirable)
- An efficient and systematic approach to problem-solving (essential)

If you are interested in this opportunity, please submit your application (cover letter and resume) by email to HR@schreurs.com.au or Contact us on **0467 576 435** for a discreet and confidential discussion.

Visit our website:

www.sgst.com.au

Multiple Positions Vacant



Customer Service Team Leader and Water Quality and Regulation Officer (2 part time positions available)

South Gippsland Water is launching our 2040 Vision and Strategy, guiding us toward our vision to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations. To progress this vision, we are seeking skilled, enthusiastic and community focused people to fill a number of vacancies.

South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:

- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
- Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
- Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
- Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
- Flexibility to work from home, with base location at any of our offices in Wonthaggi, Foster or Leongatha

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

Customer Service Team Leader

- Permanent Full Time
- Band 8 - \$102,562.88 - \$113,614.61 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Water Quality and Regulation Officer (2 positions available)

- Permanent Part Time (3 Days per week & 2 Days per week)
- Level 1 Band O4 - \$67,316.03-\$70,855.71 Pro Rata + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

Applications Close: Monday, September 30, 2024 at 5pm

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> and follow the instructions to sign up for job alerts.

1300 851 636 | www.sgwater.com.au

THE CAPE TAVERN

We are looking forward to a busy Spring/ Summer season and are looking for the following to join our team

Full time Qualified Chef
Part time / Casual Chef

Further details available on application

Please send your resume to Michael
capetavern@westnet.com.au

WV0130



Administration Officer

Company: MDC Building Group
Location: Leongatha
Job Type: Part-Time (Flexible Hours)

About Us:
Join our award-winning team at MDC Building Group, where we pride ourselves on delivering exceptional construction services. We value work-life balance and are looking for a dedicated Administration Officer to support our growing operations.

Position Overview:
We are seeking a motivated and detail-oriented Administration Officer to manage essential administrative tasks, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, occupational health and safety (OH&S) compliance, and general administrative duties. This role is ideal for someone seeking "Mum" hours or flexible working arrangements.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Accounts Payable & Receivable:**
 - Process invoices, payments, and billing inquiries efficiently.
 - Maintain accurate financial records and assist with month-end reconciliations.
 - Coordinate with suppliers and clients to resolve payment issues.
- **Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S):**
 - Assist in maintaining OH&S compliance by updating records and documentation.
 - Support the development and implementation of safety policies and procedures.
 - Help organise safety training and compliance audits.
- **General Administrative Duties:**
 - Provide administrative support to the management team as needed.
 - Maintain organised files, both physical and digital.
 - Answer phone calls, respond to emails, and manage office correspondence.
 - Assist with scheduling meetings and coordinating project timelines.

Qualifications:

- Previous experience in an administrative role, preferably in the construction or building industry.
- Strong understanding of accounts payable and receivable processes.
- Knowledge of OH&S regulations and practices is a plus.
- Excellent organisational skills and attention to detail.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and accounting software (e.g., MYOB, Xero).
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal.

What We Offer:

- Flexible working hours to accommodate family commitments.
- A supportive team environment with opportunities for professional development.
- The chance to contribute to an award-winning company committed to excellence.

How to Apply:
If you're passionate about administrative excellence and seeking a role that offers flexibility, we want to hear from you! Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your relevant experience to info@mdcbuildinggroup.com.au.

Join us in building a brighter future!

LB1403

Shape the future

Make a world of difference in the world of water.

Senior Engineer Asset Strategy

Senior Executive Officer, full time, ongoing


Lead the development of Westernport Water's long-term investment program ensuring asset capacity for future growth and climate impacts.

Applications close: 10 October 2024



Further details: westernportwater.com.au/vacancies

1300 720 711

HM11982



WESTERNPORT WATER



Connect with us
[@sentinel times](https://www.facebook.com/sentineltimes)

Lawyer

BRB Law has an exciting opportunity for a Lawyer to work in the areas of property and commercial law, wills and powers of attorney.

BRB LAW is a long-standing firm in South Gippsland and offers legal service in residential, business, rural and commercial conveyancing, estate planning, wills and powers of attorney, probate, commercial law and family law.

The position is full time and the successful applicant will work with our team in Leongatha which is situated 1½ hours from Melbourne.

Leongatha offers a busy commercial centre in the heart of a vibrant agricultural area. Excellent schools, sporting facilities and attractions are available, including the Great Southern Rail Trail, wineries and nearby beaches.

Applicants should include a short cover letter and resume.

Please forward your application to Jennie Whitaker at info@brblaw.com.au.
Applications close at 5pm Friday, October 4, 2024.

LB1405



South Gippsland Hospital

Positions Vacant

Graduate Diploma of Midwifery Student
RN Grade 2
0.63EFT-0.84EFT- fixed term two years

Allied Health Assistant - Casual
Grade 2 -3

Podiatrist
Grade 1 or Grade 2
0.84 EFT, permanent part time

For more information
<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

LB1402



Woorayl Lodge

Business Manager

Full-time

- Drive operational excellence with this hands-on role
- Rewarding career opportunity to positively impact the lives of the ageing
- Not-for-profit salary packaging benefits

About Us
Woorayl Lodge Inc is a not-for-profit aged care facility nestled in the lush, rolling hills of South Gippsland in the township of Leongatha. The Lodge has 41 private rooms in the residential aged care section and 29 independent living units and is proudly community owned and run.

About the Role
Woorayl Lodge Inc is seeking an experienced leader to join our team as the Business Manager. This key role will oversee the daily operations of the non-clinical areas and drive the organisation towards its strategic goals efficiently. Responsibilities include managing financial operations such as budgeting, forecasting, financial reporting, and payroll.

This hands-on leadership role focuses on promoting excellence within the team, fostering a workplace culture that emphasises continuous improvement, exceptional customer service, respect, and safety.

About You
We are looking for a motivated individual who has a:

- Proven ability to foster strong relationships and work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to inform decisions, planning, strategy and action.
- Leadership style that develops, coaches and empowers employees with a focus on accountability, initiative, service improvement and job satisfaction.
- Sound financial understanding with the ability to interpret financial data and information and effectively implement and deliver Woorayl Lodge's long term financial strategy.

To request a copy of the position description, please email hr@woorayllodge.com.au. For additional information, please reach out to Andrew Ross, Co-CEO Corporate Services, via email at andrew.ross@woorayllodge.com.au or by calling 5662 2053.

Application Instructions: Via email to hr@woorayllodge.com.au and must include a resume and cover letter.

Applications Close: Sunday, October 20, 2024.

LB1399

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at www.sgst.com.au

Email your job adverts to:
ads@sgst.com.au

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

Sentinel-Times

SITUATIONS VACANT

PUBLIC NOTICES

You are invited to a TOWN HALL MEETING

Thursday, October 3

Two sessions to suit you
Afternoon 2pm-4pm or
Evening 6.30pm-8.30pm

Meet your candidates for Strezelecki
Lets talk Q & A time

All welcome at the Scout Hall
38 Queen Street, Korumburra
Coleman Park

Sponsored by:
Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre Inc.

LB1407

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 | 49

Tour of Gippsland returns in October

THIS year's Tour of Gippsland will again be centred around the townships of Phillip Island, with the event beginning on October 2 to be the last in its current form.

After 13 years, AusCycling's National Road Series is concluding as the governing body, dissolving this amateur pathway for young cyclists.

While plans to continue the Tour of Gippsland in 2025 are up for discussion with event stakeholders, this year's tour is expected to attract Australia's best and brightest cycling prospects.

Bass Coast Shire mayor Clare Le Serve stressed the Tour of Gippsland is crucial for the region.

"As part of the bumper month of October events coming to Bass Coast, we're excited to welcome the Tour of Gippsland back to Phillip Island; we proudly look forward to sharing our stunning home and world-class views with riders," Cr Le Serve said.

She noted the Tour boosts tourism in Bass Coast Shire, offering visitors a glimpse of what's on offer.

Between Wednesday, October 2 and Friday, October 4 riders will battle it out for overall tour honours and the final NRS race victory.

Wonthaggi Table Tennis

CHINESE Master of War Sun Tzu said "to secure ourselves against defeat lies in our own hands, but the opportunity of defeating the enemy is provided by the enemy himself". Who knew he would be a prophet for ping pong?

Each opponent provides wildly different challenges so to identify strengths to defend and limitations to attack are the mental gymnastics every player stumbles through.

Green d Yellow 6 to 5

So if anyone can identify Team Green's Sven limitations, we are happy to put our big ears on, listen and learn.

Sven's smart and savvy play has stretched his unbeaten run to 12. This time Team Yellow was swooped and left sprawling with scattered hopes like a postie parading past a maggie nest.

Sven's teammate Michael defeated the luckless Luke in another key match. Michael's unrelenting chop is so brilliant that it makes Mark Brandon Read look like an imposter.

Blue d White 6 to 5

This was epic. Momentum swinging like a Haight Ashbury hippy fest, the team result unknown until the final minute of the final game. Lovely v Lovely, Stalwart v Veteran, Kaboom v Kapow. Lee Lee Boom Boom outlasted Trish the Swish in a neck and neck five setter that pushed Team Blue past White in the best thriller since that famous one in Manila. Special shout out to the significant contribution of young Bellamy who blunted the mystical service of Mark D for a key doubles win.

Black d Brown 7 to 4

Replacement Nick has done it again, sweeping all his singles and doubles to carry Team Black over the formidable Team Brown. Now there is a school of thought in our humble hall that to be assured team victory, pull a string injury and who you gonna call? Paddle buster Nick of course. Nick is like a mash up of Oppenheimer and penguin animation, big weapon with happy feet. Special mention to Brown's Sean prevailing over Black's Beau in a very entertaining, see-sawing five setter. Sean, just like the Shrine of Remembrance's eternal flame, is very hard to put out.

Ladder: Green 16, White 8, Yellow 8, Blue 8, Black 4 and Brown 4.

Leading Players: Sven 12, Justin 11, Mark and David 10

Adnam makes the final in her first longboarding competition

ON SEPTEMBER 17, the Australian Longboard Titles concluded with champions crowned across all Master divisions, bringing a thrilling end to the event at Cabarita Beach on the Tweed Coast of New South Wales.

Surfing Australia Contest Director Glen Elliott hailed the competition as an outstanding success.

"It has been a superb week and a true celebration of Australian longboard surfing. The camaraderie and the strong Aussie spirit shared by longboarders from across the country have been on full display," Elliott said.

With solid surf persisting, athletes were once again tested by challenging conditions on Finals Day.

"The swell held steady from yesterday, with fairly strong winds keeping the surf pulsing throughout the day. Many of the Masters surfers are absolutely exhausted. The state caddies helping surfers navigate the big conditions by meeting them at the shore break and running their boards to the paddle-out point," Elliott said.

Ten Australian Longboard Champions were crowned. Kate Perry (Yandina Creek, QLD) claimed the Australian Title in the Over 60 Women's division after also competing in the Over 50s, where she placed second.

"It's always fun here. You meet so many great people from all over Australia, surfers who are just as passionate about the sport as you are. I've been chasing an Australian Title for a while, so this win is special. 2024 has seen a fantastic turnout at the Ausies," Perry said.



Over 60 Women's division at the Australian Longboard Titles Sian Adnam (Cape Woolamai, VIC), Andrea Bohm (Freshwater, NSW), Anne Duncan (Bungawalbyn, NSW) and Kate Perry (Yandina Creek, QLD)

Phillip Island Board Rider and Cape Woolamai local Sian Adnam – mother to professional surfer Sophie Fletcher made the finals in her first competition in the Over 60 Women's division.

"I participated by chance; I was encouraged by another local to compete at Surfies Point in the Victorian State Title and ended up placing third. I then competed at 13th beach and qualified for the national competition, which was my first national event," Adnam shared.

"The final day of the competition was particularly tough, with large waves and strong currents; I'd never surfed Cabarita before but the supportive environment among the competitors, and the camaraderie was just amazing, and I hope my involvement encourages other women to surf."

This year's Wayne Deane Spirit of Longboarding Award, presented to the person who embodies the true spirit of the sport, was awarded to Matt Inman from

Western Australia. Commended as the "super caddy" Inman ran boards for nearly every surfer, regardless of state. Meanwhile, the Overall State Champion was New South Wales.

2024 Australian Longboard Titles - Finals Results:

O40 Men - Final - Josh Constable (Noosa Heads, QLD) - 16.00. Ben Williams (Biggera Waters, QLD) - 13.40. Mark Miccoli (Patterson Lakes, VIC) - 7.63. Scott Trew (Gabbadah, WA) - 6.40

O40 Women - Final - Honey Bec (Moffat Beach, QLD) - 12.33. Wendy Stevenson (Banora Point, NSW) - 10.27. Eglantine Balland (Carrum, VIC) - 7.46. Trista Vallentine (Tallebudgera, QLD) - 4.10

O45 Men - Final - Paul Burke (Dunsborough, WA) - 10.44. Liam McCafferty (McCrae, VIC) - 9.33. Michael Paxton (Dodges Ferry, TAS) - 7.74. Mark Miccoli (Patterson Lakes, VIC) - 7.06

O50 Men - Final - Jason Livingston (North Curl Curl, NSW) - 12.26. Alan Morrison (Yamba, NSW) - 6.23. Paul Burke (Dunsborough, WA) - 4.77. Liam McCafferty (McCrae, VIC) - 4.00

O50 Women - Final - Sue McComb (Caves Beach, NSW) - 9.96. Kate Perry (Yandina Creek, QLD) - 7.33. Juanita Read (Wakerley, QLD) - 4.67. Judy Dann (Two Rocks, WA) - 4.07

O55 Men - Final - Jason Livingston (North Curl Curl, NSW) - 12.50. Tony Rae (Hastings Point, NSW) - 11.70. Dave Smith (Osborne Park, WA) - 10.40. JP Willis (Moonee Beach, NSW) - 8.50

O60 Men - Final - Robert Smith (Caringbah, NSW) - 10.63. Bruce Dunne (Cooloom Beach, QLD) - 8.36. Jay Carter (Tweed Heads South, NSW) - 8.00. John Fraser (The Entrance North, NSW) - 6.07

O60 Women - Final - Kate Perry (Yandina Creek, QLD) - 9.90. Anne Duncan (Bungawalbyn, NSW) - 7.36. Andrea Bohm (Freshwater, NSW) - 6.20. Sian Adnam (Cape Woolamai, VIC) - 5.24

O65 Men - Final - Tony Abood (Kingscliff, NSW) - 11.60. Bruce Dunne (Cooloom Beach, QLD) - 9.13. Brian Kuit (Torquay, VIC) - 7.73. Jonathon Lavers (Cronulla, NSW) - 6.84

O70 Men - Final - Peter Becker (Palmvale, NSW) - 8.37. Daniel Bond (Blue Bay, NSW) - 6.94. Earle Page (Ararawarra Headland, NSW) - 5.40. John Amos (Goolwa Beach, SA) - 4.40

Overall State Champion: 1st - New South Wales. 2nd - Queensland. 3rd - Victoria

Ride for fun and road safety in November's Cycle Challenge

THE Bass Coast Cycle Challenge (BCCC), starting and ending in Inverloch on Saturday, November 9, offers a variety of routes catering to those of various riding abilities, ensuring a great day for all while raising funds to support road safety programs in the region's schools, so why not join in?

BCCC founder Gavin Slavin said riders have a common goal of supporting local students' participation in these programs that have a positive impact on youth and the broader community.

One of the programs, RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) features a highly engaging and memorable one-day workshop.

Anton Hockey of Road Safety Education stressed that it isn't enough to teach young people to manoeuvre a vehicle, saying that critical thinking and a deeper appreciation of safety on the road must be instilled in young drivers.

"Thanks to the BCCC, we are able to deliver a number of workshops which canvas topics such as driver fatigue, speed and stopping, road conditions from the seat of a car or semi, crash investigation process and mental approach to driving," Anton said.

To play a part in boosting road safety, enter the Bass Coast Cycle Challenge, choosing from four sealed road distances of 40km, 53km, 85km and 121km, or the almost

100km gravel option.

"All the funds raised go towards those in-school workshops, and over the years there have been over 3000 kids across the Bass Coast and South Gippsland regions that have been able to participate in those workshops," volunteer Katie Hodge of the BCCC organising committee said.

"They're intensive workshops, and it's pretty confronting but really powerful."

The gravel ride was introduced last year, being a combination of gravel and bitumen.

"It's a really challenging ride but pretty spectacular," Katie said.

She explained that while you wouldn't want to tackle the gravel course on a road bike

it is not restricted to mountain bikes, with hybrids and eBikes able to handle the compacted surface.

While the 40km ride caters to modest cyclists, the 121km course includes the challenge of Mount Misery ensuring it's not just the distance that's a challenge.

There'll be a Rotary-run market alongside the cycling event, with further details to be announced closer to the day.

Katie is pleasantly surprised that ride registrations for this year are on par with last year despite the current cost of living challenges.

Visit basscoastcyclechallenge.com to register.

Registrations can be made until the morning of the event.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY	September 24
▲ 4.24am	1.75m
▼ 9.47am	0.57m
▲ 4.02pm	1.59m
▼ 10.11pm	0.15m

WEDNESDAY	September 25
▲ 5.12am	1.67m
▼ 10.30am	0.62m
▲ 4.44pm	1.53m
▼ 10.56pm	0.22m

THURSDAY	September 26
▲ 6.01am	1.56m
▼ 11.12am	0.68m
▲ 5.28pm	1.45m
▼ 11.41pm	0.32m

FRIDAY	September 27
▲ 6.57am	1.46m
▼ 11.56am	0.73m
▲ 6.17pm	1.36m

SATURDAY	September 28
▼ 12.28am	0.42m
▲ 7.57am	1.37m
▼ 12.45pm	0.79m
▲ 7.17pm	1.27m

SUNDAY	September 29
▼ 1.22am	0.52m
▲ 9.00am	1.31m
▼ 1.50pm	0.83m
▲ 8.38pm	1.21m

MONDAY	September 30
▼ 2.33am	0.60m
▲ 10.02am	1.29m
▼ 3.25pm	0.82m
▲ 10.02pm	1.20m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au



Venus Bay Masters team – Anthony Martin, Graeme Overall, Craig Watson, Paul Hoffman and Paul Mullarvey.

Venus Bay takes on the World!

VENUS Bay Surf Lifesaving Club sent a team of 21 to compete at the Lifesaving World Championships held in Broadbeach Queensland from August 20 to September 8.

With more than 5000 athletes and officials, the Lifesaving World Championships is the second largest global sporting event after the Olympics.

Competing in the surf, on the beach in IRBs and Surfboats the Venus Bay team came away with some incredibly impressive results.

The five person Masters Team of Paul Hoffman, Paul Mullarvey, Anthony Martin, Graeme Overall and Craig Watson all made individual finals with the most impressive results being Paul Hoffman 15th in the Surf race and Paul Mullarvey 12th in the Ironman.

Our 13 Strong IRB Contingent of Ella Arnold, Caitlyn Overall, Austin Timmins, Andrew Moore, Sabrina Lombardo, Sophie Glasson, Kieran Randall, Lachlan Hickey, Tyla McAlear, Alice Webb, Declan Woolf, Blake Harvey and Rhiannon McCorriston produced some amazing results. This included a second place in the B Final of the Women's Mass Rescue (Tyla McAlear,

Alice Webb, Declan Woolf and Rhiannon McCorriston), and an eighth place in the Women's Rescue B Final (Sabrina Lombardo, Sophie Glasson and Lachlan Hickey).

Club legend Allan Latto finished fourth in the world in the Surf Boats competing with lifesavers from Point Leo.

Team Manager Marty McCorriston and Competition Official Elise McCorriston completed the Venus Bay team.

Club President Kimberley Gee ESM said "We couldn't be prouder of this fine group of lifesavers. They spend their summers keeping the beaches of Venus Bay safe and train hard in the off-season to compete at this incredibly high level. To have a team of 21 at the World Champs is a testament to the development and pathways of this great club."

The Championships provided some great experience to compete at the top level against international athletes and Team Venus Bay is already in training for the 2026 World Championships in Morocco.

For information about joining or supporting the Venus Bay SLSC please jump on the website vbslsc.org.au.



Paul Mullarvey prepares for the Ironman.



Frank Bugeja recently won the Australian Squash Masters Championship, Men's Open 80-84.

Frankly amazing

POOWONG Squash Club President, Frank Bugeja recently returned from the Australian Masters Squash Championships in Canberra after a very successful fortnight of squash.

Frank won the Australian Masters Championship, Men's Open 80-84.

In April this year, Frank also won the Victorian Masters Championship for his age group and was then encouraged to enter the Australians.

Frank, a very fit 81-year-old, runs the Poowong Squash Club competition on a Monday and Wednesday night and plays competitively in all the Victorian Masters Tournaments held around Victoria every few months.

The AMSA Interstate Teams series was also played in Canberra and Victorian teams won four divisions and were runner-up in one.

The Poowong Squash Courts are open from 6.30pm on Monday and Wednesday nights and players of all standards are welcome.

Umpires wanted

LEONGATHA District Cricket Association kicks off on Saturday, October 5 at 12 noon.

Vacancies exist for Umpires in A, B and C Grades.

A Grades and B1 Grade (14 rounds) a mixture of one and two day games

B2 and C Grades are all one day games – 21 rounds.

Anyone interested in joining our Umpiring Panel can contact Geoff Wyatt 0413 081136 or email wyatt@waterfront.net.au or Doug Pell 0404 301 333.

Fees A Grade \$180, B Grade \$150 and C grade \$130 per day.

Phillip Island Bridge Club Congress

AFTER a hiatus of four years, Phillip Island Bridge club hosted a highly successful Congress on September 14 and 15 at Newhaven Hall. Martin Wilcox directed and was ably assisted by the lovely caddy Becky. Players came from Melbourne, regional Victoria, and as far away as Canberra. There were eighty entrants in the Swiss pairs and sixty in the Swiss team event. It was particularly pleasing to see members from the ABF youth group and other young people participating. One of the restricted team winners was under eighteen. Look out for these young ones. They are the future of this great game.

On to the results. The pairs winners were Sebastian Yuen and Christy Gerombouc. In second place were Lindsay Young and Chris Fernando. The winners of the restricted pairs were Caroline Shaw and Marnie Myall. The best Phillip Island Bridge Club open pairs were Shirley Stewart and Deb Anglim.

Swiss team winners were Vanessa Brown, Will Jenner O'Shea, Sebastian Yuen, and Christy Gerombouc. The runners up were Maggie Callander, Alison Farthing, Penny Corrigan and Kae French. Restricted team winners were Heath Watkins, Samuel Goss, Alex Goss and Peter Goss, some more young guns.

Phillip Island Bridge Club welcomes new members. Free lessons are available at the club house on a Tuesday morning. We will also be running Bridge in a Day in the new year as an introduction to the game. For further information contact Wendy Mckergow on 0459 200 265.

State netballers bring home gold for Gippsland



Victorian State Netball Champion Liam Jones. B21_3924

TWO Gippsland boys Liam Jones of Inverloch and James Bruce from Leongatha have come home with gold medals from the U12 National Schoolboys Netball Championships.

Playing for the Victorian State Squad, the boys finished top of the championship ladder with Liam in goal attack.

At just twelve years of age, Liam Jones is no stranger to success.

Playing half-forward for Inverloch/Kongwak U12's, Liam was part of this year's premiership winning team in the South Gippsland Junior Football Competition.

Inverloch-Kongwak Primary School also took out the state school mixed netball championships against Croydon Hills.

While football and netball may be his first loves Liam also plays U14 basketball for the Wonthaggi Coasters.

"The basketball season has just begun," said Liam.

"It's my summer sport."

Proud mother Narelle Jones says they are in the family car five days a week travelling to sporting fixtures and training.

Liam has one more year playing U13 mixed netball on Saturdays, with junior football on Sundays.

First time wearing a Victorian State guernsey Liam Jones said he was extremely proud to be playing boys' netball at a national level.



With +30, Sue Rose, Linda Newman and Marg Ford were the Breakaway Bowls winners on Friday.



Runners up at the Thursday Social Bowls at Inverloch were, from left, Di Hallas, Graeme Dunlop, Carol Hughes and Christine Corrigan.



The Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were John Postlethwaite, John Bird and Jan Milkins.



The South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners were Dennis Talbot (S), Brenda Moloney (2), Phil Wright (3) and Jennie Curnock (L).



The best one-game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group were Sue Stansfield (3), Sue Wright (2), Mick Sheers (S) and Shirley Corcoran (L).



Winners of the Thursday Social Bowls at Inverloch were, from left, Joan McStravick, Reg Varty, Veronica Muir and Bruce Corrigan.



Winners of the Inverloch opening round of the Turkey Triples were, from left, George Pargeter, Jeff Gilbert and Gary Scott.

BREAKAWAY

IT was a quiet day on Monday, but a great turnout.
The winners were Pat Novak and Marg Ford.
They had a score of +29 – well-done ladies.
The club also had Rhonda donate \$3 to the tin with three jacks leaving the mat.
Well done to all on supporting the club.
Friday was another great day at the Cape – lots of laughs and good-natured banter combined with some superb bowling.
The winners were Sue Rose, Linda Newman and Marg Ford with +30.
Come join in on Mondays and Fridays at 1pm at the Cape Paterson Community Centre.

INVERLOCH

ON Wednesday, September 18, Inverloch hosted the Wednesday Turkey Triples under less-than-ideal conditions.
Despite this, 22 teams turned out for the competition.
The day presented only one, two-game winner, but several three-game winners.
The winners of the day, with a score of 61 points from wins of 13/6, 12/2, 11/3 and 11/4 were George Pargeter (skip), Jeff Gilbert (third) and Gary Scott (lead).
Runners-up were John Newcombe (skip), Peter Forrest (third) and Graeme Cornell (lead) with a score of 59 points.
The best game winners for game one were Reg Varty (skip), Malcolm Marshall (third) and Robbie Howard (lead) with 17 shots up.
The second game winners were the team skipped by Stan Noad with nine shots up while the best third game winner was the team led by Tony McKiernan with 15 shots up.
The best last-game winners, with 11 shots up, were S. Cunningham (skip), A. Beddows (third) and W. Barr (lead).
Major door prize winner was Inverloch's Reg Varty.
Thanks are extended to the match committee members Doug Archer and Jeff Curwood and the lunch monitors, Betty Marshall, Rosa Turner and Mary Ferguson.
Trying blustery conditions, a strong westerly breeze and cool temperatures, met the Thursday Social Bowlers on Thursday, September 19.
Nonetheless, 40 competitors fronted for a fours match comprising two games, each of 10 ends, scored on games won and then ends won and separated by a lunch break.
Despite the adverse conditions, three teams managed to win both of their games.
The hard luck story went to the team of Cris O'Donnell (skip), Graeme Turton (third), Harry Dunn (second) and Bill Massier (lead) with a score of 30 points from wins of 12/11 and 10/8.
Runners up on the day, also with two wins and a score of 31 points from wins of 10/9 and 12/8 were Carol Hughes (skip), Graham Dunlop (third), Christine Corrigan (second) and Diane Hallas (lead).
The winners of the Inverloch Social Bowls, with a score of 34 points from wins of 8/4 and 12/5 were Reg Varty (skip), Bruce Corrigan (third), Joan McStravick (second) and Veronica Muir (lead).
Visiting players at the club on the day were Rob Black from the Orbost Club and Brett O'Donovan who hails from Kilkivan (west of Gympie), Queensland.
Thanks to the match committee members Jeff Curwood, Jenny Haydon, and Jim Haydon for the chicken and vegetable soup during the lunch break.
Friday, September 20, was the

Inverloch Bowling Club membership draw where the jackpot stood at \$160 and to claim the jackpot the member must be in the clubrooms at the time of the draw.
Randomly drawn was membership number 65, belonging to Neil Everitt who unfortunately was not in the clubrooms, and, accordingly, the jackpot has now risen to \$180 for the next draw, which will be on Friday, October 4.
The first pick of the table was a long and drawn-out event with the eventual winner having to wait until the 26th draw when the lucky membership number 211, belonging to Pam Sutcliffe, was drawn.
The major lucky envelope winners were Reg Varty and Yvonne Key.
Next Friday, September 27, the club will host the club dinner and as there are restrictions on the numbers that can attend you would be well advised to register your intention to attend as soon as possible.

LEONGATHA

LAST Wednesday, 18 bowlers rocked up to brave the conditions and play a game of social triples.
Numbers participating socially have increased slightly, which is a credit to the coaching personnel.
The winners on the day were Lynne McIntyre, Bruce Douglas and Russell Trotman.
The AFL football tipping competition that the club ran for the past year was decided after the last round and Jenny Miller demonstrated that she is not only a top bowler but a capable football tipster with a score of 136.
A close second on 135 was Allan Rayson and Chris George.
The third placegetters Ellie McIntyre, Jo Runciman and Ewan Coulter recorded a score of 134 which was indicative of the closeness of the event.
A big thank you to Mary Jepson for running the show.
The monthly triples event resumes on September 25 and the games are sure to be competitive.
Hopefully, the weather is an improvement to what has been experienced recently.
Entries will be taken up to the day of the event.
The John Richards Memorial Day event that hopefully will be supported by members and guests and is scheduled for Friday, September 27 at 2pm.
John was a very popular and enthusiastic member of the club, and the club is pleased that members of John's family will be present to enjoy the occasion.

MIDWEEK

IT was another great day as 50-odd members of the bowling club turned up, despite the changeable weather conditions.
Pauline and John signed everyone in as Peter, Rob and Clair arranged the teams.
When the bowlers went out to play, they were greeted by beautiful, almost clear skies with plenty of sunshine, but with a freezing cold wind coming straight from Antarctica.
However, the wonderful players all stayed for the whole day and never yielded to the wind or the rain later in the day.
The wind did make for interesting bowls with many of us unable to quite come to terms with it.
But, on the other hand, many of the wonderful members seemed to shine and tried to teach others how to use the wind to their advantage.
There was lots of laughter though, as most fought the great fight against the wind as well as trying to bowl while shivering from the cold.
As always though, the cream floats to the top.
This week's winners on a score of 36 were Dennis Talbot (S), Brenda

Moloney (2), Phil Wright (3) and Jennie Curnock (L).
Runners up on a score of 32 were Derek Fenn (3), Mark Hanrahan (S), Marianne Scales (2) and Ann Graham (L).
Best one-game winners on 18 points were Sue Stansfield (3), Sue Wright (2), Mick Sheers (S) and Shirley Corcoran (L).
Thank you to John and Clair for their work both outside as well as in the kitchen, also to Mark and Mick behind the bar.
The club does appreciate all the work they do, even though it may not say it every week.
It was great to see so many turn up and also the "new" bowlers joining in each week.
Next week, the group will be meeting at Loch and District Bowls Club to once again challenge each other for team of the week.
Please be on site by 10am to ensure the club can get you a game.
Remember, if players cards are filled, any late arrivals will not get a game.
Please be early to ensure your place.
Meanwhile, as always have a fun week and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another good week at the club.
Wednesday saw 32 bowlers grace the greens on a fine, but windy day.
Three bowl pairs were the order of the day.
There were five teams that were two game winners, with the runners-up being Allan Ireland and Sheila Ormerod, with a score of two wins and 35 points.
The winners were Nick Daw, a visitor from Heathmont, and Steve Bruynen with a score of two wins and 36 points.
Thursday saw a good number for social bowls on a fine mild day.
Friday saw two sessions with a coach from Bowls Victoria, running bowling arm clinics, before and after lunch.
There are some photos on the website.
Saturday saw a fine day that just got colder as the day went on.
Thirty-seven bowlers graced the greens with triples being the order of the day.
There were two teams that were two game-winners.
The winners were Roger Lee, Charlie Wright and Allan Lowe with a score of two wins and 33 points.
The runners-up were Norm Evans, Joy Phillips and Allan Ireland with a score of two wins and 30 points.
Bowls this week: Tuesday A Midweek Pennant practice match at Inverloch, Wednesday social bowls at 12.30pm, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am and Saturday social bowls at 12.30pm.
A reminder that the Club Championship lists close on September 30.
Friday night continues to go well with good numbers of members and guests enjoying the raffles, as well as the members draw at 6pm.
Have a good week and good bowling.

Indoor

CONSIDERING how cold it has been this week, it's good to be able to bowl indoors, enjoying the company of good friends. This week, there were 49 players competing.
Tuesday's winners with a plus 19 were Betty Huitema, Jean Wylde and John Postlethwaite.
Runners-up on plus 10 with one win only were Maggie Scapin, Judy Sweetnam and Mary Spooner.
Friday's winners on plus 13 were Jan Milkins, John Bird and John Postlethwaite.
Runners-up on plus two were Barb Culph, Mario Toffolon and Jim Wilson.
Don't forget next Friday is the fun Footy Day – come dressed in your club colours to enjoy a really fun day of bowling. Remember to check out the new Facebook page.

FOSTER

IF THE golfers thought the course was wet before, wow. With well over an inch having fallen since Wednesday, you could be confused for thinking that there has been no golf played. Instead, with the exception of Thursday's Stableford, there was a full week of competitions, albeit small fields.

On Saturday, there was a group of nine that played a very heavy course for the Danny Jenkins Trophy, winning the day with an exceptional 37 points was Leigh Roberts (11).

Leigh finished seven points ahead of the nearest competitor who was Chris Riddell (24) with 30 points.

Only two nearest to pins went off, Ryan Williams on the 15th and Leigh Roberts on the 17th.

The club had two big golfing groups visit on the day – a group of eight from Mt Eliza as well as 16 men and women from Hampton.

The nine-hole chicken run was the biggest field of all for the week. Thirteen players entered and Gary Phalan (25) with 18 points won the week, closely behind Gary was Brad Hatley (22) with 17 points.

As with last week, there were no birdies on any of the three-par threes.

Tuesday saw just seven players take to the course.

Graeme Watkins (9) took out the win on the day with 33 points as well as ending up nearest to pin the 15th, one down-the-line ball went to Robin Smith (18) just 1 point behind on 32.

Earlier in the week at the committee meeting, it was decided that men would now be eligible to play in Wednesday competitions.

Unfortunately, this week none of the men were available to play. Instead, a field of eight ladies played a Stableford event.

It was extremely hard going with the ferocious wind.

Winning the day with a modest score of 27 points was Kylie Collins (12).

Beth Curram (22) took the only ball down the line with 24 points while also winning nearest to pin on the 17th.

This coming week doesn't look great weather-wise again.

If the competitions continue as planned, there will be Stableford events every day with Chris Buckland being the trophy donor on Saturday.

With the AFL season coming to an end, this Friday night will be your last chance to take advantage of the "Friday night footy deal".

Again, the members' draw failed to go off, so it has now jackpotted to \$1000.

Make sure you're in the room to win.

The bistro (19) is open Wednesday to Saturday (closed Saturday lunch) for all your dining and catering needs.

Until next week, keep hitting them straight. The Caddy

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, September 17.

Stableford: 20 players.

A Grade: Peter Van Agtmaal (17) 34 C/B.

B Grade: Mick Belvedere (20) 35 points.

NTPs: first John Kerr, seventh Steve Duffield, 10th Mick Belvedere and 13th Barry Kerr.

Thursday, September 19:

Stableford: 10 players.

Winner: Mark Marotti (36) 35.

NTPs: first Dave Enbom and

13th Wayne Knights. Saturday, September 21: Stableford: 36 players. Sponsor: Bob Newton. A Grade: Greg Wilson (17) 37 C/B. B Grade: Bob Newton (25) 34 points. NTPs: first Neil Spargo hole-in-one, 10th Peter Johnson and 13th Mat Wrigley.

Ladies

ALTHOUGH it was a tad windy, the golfers were fortunate to have fine weather for their outing to Devil Dams last Wednesday.

Eighteen women tackled the tricky Par three course and not too many balls were lost in the water and bush.

Twelve more women arrived later in the morning for the delicious lunch, and it was wonderful to catch up with current and a number of the past members.

Much chatting was had.

The A Grade winner was Deb Wrigley with a net of 22. Trudi Mantell was runner-up, 23.5 after a c/b with Trudy Olden.

Julie Cole won B Grade with 18 net. Runner-up was Maree Wittingslow, 20, following a c/b with Julie Hislop.

NTPs were Julie Brannaghan first, Beryl Brown fourth and Trudy Olden eighth.

There was a small group out in the cool conditions on Saturday.

Deb Wrigley (32) had another win with 32 points and was NTP on the 13th. Trudy Olden (33) was next best, 27 points.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, September 17: Stableford.

Tuesday's Stableford round had 59 members/guests take to the course.

Players again were able to choose to tee off from either blue or yellow markers.

A Grade winner: Winton Knop (11) with a score of 36 points.

A Grade runner up: Alan Starkey (8) with a score of 35 points.

B Grade winner: David Richards (23) with a brilliant high score of the day with 42 points.

B Grade runner-up: Antony Roberts (30) with a score of 32 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Jeremy de Silva. NTP 14th: Trevor Steer. NTP 16th: Craig Hutchinson.

Thursday, September 19: Invy Espy Stableford event.

This Stableford round was again so well sponsored by the Invy Espy Hotel with 57 members/guests taking to the course on a windy winter's day.

A Grade winner: Bruce Christison (17) with the high score of the day with 37 points. Runner up: Ray Matthews (14) with a score of 35 points on a countback.

B Grade winner: Peter Hartigan (19) with a score of 32 points. Runner up: William Howson (23) with a score of 31 points on a countback.

NTP fifth: Peter Read. NTP 14th: Steve Foster. NTP 16th: Steve Foster.

Saturday, Stableford Event 21/09/2024

Saturday's Stableford event was cancelled due to the wet conditions on the course.

Ladies

FORTY women played a three-person Gentsomes with an Irish twist: on some holes all scores counted, on some holes two scores were recorded and, on some holes, only one score is recorded.

All scores were calculated competently by the computer.

Incoming women's captain Janet Monk, making her debut, was very well received by the members.

The winning team of Libby Sebeck, Marie Sands and Karen Murchie finished the day with 83 points.

The runners-up, on 79 points were Anne Gibson, Trish Owen and Jenny Fraser. Not too far behind, on 75 points were Marianne Leaver, Joc Howson and Sue Woods.

The highest individual score was Lyn Shaw with 45 points.

Anne Gibson, the most senior player, amassed 41 points – a superb effort from both players.

Nearest the pin on the 14th was Anna de Bondt, and Kay Dumbleton on the 16th.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, September 17: Stableford.

A Grade: T. Bradshaw (11) 37 points.

B Grade: G. Shandley (14) 34 points.

C Grade: D. Matherson (23) 33 points.

DTL: G. Renwick 35, P. Woodall, S. Woodall, S. Bickerton 34, and R. Matthews 33 c/b.

NTP: fourth G. Shandley, sixth S. Henry, 13th G. Renwick and 16th J. Pickersgill.

Birdies: fourth T. Bradshaw and G. Renwick, and 16th J. Pickersgill.

Saturday, September 21: Par.

A Grade: P. Draper three up.

B Grade: W. Reynolds one down.

DTL: G. Shandley and J. Robbons -1, and M. Payne -2 c/b.

NTP: fourth D. Jerram, sixth J. Smeriglio, 13th P. Draper and 16th W. Reynolds.

Birdies: fourth D. Jerram, sixth J. Robbins and S. Hill-Smith, and 16th W. Reynolds and G. Shandley.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: September 19, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Peter Magnussen 34.

Runner up: Chris Wilkinson 32.

Ball sweep: Stephen Kane 30, Roger Kilpatrick 30 and Gino Hennequin 30.

Results: September 19, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Blake Cornelis 18.

Ball sweep: Secondo Tiziani 15.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY could only be described as unrelenting wind gusts all day.

There were 12 players who ventured out for a game of Stableford. The scores reflected the hard conditions.

The winner was Wendy Cross (38)29 points from Robyn Wilkinson (26)24 points on c/b.

BDL went to Anne Poulton 24, Simone Lindsay 24 and Yvonne Everitt 23.

The only NTP claimed was on the eighth by Donna Brosnan.

The day also saw the semifinals of the Board 4BBBB Stroke. Needless to say, all the eight girls were mind-wiped by the end of the day.

Both matches went the distance.

Marg Johnson and Merryn Dear won on the 18th from Kaylene Hodgetts and Heather Wintle.

In the other match, Layla Robertson and Karen Sheerin won on the 17th from Catherine Bolding and Lisa Brusamarello.



Korumburra's winners at Devil Dams last Wednesday were Deb Wrigley, Trudi Mantell, Maree Wittingslow and Julie Cole.



Korumburra Golf Club's Saturday men's Stableford B Grade winner Bob Newton 34 points and A Grade winner Greg Wilson 37 C/B.



Thursday's Stableford winner Mark Marotti 35 points at Korumburra Golf Club.



Neil Spargo scored a hole-in-one on the first hole 120 m with a seven iron at the Korumburra Golf Club.



2024 GIPPSLAND SOCCER LEAGUE GRAND FINALS



U13 Girls MVP – Skye Fisher (Wonthaggi).



U12B Mixed MVP – Jack Hynd (Inverloch).



U13 Girls – Zara Nobile (Korumburra) and Tanna Godding (Wonthaggi).



Senior Womens Champions – Phillip Island Breakers. Luka Alford, Yarlina Baum, Pauleen Boulton, Elissa Davidson, Ailish Flynn, Maegan Forbes, Joss Geronimo, Sarah Hawking, Grace Howlett, Michaela Marr, Helen Masters, Patika Reed, Jessica Tong, Jarrah van Stekelenburg, Petra van Venrooy, Kelly Wall (captain). Coach: Benita Russell, Team Manager: Phoebe Orr.



U12B Mixed Champions – Inverloch Stars. Tilba Anderson, Alby Bright, Roy Bright, Anahla Cameron (captain), Jordan Falzon, Jayden Harrick, Jack Hynd, Kai Loenen, Reef Metselaar, Lachlan Moore, Fraser Oliver, Joshua Settle, Patrick Smith, Aylah Strickland. Coach: David Settle, Team Manager: Erin Bright.



U14 Mixed – Marley Grant (KC Goalkeeper).



Senior Womens - Kelly Wall (PI) celebrating her goal.



U13 Girls Champions – Korumburra City. Emily Douglas (captain), Caitlyn Goodwin, Grace Goodwin, Ella Hopwood, Matilda McLaren, Zara Nobile, Taylah O'Mahony, Luhanna Richards, Chelsie Rowe, Lauren Sawyers and Lily Stark. Coach: Paul Goodwin, Team Manager: Cherie Douglas.

Great day to end 2024 season

THE Gippsland Soccer League Grand Final was held on Sunday, September 22 at Bellbird Park in Drouin. The Drouin Dragon showcased their new facilities, with a revitalised main pitch and brand-new clubrooms. The weather held off for the more than 900 supporters who watched the action throughout the day.

With three pitches of action throughout the day, seven of the nine GSL clubs had teams competing for the final's trophies.

This year was the inaugural Under 13 Girls division. The match was a closely contested battle between this year's dual league champions, Korumburra City and Wonthaggi United. Korumburra's Zara Nobile scored in the first half to put Korumburra in the lead, and try as they might, Wonthaggi were unable to find the net. The second half did not have any goals scored, with Korumburra securing the win 1-0. The Most Valuable Player of the match was Skye Fisher of Wonthaggi United.

After an upset during the week in the Mens Reserves division when Phillip Island Breakers were disqualified from the Grand Final, Trafalgar Victory and Drouin Dragons Maroon took to the pitch. This match kept everyone guessing until the last moment. In the last few minutes of the first half, Drouin's Lasaro Tuimatoe blasted the ball past Trafalgar keeper Lachlan Wyatt to put them in the lead. Twenty minutes into the second half, Trafalgar's Cameron Wyatt equalised the scores. The match looked to be heading to extra time when again, in the last few minutes Lasaro scored his second goal bringing Drouin into the lead once again. A last-ditch effort to equalise by Trafalgar fell short, and Drouin Dragons Maroon walked off the pitch as the winners. The Most Valuable Player of the match was Lasaro Tuimatoe of Drouin Dragons.



U14 Mixed Champions – Leongatha Knights. Lewis Abbisogni, Julian Aeschlimann, Mason Anderson, Andrew Binnichen, Noah Bowman (captain), Heath Clifford, Mitchell Ellen, Lincoln Grainger, Harris Hamilton, Bristo Poly Kallookkaran, Aaron Kelly, Tom Layton, Onyx Lee-McKelvey, Jack Matthews, Gabriel Saridis, Stefan Tumino. Coach: Aidan Hall, Team Manager: Alex Aeschlimann.

The Under 12A Mixed match was between the Phillip Island Penguins and Drouin Dragons Maroon. Drouin hit the ground running and issued the challenge to Phillip Island by scoring three goals in the first half. Phillip Island coach Liam Jury rallied his players and told them they could win the second half. His players answered the call and took an early lead with a goal by Noah Bowman. Buoyed on by the crowd, Noah snuck a second goal into the net with Leongatha going into the half time break 2-0. Korumburra stepped

up in the second half, with Jonah Foster scoring for Korumburra, but in the end could not get on top of their opponents. Leongatha walked away with the win 2-1. The Most Valuable Player of the match was Noah Bowman of Leongatha Knights.

Big crowds lined the pitch for the Under 12B Mixed match between Inverloch Stars and Drouin Dragons Yellow. Inverloch supporters came in force, with placards and streamers supporting their players. This support spurred the Inverloch players to bring their best game, with them taking the win over Drouin 5-0. The Most Valuable Player of the match was Jack Hynd of Inverloch Stars.

In the Senior Women Leongatha Knights and Phillip Island Breakers took to the pitch in high spirits. The women always have a friendly rivalry, with both teams capable of taking the win. Leongatha scored an early goal

eight minutes in off the boot of Amaya Sande. Phillip Island kept up the pressure and Phillip Island captain, Kelly Wall, equalised the score halfway through the first half. Young gun, Tiki Reed from Phillip Island snuck a goal in toward the end of the first half, with Phillip Island up 2-1 at the break. The second half was very even with both teams scoring a goal each, and Phillip Island taking home the cup after a 3-2 win. The Most Valuable Player of the match was Kelly Wall of Phillip Island Breakers.

The Under 17 Mixed match was an interclub match with Drouin Dragons Maroon playing Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow. Drouin supporters lined the fences, to cheer both teams on. Drouin Dragons Maroon managed to secure the win 2-1. The Most Valuable Player of the match was Luca Attard.

The Senior Men took the pitch at 4pm with Phillip Island

Breakers playing Drouin Dragons. Drouin laid down the challenge early on with 2 goals in the first 10 minutes. Phillip Island regrouped and Ben Taylor scored their first goal halfway in the first half, but they remained one goal short going into the break with Drouin in the lead 3-2. Both teams found the net in the second half, but Drouin claimed the cup with the final result Drouin 4, Phillip Island 3. The Most Valuable Player of the match was Aaron Patchett of Drouin Dragons.

All three Senior matches were live streamed, with over 1000 views throughout the day. The Gippsland Soccer League thank Drouin Dragons for hosting the Grand Final, Valley Trophy Centre for their sponsorship and supplying all the trophies and medals, MDR Digital Images for the live stream and photography.

Local sport does not happen without volunteers and the hours they contribute. To all the players, supporters, volunteers and referees, thank you and we look forward to seeing you next season.

Gippsland Soccer League Grand Final Results – Sunday, September 22

Senior Mens: Drouin Dragons Maroon 4 d Phillip Island Breakers 3

Senior Womens: Phillip Island Breakers 3 d Leongatha Knights 2
Mens Reserves: Drouin Dragons Maroon 2 d Trafalgar Victory 1

Under 17 Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon 2 d Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 1

Under 14 Mixed: Leongatha Knights 2 d Korumburra City 1

Under 13 Girls: Korumburra City 1 d Wonthaggi United 0

Under 12a Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon 6 d Phillip Island Penguins 4

Under 12b Mixed: Inverloch Stars 5 d Drouin Dragons Yellow 0



Leongatha Knights Senior Women's captain Bernie Fitzgerald was a powerhouse in midfield.



Leongatha's Naomi Eaton played an incredible game, proving why she was league best and fairest runners up.



Leongatha's Aaron shuts down Korumburra's attacked Jhai.



Leongatha's Tom worked hard on the win to protect Leongatha in defence.



Runners-up Wonthaggi U13 girls put in a hard-fought battle on Sunday but narrowly missed out.

Korumburra pip Wonthaggi in close encounter

SUNDAY was the Gippsland Soccer League Grand Final, hosted by the Drouin Dragons at their very impressive new facilities at Bellbird Park. Wonthaggi United had one team representing the Club, a very excited U13 girls' team. For a few it was their first year of soccer and for many their first taste of finals.

After finishing dual league

minor premiers' competition was always going to be fierce against a strong Korumburra team.

Wonthaggi started strong and pressured the Korumburra defence but were unable to place one in the net. It was all Wonthaggi attack in the first half, until Korumburra applied the pressure the ball bounced back and

forth in front of goal with numerous shots and deflections Korumburra was able to sneak one in taking the lead 1-0 at half time.

The second half saw both teams challenging but unfortunately no one could get the elusive goal and Korumburra took the win and the flag for the 2024 season. For her hard work and

skill Wonthaggi's Skye Fisher was awarded game MVP.

Congratulations to Marion and the team for a brilliant and successful first season. Wonthaggi are now inspired to work even harder to take the cup in the 2025 season. Futsal kicks off on Thursday, October 10, see the Club Facebook page for further information.

Bowman scores twice as junior Knights shine against City

LKFC v Korumburra City: Under 14s

LEONGATHA Knights U14s team headed to Drouin last Sunday for their much-anticipated Grand Final against neighbours Korumburra.

Under the guidance of Coach Aidan and team manager Alex, the team were excited and ready to take on the challenge.

It was an early goal from superstar striker Noah Bowman that saw Leongatha take the advantage, he beat the defence and took an excellent shot that slotted in at the far post. Noah backed it up again, taking a rebound from defence and slotting it into the far post again to the roar of the Leongatha crowd.

The second half proved why Korumburra finished top of the league this year as they applied strong pressure. Leongatha's centre backs Gabriel and Harris never lost focus and consistently shut down play from the opposition, supported by Stefan, Mason, Andrew and Lincoln rotating through the fullback positions who all had a massive impact. Goalkeeper Bristo cemented his legendary status as he pulled off some incredible saves to ensure the Knights kept the advantage. Aaron was in-

strumental in the defensive midfielder position, playing his best game of the season.

Heath, Julian, Jack and Onyx all provided excellent midfield play, utilising smart passes and setting up the attacking runs. Mitch, Tom and Lewis continued the classy football on the wing, consistently showing support for the striker and dropping quickly in transition play. Though Korumburra fought hard and secured one back, Leongatha won the match 2-1. Congratulations to a wonderful finals game.

LKFC v Phillip Island: Senior Women

In what was shaping up to be the match to watch at Grand Finals, Leongatha Knights FC and Phillip Island Breakers went head-to-head at Drouin's new facilities on Sunday for the 2024 season Grand Final. With both teams securing a win against the other over the season, it was anyone's game to win. League winners and ladder leaders, Leongatha Knights were seeking to win their third premiership in a row, but the Breakers were coming of a strong end to the season, and the following 90 minutes proved why both teams finished top two

of the league and continue to be teams to watch.

Leongatha's midfield dominated play early with Jasmine Garry and captain Bernadette Fitzgerald putting instant pressure when possession turned over and striking excellent balls forward when they nabbed possession. A brilliant persistent run from Amaya Sande saw Leongatha take the lead early in the game to a roaring applause from the Knights.

However, the Island were not to be deterred, continuing to apply strong pressure to Leongatha's experienced backline of Lauren Cain, Mikaela Misso, Val Langlet and Jordan Rintoule. It was a quick tap forward that saw Phillip Island striker Kelly Wall speed forward for a one v one with Leongatha goalkeeper Beth Milkins and slot home the Island's first goal of the game. Not long after the Breakers secured their lead with a magnificent shot outside the box from midfielder Jess Tong that hit the top left corner of the goal.

With the Island heading into the break with a 2-1 lead, the Knights had to dig deep to bring out the pressure in the second half. And bring out the pressure they did. With a shift of positions by legendary Knights coach

Peter Milkins, moving the always composed striker Naomi Eaton back to midfield and the fierce Jasmine Garry up forward, the perfect combo was created as the Knights attacked again and again for the first twenty minutes of the half. When Eaton was fouled in the box a penalty was awarded but unfortunately missed, however, shortly after the persistence of Leongatha's Jas Garry was rewarded with a beautifully determined goal equalising the score to thunderous applause.

Unfortunately, Leongatha were unable to maintain their pace in attack and the Island turned the play to their advantage, putting significant pressure on Leongatha's defence. It was another one v one with Leongatha's goalkeeper that saw Phillip Island's Jarrah Van Stekelenburg who slotted in the winning goal for the Island.

Whilst the Knights were devastated to not being a third premiership home, they gave it their all in a game that proved a magnificent display of women's soccer and an exciting indicator of the growth in the women's competition. Congratulations to both teams on a thrilling game.



The Bass Coast College senior netball team claimed the School Sport Victoria state title recently. Pictured back from left, Amy Scott, Olivia Bramley, Keely Dennerley, Marli Box, Mataya Maloney, coach Saskia Schmidt, front from left, Lara Mullin, Isla Cousins, Eva Garnham, Macy Peterson and Sienna Tiziani.

Bass Coast College netballers celebrate state title

BASS Coast College's senior netball team won the School Sport Victoria state title recently.

Played at the Waverley Centre, the team played three games in pool B.

Taking time to gel as a team, Bass Coast College (BCC) lost to Maribyrnong College in the first game by one goal, losing right on the buzzer.

They went on to defeat Galen College Wangaratta by two goals and Rowville Secondary College by four goals to finish in first place in pool B.

From there, they progressed to the second semi-final and competed against Trinity College Colac – the runner-up of pool A.

BCC once again came out on top to win by three goals and earn a spot in the grand final.

BCC found itself face-to-face with Maribyrnong again, but this time it was ready to take on the challenge.

The girls played a strong, impressive game and walked away with an amazing 13-goal victory.

"We went in with a good mindset and once we had it, we got up there," netballer Amy Scott said.

During the final stretch of the last game, all the Year 12 team members took to the court to represent the school for the last time.

"They all played really well. They are a talented group of netballers who play for different clubs, so it was a matter of getting used to each other at the start," coach Saskia Schmidt said.

"They've played together for a long time, they play basketball together –

By Tayla Kershaw

we're just very fortunate to have this group of kids who like each other and play well together.

"It was really lovely for the last couple of minutes to just have the Year 12s on court as a kind of a send-off from their time at our school."

McKenzie campus principal Ross Bramley congratulated the girls on their success.

"It's always an amazing achievement just to make state finals, but to actually win a state title is very, very rare," he said.

"It's something I hope they do take away from their time at school because it doesn't happen very often – particularly when you're taking on schools who have sports academies and things like that."

Five of the girls went on to compete in the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition grand finals on Saturday, September 14.

Bass Coast College's senior basketball team – consisting of many members of the state netball team – competed at state level on Thursday.

Played at the State Basketball Centre, the girls won their match against Mansfield Secondary College 52 to 27.

However, they were defeated by Box Hill Senior Secondary College and Western Heights College and went on to place third in their section.

It was an amazing effort to make it to state level in both sports and the school is incredibly proud of the achievements.



The Bass Coast College senior basketball team placed third in its division at state level on Thursday.



POOWONG JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL PRESENTATIONS



13 & Under (from left): Brianna Ware (coach), Pallas Jackman-Riches (equal Runner-Up Best & Fairest), Millie Soumilas (Most Improved), Mia Wilson (equal Runner-Up Best & Fairest), Ainsley Logan (Best & Fairest and Best in Finals) and Tiarna Blackwood (coach).



15 & Under (from left): Katie Cronin (coach), Danay Grabham-Andrews (Most Consistent), Brooke Olsen (equal Runner-Up Best & Fairest), Tara Zealley (equal Runner-Up Best & Fairest), Nicola Fort (Best & Fairest), Elsie Henshall (Best in Finals) and Mackenzie Fort (coach).



17 & Under – Premiers (from left): Anika Grabham-Andrews (Runner-Up B&F), Emma Henshall (B&F), Abbey Henshall (Players Player) and Abbey Kelson (Coach). Absent: Alexee Deal (Most Improved).



Fourths (from left) Zac Gray (coach), Bryce Broadmore (Best & Fairest), Ryder Dowlan (Most Determined), Gavin Monson (Best Utility), Henri Bott (Most Improved) and George Edwards (Most Consistent). Absent: Kohen Mandemaker (Runner-Up Best & Fairest) and Cruze Deal (Goal Kicking).



Thirds (from left): David O'Neil (Runner-Up Best & Fairest), Matt Cozzio (coach), Tom Burgess (Most Consistent), Jack Hazendonk (Ass. coach), Aaron Damon (Most Improved), Jett Blackwood (Coaches Award), Bryce Riddel (Best & Fairest), Patty Dorian (Most Determined) and Noah Furness (Best Team Man).



2024 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE



Leongatha shows off the 13 and Under Premiership Cup. Back row: Maddy Caddy (team manager), Mikayla Richards, Georgia Rump, Alicia Marshman (coach), Jemma Rump, Ashlee Spark and Harley Storr. Middle row: Hannah Bruce, Marlie Paine and Ollie Bolge. Front row: Maddi Pocklington, Clancee Salmon and Stacey Jans. A28_3924



Best on court Ashlee Spark. A29_3924

Leongatha's powerful finish delivers joy

LEONGATHA delivered a superb final quarter after trailing by a couple of goals at the last change, going on to win the 13 and Under Grand Final 28-23, with Parrots' goal attack Ashlee Spark claiming the medal for best on court.

Coach Alicia Marshman said the players heeded the three-quarter time message to play fast and hard with strong leads to the ball and to capitalise on the turnovers they forced.

She stressed that's the approach the side has taken throughout the season.

It was an enthralling contest between the top two sides, Leongatha having won all but one of its home and away games, with Maffra just a couple of wins behind.

Marshman noted her players were able to calm their nerves in the last quarter.

The proud coach praised Spark for her decisive contribution.

"She absolutely killed it; she had a tough job on Maffra's boy and she didn't let him shut her down," Marshman said of Spark's effort against Eagle goal defence Kobe Parsons.

Spark's ability to work hard throughout the game and lead strongly impressed.

Leongatha had a couple of boys of its own on the court, both Oliver Bolge (C) and Harley Storr (GD) excelling.

Their athleticism stood out.

"They just want to go out, jump and get intercepts and do the best they can for the team," Marshman said.

Both sides defended strongly all over the court, forcing plenty of turnovers.

While build-ups were generally patient, Leongatha's more direct approach in the final term paid off, reaping 10 goals to three in that period.

Leongatha's commanding finish followed an earlier fightback after Maffra jumped out to a 3-0 lead but the Parrots took a one-goal advantage to the first break.

That turnaround came as goal shooter Jemma Rump and Spark found their range in the windy conditions.

Rump finished with 20 goals for the match and Spark eight.

While Leongatha won both its home and away encounters with Maffra, the Eagles went down by just three goals when the sides last met in Round 10, setting the stage for what proved an exciting Grand Final.



Coach Alicia Marshman, and co-captains Jemma Rump and Ashlee Spark hold the 13 and Under Premiership Cup. A25_3924



Jemma, Kasie and Georgia Rump enjoy the moment after Leongatha's 13 and Under premiership. A24_3924



Oliver Bolge soars for the Parrots but the ball spills over the top to Kobe Parsons of Maffra. A19_3924



Georgia Rump looks to pass the ball for Leongatha during its 13 and Under win over Maffra. A22_3924



Harley Storr takes off for the Parrots during Leongatha's 13 and Under Grand Final win over Maffra. A20_3924



2024 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE



Leongatha players celebrate winning the 17 and Under premiership. A40_3924



Leongatha coach Kate Sperling and co-captains Lara Gill and Sari Hickey are delighted with the 17 and Under Premiership Cup. A42_3924

Leongatha holds off Traralgon in thriller

LEONGATHA'S 17 and Under side was forced to dig deep in the last quarter, holding off a determined surge from Traralgon and inflicting the Maroon's only loss of the season to claim the premiership.

A stunning start in which the Parrots scored the game's first six goals proved decisive.

While Leongatha led by that much at half-time, Traralgon was showing signs of working its way back into the contest and did so emphatically in the third quarter to cut the margin to just two goals at the last break.

Traralgon supporters raised the decibel level as their team roared into life in the third term, at one stage trailing by just a goal.

"Sperlo drove home at three-quarter time that we needed to keep possession of the ball, score off our centres and then the rest would come," assistant coach Kasey Thorson said after the game, referring to coach Kate Sperling.

Sperling was delighted the players followed the instructions to the letter.

"They kept calm and kept possession and that's how we held our lead," she said, noting that achieving that sense of calm was a challenge with the Traralgon supporters providing such noisy support for their side.

Traralgon's Indiana de Dios excelled in goal defence to claim the medal for best on court.

However, Leongatha's team performance was a fraction stronger than the Maroons'.

Leongatha's Gemma Meadley (GD) was instrumental in the Parrots' strong start, shutting down her opponent in the first quarter.

Tyla Peters played mostly as wing defence but forced a lot of turnovers as goal keeper in the last term after swapping positions with Sari Hickey.

Audrey McGannon performed admirably as the winning side's goal shooter, notching 23 of its 30 goals, well supported by goal attack Lucy Heber with the remaining seven.



Leongatha claims the 17 and Under Grand Final. Back row: Tyla Peters, Hattie Jefferis, Lara Gill, Sari Hickey, Audrey McGannon, Lucy Heber and Gemma Meadley. Middle row: Matilda Hanily and Mackenna Anderson. Front row: Kate Sperling (coach), Adelyn Warkotsch and Lacy Fennell. A43_3924



Traralgon's Indiana de Dios with her Best on Court medal in the loss to Leongatha in the 17 and Under Grand Final. A41_3924



Co-captain Lara Gill gets set to pass for Leongatha during its 17 and Under premiership against Traralgon. A37_3924



Mackenna Anderson has ball in hand for Leongatha during its 17 and Under premiership win. A31_3924



Leongatha co-captain Sari Hickey shows her athleticism early in the 17 and Under Grand Final against Traralgon. A30_3924



Leongatha coach Trent McMicking consoles players including Cade Maskell after the game.



A delighted Leongatha Reserves coach Rhett Kelly savours the moment after the grand final win.



That's three! Noah Fixter and teammates get set to charge on to the field at the end of a winning grand final on Saturday.



Named among the best players in the Leongatha Reserves' premiership win on Saturday, Noah Fixter is congratulated by grandfather Graham.



Reserves defender Joel Renden and family after the Leongatha Reserves' premiership victory.

Gippsland League 2024 trophy winners



Wonthaggi's Alana McRae received the A Grade coaches' Most Valuable Player award.



Flynn Materia of Leongatha is this season's leading goalkicker in the Reserves.



Leongatha's Kate Sperling claimed the B Grade Best and Fairest.



Under 16s Leading Goalkicker Jaxon Brouwers of Wonthaggi.



17 and Under Best and Fairest winners Lara Gill of Leongatha and Mahli Stothers of Sale.



17 and Under 'Shooting Star' Audrey McGannon of Leongatha.



Mitch Croatto of Leongatha and Warragul's Keenan Boi are joint leading goalkickers in the Under 18s.

Mid Gippsland Football Netball League presentations



Angus McInnes from MDU was presented with the U18s Best & Fairest award.



The 2024 Mid Gippsland Football Netball Competition netball Team of the Year.



The Reserves Best & Fairest was Luke Anedda from Toora.



The U17s goalscoring award went to Boolarra goal shooter Lara Noblett with 417.



MDU's Shari Harris was the U17 Best & Fairest.



Aleeah Munnich from Boolarra was named the U15 Best & Fairest.



Goal shooter Imogen Hulshof received the U15s goalscoring award with 504 for MDU.



With 255, MDU's Riley Collins was presented with the U13s goalscoring award.



Rachelle Roberts from Fish Creek received the D Grade goalscoring award with 630.



The B Grade Best & Fairest award was presented to Ema Hodgson from Fish Creek.



Lara Noblett from Boolarra won the B Grade goalscoring award with an impressive 791.



Parrots stunned by pacy Maroons

THE hottest of favourites to win their third Gippsland League premiership in-a-row, Leongatha have been beaten by a pacy, motivated Traralgon side by four goals in the 2024 grand final at Morwell on Saturday.

Leongatha dominated the opening minutes of the first quarter, with an early goal to Jack Hume. But a couple of chinks were visible in the Parrots' armour even in the initial stages when Traralgon's Sam Hallyburton sprinted clear around the boundary, and Leongatha failed to make their time in the forward 50 count.

The Leongatha brains' trust was well aware that Traralgon's pace posed a threat and so it proved to be from the likes of Hallyburton, Luis D'Angelo, the Neocolous brothers Harvey and Marlon, Jordan Cunico and others.

And the Parrots' finishing in front of goal had been a problem against Moe two weeks earlier as well, but they'd glossed over that with a big win in the Second Semi-final.

On Saturday, however, the Parrots put a lot of effort into a scoreline of 1.4 by halfway through the first quarter; but a snap by Kim Drew, an unpressured shot by Will Littlejohn which didn't score, a set shot by Jack Hume that was knocked through by Ty Hourigan, a long bomb by Jarrod Stewart and snap by Ned Hanily all failed to bring up a six-pointer.

The Parrots also copped an even more crucial blow in the initial stages when a high-flying attempt to mark by Hourigan proved the undoing of Leongatha's most dangerous forward Cam Olden.

Hourigan came down heavily right on top of Olden who sustained a chest injury in the incident and left the ground.

He came back on later in the term and ultimately played the game out but was hampered by the injury throughout. And pressured by the likes of Tristen Waack and other close-checking Maroons' defenders, he was unable to contribute on the scoreboard as you would have expected him to do.

Leongatha missed his ability to win one-on-one marking contests and his ability to finish good work further up the field by his teammates.

It was almost 18 minutes in by the time Jordan Cunico ran onto the loose ball and kicked Traralgon's first.

Leongatha continued to press however, with Tallin Brill missing a long shot and Jack Ginnane unable to nail a clear running shot on goal from 25. And when Traralgon got their next, through D'Angelo, after a running kick from 35 metres, they'd hit the front despite the Parrots' early dominance.

Leongatha restored their lead after a free kick and goal to Jenson Garnham but by that stage it was already game on at quarter time.

Big Max Jacobson was proving to be a handful for Ben Willis and Jarrod Stewart in the ruck, the key Traralgon defenders Ty Hourigan and Tristen Waack were taking control down back, especially with Olden unable to mount a challenge, and their pacy flankers and wingers of Traralgon were starting to roll.

Leongatha was getting a strong contribution from Luke Bowman and Kim Drew around the packs, Jack Hume up forward, Cade Maskell, Sean Westaway



Traralgon captain Ty Hourigan was impassible in defence during the grand final taking yet another towering mark against Leongatha's Cam Olden who was hampered by injury.

and Tim Sauvarin in defence and Tallin Brill and Ned Hanily in the midfield but from that time onwards, the pressure on the ball carriers of both teams was elite and Leongatha, in particular, found it difficult to string their trademark passages of play together.

Leongatha got the first goal of the second quarter to take back the lead, Jack Hume over to Jenson Garnham for a major, but they missed a few other chances again and Traralgon capitalised.

The crowd next saw a flash of brilliance by 16-year-old Marlon Neocolous, roving the pack to perfection and hooking through a miracle goal to inspire his teammates and ignite the big Traralgon crowd assembled at the highway end of the ground.

They went on to have their best quarter, with brother Harvey kicking a couple, and to exert some measure of control over the contest though to three-quarter time.

Leongatha opened the last quarter with a point to Cade Maskell, going forward, and then a great snap out of the pack for a goal by Jesse Burns to cut the Traralgon lead to just one point but goals to the Maroons' Dylan Loprese and one to Dan McKenna, on

the end of the best passage of play for the day by the younger Neocolous and Hallyburton on the move put them on the road to victory.

Leongatha went into the match without brilliant onballer Jake van der Pligt, who would have been the ideal one to go with the pacy young Maroons, Olden was a big loss and later, Jack Ginnane also came off with a torn quad.

It just wasn't Leongatha's day but their inability to take a stranglehold on the game when they had a chance early was crucial in allowing Traralgon time to settle and play to their strengths.

Pacy Traralgon onballer Luis D'Angelo (Stan Aitken Medal) and ruckman Max Jacobson (umpire's votes) were named best but their captain Ty Hourigan was the standout in defence, marking dozens of incoming attacks, and spoiling numerous Leongatha opportunities.

The Parrots had been hotly favoured to win their third premiership in a row and were bitterly disappointed not to be able to do so, the premiership victory by their Reserves' mates, and two netball flags were at least some consolation back at the club later... but not much!



Former Leongatha teammates Greg Bolge and Phil Poulton await the Senior Grand Final, with Phil still fitting into his 1982 premiership jumper. "It's a bit frayed and worn out but it's still hanging in there like me," he said. A64_3924



Emma Ton and Mason Fleming support the Parrots on Saturday. A65_3924



Elly Nagel and daughter Tully enjoy Grand Final Day in Morwell. A66_3924



Leongatha ruckman Ben Willis worked hard to contain the effectiveness of Traralgon's Max Jacobson and also contributed strongly around the ground.



Luke Bowman did his best to give Leongatha the edge in the opening quarter and a half, but their dominance wasn't reflected on the scoreboard.

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GIPPSLAND LEAGUE	
GRAND FINAL	
Seniors: Traralgon 11.12.78	d Leongatha 7.11.53
Reserves: Leongatha 8.7.55	d Bairnsdale 3.2.20
U18: Warragul 5.3.33	d Maffra 3.13.31
U16: Traralgon 8.8.56	d Maffra 7.5.47

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Traralgon coach pays tribute to the Leongatha way

FORMER Mirboo North premiership coach Troy Hamilton, now first-year premiership coach at Traralgon, is no stranger to the way the Parrots go about it and he paid tribute to the Leongatha way during his acceptance speech after Saturday's grand final.

Hamilton acknowledged Leongatha as "a fantastic club" and freely admitted he'd used the club as a reference point this season.

He said the Gippsland League was going onwards and upwards in everything they do and after thanking the Maroons' supporters for constantly turning up in big numbers throughout the year, he said he was proud of the way the players had continued to improve during the year.

Earlier Leongatha coach Trent McMicking acknowledged the pressure Traralgon had brought to the contest and they really deserved the win.

"We'll just have to get bigger and better and come back next year and have another go," said McMicking.



The premiership winning Traralgon team used their pace, a dominant defence and a motivated midfield group to stun the favoured Parrots to win the 2024 Gippsland League Premiership on Saturday.

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Entry forms at Cargills or text to 0419 399 415 or email wdnawonthaggi@outlook.com

Three-peat for Leongatha Parrots reserves



Adam Trotto strives to break free for Leongatha as Bairnsdale players pursue him. A47_3924



Ty Hall looks to burst clear for Leongatha late in its Reserves victory over Bairnsdale. A53_3924



Beau Grabham-Andrews of Leongatha gets hold of Tyson Matthews, one of Bairnsdale's best in the Reserves Grand Final. A52_3924



Leongatha and Bairnsdale compete fiercely in the Reserves Grand Final. A46_3924



2024 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE



Leongatha skipper Noah Clark and coach Rhett Kelly hold the Reserves Premiership Cup aloft. A61_3924



Leongatha players sing with gusto after completing the club's third Reserves premiership in a row. A56_3924



Dianne, John, Josh, Remi and Noah Schelling after John presented Josh with his Best on Ground medal for his part in the Parrots' Reserves premiership. A63_3924



Leongatha's Justin Pellicano awaits the Reserves premiership presentation with family. A59_3924



Nick Nagel flies for the Parrots alongside obscured teammate Justin Pellicano early in the Reserves match against Bairnsdale. A44_3924

GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

GRAND FINAL

	53		78
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LEONGATHA	TRARALGON
Leongatha 2.5 4.5 6.9 7.11 (53)	Traralgon 2.2 6.5 7.10 11.12 (78)

GOALS, Leongatha: Jenson Garnham 3, Jesse Burns 2, Ned Hanily, Jack Hume 1 each
BEST: Luke Bowman, Timothy Sauvarin, Ned Hanily, Jesse Burns, Will Littlejohn, Benjamin Willis

GOALS, Traralgon: Daniel McKenna, Harvey Neocleous 3, Luis D'Angelo, Marlon Neocleous 2, Jordan Cunico 1

BEST: Max Jacobsen, Tye Hourigan, Marlon Neocleous, Luis D'Angelo, Dylan Loprese, Tristen Waack

RESERVES

Leongatha 1.3 4.4 6.7 8.7 (55)	Bairnsdale 0.0 1.0 2.1 3.2 (20)
--------------------------------	---------------------------------

GOALS, Leongatha: Darcy Hume 2, Noah Clark, Noah Fixter, Beau Grabham Andrews, Jacob Lamers, Trent McRae, Joshua Schelling 1 each
BEST: Xavier Bolge, Darcy Hume, Jacob Lamers, Joshua Schelling, Noah Fixter, Matthew Borschman

GOALS, Bairnsdale: Rohan Blandford, Tom Selleck, Jason Waddell 1 each

BEST: Charlie Cook, Damon O'Connor, Tyson Matthews, Liam Bleyswyk, Daniel Eastman, Jamie Dore

THIRDS

Warragul 3.0 5.1 5.2 5.3 (33)	Maffra 0.2 1.4 1.7 3.13 (31)
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GOALS, Warragul: Oliver Wilson 3, Lachlan Giliam, Levi Moore 1 each

BEST: Oliver Wilson, Lachlan Giliam, Harry Brown, Lachlan French, Xavier Olsson, Riley Senini

GOALS, Maffra: Noah Christy 2, Harry Burgiel 1

BEST: Thomas Scott, Matt Kevin Rondon, Elliot Stables, Sam Anderson, Zachary O'Keefe, Elijah Berry

FOURTHS

Traralgon 1.2 3.4 6.5 8.8 (56)	Maffra 2.1 4.3 5.4 7.5 (47)
--------------------------------	-----------------------------

GOALS, Traralgon: Hudson Anderson 2, Ford Gore, William Hamilton, Levi Macumber, Jaxon Murdoch, Blair Roscoe, Oscar Wilkins 1 each

BEST: William Hamilton, Lachlan Pass, Hudson Anderson, Jimmy Brand, Archie Woodall, Blair Roscoe

GOALS, Maffra: Judd Burgiel, Charlie Kelly, Jett McMahon, Charlie Ross, Leo Stephenson, Archer Stobie, Angus Weatherley 1 each

BEST: Darcy Scott, Lachlan Harrington, Marcus Proud, Judd Burgiel, Jett McMahon, Fabian Vera

GIPPSLAND NETBALL

GRAND FINAL

A Grade: Warragul 53 It Moe 55
B Grade: Moe 38 It Traralgon 43
C Grade: Drouin 36 It Maffra 37
17 & Under: Traralgon 28 It Leongatha 30
15 & Under: Bairnsdale 32 It Traralgon 35
13 & Under: Leongatha 28 d Maffra 23



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Leongatha players enjoy the moment after completing the club's third straight Reserves premiership. Back Row: Jason Hayes, Darby Kratzat, Joel Renden, Noah Clark, Justin Pellicano, Rhett Kelly, Xavier Bolge, Nick Argento. Middle Row: Flynn Materia, Levi Hickey, Adam Trotto, Jacob Lamers, Darcy Hume, Matt Borschman, Beau Graham-Andrews, Kyle Brown Blake van Rooy, Robbie Reardon. Front Row: Hayden Lindsay, Josh Schelling, Noah Fitter, Trent McRae, Ty Hall, Nick Nagel. A62_3924

Three-peat for Parrots

LEONGATHA'S Reserves made it three flags straight, never allowing Bairnsdale to mount a serious threat, but it wasn't an easy day for either side.

Challenging wind, large numbers around the ball and finals intensity ensured goals were at a premium throughout the match.

One of the winning side's best, Darcy Hume, was the game's only player to boot more than a single major, managing a couple that included a classy snap early in the second quarter.

It was big man Josh Schelling who created that opportunity when he drove the footy into attack.

Schelling toiled hard in the ruck, often against Liam Bleyswyk, and while the Parrot went on to claim the Best on Ground medal for the second year running, Bleyswyk was listed in the Redlegs' best.

Hume was one of the classier performers, winning the footy effectively and using it well.

Jacob Lamers was in the game

from early on, racking up possessions and showing composure, including taking a mark in defence late in the first term that ensured Bairnsdale remained scoreless at the opening break.

The Parrots rated Xavier Bolge's game highly, naming him as their top performer, his ability to help Leongatha clear defence important in preventing Bairnsdale from getting into the game.

Bolge read the play adeptly early in the third quarter, intercepting a Bairnsdale short pass

inside the Redlegs' attacking arc and getting the Parrots out of danger.

Although Leongatha wasn't creating many highlights its work proved effective, the Parrots taking a five-goal lead into the last quarter and going on to triumph by 35 points.

Charlie Cook did best for Bairnsdale, helping repel Leongatha attacks and showing moments of dash and creativity.

Once again, proud dad John Schelling had the honour of

presenting Josh with his Best on Ground medal as a representative of the competition sponsor Evans Petroleum.

Back in the rooms, Leongatha playing coach Rhett Kelly praised his team's tackle pressure and held up the Premiership Cup saying Santa had dropped it off.

While Leongatha's Senior side couldn't match the Reserves triple premiership streak, there is still plenty for the Parrots to celebrate.



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