

# Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 | \$2.00



After the sombre scenes in St Paul's Anglican Church in Korumburra, for the National Police Remembrance Day service on Monday this week, children from the Karmai Community Children's Centre, who just happened along on their morning walk as police were issuing out, provided some welcome perspective on what has been a difficult month, and a year of loss, for the Victorian Police Force.

## CRIME CRISIS

EARLIER in September this year, local police called in the Police Air Wing's Beechcraft King Air 350ER, callsign 'POLAIR35', to track an erratic driver who hit speeds of over 200km/h down the Bass Highway between Leongatha and Inverloch.

That same driver had twice overtaken an unmarked police car between Darlimurla and Boorool, on the Strzelecki Highway, and dangerously passed other vehicles while being involved in several near misses with oncoming traffic.

All the time, the Mazda 3 sedan was being shadowed by the police airwing, until the alleged offender was arrested at a Wonthaggi address trying to escape on a motorbike.

He was found in possession of drugs, house-breaking equipment and stolen goods, among 20 charges committed while on bail.

It was a standout incident but not an isolated one during a fearful month of crime across the region and a high-profile year of offences locally.

So, no surprise then, when the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) released its Victorian crime statistics figures, last Thursday, for the year ending June 30, 2025, that they detailed a significant 13.8 per cent increase in the rate of recorded offences across the state, up from 7910.5 offences per 100,000 population to 8998.9.

Locally, the increase in the crime rate wasn't quite so marked, up 2.7 per cent in South Gippsland (7854.5) and 8.1 per cent in Bass Coast (8247.9), both still below the state average crime rate of 8898.9 offences per 100,000 people.

But the 'rate of crime' figure hides both the actual increase in recorded criminal

incidents locally and an even more disturbing situation right on our doorstep.

Locally, the total number of criminal incidents recorded was up 3.5 per cent in South Gippsland, from 2373 to 2456 offences, the standout being Foster up from 137 offences to 312 in the year, but with recorded crime numbers steady in Korumburra and Leongatha.

Recorded offences were up 10 per cent in Bass Coast from 3323 to 3656, with Wonthaggi steady, but with Cowes and Inverloch finishing the year with notable increases in recorded offences, the outlier being Inverloch up from 218 to 438 recorded offences, which could also indicate a bigger enforcement effort.

But in Casey (including Berwick, Clyde, Cranbourne, Hallam, Narre Warren and Tooradin), the number of criminal incidents recorded was up by 20.5 per

cent (from 24,782 to 29,858), in Cardinia (including Beaconsfield, Garfield, Koo Wee Rup, Lang Lang, Nar Nar Goon Pakenham) up by 27.6 per cent (7830 to 9991), in Latrobe City up by 11.8 per cent and Baw Baw up by 13 per cent.

Continued page 3

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# Crime crisis: How a regional crime wave is hurting us too

From page 1

On the measure of 'alleged offender incidents', that is allegations of crime reported to police, the numbers were up a whopping 22.2 per cent in Bass Coast and 18.3 per cent South Gippsland.

If you felt more unsafe in your own home in the past year than you did the previous year, it's certainly borne out by the statistics and anecdotally.

Of course, we've had a number of high-profile crimes locally in the past year, but just as worrying has been reports of a large number of stolen cars, many involving aggravated burglaries, and the rising incidence of youth crime.

Here's a snapshot of some of the more serious incidents:

- In September 2024, four teens, involved in a series of aggravated burglaries and thefts of cars and property in the local area, were arrested at a road-block on Wonthaggi's main intersection, after a wild ride in stolen cars through the region in which they rammed police cars and drove at dangerous speeds.

- On Sunday, January 12, 2025, a 42-year-old Wonthaggi father of two was shot in the back in a residential street, the alleged offenders being charged with trafficking drugs and possession of guns and other weapons.

- On March 2, 2025, a 68-year-old Wonthaggi woman, walking her neighbour's dog, was killed by a visitor to the area, allegedly so drunk he didn't even know he'd hit the retired retail worker before he left the scene.

- In August this year, a 27-year-old Korumburra man was sentenced to nine-and-a-half years jail for manslaughter, and

- On September 8, Leongatha mother of two Erin Patterson was sentenced to life in prison for murdering three of her in-laws and attempting to murder a fourth.

In the past month alone, Bass Coast Service Area Police have seized drugs and illegal firearms, including two handguns from a house in Wonthaggi. They've charged a 37-year-old Wonthaggi man with a series of thefts and deceptions in the Bass Coast area, sought community help finding a Wonthaggi tradie's stolen ute, and an e-bike from the Leongatha Railway Station.

And on Friday, September 19 they charged a 27-year-old Frankston man with possession of methamphetamine and stolen goods after catching him speeding down Commercial Street in Korumburra, unlicensed, in an unregistered car with fake plates. He was bailed to appear in the Korumburra Magistrates Court next February.

Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien wasted no time criticising the state government for "allowing crime to surge across Gippsland, with shocking new figures showing increases in every local government area across the region".

Drilling down into the region's stats, he said the latest data from the Crime Statistics Agency revealed a dramatic spike in crime in many regional towns, including Foster, where recorded offences soared by 127 per cent in just 12 months.

Mr O'Brien said the figures highlight how communities of all sizes "are being failed by Labor's soft-on-crime approach".

"When a small town like Foster sees crime more than double in just 12 months, and Sale records over 3000 incidents locals are right to be deeply concerned," Mr O'Brien said.

"These figures show crime is rising across the entire region and the Allan Labor Government has failed to act.

"Our police are doing everything they can, but with over 1100 police vacancies statewide, 900 more off on leave and WorkCover, weakened bail laws, and country stations left closed or understaffed, Labor has left them to fight a losing battle."

He said every local government area across Gippsland had seen crime rise over the past year. "Total Offences Recorded" increased by 20.6 per cent in Baw Baw, 11.8 per cent in Latrobe City, 10 per cent in Bass Coast, 3.5 per cent in South Gippsland, 15.4 per cent in Wellington, and seven per cent in East Gippsland, highlighting a region-wide surge in criminal activity," he said.

Meanwhile, 'Alleged Offender Incidents' were up as follows:

- Bass Coast 22.2 per cent
- Baw Baw 10.8 per cent
- Cardinia 37.1 per cent
- Casey 20.9 per cent
- East Gippsland 17.7 per cent
- Latrobe City 18 per cent
- South Gippsland 18.3 per cent
- Wellington 20 per cent

Statistics on the number of family incidents locally reveal a bumpy trend, up five per cent in South Gippsland and eight per cent in Bass Coast but down 1.1 per cent in Baw Baw and 0.8 per cent in Latrobe City. The standouts were East Gippsland where the number of family incidents was up 24.2 per cent and Cardinia 22.4 per cent respectively.

Family incidents still made up a significant proportion of the enforcement effort with breaches of family violence orders accounting for 707 of the recorded offences in Bass Coast and 485 of



On Friday, September 19, the 27-year-old Frankston driver of this car was arrested after being caught speeding on Commercial Road, Korumburra. He was found in possession of drugs, and with stolen goods in the car and charged with the following offences: breach alcohol interlock condition, drive whilst disqualified, exceed speed limit where a speed limit sign applies, possess methylamphetamine, theft, use false number plates on vehicle and use unregistered motor vehicle. The car was impounded for 30 days, at a cost of \$1275 but the driver has been bailed to appear at the Korumburra Magistrates' Court on February 26 next year.



Four teenagers, including three from this area, were arrested by police at the main intersection in Wonthaggi in September last year after a wild ride in stolen vehicles across the region.

the 2456 offences in South Gippsland.

While the number of offences statewide increased 15.7 per cent to 638,640, property and deception offences experienced the largest increase in the last 12 months, up 21.2 per cent or 66,144 to 378,050 offences.

The main driver of the increase was

theft offences, up 54,175 to 246,654 offences due to 'steal from a motor vehicle' offences including stolen cars, which were up 24,409 to 86,351 offences in the last 12 months.

There was no reference to illegal tobacco and the incidents of crime around that scourge on the community.

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

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## 6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

<b>TUE   Sept 30</b> Showers. Wind AM: N-NW 15-25km/h Wind PM: W-NW 15-25km/h	<b>WED   Oct 1</b> Showers. Wind AM: NW 20-30km/h Wind PM: NW 20-30km/h	<b>THUR   Oct 2</b> Showers. Wind AM: NW 15-25km/h Wind PM: W 25-30km/h	<b>FRI   Oct 3</b> Showers. Wind AM: W-SW: 25-35km/h Wind PM: W-SW 25-35km/h	<b>SAT   Oct 4</b> Partly cloudy. Wind AM: W 15-20km/h Wind PM: W 15-20km/h	<b>SUN   Oct 5</b> Partly cloudy. Wind AM: N 15-20km/h Wind PM: NW 15-25km/h
12° <b>19°</b>	9° <b>18°</b>	8° <b>15°</b>	9° <b>16°</b>	10° <b>19°</b>	10° <b>24°</b>

## IN BRIEF

### Consultation to begin on at Sunnyside pump track

CAPE Woolamai petitions with over 700 signatures may have just been heard, with the Bass Coast Shire Council confirming that design work is progressing in the current financial year, and the community will be consulted later this year or early next year on a pump track at Sunnyside Reserve, Cape Woolamai.

The Mountain Bike/BMX/Pump Strategy was adopted in August 2024. Following that, Council adopted the Implementation Plan for the Mountain Bike/BMX/Pump Strategy at its June 2025 Council Meeting.

The plan identified five priority sites for design and future development.

Initial design work will be delivered in the 2025/26 financial year using existing operational budgets.

Further discussions with relevant landowners will continue as part of the planning and design process.

### Are you an ANZAC decedent?

BASS Valley Friends of the R.S.L. are seeking expressions of interest from any decedent of an ANZAC from Bass Valley who would like to put a plaque at the base of a tree in the Avenue of Honour in Bass Road, Bass. If so, please contact Trish Thack on 0409851599 or email [bassvalleyfriendsofthersl@gmail.com](mailto:bassvalleyfriendsofthersl@gmail.com). Bass Valley Friends of the R.S.L. have also thanked Bass Coast Shire Council Open Spaces Team for the hard work they have done in Bass at the Memorial Walk and the help they gave along with Bass Recreation and Reserves with the replanting of the Avenue of Honour.

### Dying with dignity discussions

THINKING about death can be difficult, but it can also lead to clarity, connection and dignity.

Join Associate Professor Jo

Raynor from LaTrobe University and Bass Coast Health's palliative care coordinator Lisa Thornhill for a thoughtful and open discussion about how to approach end-of-life with greater compassion and understanding thanks to U3A Wonthaggi.

Learn about advance care directives, what local services are provided and about the laws associated with voluntary assisted dying. This is a free event for anyone in the community, but please book to help with catering plans.

The sessions will be held at the Cape Paterson Community Hall on Friday, October 10, from 10am to 11.30am, and the Wonthaggi Town Hall on Friday, October 17 from 10am to 11.30am.

### Water bills went to wrong emails

A KEY feature of South Gippsland Water's 2025-26 Corporate Plan, an upgrade to its billing and customer service technology, has not gone exactly to plan.

The authority posted its apologies online this week:

"We've just sent our first bills from a new billing system and, unfortunately, some bills have gone to the wrong email address in error.

"We are very sorry this has happened and understand it may have caused you some worry. If you've received an email bill in error and it affects your safety, please call us straight away on 1300 851 636 so we can support you."

It is not known what the new billing system cost, but a number of capital projects were deferred in 2024-25 and scheduled into 2025-26 "to accommodate expenditure on South Gippsland Water's new finance, asset management and billing IT system in 2024-45", according to the corporate plan.

Capital investment is projected to increase in coming years up from \$33.1M this year to \$40.2M next year and \$23.6M, \$40.8M and \$49.6M in subsequent years.

"A significant increase in investment in the 2028-29 and 2029-30 financial years has been planned for construction of a major upgrade to Wonthaggi Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is necessary infrastructure to support growth driven by the approved Wonthaggi North-East Precinct, which is projected to double the size of Wonthaggi in the decades to come."

Monday afternoon South Gippsland Water released a statement noting they have extended the due date on current bills to October 20 as part of the billing transition. Customers with direct debit arrangements scheduled for October 10 will still have their payments processed on that date but can contact South Gippsland Water to request a pause or change the date.

### A riot of red, yellow, pink, green and purple for McBride Avenue

WORK is about to start on the installation of 24 planter boxes along McBride Avenue as part of the Wonthaggi streetscape project from Watt Street to Murray Street.

Planted with a selection of multi-coloured, hardy, drought-resistant, low-maintenance Australian Natives, the planter boxes will provide a traffic barrier to protect pedestrians. Installation of the planter boxes is expected to start in mid-October on Sundays to minimise disruption and should be completed within two to three weekends.

### Statewide offences up 15.7%

THE Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) released the Victorian recorded crime statistics for the year ending June 30, 2025, last Thursday, which included the first release of bail statistics.

They detailed increased initial bail decisions by Victoria Police up from 71,173 in 2024 to 89,783 in 2025. Bail by magistrates is down from 21,155 in 2023 to 17,961 in 2024 and 17,693 in 2025. Bail

granted in the County Court and Supreme Court has remained steady.

The rate of recorded offences increased, up 13.8 per cent to 8,998.9 per 100,000 Victorians in the last 12 months, while the number of offences increased 15.7 per cent to 638,640. Property and deception offences had the largest increase in the last 12 months, up 21.2 per cent or 66,144 to 378,050 offences. The main driver of the increase was theft offences, up 54,175 to 246,654 offences due to steal from a motor vehicle offences, which were up 24,409 to 86,351 offences in the last 12 months.

In the 12 months to June 30, 2025, the number of criminal incidents increased, up 18.3 per cent or 74,653 to 483,583 incidents. The rate also increased, up 16.3 per cent to 6814 per 100,000 Victorians. Criminal incidents have reached their highest recorded figures since the commencement of CSA reporting in 2004-05.

### Naked man charged with sexual assault

POLICE have arrested a man following an alleged sexual assault in Wonthaggi on Saturday night, September 27. It has been alleged that the man sexually assaulted a woman and a child, reportedly unknown to him, outside a shopping centre on Biggs Drive, Wonthaggi at about 8.30pm. He was not wearing pants at the time. Police located the alleged offender and arrested him shortly later.

A 36-year-old Wonthaggi man, charged with a range of offences, appeared at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court on Monday, September 29, where he was remanded in custody for further mention on October 30 at the Korumburra Magistrates Court. Anyone who witnessed the incident, or has CCTV/video footage, is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au).

**Danny O'BRIEN<sub>MP</sub>**  
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Mitchell Street residents, Denise, Sharon and Dave are upset with proposed relocation sites of Nyora's public toilets which will sit directly opposite their homes on a historically significant road. C31\_3925



Mitchell Street residents are asking the public how they would feel seeing people continuously pull up outside their homes to use public toilets, proposing Option C if the current public toilet building has to be relocated.

# Mitchell Street residents reject Nyora toilet relocation options

UNSIGHTLY modern toilets, a lack of safe parking, and proximity to a busy road are just a few reasons Mitchell Street residents are up in arms about the relocation of public toilets in Nyora.

The current public toilets have served generations of locals and visitors alike. They may be ageing and in need of a face-lift, but they sit tucked away, blending in with the park, according to residents and parkgoers, they work. Now, with South Gippsland Shire Council proposing to move them, residents on Mitchell Street are alarmed by what is being put forward – and by what has been left out.

Two possible relocation sites, dubbed Option A and Option B, were listed in a community survey this month. But according to neighbours, both would come at the direct expense of residents' quality of life, safety, and even their property values.

Option A, preferred by South Gippsland Shire Council because it sits on council-owned land rather than Crown land, would place the new toilet block on Mitchell Street, directly across from homes, just 5.51 metres in from the roadside. Residents are blunt: this is "unacceptable".

"Mitchell Street narrows towards Davis Street," Mitchell Street resident Denise Stringer explained.

"When friends or family visit and park on the street, and you've also got people stopping outside the proposed toilet block, you'll be blocking the street."

Mrs Stringer is also upset that, to her knowledge, nowhere else in South Gippsland are toilets placed so close to residential homes.

"Melbourne wouldn't be what it is today, without Nyora," Mrs Stringer continued, explaining the historical significance of the township. "We have period homes

and shopfronts lining Mitchell Street. My home is 1920s, we've spent years renovating it, and now we face the prospect of looking directly out to a modern toilet block with doors that face Mitchell Street. We'll see people coming and going all the time – it's outrageous."

Option B shifts the proposed site closer to the playground and skate park, but it brings a new set of problems.

Long-time residents recall the spot flooding regularly, drawing ibis to feed and leaving the area boggy. On more than one occasion, mowing equipment has sunk into the ground.

"It doesn't make sense," fellow Mitchell Street resident Sharon Bradley said.

"Council says the current site has drainage issues, so they want to move it, but Option B floods too. Why not fix the drainage where it is, instead of creating the same problem somewhere else?"

According to South Gippsland Shire Council's Your Say survey, the current location of the toilets does not comply with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or Access and Mobility guidelines.

The two proposed locations for the new facilities would increase accessibility, improve passive surveillance, be closer to the bus stop, and be a greater opportunity to connect rail users to the town centre.

Three local real estate agents have warned homeowners they could lose \$50,000–\$100,000 in property value if Option A and even Option B proceeds.

Mrs Stringer, a vocal advocate for Nyora through the Nyora Progress Association, worked with council staff to identify a third option, only to be told the online survey would not be updated. Instead, survey participants would have to tick "other" and manually describe their preferred site.

Option C would see the toilets placed behind the skatepark, closer to Henley Street.

"Why can't it just be put on the survey, so people can actually vote for it?" Mrs Stringer asked. "If it's viable enough to suggest, then it's viable enough to include. They even suggested we start a petition, but there's already one with hundreds of signatures calling for the toilets to stay where they are."

Mrs Bradley added: "The new toilet block is not in keeping with the appearance of the town. The old toilets are quaint and look beautiful in the surroundings, though they could use renovation. And there is plenty of parking at the rear along Henley Street."

Parking, which is also perfect for caravans and tow vehicles.

"The park is a hive of activity. It's the start of the rail trail," Mrs Stringer said.

"The monies should go towards fixing the drainage that Council claims is needed at the current facility site, renovating the existing toilets and upgrading parts of the playground that are aging – it needs a new slide and swings," Mrs Bradley added.

For Mrs Bradley, the location of the current facilities is ideal when watching over grandchildren.

"I can still watch my grandchildren on the playground if one needs to use the toilet. Parents have stated their disappointment; they don't want the toilets moved. It's also not safe to have them right beside a main access road. Trucks are always pulling up for deliveries to the general store."

Residents also noted that a large tree would likely need to be removed for Option A, and raised concerns about how close public toilets can be to residential homes.

"There's been no consultation, no discussion with affected residents. A survey is not a discussion. There should be face-to-face meetings," Mrs Stringer added, noting she is yet to receive any response to an email sent to the three Strzelecki Ward councillors on September 18; however, acknowledges that Cr Nathan Hersey has been in correspondence via telephone.

A South Gippsland council spokesperson said the survey would not be reconfigured to include an Option C, as an 'other' field already allows residents to suggest locations. "The location suggested as 'C' also has limitations when it comes to meeting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and Access and Mobility guidelines," they said.

While the survey will inform decision-making, it will not be the only factor, with design standards and other considerations also taken into account.

When the Sentinel-Times asked a group of young locals at the park on Sunday what they thought, the responses were blunt.

"They should be out the back near the rail trail so people coming off it can easily access them," one said.

"Knock 'em down and rebuild in the same spot – they're out of the way there," another added.

A third echoed Mitchell Street residents' concern: "People shouldn't have them out the front of their homes or wake up and look out on them."

Though teenagers themselves, they agreed that Option A, and even B, would be too far from the main playground for younger kids.

Have your say until Sunday, October 12, at [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/nyora-public-toilet](https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/nyora-public-toilet).

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## Mayor's Message

BASS COAST

Cr Rochelle Halstead



I HOPE everyone had a wonderful long weekend, whether that included watching some footy, spending time with family, or simply enjoying our beautiful Bass Coast.

We often hear people grumble about how busy our towns get, how tricky traffic can be, the queues at our favourite cafés, or how our usually quiet hamlets suddenly feel a little louder. But there's a positive side to all this activity – and that's the energy, opportunity, and prosperity it brings to our region.

This past weekend, we had the absolute pleasure of hosting the Rip Curl GromSearch on Phillip Island. Hosting events like the GromSearch is a real honour for Council, as it brings families and young surfers from across Australia into our towns, inspiring the next generation of athletes while giving our local businesses a welcome boost.

On average, families stay around six nights before heading home, meaning they're not just here for a day trip, they're truly immersing themselves in all that Bass Coast has to offer and taking home lasting memories of our naturally beautiful coastline and warm hospitality.

The weekend before, I was delighted to attend the opening of the TIDAL Seafood Festival and the blessing of the boats in San Remo. Even though the weather threw us a few challenges, the festivities were a joy, celebrating of our local seafood, culture, and community spirit. I want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of volunteers and sponsors, especially the major sponsor this year, Airbnb, your support is what makes these events possible.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for another exciting weekend with the MotoGP™, the biggest sporting event in regional Victoria, expected to attract up to 100,000 attendees over three days. It's an enormous opportunity for our local economy, and a chance to showcase everything our region has to offer to visitors from across the globe.

Yes, busy weekends can feel chaotic at times – but they also bring vibrancy, growth, and memorable experiences for locals and visitors.

It creates jobs, supports local businesses, and helps our communities thrive. It's a delicate balance, but one that pays dividends for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who participates, supports, and welcomes visitors with the warmth and spirit that makes Bass Coast truly remarkable and enjoy the rest of the school holidays.

# Petition to reinstate Lord's Prayer at Bass Coast council meetings

IF A prayer and acknowledgement of country are now accepted across state and federal governments why not local government, according to a group of Wonthaggi residents.

A petition to Bass Coast Shire Council to reinstate the Lord's Prayer has collected nearly two hundred signatures, urging local councillors to restore the practice.

Bass Coast Council opens its meetings with a Statement of Acknowledgement.

"We acknowledge the Bunurong as the traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waters, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging."

South Gippsland Shire adopted an updated Council Meeting Prayer in 2023 to be read at the start of each Council Meeting after it had not been updated for over ten years.

"As we gather here from diverse backgrounds and beliefs, may we hold privilege with good care and trust. As we deliberate and discuss, may we be wise in our discernment, fair in our decisions and visionary in our planning. May we be guided by our common



The Lord's Prayer is beneficial for everyone, according to Wonthaggi resident Karen Thorp, ahead of a petition to Bass Coast Shire Council. B15\_3925

goal of a strong and united South Gippsland."

The prayer is then followed by an acknowledgement of traditional custodians.

"We acknowledge the Bunurong and Gunaikurnai people as the traditional custodians of South Gippsland and pay respect to their Elders, past, present, and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture, and hopes of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia."

The Lord's Prayer was removed from Bass Coast Shire Council's order of business in 2014 in a move many locals believed reflected anti-Christian sentiment.

The petitioners claim the Lord's Prayer has been read at the opening of both Houses of the Victorian Parliament since 1857 as a solemn reminder

of the responsibility borne by elected representatives to serve with integrity and humility.

Supporters of the petition to Bass Coast Council argue the Lord's Prayer themes of forgiveness, guidance, and provision are inclusive in nature and transcend individual beliefs.

The residents claim the recitation of the prayer serves as a unifying tradition that reflects the democratic values of service and accountability.

Wonthaggi resident, Karen Thorp, said the newly elected Bass Coast Council now had an opportunity to reinstate the Lord's Prayer.

"It's a prayer of blessing with themes of forgiveness and guidance," said Mrs Thorp.

Mrs Thorp said the Lord's Prayer was not at odds with non-Christian beliefs.

"Welcome to Country should not be a replacement for the Lord's Prayer," she said.

"This is our strong heritage. It has a lot of benefits."

The petition by Bass Coast residents calling for the reinstatement of The Lord's Prayer will be tabled at the next meeting of Bass Coast Shire Council on October 8.

## Feeling safe and decent housing, a cry for help

WHAT do we really think about ourselves in South Gippsland and the Bass Coast?

A major report released this month into liveability in Gippsland has found feeling safe and decent affordable housing are among our two biggest concerns.

A survey of 246 people in South Gippsland and 285 in Bass Coast revealed 61 per cent of local residents are concerned about feeling safe and 46 per cent want decent, affordable housing.

The 2025 Key Insights Report showed a drop in liveability compared with previous years.

Nearly half or 46 per cent of Bass Coast residents surveyed expressed concern about health services compared to 43 per cent in South Gippsland.

Health services were considered to be important for 59 per cent of Bass Coast residents compared to 50 per cent of South Gippsland residents.

A perceived decline in education opportunities across the region failed to rate.

Only 15 per cent of South Gippsland residents and 16

By Bruce Wardley

per cent of Bass Coast residents were concerned about local education opportunities.

Although the outlook for labour market figures was generally positive, pockets of low participation, unemployment and under-employment were found in Bass Coast Shire.

Sense of community rated highly, with a greater percentage of local residents from South Gippsland concerned about sense of community than the rest of Gippsland.

A 72-year-old woman surveyed from South Gippsland wanted a local doctor in her town and the V-Line bus service extended to Tarwin Lower and surrounding townships with a light scheduled timetable to encourage younger residents to live in small towns.

The natural environment also rated highly with 87 per cent of those surveyed believing in climate change and 61 per cent concerned about the environment.

Improving the provision of affordable decent housing represented the single biggest opportunity to advance quality

of life according to those surveyed.

Opinion on the transition to renewable energy across Gippsland was sharply divided.

Of the 1829 residents surveyed 44 per cent thought energy transition would benefit Gippsland somewhat, 24 per cent thought energy transition would benefit Gippsland greatly, but a third or 32 per cent thought renewables would not benefit Gippsland at all.

Overall, the data indicated both optimism and caution within the Gippsland community in regard to the transition to renewables. While there was an appreciation of the potential for environmental and economic benefits, these were tempered by concerns over economic costs, job security, and the environmental side effects associated with renewable energy infrastructure.

Investing in social infrastructure was seen as critical in advancing quality of life across Gippsland, especially improving the provision of 'high quality health services' and 'high quality education opportunities'.

## Public question time at Bass Coast Shire Council

THE first opportunity for residents and ratepayers to read their own questions at Bass Coast Shire Council meetings passed this month without a single question being asked in person.

P. Fogarty: What action does the Bass Coast Council take toward reviewing and ensuring the results of surveys done by member(s) of the community aren't skewed through malicious activity or special interest groups attempting to manipulate data through fraudulent participation?

Greg Box (CEO): Council values its community engagement and has taken steps to ensure feedback is genuine.

We use trusted survey platforms with strong information security standards, to help protect against fraudulent activity such as bots, fake accounts or multiple submissions from the same person. Survey data is hosted securely, with safeguards in place to protect information at rest and in use. Council staff carefully review data for unusual patterns to help

ensure results reflect genuine community views.

L. Lyell: Council is proposing to reduce speed limits in a number of residential estates on Phillip Island to 30kph. Will council please provide pedestrian crash data for the proposed estates where a reduction in speed limits is proposed to verify this is actually a problem?

Greg Box (CEO): The proposed 30-kilometre-per-hour speed zones are not in response to pedestrian crash data. The proposal

is proactive, in response to community feedback regarding pedestrian and cyclist safety within estates with limited footpath infrastructure. Traffic data confirms that traffic in these streets is currently slow-moving. The proposal is intended to enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

A full summary of Public Question Time can be found in the Minutes of Bass Coast Council Meetings at [bass-coast.vic.gov.au/about-council/council-meetings](http://bass-coast.vic.gov.au/about-council/council-meetings)

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## Conservation call to Leongatha and Koonwarra communities

PEOPLE in the communities of Leongatha and Koonwarra are urged to conserve water to avoid potential restrictions, South Gippsland Water highlighting ongoing dry conditions and low stream flows.

The organisation says those conditions point to possible water restrictions in the coming months.

Water for both towns is sourced from Ruby Creek, which relies heavily on rainfall and is subject to changing climate conditions, South Gippsland Water explained.

Managing director Rob Murphy said Leongatha and Koonwarra are particularly vulnerable this year given the ongoing dry conditions.

"Since the start of 2024 we've seen a lack of sustained rainfall in our region, which has intensified this year," he said, noting Leongatha storage levels are at 42 per cent.

"Leongatha typically draws down gradually over Summer and Autumn and then recharges quickly in Winter, but our storages have drawn down more heavily this year due to the lack of rainfall and our winter refill has been at a much lower volume than usual," Mr Murphy said.

"This means if the lack of rain continues, we will likely need to put in place water restrictions for Leongatha over the coming months."

Mr Murphy noted only the Leongatha region is impacted this year, with no expectation that any other towns in South Gippsland, Bass Coast or Wellington Shires will face restrictions in 2025.

To avoid restrictions for Leongatha and Koonwarra, South Gippsland Water is asking the community to reduce household water use through measures such as limiting showers, reducing garden watering, not letting taps run between activities and not washing cars or hosing down driveways.

People are requested to start taking these measures immediately to help give water storages a chance to recover before Summer.

South Gippsland Water encourages everyone across our region to follow Victoria's Permanent Water Saving Rules at all times to help conserve our precious water resources.

For tips on how to save water visit [sgwater.com.au](http://sgwater.com.au).

# BURT puts Phillip Island's unique rural character at risk

CONCERN has been raised that Bass Coast Shire's Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy (BURT) has become problematic with the introduction of the State Government's Distinctive Area and Landscape policy.

"This policy does not value add to our Island," said Island Ward Cr Ron Bauer.

The Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy (BURT) was adopted in March 2023.

Cr Bauer said he voted against the BURT when it was introduced by the last council.

"During the last election campaign, the BURT was often raised as a policy that was not suitable for Phillip Island, and I agree," said Cr Bauer.

Bass Coast Council has called for a report by no later than November to explain how the BURT will be impacted by the intent of the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) policy in respect to preserving character and protecting the environment.

"With the introduction of the Distinctive Area and Landscape Policy by the State Government, the BURT has the real possibility of undermining the fundamental intentions of the DAL," said Cr Bauer.

According to Rob Parsons, a resident of The Gurdies, BURT is just another name for RAZ.

"In 2016, Bass Coast Council tried to impose a Rural Activity Zone (RAZ) in The Gurdies, but the community fought it, and it was defeated," said Mr Parsons.

"Now the same idea is back through the

BURT strategy.

"We said no then, and we say no now.

"Our farmland should stay farmland, our woodlands and wildlife corridors should stay protected, and our quiet rural communities don't want to become tourist precincts."

The Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) status was meant to safeguard this ward from exactly this kind of creeping development, but BURT undermines that protection.

"Western Port Ward does not want RAZ by another name," said Mr Parsons.

Cr Tim O'Brien said preserving the rural character of Phillip Island and the Bass Coast region is seen as a primary responsibility of council, defining the casual, family-friendly rural visitor experience, and connecting with the region's history, its indigenous connection to place, agricultural past and future, and its unique and largely unspoiled environmental assets and coastal habitats.

BURT was intended to facilitate mid-to-large-scale tourism development by unlocking restrictions within the planning scheme for large-scale development in farm zone areas.

Under current zoning, restrictions for expanded tourism developments potentially sit at cross purposes to the DAL and would be limited to small-scale initiatives such as farm stays, farm gate sales and other similar entrepreneurial activities.

Cr O'Brien said the BURT was ill-conceived.



**Bass Coast Unlocking Tourism Strategy (BURT) pleases no one, according to Cr Tim O'Brien.** B12\_3925

"No farmland is safe, no farmland is out of reach.

"BURT has little to no support within the community."

The Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy can be found at [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/BURT](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/BURT).

## Key role for expanded Wonthaggi desal plant

LAST week, State Minister for Water Gayle Tierney released the government's new Water Security Plan detailing it will need an additional 96 gigalitres of water for Melbourne, Geelong and the other areas connected to the South-Central Water Grid by 2030.

That includes the growing populations in the South Gippsland region, including at Cowes, Wonthaggi, Korumburra, Poowong, Loch, and Nyora.

By 2040, they're projecting they'll need 220 gigalitres more.

One of the obvious options identified in the report for more water is the expansion of the Wonthaggi Desalination Plant.

"Desalination involves extracting freshwater from saltwater. Victoria's desalination plant in Wonthaggi is rainfall independent, provides an essential buffer to top up our reservoirs, with the ability to go on standby in heavy rainfall years, ensuring water is only ordered when needed," according to the report.

"The existing Victorian Desalination Plant can be expanded from its current capacity of 150 GL to produce a further 50 GL of water a year."

But to meet additional demand the plan also calls for other measures, including developing an additional desalination plant and using purified recycled water and stormwater for drinking and non-drinking uses.

In areas on existing South-Central Water Grid supply like Wyndham, Melton and Sunbury, the population is projected to almost quadruple during the next 50 years. Much of Melbourne's water supply is sourced from the east, including from dams in the Yarra and Thomson River basins, and the existing desalination plant near Wonthaggi.

"We're making sure Victoria continues to have a secure and affordable water supply as our state grows and climate gets drier," said Minister Tierney.

"We know large-scale projects can take a decade to plan and deliver. That's why we're doing the work now to secure affordable and high-quality water for generations to come."

The Water Security Plan outlines a range of potential options to cater for future water demand across Melbourne, Geelong and connected regions such as parts of Gippsland.

The new plan will see investigations begin looking into how to boost available water and help make us less dependent on rainfall. Over the past 27 years, inflows into Melbourne's major water storages have declined by 17 per cent.

Demand for water could exceed the available supply over the next decade as our population grows and our climate dries. This means we need to look at options such as increasing water efficiency, the potential expansion of desalination and using

more stormwater and recycled water.

This year has been one of the driest on record across central and western Victoria, which has seen the need to utilise Victoria's desalination plant to bolster Melbourne's water storages and support Geelong's supplies. So far in 2025, just over 25 billion litres of water has been delivered helping maintain Melbourne's water storages at over 70 per cent capacity.

Given that the Victorian Desalination Plant can supply up to 150 billion litres (150 gigalitres) of water per year, it's literally a drop in the ocean, but more demand is clearly coming Wonthaggi's way.

The report also considers works needed in regional areas such as the South Gippsland Water and Westernport Water areas.

While Westernport has been given a clean bill of health in the report, several areas facing "water security challenges" have been identified in South Gippsland, including the Ruby Creek system supplying Leongatha and Koonwarra.

"Communities may face water security challenges without any intervention above and beyond the status quo", suggesting timing "within 20 years and/or beyond".

Last week, South Gippsland Water asked all Leongatha and Koonwarra residents to reduce their water use "as ongoing dry conditions and low stream flows point to possible water restrictions in the coming months".

**Burgess Rawson**  
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The first of Esso's decommissioned oil rig components on dry land is a sign that local jobseekers need to reskill, upskill and look for new employment pathways. B07\_3925

## Reskill, upskill and new pathways

WORKFORCE Australia has warned that current and emerging trends in the Gippsland workforce will require reskilling, upskilling and different employment pathways.

"Gippsland is currently transitioning or preparing to transition from multiple major industries such as native timber, the brown coal-fired power industry and oil and gas."

A local jobs plan for Gippsland sets out the skills and employment challenges and priorities for the region and associated strategies needed to address these challenges.

Local labour market challenges in the region include below average workforce participation, relatively high levels of long-term unemployment, and large numbers of early school leavers with low higher education completion rates.

Relatively high levels of unemployment have been identified in some specific groups, including an ageing population with one third of the population over 65.

The exploding demand for health care and social services is driving workforce shortages while industry is transitioning from traditional sectors such as mining and forestry.

Another problem is a lack of affordable housing and childcare shortages.

Gippsland faces significant skill shortages according to Workforce Australia with a greater need for tailored training programs to support the demands of local businesses and industries transitioning to net zero.

Students have been found to be leaving school in Gippsland at a higher rate than the state and national average with a higher level of disengagement from education and training.

First Nations people can also experience higher levels of unemployment and lower participation rates with limited awareness of dedicated employment programs.

Workforce Australia supports a tailored approach to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways in response to current and emerging local workforce needs.



Sisters Kerry Fitzgerald, Sharon Oates and Leesa Willmott have raised more than \$110,000 through the Lions Ride for Sight to support vital eye research.

## New research sees hope for AMD

A NEW discovery from RMIT University is raising hopes for people living with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), including a local family who know the disease all too well.

Researchers at RMIT, in collaboration with the Centre for Eye Research Australia, have developed an experimental eyedrop that can deliver protective nutrients directly to the back of the eye. This is the same area currently only reached through uncomfortable and invasive injections.

In early animal and cell studies, the eyedrops carried lutein, an antioxidant compound found in Gac fruit, safely to the retina. The compound remained stable for months at room temperature and appeared to protect retinal cells from stress and damage linked to vision loss. While the work is

still in its early stages, scientists believe the technology could one day change the way AMD is treated.

For Wonthaggi's Sharon Oates and her sisters, this type of breakthrough is more than a scientific milestone. It represents hope.

"Dad is legally blind, so he can't see anything, and Mum has to have an injection in her eye every eight weeks, so we see the effects every day," Sharon said.

When asked about her own biggest concern, Sharon's answer was blunt. "Going blind."

That is why the idea of a simple eyedrop feels so significant.

"It would be very significant for anyone that has to get an injection in their eye for any particular reason. It would be a total game changer," she said.

Sharon is familiar with the

team at the Centre for Eye Research, where Professor Rick Liu is leading work into gene technology for new treatments. She has even offered to take part in clinical trials.

Sharon, along with sisters Kerry Fitzgerald and Leesa Willmott, have spent the past three years raising money and awareness through the Lions Ride for Sight. Known as Team Sisters, the trio have turned their efforts into an impressive fundraising achievement.

"In three years, we've raised over \$110,000, and this year's ride raised \$50,800," Sharon said.

The event is no small task. Riders cover hundreds of kilometres across Gippsland's steep hills, often in tough conditions.

"The word that comes to mind is challenging. Certainly, physically, but raising the money is

a challenge in its own right as well," she said.

Despite the hardship, Sharon says the motivation has always been clear.

"The more money that we can raise and community awareness that we can raise with regard to AMD and eye health in general, the better. It's something that is overlooked by the general population. Until it affects you, you don't really think about it."

Hearing about research breakthroughs reassures her that the long rides are worth it, and for Sharon, the importance of new therapies cannot be overstated.

"If there's a significant breakthrough in drugs that can be created to slow the progression down or even stop it, that's a great thing. I'd rather give my left arm and my hearing than go blind."

## Korumburra Round Table continues to advocate for town

THIS month, two new members joined the Korumburra Round Table (KRT): Jan Hutton, representing Korumburra Lions Club and Phil Fowler, representing Friends of Coal Creek.

Collectively, KRT's 14 members are involved in 18 different community organisations.

John Davies is the new chairperson, taking over from Terry Waycott, who has stepped away from KRT along with other long-serving members in Roger Powell and John Payne, the trio thanked for their valuable contributions.

Through its advocacy, KRT continues to strive for the best outcomes for Korumburra, in-

tent on serving as a vital link between the community and South Gippsland Shire Council.

KRT also worked in partnership with Korumburra Secondary College to campaign for a reduced speed limit past the College and on the South Gippsland Highway at the western edge of town, taking in the Industrial Estate entry point.

It is expected that VicRoads will deliver those safety measures in the foreseeable future.

KRT member Noelene Cosson outlined recent progress in the town and further developments that are expected soon.

"The Commercial Street upgrade is nearing completion

with the installation of railings on the top corner, the new walkway through to Little Commercial Street on the old newsagent site, and new gardens," she said, adding there'll soon be another beautiful mural on the wall of the walkway.

Commercial Street will be reduced to 40 km/h once new signage is installed by Vic Roads.

"The additional parking and road access in the railway precinct, and the reopening of the underpass tunnel after the recent ceiling collapse, is achieving a terrific new look for our town," Noelene said, noting the skatepark in the railway precinct will be underway shortly.

"With these projects coming to completion, our focus turns to identifying and working towards the next priorities for our town," Noelene said.

The Draft Community Plan/Direction Statement will guide those at KRT in determining what to advocate for next and the timeline for doing so.

That plan draws on information gathered at community events run by the Korumburra Staying Strong group over a four-year period, plus online information gathered by Korumburra Lions Club.

If you want to get in touch with KRT, please email korumburroundtable@gmail.com.



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# Bass Coast Cr Mat Morgan leads the Greens again in Eastern Victoria

SIXTH-generation Gippslander and Bass Coast councillor Mat Morgan will once again head up the Greens ticket for Eastern Victoria at next year's state election.

"I've spent my life fighting to protect our forests, ocean and farmland," said Mr Morgan.

"I'm determined to deliver a just transition that creates secure jobs while ensuring our communities can adapt and flourish."

Mr Morgan said Labor had given up on a safe climate future and the Coalition was not even pretending to care anymore.

"It's time for real action, for people and planet," said the Bass Coast councillor.

The election campaign would be about more than climate, according to Mr Morgan.

"Our schools and hospitals are underfunded, infrastructure is inadequate, and too many families are struggling to make ends meet."

"I want to see real investment in education, health and regional infrastructure, alongside policies that reduce housing insecurity and strengthen local services."

"From our schools and hospitals to our roads and emergency services, our communities need real investment."

Last week Mr Morgan confirmed to the Sentinel-Times that he can continue to perform his duties as a Bass Coast Councillor through until the writs are issued in the state election. Once the writs are issued, ahead of the state election in November 2026, he would then have to stand aside.

Furthermore, Mr Morgan confirmed he is allowed to conduct his electioneering without restriction until that time and still receive his councillor allowance.

Previously standing for The Greens in 2022, Mr Morgan attracted 7.61 per cent of the vote for Eastern Victoria but failed to gain a seat in the Upper House after the distribution of preferences.

# Services gather on a blue day for police

IT WASN'T just about the 13 Victoria Police Officers, protective services officers, custody officers, police public service employees and chaplains who have died on duty in the past 12 months.

The names of four police officers from other jurisdictions, including Tasmania, PNG and New Zealand were also read out at a regional National Police Remembrance Day service at St Paul's Anglican Church in Korumburra on Monday this week.

Front of mind, of course, were the deaths of Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson (26182) and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart-Hottart (44954), both shot and killed while executing a search warrant at Porepunkah in the state's north-east on Tuesday, August 26.

They were the last of 17 names read out by Acting Inspector Jason Hullick of the Bass Coast Police Service Area.

He recalled the day and the news that no one wants to hear.

"I was in the office with Superintendent Cooper that day, when the incident was unfolding and I will always remember a comment in one of the first reports we received, 'member deceased', said Act. Insp. Hullick.

But the service and sacrifice of all of the 175 Victorian police officers who have died in the line of duty since 1837, even before the establishment of Victoria Police in 1853, were also remembered.

Police officers like Constable Michael Scanlan (2118), 34, shot by the Kelly Gang at



**Representatives of other emergency service organisations including the SES and CFA supported the National Police Remembrance Day service at Korumburra on Monday this week, while the local shires illuminated their offices in Leongatha and the Berninnet Cultural Centre in Cowes with blue light as a mark of respect. Among those who attended the event were Val Bremner and Neil Warren Leongatha SES, Baw Baw PSA Acting Inspector Paula Linford, George Withrow Koonwarra CFA, Superintendent Stephen Cooper, Ian Barlow and Gary Hammett Inverloch SES and Chris Gregory SES Training Officer Eastern Region.**

Stringybark Creek on October 26, 1878, along with his workmates Constable Thomas Lonigan (2423), 36, and Sergeant Michael Kennedy (2009), 36, are early entries on a harrowing honour roll which not only records the names of the fallen but also the circumstances of their deaths.

But as Superintendent Stephen Cooper from Eastern Regional Command reminded

us, the day was also an opportunity to remember others who have been seriously harmed, or worse, by their work as police officers.

"Policing exposes us as police officers to things that other people should not be exposed to, that they should be protected from. But these experiences can have a lasting impact," he said at the service at Korumburra this week, while making special

mention of the families, chaplains and others who look after the welfare of police.

A former President of Victoria Police Legacy, a charitable organisation dedicated to supporting the families of police officers who have lost their lives, Mr Cooper said we also need to remember those who have been harmed by their service.

The event included a warm welcome by Reverend Fran Grimes, including a welcome to country, the parading of the National Flag and the singing of the National Anthem, the presentation of police colours, the lighting of a candle "in remembrance of those police officers whose memory we honour today" and finally a minutes' silence.

As well as members of police command, including Acting Inspector of the Baw Baw PSA Paula Linford, there were also a number of local police officers who took part in the memorial event, supported by members of other local emergency services including SES and CFA, and members of the general community.

There wasn't a big turnout of serving local police officers, clearly getting on with the job, even on National Police Remembrance Day and Blue Ribbon Day.

Both the Bass Coast and South Gippsland shire councils illuminated public buildings on National Police Remembrance Day, Monday, September 29. Berninnet, Cowes, was bathed in blue light as was South Gippsland's main office in Leongatha.

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**South Gippsland**  
Shire Council

## South Gippsland Shire Council News

### Eat Drink Play Gippsland

Inspired by the Eat Drink Gippsland Guide, this festival unites the best of our region's food and drink producers during the day before a night of live music. Split into two sessions, the festival caters to those who are keen on a sip, sample and sit in the sun between 11.00am and 5.00pm, and those who want to dance the night away from 6.00pm to 10.00pm, or both!

Located at the newly redeveloped Leongatha Railway Precinct, it's a chance to wander around and sample Gippsland's finest food and drink in a lovely outdoor setting while local musicians provide a backing track. There is plenty of entertainment for kids, including face painting, a playground and mini-golf.

Much-loved local restaurants and cafes will be serving up tasty treats. Plus, cheese, ice cream and other delectable

dairy delights from the region's best producers will be on offer. Raise a glass filled with one of Gippsland's finest beers, wines or spirits crafted with love amongst our rolling hills.

The night will be a lively celebration of music from Steph Stings, Emma Donovan and the Melbourne Ska Orchestra.

#### CATCH THE BUS

Departing at 9.45am and returning at 4.40pm and 10.00pm, there is a bus service that will ferry guests to and from four central towns across Gippsland:

- Yarram
- San Remo
- Warragul
- Traralgon

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:

[www.visitgippsland.com.au/eatdrinkplay](http://www.visitgippsland.com.au/eatdrinkplay)

### South Gippsland Family Fun Day



This is a wonderful opportunity for our local farming families and community to kick back, relax, and to have informal chats to help break down stigma around mental health.

The day features local musicians, a kids activity zone, a community BBQ, AFL guest appearance and wellbeing showbags.

**When:** Sunday 5 October, 11.00am to 2.00pm.

**Where:** Meeniyan Recreation Reserve.

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 October at 2.00pm.

Details will be available on Council's website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings)

To watch the meeting live or when it suits you, visit:

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

#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Check out our current vacant positions here:

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

#### COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

**Date:** Thursday 9 October

**Where:** Leongatha Early Learning Centre, 13 Symmons Street

**When:** 2.00pm to 4.30pm

To find a session in October that suits you and to book, please visit:

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

#### SUBSCRIBE TO IN THE KNOW

Sign up to Council's fortnightly newsletter to stay up to date with the latest news, events, community consultations and grants. To subscribe, visit:

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

#### REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

**RFT/451 – Bridge Repair Works at Markley's Road, Mirboo North**

Proposals close 2.00pm AEST on Tuesday 7 October 2025.

Documentation is available from Council's e-Tendering Portal.

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

#### CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha  
03 5662 9200

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

# Transport operator backs call for genuine road improvements

STUART Storr, managing director of Storr Transport in Toora, backed the view of Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien that the State Government continues to make the same promises year after year about road improvements but fails to deliver.

Mr Storr was scathing about the condition of South Gippsland Highway, saying it continues to cause expensive damage to the company's trucks and costly downtime for repairs.

"It's a joke," he said of years of State Government claims of funded road improvements, adding, "If they had the money they would have fixed it, wouldn't they?"

Mr Storr labelled the South Gippsland Highway as "slippery", noting the road's condition exacerbated by a recent fuel spill.

"Because there's no metal on the road, it's like a skating rink," he said.

Truck repairs necessitated by potholes are "causing a lot of heartache".

"I've never seen repairs so big; it's horrible," Mr Storr stressed.

That follows a press release on Tuesday, September 23, from the State Government headed 'Better roads blitz rolls out across Victoria'.

"The Allan Labor Government is rolling out a major road blitz to rebuild, repair and resurface roads right across Victoria, backed by the largest single-year investment in road maintenance in the State's history," the release declared.

It highlighted the launch of the government's \$976 million road maintenance blitz by Minister for Roads and Road



**Stuart Storr wants the State Government to deliver on its road promises, lashing the condition of the South Gippsland Highway. A13\_2924**

Safety Melissa Horne during an appearance in Kyneton.

"We're investing nearly a billion dollars to rebuild and repair the roads that Victorians depend on every single day, from the highways connecting our major centres to the local roads that keep our communities moving," Ms Horne said.

Victorian leader of The Nationals, Mr O'Brien, said he has looked back at announcements from previous years in relation to the State Government's road maintenance program.

He pointed out that in 2024 the government said, 'Road maintenance blitz revs up across regional Victoria', having stated the previous year, 'Road maintenance blitz kicks off across regional Victoria'.

The message in 2022 was, 'Road maintenance blitz rolls out across regional Victoria', the previous year the announcement was 'Road maintenance season goes above and beyond'.

Following a couple more examples, Mr O'Brien said, "So, for all these years we've been having road maintenance blitzes," asking people whether they reckon the government has actually done anything to fix the roads.

"I don't think we can believe this year's, let alone the past 10 years," he added.

Mr Storr summed up what he perceives as the State Government's view of those beyond the big smoke.

"They don't care about the country," he concluded.

## Piece of history lost to Mirboo North after relocation efforts fail

THE OLD police lock-up building that arrived in Mirboo North in the 1880s and kept some of the town's ancestors behind bars over the decades, and later saw the town's children play in the building, has been sold to the Heyfield & District Historical Society.

After two years of trying to find a suitable home for the building and being knocked back by Council several times, the Mirboo North and District Historical Society (MNDHS), who own the building, feared for its disrepair.

The historical structure has been behind the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation since being moved from the vacant lot next to Lamezleighs Café, due to a number of reasons, two years ago.

MNDHS made the decision to reach out to other historical societies recently, as they wanted to ensure the building would be restored and maintained as a relic that could be enjoyed by the public.

"We could not find anywhere to put it, so we asked historical societies in the area if they would be interested. Heyfield came back and said they would love it up there for their museum,



**The old police lock-up from Mirboo North will be rehomed in Heyfield. Photo: Jeffrey Turnbull.**

because they had one there once that was taken away. And we thought that was a good idea. It wasn't the money side of it. It was the fact that we could not find anywhere for it to go," said a spokesperson from MNDHS.

"It wasn't our decision to let it go light heartedly. I can tell you that. When you come up against a brick wall,

everywhere you go... What do you do in the end? If it sits there any longer, it's not going to be worth having. It'll have to just go to the tip."

The decision sparked many comments from locals on Facebook, most of whom were hoping the building would stay within Mirboo North.

Until now, however, the MNDHS said that no one had asked where the building had gone.

"Not one person, when it was shifted, came to us and said, Where has it gone? Not one. It was okay when it was sitting there, and it was okay when it was moved and sitting in the backyard, and no one's noticed," remarked the spokesperson.

"Everybody had a good idea in all those comments, but we've tried everything."

The MNDHS commented that they had exhausted all possibilities of housing it on a suitable public spot in Mirboo North.

"We tried everything. This was our last resort. It's been sitting on a block because we had nowhere to put it for almost two years.

"So, we had come to the end of our tether."

## Nyora gets a new flag hand delivered by local Federal MP

THE community of Nyora recently had their old faded Australian Flag personally replaced and hand-delivered by Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP.

The town was in desperate need of a new one as its existing one was around five years old and, being well used, had seen its best days.

"We don't take it down. What we do is, when someone local dies we put it down to half-mast. Wait a few days and then put it back up," said Nyora-born and bred resident, Don Garnham.

"It flies here in our Main Street where the RSL flag pole is."

Ms Aldred paid a visit to the community and met with locals over afternoon tea to deliver the new, bright and intact Australian flag.

"It's actually one of the great parts of my job, being able to present community organisations, schools and RSLs with a new Australian flag that they can fly proudly," said Ms Aldred.



**The Nyora community receive a new Australian Flag to fly in town. ob01\_3925**

"So many people in our community are proud to display a national flag and it's a wonderful thing to be able to engage local community groups and talk about the history of the flag and what it

means to our country."

The Nyora Op Shop also proudly donated funds for the food for the community event, which was celebrated with a good turnout of locals.

## Mayor's Message



South Gippsland Shire Council

Cr John Schelling



OCTOBER is shaping up to be busy month across South Gippsland, with plenty happening in our community.

### Seniors Festival 2025

We're kicking off with Seniors Festival, a month-long celebration of our older residents. There are over 60 free and low-cost events happening across the South Gippsland – from sport and music to social gatherings, there is an activity suited to every senior in South Gippsland. [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival)

### South Gippsland Family Fun Day

This Sunday 5 October, we invite you to the South Gippsland Family Fun Day at the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve from 11.00am to 2.00pm. It's a free, inclusive event supporting mental health and wellbeing in our farming community. Bring the family along and enjoy live music, kids' activities, a community BBQ, AFL guest appearances, wellbeing showbags, and a chance to connect and recharge.

### Eat Drink Play Gippsland

The following weekend (Saturday 18 October), Eat Drink Play Gippsland Festival arrives at the Leongatha Railway Precinct. This celebration of local food, drink, and music is a first for our region – let's get behind it! Tickets are available at: [eatdrinkplaygippsland.com.au](http://eatdrinkplaygippsland.com.au)

### Children's Week 2025

We also celebrate Children's Week from 18 to 26 October. Join us for a magical morning of storytelling with The Flying Bookworm at Meeniyan Town Hall on Wednesday 22 October. There are two sessions available to choose from – starting from 10.00am or 12.15pm. Book your free spot at [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/childrens-week](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/childrens-week).

### Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is becoming Pre-Prep: We want to hear from you!

This month, we're also seeking community feedback to help shape the rollout of Pre-Prep in South Gippsland. From 2027, families will be able to access up to 20 hours of Pre-Prep (formerly known as Four-Year-Old Kindergarten) each week, increasing to 30 hours over the next decade. We want to hear from parents, caregivers and people planning for a family, to help us understand what families need from Pre-Prep and support our local service providers. [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

### South Gippsland Australia Day Awards

Time is running out to nominate someone for the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards! If you know a local hero making a difference, now's the time to celebrate them. There are three award categories to choose from – Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Event of the Year. [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday)

### Parkinson Support Group

Last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Parkinson's Support Group, where I shared some personal reflections with Sheeran Considine and the group. It was a meaningful conversation and a reminder of the strength found in community.

### Meeting with Member of Parliament

I also met with Dr Renee Heath MP, Member for Eastern Victoria, alongside Allison Jones – Chief Executive Officer – and Christian Stefani – Director Strategy and Partnerships – to discuss the future of offshore wind energy in our region. It's an exciting opportunity for South Gippsland to play a role in Victoria's renewable energy future, and we'll continue advocating for responsible development that benefits our community.

Take care.



**A juvenile whale washed up on Sandy Point Beach last Thursday with the beach remaining closed to the public.**

## Sandy Point Beach set to reopen

SANDY Point Beach remained closed to the public over the weekend after an eight-metre juvenile humpback whale washed up on the beach. The deceased whale, which was first reported on Thursday morning, was located a few hundred metres from the surf lifesaving club. A VicEmergency alert was immediately advised and remains in place. The advice urged people to avoid the area, stay informed and do not enter the water as the beach was closed.

"The whale was partially eaten by sharks before washing up on the beach, so there's a high likelihood of sharks remaining in the vicinity," Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Incident Controller Brett Mitchell said last week.

"We don't want people in the water over the next few days or anyone going near the whale."

A 25-tonne excavator was contracted to relocate the whale carcass on Monday, which DECCA Gippsland stated was towed towards Shallow Inlet and buried in 2.5 metres of sand.

By Monday afternoon Sandy Point beach was reopened to the public after a successful relocation and burial of a stranded juvenile humpback whale. A shark warning remains in place for a kilometre either side of the burial site.

"Even though the whale has been buried, sharks are likely to remain just off the beach, so please check the Vic Emergency app or website to stay up-to-date with the latest shark warnings.

"We'd like to thank everybody for their patience over the long weekend as we worked to deal with the whale stranding."

## Plaque located and ready to be restored

BASS Coast Shire Council located a plaque honouring volunteer ambulance drivers last week that went missing during the construction of Berninnet after a question was posed during September's council meeting by Sue Chadwick. "For many years, a plaque honouring the service of volunteer ambulance drivers existed on a Memorial Garden outside the old 'Civic Centre' in Cowes. Councillors, will you find this plaque and restore it outside Berninnet? As unpaid volunteers will always be the nucleus of any community and rarely acknowledged."

At the time, the Council were unsure of its location, stating "Council recognises and values the substantial contribution made by volunteers to our community. This plaque was installed on a fountain at the front of the former Cowes Civic Centre and removed some time before the building was demolished. The present location of this plaque is unknown."

However, in a matter of days, it appears the plaque has been located with Bass Coast Shire Council releasing the following statement last week.

"At the September 17 Council Meeting, a community member asked Council about the location of a Shire of Phillip Island plaque honouring the service of the voluntary drivers of the South Gippsland District Ambulance Service. The plaque was located outside the former Cowes Cultural Centre and removed prior to the construction of Berninnet. At the time of the Council Meeting, the plaque's location was unknown.

The plaque has now been located in a paddock on Phillip Island. Council will restore the plaque to display at Berninnet as soon as is practicable. Council sincerely thanks the community for their input to locating the missing plaque."

# Senator Ciccone hears of funding need for replacement Woorayl Lodge

SENATOR Raff Ciccone recently visited the ageing Woorayl Lodge in Leongatha, hearing about the planned 80-bed facility at Boags Road intended to replace the existing McCartin Street site, and the urgent need for more aged care availability locally.

Woorayl Lodge co-CEO Jaimee Brydon, Board Chair Linda Fiddelaers and treasurer Peter McAlpine greeted Senator Ciccone, who listened with interest and asked questions, then took a tour of the existing McCartin Street facility.

A waiting list that constantly sits between 20 and 30 people illustrates the urgency of a larger Lodge.

Senator Ciccone was told about worker accommodation that will be built alongside the existing Lodge, helping overcome one of the barriers to filling aged care employment vacancies, that being a shortage of places to live close to work.

Woorayl Lodge co-CEO Andrew Ross told the Sentinel-Times the Senator helped secure the State Government funding for the worker accommodation project by providing a letter of support.

"It was a pleasure to meet with the team at Woorayl Lodge and to visit the site of the proposed workers' accommodation development – a project I was pleased to support through a funding application," Federal Labor Senator for Victoria, Raff Ciccone said.

"The proposed townhouses and apartments at 75-77 McCartin Street will play an important role in attracting and retaining healthcare, aged care and other essential workers in the region, helping to address the shortage of rental and short-term accommodation."

The need for Federal Government funding for the Boags Road project continues to prove a stumbling block, with efforts to secure a grant not yet successful, those in charge at the Lodge recently receiving confirmation their latest application was unsuccessful.

That application was for \$27.5 million through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACCAP) towards the estimated project cost of \$40 million.

Had the application succeeded, the



**Woorayl Lodge Board treasurer Peter McAlpine, Senator Raff Ciccone, Woorayl Lodge co-CEO Jaimee Brydon and Board Chair Linda Fiddelaers stand near a model of the planned Boags Road development. A01\_3925**

Lodge was looking to contribute \$10 million and do some additional fundraising.

"We understand we were pretty close, just unfortunately we didn't make the cut this time," Mr Ross said, this being the second time funding for the Boags Road development has been applied for through ACCAP, with a separate application through the Federal Government's Growing Regions Program also unsuccessful.

In the latest ACCAP funding round, Victoria received just 10.6 per cent of the awarded total, while NSW scooped 26.1 per cent, residential care home Southern Cross Care in Broken Hill getting \$50,663,108.

As well as the demand for more aged care places, the state-of-the-art design for Boags Road will allow greater flexibility in terms of required care levels, including for those with higher needs.

That is important given the increasing number of aged care residents in that category, Ms Brydon explaining that while it is great people are remaining at home

for longer, when they move into aged care their needs are more substantial.

Unfortunately, the longer it takes to secure the required funding the more building costs escalate.

Mr Ross ran through an advocacy presentation for Woorayl Lodge last year with Senator Ciccone, prompting his ongoing interest in plans for its future and desire to visit.

The current Lodge may ultimately be replaced with independent living units when the Boags Road development is built.

"While the Boags Road project was not successful on this occasion in securing funding through the most recent ACCAP round, I commend Woorayl Lodge for its continued commitment to improving care and services for older Australians," Senator Ciccone continued.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Woorayl Lodge to explore future opportunities that support its vital role in the local community."

## Wonthaggi icon celebrates 115 years of style and service

THE whistles blew; the trains steamed into town and life revolved around tent city. Wonthaggi was finding its feet and was the new kid in Victoria.

Passed down through four generations, Melbourne Furnishing Company in Wonthaggi opened that same year, in 1910, and last week (September 25), celebrated 115 years all in the hands of the Abraham family.

The unique Graham Street store has been owned by Talia Abraham since 2004, and continues to bring Wonthaggi's homes to life over 115 years later, though the fashion styles have certainly changed.

"Some of my earliest memories are of running up and down the ramp that goes through the store," Talia said.

In 1910, her great-grandfather, Samuel Abraham, moved to Wonthaggi with his wife and two children in tow and established the business.

The reason why the business is named Melbourne Furnishing Co. is subject to some speculation.

"One theory is that the association with Melbourne through the name might have simply made the store sound that little bit fancier," Talia said.

The other theory is that Samuel's wealthy sisters helped fund the store.

"The sisters may have invested some money to help establish the business, which came with some influence over the name," she said.

Sam operated the store for approximately the next 30 years. He and his wife Grace had three children, one of whom, Alan, took over the store from his father around 1940.

"I didn't know my grandfather Alan, who unfortunately died before I was



**David Oliver, Corey Bennett and Daniel Chetland helped celebrate Melbourne Furnishing's 115th birthday last week. B17\_3925**

born," Talia said.

"Alan and my grandmother Matilda had five children, including my father Alwyn, who was born in 1947.

"Twenty years later, when my dad was in his first year of studying at a pharmacy college in Melbourne, my grandfather fell sick, which caused dad to abandon his plans and come back to Wonthaggi to run the family business," she said.

Alwyn Abraham remained at the helm of Melbourne Furnishing Co. from 1967 until 2004.

And although the pieces they stock have certainly changed over the century, their ethos has remained the same: 'to furnish homes with genuine quality, craftsmanship and service'.

"It's not just what's on the store floor, we can get all styles," Talia said.

From Hampton, Scandinavian, Country

cottage, Bohemian, traditional, retro or industrial, Melbourne Furnishing Co. has a wide range and sources Australian-made where possible.

"We encourage choice, the right chair, the right style," she said.

"I have the contacts who can make the piece the shape you feel most comfortable on and in the materials that suit your home," Talia said.

With generations of contacts and experience, it is no surprise that Talia can assist in completing your ideal piece, and encourages custom designing.

Talia assures that Melbourne Furnishing Co. will continue to provide the traditional personal service that has been their trademark, well into the future. Having stood the test of time, that appears to be a given.

Discover your new favourite piece with Talia and the team today.

# Gardivalia 'Festival of Gardens' is back

GREAT news! Gardivalia will open on Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26.

Wander through 16 beautiful gardens across Baw Baw Shire. Visit 'Tall Timbers' in Piedmont (only open Sunday), walk through an expansive garden of many acres in a natural bush setting with additional plantings of many exotic trees and shrubs around water features. Last chance to see this garden.

Up at Icy Creek, you will find 'Meander', a seven-and-a-half-acre garden showcasing rare trees and shrubs against a backdrop of large eucalypts and mountains. Meander through the kitchen garden, mixed borders and woodland paths.

Explore two gardens in Willow Grove, 'Lakeview' and 'Dot's Garden'. View the beautiful views of Blue Rock Lake from 'Lakeview', old machinery displayed, roses on trellises, watering pond, camellias, an enclosed small orchard and over 70 deciduous trees.

'Dot's Garden' started as a farm and now has 58 small garden beds and many wonderful, varied and amazing sculptures to see. Willow trees, crepe myrtles, roses, ornamental cherries, flowering gums, elms, magnolias and more. Views look east to the mountains.

Visit the 'Old Neerim Schoolhouse' in Neerim, established in 1902 and rich in local history with expansive



**Checking in at only four years old, 'My Ross' was once a bare paddock and now features a beautiful garden that overlooks the Baw Baws.**

gardens, abundant produce and stunning views.

'Laurie Collins Sculpture Garden' at Jindivick has over 60 metal sculptures predominantly made from recycled material in an acre among garden beds and trees, as well as 'Red Tree Gallery'.

In Drouin, visit 'Lois' Garden'. For those who want to know more about succulents, this is for you. Full of succulents and cacti, mosaics, sculptured decorations and creatures, low maintenance.

Visit 'My Ross' at Brandy Creek. A newer garden created from a bare paddock since 2021 with pathways, rock walls, roses, border plantings and a small lake,

which form the structure. Stunning north views to the Baw Baws.

In Warragul, you will find 'Wrens Wood', 'Rustic Charm', 'Fiona's Garden' and 'Warragul Community Centre'.

Walk around 'Wrens Wood', a four-and-a-half-acre garden with something of interest for every season. Oaks, gums, maples, conifers, roses, buddlejas, rhododendrons, camellias, fruit and nut trees, a vegetable and berry garden, ferns, a forest of vines and ferns and hundreds of orchids.

'Rustic Charm' has many rustic, eclectic mixture of plants, crafts, arts and mosaics on display. Especially for those wondering what to

do with a small space.

'Fiona's Garden' has compost-making demonstrations at 11am. Many garden rooms on one acre with a show garden at the front and permaculture, vegetable and orchard in the back. Bee hives and berries.

The 'Warragul Community Garden' (only open Sunday), where people share gardening experiences, grows produce, flowers, fruit and herbs with beehives and a cubby house.

On Bloomfield Road, eight kilometres north of Warragul, visit 'Carlisle' and 'Darley Grange'. 'Carlisle' is a colourful country garden with a number of unusual and cleverly made water features, vibrant roses, seasonal perennials and stunning views.

'Darley Grange' specialises in 80 different stunning bearded irises and orchids, and a large Irish Strawberry tree.

In Darnum you will find 'Gumview', an informal garden with many beautiful magnolias, camellias, maples, peonies, a clivia collection and many bulbs.

In Trafalgar, a delightful two-acre garden. 'Bellissimi Alberi' (only open Sunday) will bring all your senses alive with forest pansies, birches, magnolias, azaleas, roses, pathways leading to lush flower beds and more.

Programs will be available throughout the Baw Baw Shire.

For more information, visit [gardivalia.com.au](http://gardivalia.com.au).

## Progress on the Blue Mackerel wind turbine project gathering speed

By Bruce Wardley

PROGRESS on the small but mighty Blue Mackerel wind turbine offshore wind project in Bass Strait is gathering speed as investigations continue.

The first of a series of geotechnical studies is now complete and long-term environmental studies are now underway to monitor whales and seabirds.

The proposed Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind Project is located approximately 10 kilometres offshore with vessels deploying equipment for the feasibility studies serviced from a number of ports in South Gippsland.

A series of Gippsland Offshore Wind Days were conducted at several locations across South Gippsland, including Toora to provide information on the different environmental protection measures that will be used during construction, visibility of wind projects from the beach, new jobs and supplier opportunities, and the benefits for local communities.

Eighty per cent of the operations and maintenance workforce are expected to be sourced locally and ten per cent of total work hours during construction and operations will be delivered by local apprentices, trainees and cadets.

Job opportunities have already been identified in civil and mechanical works, cable installation, substation construction and electrical systems.

Construction activities will include manufacturing and installing wind turbines, substations, and offshore and onshore cables, as well as building the grid connection.

A two-year environmental monitoring program launched in July utilises a variety of methods to gather detailed information on how whales, dolphin and seabirds use the licence area. Aerial surveys will be conducted twice a month for the next two years up to 50 kilometres out to sea.

Underwater microphones known as Passive Acoustic Monitoring systems (PAMs) are listening beneath the waves to record whale and dolphin calls as well as background noise levels in the project area.

A daylight FLiDAR video camera is being trialled on a floating LiDAR buoy providing a continuous insight into bird species presence, behaviour and flight heights in all weather and will remain in place for the next two years.

Core samples from the first geotechnical surveys have been sent to the University of Melbourne for Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating. This technique helps scientists understand how long sediments have been buried, reaching much further back in time than the 50,000 year limit of radio-carbon dating.

## Nyora Men's Shed has a new metalwork area

FOLLOWING a donation from the Nyora Op Shop, the Nyora Men's Shed will be able to offer metalwork in addition to their woodwork.

"The Men's Shed approached me for a donation. They were getting new welding equipment and a lot of our customers are from the Men's Shed, so we donated \$300 to their new equipment and were more than happy to do so," said Susan Hawker from the Nyora Op Shop.

"We used to donate all our money to the Nyora Hall. Now we've worked out that we can donate a certain percentage to the community."

The donation was put towards a new welder, which will



**Susan Hawker from Nyora Op Shop with Ray Cook and Greg Hodge from Nyora Mens Shed, who received a donation from the op shop for a welder. ob03\_3925**

go in a dedicated metal work space, separate from the wood working area.

The men have cleared a space for the metal work area in what was originally the old

netball rooms and said they were grateful to the op shop for the donation.

"We're trying to start a metalwork area at the Men's Shed, because literally we only do

woodwork at the moment, so we thought we'd be able to take more people if we start the metalwork area," said Greg Hodge from the Men's Shed.

"We want to try and serve the whole community and get everybody involved."

In addition, and fortuitously, Susan's husband is a fitter and turner and has volunteered to go along and show the men how to operate the welder and do some training for those interested.

"We've got all the metal lathes and the TIG welder, and another welder, so everything's there ready to go," said Greg, who added that new members are always welcome.

GARDIVALIA  
Festival  
OF  
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**Great News!**  
Gardivalia  
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For more information visit [www.gardivalia.com.au](http://www.gardivalia.com.au)

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Dust, pollen and salt

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Spiffy Spouts delivers a thorough, efficient job every time.

"We work across residential properties and commercial businesses. We pride ourselves on responsive communication and provide before-and-after photos with every job so you can have complete peace of mind. We respond promptly and schedule visits to suit your needs, keeping the process simple and stress-free," Spiffy Spouts said.

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Call them today on 0455 488 595 if you are in South Gippsland or Bass Coast and want the 'Spiffy in a Jiffy' service. They offer competitive pricing, reliable service, and their Google reviews speak for themselves.

For details, visit [spiffyspouts.com.au](http://spiffyspouts.com.au) or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

# Homegrown strength as Mak Muscle opens its doors

WHEN Wonthaggi local Michael Kelly opened the doors to his new gym, Mak Muscle, on Saturday, August 23, it felt less like a business launch and more like a new chapter in his lifelong love of fitness.

Michael has lived in Wonthaggi his whole life and grew up as what he himself calls a "footy head." That path was cut short after a knee injury, but what could have been the end of his sporting journey quickly turned into the beginning of something else.

"I always enjoyed the gym in the off-season and pre-season for footy," Michael said.

"Once footy was over, I lived in there. It became an outlet for me and the whole process helped me a lot."

Through his work, Michael trained at bigger gyms like Derrimut and Muscle City, and he realised there was nothing like them locally. An idea began to form. Why not bring that same vibe to Wonthaggi? Mak Muscle is the result of that idea.

Michael has noticed more people in town taking their health seriously, particularly after the COVID-19 lockdown years.

"Social media has been a massive influence on the



Michael Kelly and Imogen Dizane lead the team at Mak Muscle, bringing good vibes to Wonthaggi fitness.

health and wellbeing of everyone, especially through COVID," he said.

"Once you've had a lot taken away, it really opens your eyes. I think people want to move again."

The gym welcomes everyone, from schoolkids and parents to bodybuilders and older locals looking to keep active.

"It's not a musclehead gym, it's just a gym,"

Michael said.

"Anyone willing to have a go is welcome."

The equipment is brand new, the space is designed to be visually appealing, and there is a strong emphasis on inclusion.

That sense of belonging flows directly from Michael and his team. His personal trainer, Imogen Dizane, shares the same values and works hard to

support members who might feel nervous about starting out.

The gym also challenges some of the myths around fitness. Michael says too many people get caught up in short-term programs.

"You see these eight-week challenges, but I think that can deter people from the gym in the long run. It should be about a lifestyle change. Just get one per cent better every day. If you make it a habit, and you enjoy it, your life will improve drastically. That's what we want to help with."

At the heart of Mak Muscle is a simple philosophy: train hard, stay hard. For Michael, that means building not only physical strength but also mental resilience.

"Life is tough; it throws obstacles at you all the time. The gym helps you be ready for that."

Looking ahead, Michael has big plans. More than just a gym, he wants Mak Muscle to grow into a true wellbeing hub for Wonthaggi.

"This is just the start," he explained.

"We want to be bigger and better, fresh and modern, and ready to help anyone."

You can find more information at [makmuscle.com.au](http://makmuscle.com.au).

## Cleaner, greener future for Wonthaggi's wastewater

SOUTH Gippsland Water is planning a major upgrade to the Wonthaggi Wastewater Treatment Plant and supporting infrastructure to ensure it can meet the needs of our growing community.

The plant, located 2.5 kilometres west of Wonthaggi, currently treats sewage from Wonthaggi, Kilcunda and Dalyston using a lagoon-based system that has been operating for over 50 years. With Wonthaggi's population expected to increase by around a third over the next decade, the existing sewage treatment plant needs an upgrade to

maintain safe and effective services.

The project includes:

- Converting the existing lagoon system into a modern mechanical treatment plant, improving water quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- Upgrading the transfer pipeline that carries treated water from Cape Pater-son, Inverloch and Wonthaggi to Baxter's Beach ocean outfall.

- Actively seeking re-use opportunities across Bass Coast to reduce the amount of water released to the marine environment.

South Gippsland Water

managing director, Rob Murphy, said project planning was progressing well.

"The project team has been busy consulting with the community and progressing specialist studies that will inform our planning and design," he explained.

Some of the studies include:

- Ecological, marine, geotechnical and mining assessments.

- Preliminary cultural heritage work.

- Greenhouse gas studies that show moving to a mechanical plant could cut emissions by around 800 tonnes of CO2 equivalent

each year, taking 180 cars off the road.

- Community and stakeholder engagement.

"This is a large and complex project," Mr Murphy said.

"The planning and approvals stage through 2025 – 2026 is critical to ensuring we investigate all avenues as we move forward, and we welcome ideas and enquiries to help shape the design."

Residents interested in finding out more about the project can email [wosup@rmcg.com.au](mailto:wosup@rmcg.com.au), call 0456 774 170, or visit [sgwater.com.au/news/wosup-wonthaggi](http://sgwater.com.au/news/wosup-wonthaggi).

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HM13014

# Award-winning pastries at Kelly's Bakery, Korumburra

OWNER of Kelly's Bakery, Michelle Beggs, held her first job in a bakery before finding herself owning her own bakery a few short years later. Michelle took ownership of Kelly's Bakery in 2018, taking the reins from the original owners who opened the doors in the early 1990s, and this year, the Bakehouse team were presented with six awards at the Great Aussie Pie Competition – taking away gold for the first time, in two categories.

## Awards:

- Gold: Chilli Cheese Sausage Roll
- Gold: Chicken Vegetable Pie
- Silver: Sausage Roll
- Silver: Ned Kelly Pie
- Silver: Triple Pepper Pie
- Bronze: Plain Meat Pie

"Each product that was sent through to Sydney to be judged is the same as what is available for purchase daily at Kelly's Bakery," said Michelle.

"We aim to provide quality consistently, knowing that every time someone chooses Kelly's, they will be sharing in something we are proud of."

Over the seven years, Michelle said, Kelly's has taken away the silver and bronze awards, "but this will be our first year with not one Gold but two."

The awards reflect the efforts of the bakehouse team,



Owner of Kelly's Bakery, Korumburra, Michelle Beggs, is proud of the young Bakehouse Team in achieving incredible results on a national level, walking away with two gold, three silver and one bronze award at the Great Aussie Pie Competition.

made up of Todd Dorling (head baker), Tom Matthies, Jay Matthies, and Natalie Sinclair.

"We are very proud to witness this young team achieve these incredible results on a national level," Michelle said.

"To have the recognition in such a competitive event

with thousands of hopefuls speaks volumes for the quality of what they produce."

Kelly's Bakery employs 44 locals. That ranges from the juniors who work a few hours a week to those working full-time.

"We are lucky enough to have an incredible team and

quality ingredients," Michelle explained.

"From the bakehouse team that produces amazing food, the front of house team that helps provide a brilliant experience, to the back of house team that keeps it all running as smoothly as it does."

To be in South Gippsland gives Kelly's Bakery access to so many quality local ingredients.

"From our free-range eggs sourced just kilometres away at Kardella South's Paddock Yolks to the local Gippsland butcher, Di Grandi's. We aim to use the best of what's available, which just so happens to be right on our doorstep."

The Great Aussie Pie Competition was held in Sydney, with the pies and sausage rolls couriered overnight for judging. Michelle and the team attended the awards in previous years, when held in Melbourne.

"This time we waited anxiously for the results to be posted online, and we're so proud of the result."

Kelly's Bakery is located at 16-22 Commercial Street, Korumburra, so whether you're a local or passing through South Gippsland, take the time to try the award-winning pastries that pleased the judges nationally.

## Phillip Island Nature Parks is giving back to the community

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks is set to open round two of its Community Giving Program, offering support for local not-for-profit, volunteer, community and school groups across Bass Coast.

Applications for the second round of community giving are open from October 1 until November 30.

Each year, the Nature Parks commits funds and in-kind support as a way of 'giving back' to the Phillip Island (Milawul) community.

Community engagement officer Kimberley Dunstan said the Nature Parks values its connection to the Bass Coast community and is committed to giving back through sponsoring projects and events that align with the organisation's strategic objectives and values.

"The community is a key stakeholder and partner in our conservation achievements, and through this program we aim to support incorporated community groups, management committees, volunteer groups and schools, to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes," Ms Dunstan said.

"We invite applications for sponsorship for events and projects that support the Bass Coast community, educate and raise awareness about nature, conservation and sustainability, and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures."

The Nature Parks have been a long-term supporter of local organisations, charities and events across Bass Coast.

In round one of the program earlier this year, the Nature Parks provided sponsorship and donations across a range of conservation and community initiatives and fundraising events including Arts Society Phillip Island Region Inc, Island Story Gatherers Inc, Phillip Island Landcare, Corinella and District Community Centre, Shades of Pink – Phillip Island Football Netball Club, Wonthaggi Power Football Club, Gippsland Wrens Basketball, Phillip Island Scout Group, and various local schools.

For more information, please email [community@penguins.org.au](mailto:community@penguins.org.au).

AS REAL AS IT GETS

## BRANDT CHRISTMAS RACES



SUNDAY 7 DEC

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## AND THE WINNER IS... KELLY'S BAKERY!



**GOLD - GOURMET SAUSAGE ROLL**  
chilli and cheese



**GOLD - GOURMET PIE (POULTRY)**  
creamy chicken and veg



**SILVER - GOURMET PIE (RED MEAT)**  
Ned Kelly



**SILVER - GOURMET PIE (RED MEAT)**  
chunky triple pepper pie



**SILVER - PLAIN SAUSAGE ROLL**

**BRONZE - PLAIN PIE**



## Great Aussie Pie Competition 2025

Roll on in and taste the award winning pie-fect pastries today.

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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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## Community health roundtables to keep people informed

TWO community health roundtables in Korumburra and Leongatha in October will give local residents the chance to hear what's happening with their local health service.

Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) is hosting the sessions in Korumburra on October 8 and Leongatha on October 9.

CEO Lou Sparkes said they would give local people a way to directly connect with their health service.

"We'll have a general discussion about how the service has been operating over the past year, what's in store for the future, and people will have the opportunity to ask questions," Ms Sparkes said.

The update will include an outline of the impending merger of local health services.

GSHS will be part of the new Bayside Health to be launched in 2026, bringing together Alfred Health, Bass Coast Health, GSHS, Kooweerup Regional Health Service and Peninsula Health.

The existing health services are already collaborating to better connect care, enhance patient experience and identify opportunities to deliver more services closer to home. All staff from each health service will transition to Bayside Health on January 1, 2026.

Ms Sparkes said the hospitals would operate under their former names, Leongatha Memorial Hospital and Korumburra Hospital, with the same staff delivering the same care.

The roundtables are set to run for an hour. The Korumburra session will be at the golf club, starting at 3pm, and the Leongatha session will start at 3pm in the GSHS IPCC centre.

The GSHS community advisory committee and board members will be attending.

People can RSVP to Rebecca Shaw at [Rebecca.Shaw@gshs.com.au](mailto:Rebecca.Shaw@gshs.com.au).

# Jump on your broomstick and start searching from the skies

FIRE up your broom and get ready to explore as The Great Witch Hunt Event is on again right throughout October, as we approach Halloween. Fifty-one witches will be on display at businesses right across the Bass Coast Shire as we encourage you to explore our region to hunt down the witches and locate their unique identification numbers.

Start your spellbinding journey in Grantville, where eight witches await to cast their charms around town. Greet a kangaroo, sprinkle your garden with a splash of enchanted colour, and conjure up strength with a feast of pizza and pasta before whisking down the highway to fetch a little milk for your black cat. Drift to Corinella and Coronet Bay, where the map hides more wicked clues for sharp-eyed sorcerers. Then, with a flap of your cloak, soar across the great blue to Cowes. There, refill your broomstick, set sail on a cruise to spy sea creatures of legend, and gather magical energy along the bustling strip. Test your Quidditch skills in a maze of mystery, then take to the skies once more and glide back to the mainland with a cackle and a grin onto Wonthaggi and beyond.

This community event is hosted by the Grantville Business and Community Association, so simply head to their website ([visitgrantville.com.au](http://visitgrantville.com.au)) to purchase an entry ticket for only \$5 and then download the map and get hunting! There is a range of great prizes on offer

this year, including first prize of a two-day family getaway at Kaloha Holiday Resort in Cowes and three park pass from Phillip Island Nature Parks. The total prize pool is worth over \$2000, with a special prize for every entrant who successfully locates all of the witches! The Association are also grateful to their major sponsors, Panny's Chocolate Factory and the Bass Coast Shire Council.

This volunteer-run community event is a great way to explore Bass Coast businesses and at the same time donate to a not-for-profit event, where any funds that are raised are 100 per cent returned to the community through the running of other local events. Hard copy printed tickets and maps are also available from the Newhaven and Inverloch information centres, ArtSpace and information centre in Wonthaggi and Maru Koala and Animal Park in Grantville.

This year, 40 of the original large life-size witches have been retired and replaced with the smaller size witches. Those large witches are now being offered for sale to anyone who may be interested in them for their own Halloween decorations, head to [trybooking.com/DFRFO](http://trybooking.com/DFRFO). Follow the event facebook page @TheGreatWitchHunt for tips and clues on locating the witches and also this year there will also be three 'virtual' witches only seen on the Facebook page. So start flying around our beautiful Bass Coast now and get hunting!



Can you find all the witches this October?

## GSHS HEALTH ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS

### YOUR INVITED

Korumburra Golf Club  
Wednesday 8th October | 3:00 - 4:00 PM

GSHS Leongatha Campus (IPCC Centre)  
Thursday 9th October | 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Join us for a Health Roundtable Meeting to hear important updates about local health services, ask questions, and share your views.

This is a valuable opportunity to:

- Learn how health care is evolving in our region
- Engage directly with health service representatives
- Voice your thoughts and concerns



**GIPPSLAND SOUTHERN HEALTH SERVICE**

RSVP  
[Rebecca.Shaw@gshs.com.au](mailto:Rebecca.Shaw@gshs.com.au) or please call 03 5467 5304

The decisions we make today will shape the future of healthcare in our community—  
let's build it together.

# THE GREAT WITCH HUNT EVENT

IS ON DURING OCTOBER 2025

Over 50 witches will be on display at local Bass Coast businesses

\$5 TICKET TO HUNT

Get your tickets from [visitgrantville.com.au](http://visitgrantville.com.au)

OVER 50 WITCHES TO FIND!

LOCATE AND LIST THE IDENTITY NUMBER of at least 15 witches in at least 3 different towns on your 'TICKET TO HUNT' and return it to GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN THE PRIZES

MAJOR PRIZE



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3 park pass for a family of four

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**3RD:**  
Family Seal Cruise Voucher



**4TH:**  
Bowling, Lazer tag and \$100 arcade voucher



**5TH:**  
A Maze N Day Family Pass Voucher, Puzzle Island, Magic Manor, Giant Maze, Mini-golf

- BONUS PRIZE -

EVERY entrant who finds EVERY witch wins a Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling \$20 arcade game voucher

Brought to you by the GRANTVILLE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. For more information or if you would like to display a witch please email: [TheGreatWitchHuntEvent@gmail.com](mailto:TheGreatWitchHuntEvent@gmail.com) [JOIN US ON FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/TheGreatWitchHuntEvent)

16 | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES



# Wonthaggi Toyota



**SPRING SALE... OVER 75 VEHICLES READY TO GO**



**CAR OF THE WEEK**

**2017 Toyota RAV4 GXL**  
**21,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**Time to play** 159,633kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV SN: W102133



**2021 Mazda CX-30 G20 Astina DM**  
**34,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2024 Hyundai Venue Active**  
**23,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**Joy to drive** 29,234kms, 6 speed auto SUV SN: W102219



**LAST OF THE V8'S**

**2020 Toyota Landcruiser GXL**  
**89,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**Ready for work** 68,594kms, 5 speed sports manual 4x4 cab chassis SN: W102218



**2019 Holden Equinox LTZ EQ**  
**20,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**Family SUV**, 141,213kms, 6 speed auto AWD wagon SN: W102212



**2023 Volkswagen Tiguan 110TSI Life 5N**  
**28,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2022 Kia Cerato S**  
**24,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**Low kms**, 36,129kms, 6 speed sports auto hatch SN: W102202



**2022 Hyundai Kona Active**  
**28,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**Like new**, 1,800kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV SN: W102188

# Leongatha Toyota

**FINANCE AVAILABLE INSTORE. ASK ABOUT AN EXTENDED WARRANTY.**



**4X4 OF THE WEEK**

**2008 Toyota Landcruiser VX**  
**50,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2019 Volkswagen Tiguan 162TSI Highline Allspace SN**  
**27,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**Performance Plus** 114,085kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L101429



**2022 Mitsubishi Triton GLX+ MR**  
**42,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**King Cab**, 71,500kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 ute SN: L101401



**2021 Toyota Fortuner Crusade**  
**53,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2023 Hyundai Staria Load**  
**38,990 DRIVE AWAY**

**Ready to Move**, 36,000kms, 8 speed CVT auto van. SN: L101420



**2023 MG ZST Essence**  
**22,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2018 Toyota C-HR Koba**  
**26,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2023 Toyota Landcruiser Workmate**  
**104,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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

## Wonthaggi Toyota

346 Bass Highway,  
Wonthaggi VIC 3995  
T (03) 5672 1722  
LMCT 8179  
wonthaggitoyota.com.au

## Leongatha Toyota

7-13 Hughes Street,  
Leongatha VIC 3953  
T (03) 5662 2302  
LMCT 8179  
leongathatoyota.com.au



**OH WHAT A FEELING**

\* Disclaimer: If the price does not contain the notation that it is "Driveaway\*", the price may not include additional costs, such as stamp duty and other government charges.

## Sentinel-Times COMMENT

### Calling for a public inquiry into crime rise

YOU don't need a newspaper article to tell you that crime is up right across the state, including locally in South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

And in case you think we're doing alright down here, away from the machete attacks in the Latrobe Valley, the home invasions in Melbourne, the supermarket raids, the illegal tobacco turf wars and the gang violence in the city's west, think again.

While we're not experiencing the same crime rate as Latrobe City, at 17,636 offences per 100,000 population last financial year, at 7854.6 offences per 100,000 in South Gippsland and 8247.9 in Bass Coast, we're not that far behind the state average of 8998.9.

And as an indication that more people in the local area feel unsafe, while recorded criminal incidents went up by 3.5 per cent in South Gippsland last year, and 10 per cent in Bass Coast, the number of "alleged offender incidents", presumably unconfirmed reports of criminal activity, in the two local shires were up by 18.3 per cent and 22.2 per cent respectively.

The headline number for the state was an increase in recorded criminal offences of 15.7 per cent which is a very significant increase in just 12 months.

Of course, the Opposition has used it as an opportunity to bash the government and to come up with a few quick-fix ideas; however, while the incidence of crime is going up at an alarming rate, it's not going to come down quite so quickly, indicating some serious fundamental problems that will take time and money to address.

And bear in mind that the rise in the number of recorded criminal incidents comes against the backdrop of 1100 police vacancies statewide and almost 1000 police on leave and Workcover, who could blame them.

Imagine what the number of recorded criminal incidents might be if the full force of police effort was being brought to bear.

On any given day in the magistrates' court, there are three recurring themes behind many of the criminal incidents that come before the courts: drug use, often involving methamphetamine, mental health issues and financial problems.

This problem runs deeper than insisting on changes to bail assessment and introducing harsher penalties for certain classes of offending.

The lack of access to mental health support, the need for a more comprehensive effort on serious drug use, crime prevention programs for impacted communities and transparency about the effectiveness of government job programs and other social support services would be a start.

But such is the situation with crime in this state at the moment that a major public inquiry is needed and it can't wait until the issue becomes a political football around election time in November next year.

## Vox Pop

"How often do you use public transport and how can it be improved?"



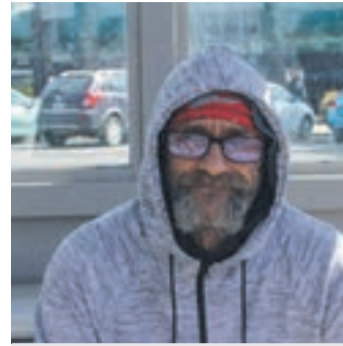
**Melanie Phillips**  
Wonthaggi

"I am usually a driver but since my car was stolen and they tried to torch it while I was in hospital I rely on public transport, better and easier to read timetables and a second bus on local routes would be an improvement."



**Jesse Wright**  
Ventnor

"I use public transport once a week. I only have one bus a day where I live with no bus service between 9am and 3pm so more buses in town would be good."



**Anthony Cleeland**  
Phillip Island

"I use public transport a couple of times a month, better timetables would be an improvement, it's hard to go back and forward for appointments."



**Chris Wilson**  
Phillip Island

"I use the bus every day from Cowes to San Remo and to visit family in Wonthaggi. I know an elderly lady in her 90's who lives in Kilcunda and has to walk an hour to catch the bus, we need a second bus stop in Kilcunda."

### Journalist stood up for the 'voiceless'

AS THE long-standing foil to the "fire-brand" journalist Richard Schmeiszl, I feel qualified to say he would be very pleased with the progress in the Susan Goodwin disappearance matter (Sentinel Times 23/9).

Richard's doggedness didn't endear him to everyone, but he hated injustice and used his considerable journalistic skills to stand up for the voiceless.

The laying of charges in the Goodwin cold case underscores the importance of the local press.

On Richard's behalf, I wish Ms Goodwin's family all the very best.

**Jane Ross, San Remo**

### Thank you for your kindness

I WOULD very much like to thank the community for their care by donating food which helps me so much with your kindness through the CWA and the Uniting Church. Your contribution makes it possible to eat and have that little bit of extra money which helps to pay the bills.

I only have my pension, and I live fortnight to fortnight with rent, bills do not leave much. I praise the volunteers who give their time every week and work hard to provide us with food.

**Angela, Wonthaggi**

### The many faces of leadership

HOW does one define cultural leadership? A coin not only possesses two sides, but also an edge. For many, in that edge lies the answer; also a dichotomy: the clashing of two fundamentally opposing cultures.

How can one be led by cultures in which those differences are ostensibly touted by supposed "leaders" to be for the betterment of all? For many, it is a case of "Heads, I win; Tails you lose" – you're either with us, or against us; nobody able any longer able to distinguish which side of the proverbial coin is which, for both sides claim they are "Heads".

Is the leader one who promotes-and instates just, fair and equitable treatment for all; utilising ancient knowledge borne of wisdom acquired from lands, waters, skies and stars, passed from generation to generation for millennia, or is the leader one who imposes violence, destruction and dispossession upon those who do not desire a culture which values acquisition, punitive measures, constitutional monarchy and lack of societal

fabric? A culture which has no true origin, but is a conglomeration of rites, rituals, and passages; language, cuisine, and attire hijacked from pillaged lands, plundered recklessly and without regard under the guise of "civilisation".

How can such opposing forces create Cultural leaders when there exists only mistrust, fear, and division, not camaraderie, alliance, loyalty, respect and a desire for unity with a common goal?

The possibility lies in acknowledging the past, whilst moving toward a more affiliated approach to the present and future. Is the cultural leader the person standing in the spotlight, highlighting the aspects of culture and their benefits to the world stage, or the person who sits on the ground, demonstrating a craft to a small number of people, or both? Is there a cultural leader within us all, through taking the hand of another and passing on personal knowledge and lived experience? The cultural leader is anyone and everyone, so long as they leave an impact – be that positive or negative, on whoever's truly listening.

**Willia, address provided**

## CONVERSATION with Claire



Disconnect and plug into local talent

**By author Claire Chitty**

THE Bass Coast region is quietly humming with musical talent. From intimate taverns, seaside pubs and community halls, the area offers a rich tapestry of live entertainment that deserves to be celebrated, supported and shared.

Whether you're a seasoned gig-goer or someone who simply loves the warmth of acoustic melodies over a good meal, there's something here for every ear and every heart.

My favourite community vibes are the Woolamai Tavern's 'Open Mike' hosted by Phil Slink, (fourth Sunday 2-5pm) is more than just a performance, it's a celebration of grassroots talent.

The 'Westy' (Westernport Pub), San Remo offers bay views and a reputation for nurturing rising stars. There are free Sunday sessions (5-8pm) and ticketed Saturday gigs where many now-famous artists played here, making it a must-visit for anyone chasing the thrill of discovery.

Both venues cater to both vegetarians and carnivores, making it a perfect spot to indulge in delicious food but early arrival is wise if you want a prime seat.

'Unplugged' at Coronet Bay Community Hall, is always a fun cosy evening curated by sound tech Michael Kelzke. Musicians, dancers and poets interact with the audience whilst sharing their gifts in a welcoming, family-friendly space. Held the first Saturday of each month (7-10pm), entry is just a \$2 donation.

Other hidden venues worth exploring are Riverview Hotel, Tarwin Lower; Ronni's Restaurant, Wonthaggi; Timours Lounge Bar, Cowes; and the Caravan Music Club, Archies Creek. Each offers its own flavour of live entertainment so check their socials or websites for upcoming events.

Live music is more than entertainment, it's community, connection, and culture. These venues are lifelines for local artists, offering platforms to grow, experiment and be seen. By showing up and sharing the experience, we help keep the creative pulse of Bass Coast alive.

So next time you're wondering what to do on a weekend, consider swapping the screen for a stage and let the music move you. I might see you there!

## LIFE Moments



**CHARLIE Andrew Powell was born on September 21 at 8.32pm at Leongatha Hospital. He is a son for Daniel Powell and Gemma Pobjoy of Korumburra, and brother for sister Georgie Powell (2).**

Send your photos to [news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)

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.

# A chemistry that has never gone away

FRENTE are bringing their sound to Berninnet on Friday, October 3, with Angie Hart and Simon Austin performing live with Sophie Koh on their regional tour.

In an interview, Angie shared that she and Sophie have a history together through their choir, Lady Choir, with Sophie even contributing to Angie's upcoming solo album, but for the regional tour, Frente are coming out as a trio.

Angie and Simon have worked together since Angie was 16.

"We were pretty foolhardy when we went into things, and that's what makes great music, when you're young, you don't think twice."

"Bringing Sophie's talent with vocals and keys on the regional tour is exciting; it's always great to work with talented individuals who share your artistic vision."

Angie shared that Frente's touring style has evolved as they explore regional venues and experience intimate performances. Some venues have been around since Simon and Angie first hit the road in the early '90s.

"We've performed in little bars that squish everyone in, but then there are others that bring the community together, and you can still smell the fresh carpet."

"We were talking just the other day about how difficult it is to dance to Frente songs because they change all the time mid-song. So yes, we can really leave people in the lurch," Angie laughed.

"So, there is nothing wrong with a seated venue; it's great to see culture centres come alive and bring people together through live music."

As a band, Frente's sound remains distinctly pop, yet as Angie discussed it's an ongoing evolution of their art.

"We generally can't escape the pop label, but we're also incorporating new elements. Simon's been experimenting with the nylon string and baritone guitars, which gives us an interesting texture."



Frente live at Berninnet on Friday, October 3.

Angie shared her songwriting approach, which involves both lyrical and melodic elements.

"Simon and I often build songs from the ground up, a bit like a jigsaw puzzle. I tend to start with lyrics when writing solo. In contrast, Simon has a more melody-first approach, so we really get a feeling for the emotion of each song – maybe something we've read or something political that we can make personal, but we often write looking outward to help others relate."

"When I'm writing my own music, it's much more about my own personal trials and tribulations, and things that I'm mulling over," said Angie.

As the conversation circled back to the band's extensive career of over 37 years, Angie noted how much has changed, yet how much their passion for music remains.

"We were quite naïve when we began," said Angie.

"Yet that youthful exuberance gave us confidence."

With the passing of time, Angie said that some songs are difficult to play, "but there is a delight in rediscovering our older material, and it's refreshing to challenge and connect with our music."

They certainly have quite a catalogue of music.

"For the regional tour, we've curated our favourite songs from our time of making music, and we are writing at the moment, so at some stage we'll be brave enough to bust out some new songs. It could happen by the time we get to Cowes."

Live at Berninnet, there will be songs that fans remember and maybe some they haven't discovered yet, plus plenty of sing-alongs.

## A night of music, memory and Australian spirit

MUSIC lovers and history buffs alike are set for a heartfelt experience as Fred Smith brings his acclaimed 'Unforgotten' concert to Inverloch RSL on Sunday, October 12 at 2pm. Proudly sponsored by the local branch, this event promises to be a moving tribute to the spirit, sacrifice and stories of Australians in conflict zones through the lens of iconic songwriting and personal experience.

Few Australian artists possess the depth of experience and emotional resonance that Fred Smith brings to the stage. Having served as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) liaison officer in Afghanistan and on Australian missions in post-conflict Bougainville and Solomon Islands, Smith's performances are shaped by firsthand knowledge of operational areas, the challenges faced by Australian personnel, and the heartbreak that accompanied the fall of Kabul. His time on the ground during periods of intense activity and tragic loss has given his songwriting a rare authenticity and a powerful sense of empathy.

'Unforgotten' is more than just a musical event – it's a journey through the stories and emotions of Australians who have served their country, according to Inverloch RSL. The concert pays homage to all conflicts, weaving together songs that speak to the courage, resilience and mateship that define the Australian military experience. Smith's setlist draws inspiration from legendary names in

Australian songwriting, including Henry Lawson, Eric Bogle, Don Walker (of Cold Chisel), and John Schumann (of Redgum), ensuring that the show resonates with both contemporary audiences and those with an appreciation for classic Aussie storytelling.

Among the highlights is Smith's rendition of Henry Lawson's 'Scots of the Riverina' – a song that stands as a testament to the power of narrative in Australian music. Delivered with Smith's trademark feeling and respect, it brings to life the struggles and pride of rural families, echoing the experiences of countless Australians touched by conflict and change. The performance is sure to strike a chord with those who value the rich tradition of Australian poetry and song.

Whether you're drawn by Fred Smith's reputation as a performer who "presents his songs with the greatest of feeling", or you wish to honour the memory of Australians who have served and sacrificed, this concert is a must-see. With the support of Inverloch RSL, the afternoon offers a unique blend of music, storytelling and remembrance – a chance to reflect, connect and celebrate the enduring Australian spirit.

Tickets are available now through Trybooking [trybooking.com/DFIZM](http://trybooking.com/DFIZM).

Don't miss your chance to witness a show that captures the heart and soul of Australia, delivered by one of its most genuine voices.



Inverloch RSL welcomes renowned songwriter Fred Smith for an unmissable tribute show. Photo: Geoffrey Dunn.

## Holiday activities at Wilsons Promontory National Park

### Flora Explorer

This Junior Rangers activity is designed for the whole family to attend. Australia has amazing native plants, and many are found nowhere else in the world. Learn how to identify plants, discover some of the special plant species found in the park and find out why plants are way cooler than humans. This activity involves a 1.5 km (return) meander on a gently undulating gravel walking track. On Tuesday, September 30, at 9am at the Lilly Pilly Gully carpark.

### Bandi-CUTE!

This Junior Rangers activity is designed for younger, pre-school-aged children. Explore the lifestyle of the Southern Brown Bandicoot through stories and play. Learn through stories and play, the homes and habitats of creatures living in this special parks and reserves. This activity is suitable for children aged three to five years, who must be accompanied by a parent or carer over the age of 18. On Tuesday, September 30 at 11am, meet at the Visitors Centre (also called the Education Centre).

### Wildlife Detective

This Junior Rangers activity is designed for the whole family to attend. Become a Wildlife Detective by learning the secrets of the bush with a Parks Victoria ranger. Tune your senses to discover who is hiding out of sight and use clues to find out who was in the park while no one was looking. On Wednesday, October 1 at 10am, meet at the Stockyards carpark (near park entrance) approx. 30 minute drive from Tidal River.

### Habitat Restoration

This Junior Rangers activity is designed for the whole family to attend. Join Conservation Ranger to learn about the importance of protecting and restoring valuable habitats at the prom. On Thursday, October 2 at 10am at the Squeaky Beach carpark.

### Love the Prom

This Junior Rangers activity is designed for the whole family to attend. Get busy with the Friends of the Prom environmental volunteers and take part in the important work they do to restore and conserve the parks natural habitats. On Wednesday, October 1 at 11am at the Visitors Centre (aka Education Centre).

Bookings are required for these activities, go to: [parkconnect.vic.gov.au/junior-ranger](http://parkconnect.vic.gov.au/junior-ranger).

## The Merri Creek Jazz Band performing live this October

THE Inverloch Jazz Club is holding its monthly afternoon of music on October 5 from 2pm until 4.30pm at the Inverloch RSL. The band performing will be the Merri Creek Jazz Band.

This band of experienced traditional jazz players have frequented jazz festivals throughout Victoria and New South Wales and was recently warmly welcomed at the Inverloch 2025 jazz festival.

Band members are Trevor (leader) on trumpet and vocals, Barry on piano, Ezra on trombone, Glenn on clarinet, Michael on drums and Barrie on tuba. This is a well-rehearsed, fun group, and they produce the tight driving beat of a traditional jazz band.

Visitors are most welcome. Cost: \$18 cash. All enquiries to Marg on 0438 420 770.

## Ricotta and lemon Cheesecake

By Meg Viney

VERY simple Italian recipe. The way to get a zing out of the lemon rind is to peel the lemon with a potato peeler and grind it with sugar.

### Ingredients

- 750 gm ricotta
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- Zest of small lemons
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

### Method

Prepare a 25 cm springform pan by lightly oiling it. Make a cartouche – If you haven't made one before, Google it and follow instructions – a brilliant thing, a cartouche!

Start by peeling the lemons with a potato peeler and grinding them with the sugar, in a food processor.

Next beat in the eggs, one at a time and beat well each time. Finally add the ricotta and beat until thick and creamy.

Pour into prepared pan and cook in a 180 oven for about 1 1/4 hours, until firm to the touch.

Cool with the oven door open. Serve with berries and cream.

## What's on around town

### The Great Witch Hunt

During October, around Bass Coast Head to [visitgrantville.com.au/news-events/the-great-witch-hunt](http://visitgrantville.com.au/news-events/the-great-witch-hunt) for tickets

### Learn to Weave – 5-12 year olds

October 3, 1pm-3pm  
Coal Creek Community Park and Museum. Free but tickets essential.

### Koonwarra Farmers Market

October 4, 8am-1pm  
Koonwarra Memorial Park

### Corinella Community Market

October 11, 8am-1pm.  
Harold Hughes Reserve

### Wonthaggi Citizens Band Annual Concert

October 11, 7.30pm  
The Union Theatre Wonthaggi

### Carer Support Week Celebrations

Free Lunch and activities for Carers  
October 13, 11am-2pm.  
Milpara Community House

### Be Connected – Free digital workshops for those aged 50+

Free Afternoon tea and intro to Be Connected Program . October 22, 2pm-4pm.  
Milpara Community House

# 'The best musical ever', and there's still tickets available

By Chloe Kent

RIOTOUS laughter, hoots and a standing ovation were the order of the evening on Friday night as Gutenberg! The Musical took to The Shed stage for Wonthaggi Theatrical Group.

Under the direction of Joel Stevenson, Gutenberg! is nothing short of a riotous delight. At its heart is a musical comedy about two aspiring but minimally talented writers, Bud Davenport and Doug Simon, who present their ambitious Broadway musical about Johannes Gutenberg at a backer's audition.

Set in the medieval German town of Schlimmer and based on their wildly fictionalised version of Gutenberg's life, a wine presser who invented the printing press, the musical has characters galore, all brought to life by just the two writers themselves.

Played strictly by Bud and Doug, with a spectacular array of hats, the performance is chaotic, at times delightfully irreverent (and occasionally inappropriate for younger audiences). There are moments of both sniggers and belly laughs from the audience, especially during the off-hand comments, some of which only the musical can get away with... Tylenol anyone...

Jay Nelson shines as Doug Simon and Jonah van Stekelenburg as Bud Davenport, who are an absolute hoot. The way in which the duo have worked with Joel to build their characters, seamlessly switching between male and female roles (with a tongue-in-cheek disclaimer to female actors, do not fret), is simply brilliant. The pair deserve high praise for a wonderfully entertaining performance.

And whilst this scribe suspects there may have been an unscripted moment, both Jay and Jonah must be applauded for their quick-witted improvisation, turning the slip into an extra laugh that left the audience even more delighted.



Jay Nelson and Jonah van Stekelenburg delighted audiences during Friday's opening night performance.



Jay Nelson and Jonah van Stekelenburg throw themselves into the chaos of Gutenberg! The Musical, bringing the eccentric duo Doug and Bud to life with hats, hijinks and hilarity. Photo: Merlyn Cantuwell.

Of course, no production succeeds without those who work hard behind the scenes. Orla McCarty (director's assistant and stage manager), Mark Harrison (technical director), Kerryn Lockhart (musical director – vocals), Malcolm McCaffery (musical director – band) and Linda Hamilton (production

manager) deserve recognition, along with Tad Hendry (set design), Mayumi McPhee (costume design), and the dozen other talented WTG production team members responsible for lighting, hair and make-up, publicity, front of house, and sound design. Well done to all. Speaking after the night's

performance, musical director (band) Malcolm McCaffery reflected on the fantastic experience, also taking on the role of MD.

"The people are so friendly, and having the opportunity to MD with WTG has been great. It's a good, fun, simple show," McCaffery said, adding he enjoyed travelling from Warra to be a part of it.

The band of three, made up of Malcolm McCaffery (keys one), Xander Beach (keys two) and Anthony Gardner (percussion), were spot on, and hats off also to Anthony for travelling from Moe to be a part of it.

For director Joel, the energy in the room on opening night was everything he had hoped for.

"I was absolutely thrilled with the audience response to the show, and with the incredible performances from both Jay and Jonah," Joel stated to the Sentinel-Times.

"I'm incredibly proud of the production we have created together, and am so thankful to Wonthaggi Theatrical Group for their trust in me, and everyone who has been involved in bringing the show to the stage."

Tickets are still available – head to [trybooking.com/events/landing/1450514](http://trybooking.com/events/landing/1450514).



**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 ★



Fred Smith Productions and the Inverloch RSL present  
**UNFORGOTTEN**  
Songs of Australians at War

2.00PM (1400h) Sun 12 October  
Inverloch Community Hub - A'Beckett St, Inverloch  
<https://www.trybooking.com/DFIZM>





Mionne Botha shows her coral-inspired work in progress during Paint and Pizza. A02\_3925



Harry Creed and Olivia Evans start with vibrant background colours during Tuesday's Paint and Pizza. A04\_3925



Julene Cole, June Hall, Nola Thorpe and David Wall were set to welcome guests to the opening night of Gutenberg! The Musical at The Shed. C01\_3925



Graeme Caluscen and Peter Brookes are avid theatregoers and, having seen the ad, thought they would pop along for the opening. C02\_3925



Scott and Kristy Grattan were making the most of a night away from the kids, popping along to see Gutenberg! C04\_3925

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Paint and Pizza at Leongatha Library and the opening night of Gutenberg! The Musical.



Linda Harvey and Andrea Jenkin had heard Gutenberg! was a laugh and were looking forward to seeing it themselves. C05\_3925



AJ Bolitho and Kaley Ward were enjoying a night out seeing Gutenberg! C06\_3925



Ursula and Werner Theinert were joined by Neil Rankine. The trio noted that WTG's shows are always wonderful and always exciting. C07\_3925



WTG's The 39 Steps performers Justin and Rhiannon Stephens, joined James Stevenson-Dean and Gutenberg! The Musical director, Joel Stevenson, for a quick catch-up ahead of opening night. C08\_3925



Proud parents of cast member Jay Nelson, Adrian and Cheryl Nelson, were joined by Robin and Sally Lowe for the opening night's performance. C03\_3925



Connie Strosser enjoyed The Addams Family, and Stacey Welford was familiar with cast member Jonah's work as a music teacher and popped along, looking forward to the show. C09\_3925



Rachael Snelling and Amy Campbell had seen the Gutenberg! cast in action in previous shows, noting they were fantastic. C10\_3925



Xavier, Clinton and Isaac popped in before bedtime to support WTG committee member and mum Jess Rigby, along with the team, for opening night. C11\_3925



Xero Turnbull, Bass Coast Cr Mat Morgan and Donald Ellsmore were chatting away ahead of Act One on Friday evening. C12\_3925



Regular WTG actor Corey Green and set designer Tad Hendry took a moment before the show for a picture. C13\_3925



Bruce Grainger took a moment post-show to catch up with Xander Beach, noting how amazing the young harpist's musical skills are. C14\_3925



Director's assistant and stage manager Orla McCarty and technical director Mark Harrison post-show, Orla noting it is manic behind the scenes during the show, but the songs are simply 'beautiful' and 'you can't help but enjoy it!' C16\_3925

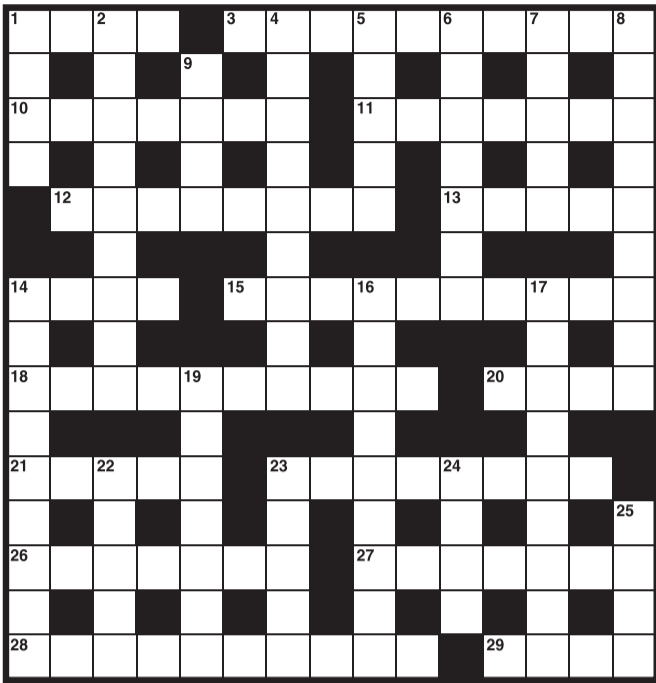
## Sentinel-Times

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## CROSSWORD

No. 300



- 26** Permitted (7)  
**27** Word made from the letters of another (7)  
**28** Cut off from the sea (10)  
**29** Shoot (4)

### DOWN

- 1** Graceful bird (4)  
**2** Awe (9)  
**4** Person who uses violence for political aims (9)  
**5** Overdrafts (5)  
**6** Options (7)  
**7** Show amusement (5)  
**8** Suffering from insomnia (9)  
**9** Tidings (4)  
**14** Colourful team shooting sport (9)  
**16** Make reprisals (9)  
**17** Removed from power (9)  
**19** Act of refreshing (7)  
**22** UK singer Lily – (5)  
**23** Early form of Sanskrit (5)  
**24** Cousin of the oyster (4)  
**25** Self-satisfied (4)

### ACROSS

- 1** Drench (4)  
**3** Whatever the risks may be (2,3,5)  
**10** Dabbler (7)  
**11** Worry (7)  
**12** Aesthetically pleasing (8)  
**13** Inexpensive (5)  
**14** Writer of verse (4)  
**15** Optical instrument (10)  
**18** US motorway system (10)  
**20** Domestic animals (4)  
**21** Educate (5)  
**23** Speed (8)

## 9-LETTER

No. 300

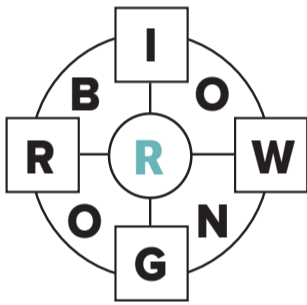
Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

**Today's Aim:**

**12 words: Good**

**18 words: Very good**

**24 words: Excellent**

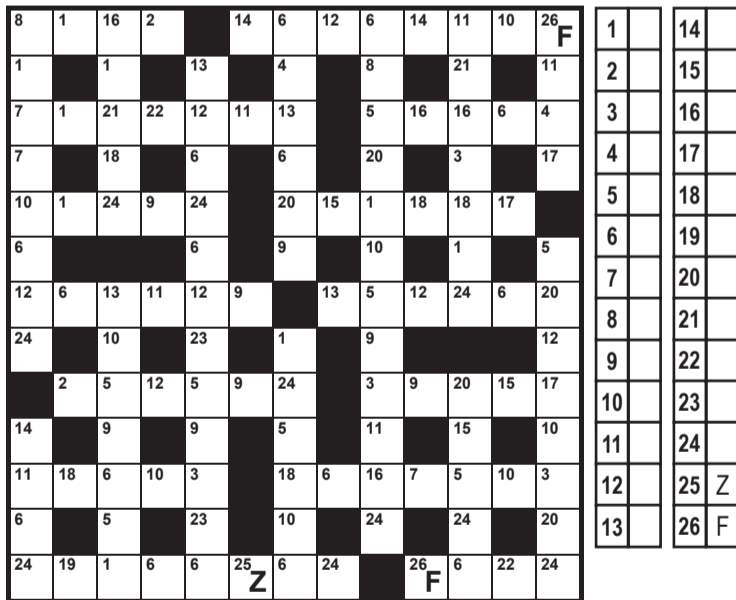


boot, boring, born, borrow, borrow, brig, bring, bro, brow, brown, grin, grow, grow, iron, noir, robin, robing, rowing, worm, writing, wrong

## CODEWORD

No. 290

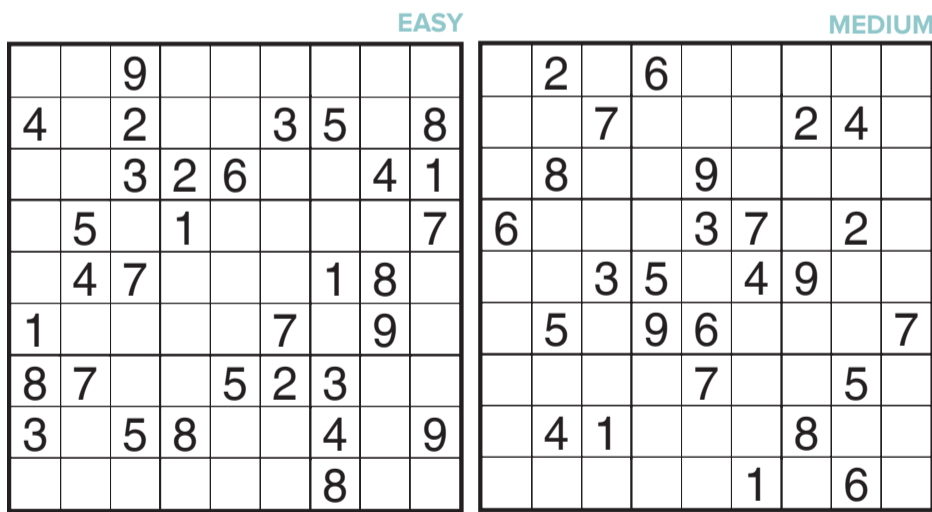
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



## SUDOKU

No. 299

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.



**CODEWORD:** 1=U, 2=K, 3=L, 4=X, 5=A, 6=E, 7=G, 8=J, 9=T, 10=L, 11=M, 12=O, 13=R, 14=W, 15=H, 16=N, 17=Y, 18=B, 19=I, 20=Q, 21=M, 22=M, 23=D, 24=V, 25=S, 26=Z, 27=F

## WORD SEARCH

No. 210

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- AL FRESCO GARDEN REUNION  
 AUTUMN GRASS SALAD  
 BASKET HARVEST SCENERY  
 BEACH JUICE SNACK  
 BENCH LAWN SUMMER  
 BIKE LUNCH SUN  
 BLANKET MUSIC TABLE  
 CAKE NAPKIN TART  
 CARDS OUTING THERMOS  
 CHIPS PARK TREE  
 CRICKET PARTY WALK  
 DIP PLATES WATERMELON  
 EAT POND  
 FAMILY REFRESHMENT

## QUICK QUIZ

- Miranda is a moon orbiting which planet in our solar system?
- Which fruit is traditionally used in a Liverpool Tart?
- In the story by Carlo Collodi, what is the name of the woodcarver who created Pinocchio?
- Which animal is the mascot for Nesquik?
- What bakery food is Homer Simpson's favourite?
- What type of cloud produces rain?
- Julianne Moore (pictured) won the Academy Award for Best Actress for which movie?
- True or false: the vampire bat consumes blood?
- A mawashi is worn as part of which sport?
- Who had a hit with the 1987 single *Never Gonna Give You Up*?



**ANSWERS:** 1. Uranus 2. Lemon 3. Gepetto 4. Bunny 5. Doughnut 6. Nimbus 7. Still Alice 8. True 9. Sumo wrestling 10. Rick Astley

**SECRET MESSAGE:** Leave some crumbs for the ants



## Solid but smaller market at Leongatha VLE

By Andrew Paloczi

THE market at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale was solid, according to Brian McCormack of Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock, albeit a smaller day in terms of numbers at just under 2000 head.

He noted Friday's Grand Final public holiday contributed to the lower numbers, saying the focus was on keeping everything manageable in terms of considerations such as transport.

"Plus, there's a few cattle that didn't turn up today because of what the weather's like," Brian said, explaining that recent cold and wet conditions prompted some producers who were booked in to sell to hold off a little while longer.

"The cattle now need a bit of sunshine on 'em," he remarked, with warmer conditions helping them put on weight that will translate to more dollars at sale.

He's confident warmer temperatures aren't far away.

Sentinel-Times saw Brian sell a pen of 18 heavy Speckle Park steers from F. Waller in Lindenow, weighing an average of 602 kilos and achieving a \$2910 a head at \$4.83 per kilo,



Stuart, Sophia, Ailee, Daisy, Angus and John Kilsby make a family occasion of Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, John happy with prices paid for the family's trade cattle. A06\_3925

commission buyer Campbell Ross the winning bidder.

Brian knocked down a pen of 15 Angus steers from S. Hederman at Brodribb River, the animals featuring Sparta and Kunuma blood, weighing an average of 475 kilos and achieving \$2600 each at an impressive \$5.47 a kilo.

Reflecting on the sale, he remarked on a couple of pens

of Mitchell steers that made \$5.60 and \$5.70 per kilo, those Angus weighing an average of 566 kilos for a pen of 18 and 542 kilos for a pen of 17, the pens making \$3180 and \$3100 a head respectively.

John Kilsby of Jasmel Nominees, who farms in Tarwin and Inverloch, was happy with Thursday's prices on the pens of trade steers he sold through

SEJ auctioneer Jimmy Kyle, those highlighted by a pen of 20 animals weighing an average of 396 kilos that fetched \$2020 a head at \$5.10 per kilo.

He remarked that the prices are pretty good for trade cattle, adding, "You always want more, but that's what farming's like."

"We run about 3000 breeding ewes, 200 Angus cows and about 700 trade cattle," John said of the business, farming having been in the family for generations in various locations.

Being school holidays, the Store Sale was an opportunity to get the kids out of the house for a while, a trip to McDonald's afterwards adding to the adventure.

John commented that due to the drought, his family business is currently running with reduced stock numbers.

"We're understocked by about 30 per cent; normally we're overstocked by about 20 per cent," he said.

That decision has been driven by feed availability.

"We just need rain for grass growth," John said, adding that warmer weather is also required to promote that growth.



Jimmy Kyle of SEJ sells steers from Jasmel Nominees in Tarwin. A08\_3925

### DAIRY SALE 1ST STAGE COMPLETE DISPERSAL

A/c P & M Lamers, Leongatha South  
**VLE KOONWARRA**  
Monday, October 6 at 11am

**200 OF THE FINEST HOLSTEIN  
COWS & HEIFERS 200**

Comprising of:

**180 cows calved July - September  
20 close to calving to Hereford Bull**

- Cows will be herd recorded prior to sale
- 50 years of selective AI breeding
- Cows selling sired by Dreambig, Radio, Crush, Radar, Hugo

Our Vendors have used the very best of AI for many years and has featured more than 230 daughters of Shottle throughout the years

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Andrew Mackie 0419 595 932  
Brian Leslie OAM 0418 365 934



Stuart Jenkins 0447 602 302  
Tom Hanrahan 0437 718 055

## Get in quick for dairy research symposium discount

THERE'S less than two weeks to catch a bargain by registering for this year's Dairy Research Foundation Symposium before the early bird discount - up to \$125 - close on Friday, October 10.

The symposium will be held on November 26 and 27.

Foundation director Professor Yani Garcia said this year's symposium at Wollongong offers a mix of the latest research findings, farmer perspectives, an on-farm visit and

the always popular emerging scientists' competition.

Some of the research results presented on day one will include artificial intelligence and heat stress, and the discovery of new bugs in calves and the role of omega-3 fats in dairy cow longevity.

Farmer panel sessions will look at what is holding dairy back and what will drive it forward, and rethinking how we graze for tomorrow's climate.

Tasmanian dairy farmer

Troy Ainslie will share his life-changing experiences with virtual fencing.

Day two will open with Dairy Australia's annual general meeting at WIN Stadium, followed by the Dairy Innovation Farm Tour.

Delegates will see innovation in practice at Philip and Craig Tate's progressive Albion Park dairy farm, with stations at their dairy, barn and hay shed.

Register before October 10 for the early bird discount.



**Register by October 10 for an early bird discount to the 2025 Dairy Research Foundation Symposium.**

### AGISTMENT WANTED

The high cattle prices have been making it difficult to buy back in. If you have pasture available and are interested in a low risk option we are seeking agistment or lease for Angus cattle. The number of head can be adjusted to suit your situation.

Please contact **Jeanette 0407 092 115**  
**jac@jacommis.com**

### ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS

**Paul Vassil**  
(Formerly Vassil Electronics)  
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**0408 515 184**



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**8-20 weeks pregnant 320kg-400kg**  
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**Friesian x Jersey heifers**  
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120 TO 159	\$5.10

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OFFICE: 0429 445 461 [www.wellingtonlivestock.net](http://www.wellingtonlivestock.net)



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PROPERTY MANAGERS, AUCTIONEERS**  
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**36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480**

### Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
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
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

### Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
WONTHAGGI		Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
		Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
GRANTVILLE		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
INVERLOCH		LANG LANG		Angus Hall	0466 326 487
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898		
BERWICK					
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472				

**SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE**



## Smaller offering at pre-holiday sale

By **SGSAA**

AGENTS yarded a reduced yarding of 1800 head due to the pending public holiday in a good quality offering.

Prices overall were reasonably steady to a little easier in places with a couple of orders not in attendance.

Heavy and medium feeders steers eased 10 cents. Weaner steers remained strong for the best of the blacks.

Heavy heifers eased 10-20 cents but overall lacked the quality lines that have been yarded over the last month or so. Weaner heifers held about firm as did the Xbred and dairy types with less yarded.

## MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre **CLAAS**

### Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, September 25, 2025

Steers			
B & M Farley, 20 Ang	685kg	\$4.93	\$3380
F Waller, 18 Spec Pk	601kg	\$4.83	\$2910
B & J Traill, 11 Ang	594kg	\$4.70	\$2800
Est A & F Birss, 20 Ang	586kg	\$5.46	\$3200
L Mitchell, 18 Ang	566kg	\$5.60	\$3180
L Mitchell, 17 Ang	542kg	\$5.70	\$3100
B & J Traill, 21 Ang	502kg	\$4.62	\$2320
B & J Traill, 13 Ang	500kg	\$5.39	\$2700
S Henderman, 21 Ang	487kg	\$5.61	\$2740
Seanakem F/Trust, 16 Ang	477kg	\$5.65	\$2700
D & M Adams, 18 Ang	475kg	\$5.70	\$2710
S Henderman, 15 Ang	475kg	\$5.46	\$2600
B & J Traill, 21 Ang	461kg	\$5.42	\$2500
I & M Brownrigg, 15 Ang	446kg	\$5.35	\$2390
S Henderman, 13 Ang	443kg	\$5.29	\$2350
P & J Scott, 24 Ang	431kg	\$5.49	\$2370
D & D Cameron, 18 Ang	421kg	\$5.31	\$2240
D & D Cameron, 14 Ang	416kg	\$5.25	\$2190
I & M Brownrigg, 16 Ang	416kg	\$5.20	\$2170
A O'loughlin, 11 Ang	415kg	\$4.81	\$2000
M Jonkers, 16 Ang	386kg	\$5.64	\$2180
G Butcher, 14 Hfd/Bbdly	341kg	5.30	\$1810
J & C Greenwood, 20 Ang	341kg	\$5.26	\$1800
A Rizza, 10 Ang	349kg	\$5.63	\$1970
S Conway, 17 Ang	338kg	\$5.99	\$2030
R & K Telling 15 Ang	314kg	\$5.93	\$1864
G & H Little, 12 Ang	305kg	\$6.00	\$1830
B & D Harrison 11 Ang	221kg	\$5.97	\$1320

Heifers			
Aquila Audax Past, 13 Ang	385kg	\$4.45	\$1720
R & K Telling 29 Ang	314kg	\$4.99	\$1568

# Gippsland farmer avoiding mud and saving feed with new shelters

PEOPLE often tell Kevin Jones that there's money in mud when it comes to farming – but he's never seen it.

Kevin and his wife Helen have been farming at Foster since 2002, now along with their son Mitchell, and needed to find ways to cope with their 1200mm annual rainfall.

"We get that wet and muddy here that even the ducks leave," Kevin jokes.

While regular rainfall is handy, the resulting mud and damaged paddocks in winter have been a hindrance.

A five-span, clear-roofed, deep litter shelter from Dairy Shelters Australia is helping to solve the dilemma.

"Land is expensive, so we wanted to make sure what we have is more efficient," Kevin said.

The farm has been on a huge growth curve over the past two decades and has expanded to 725 acres and up to 892 cows last year.

They also have land 40 minutes away at Yarram to run young cattle and grow fodder in a different environment with only about 800mm average rainfall.

Earlier, they had been sending cows away on agistment to avoid the boggy winters.

"We worked out that with what we were paying on agistment, we could pay the interest bill on the land and could get all the spring fodder and graze cattle on it as well," he said.

The new shelters are further easing the burden on the home farm, even though Kevin says it has been the toughest season he's endured.

The usual stockpile of fodder is nearly wiped out, and for the first time, they have had to pump water from the river running through the property.

Their Cypress Grove Holsteins is a registered stud. Kevin has been registering cattle since his early days of share farming, seeing it as a way of value-adding to their asset.

The Jones family now runs two herds because they don't



Foster farmer Kevin Jones finds ways to cope with the 1200mm annual rainfall.

all fit in the cow yard or the feed pad, with top cows and average cows in each herd divided along age lines.

Kevin is as much looking after their welfare as his paddocks, with the introduction of the shelters this year and an earlier feed pad.

"The shelters are the add-on to the feed pad," he said.

"The feed pad is good, but we still had to let the cows go to the paddocks after we fed them. We found they would walk 10 metres wide all the way up the paddock; 200 cows do enough damage, let alone 800."

"With the feed pad, we increased milk solids per cow from around 580-600 kg/Ms, and this year we went over 700. I hope the extra benefit we get from the shelter, with them saving energy from less walking and being warmer, will lead to another increase in production on top of that."

They have a high stocking rate, well over four cows per hectare on the milking area,

which puts pressure on the farm, even with the other land providing top-up feed.

"We usually sell 150 to export, but that market died last year, so we've had to cull some that we didn't want to lose, and we still have too many with a lot of young cattle coming through," he said.

The feed pad built five years ago was the first part of addressing the problem, and the shelters were the second part.

"We grow a lot of grass, but we get so wet in winter, we couldn't put tractors on the paddocks, and you waste a lot of feed. People say there's money in mud, but I say the mud's too deep to find the money."

The shelters have been installed to use over winter, allowing the cows protection after using the feed pad.

"The paddocks are a bit firm at the moment, so we're not making much mess, but this is highly unusual. That will change fairly quickly because the drains are starting

to trickle. If it starts to come in wet, we'll house them there at night so they only have to walk once. They'll stay there until the run-off water has gone, and then they'll be back out grazing."

Kevin investigated the option of a solid barn but found the clear-roofed shelter could achieve his goals at a tenth of the price.

He also looked at adding a roof over the feed pad, but didn't want the cows standing too long on concrete.

"We were looking for something that would work in our environment, so we went to Western Victoria to look at shelters in action and sourced a lot of information," he said.

"Even before we came home, we knew this was what we wanted to do. We could see it working for us. They are successful in like-for-like areas, so they tick all the boxes.

"If we can protect the paddocks, it makes it easier to manage the cows. There's nothing worse than sending a herd of cows out into the mud."

The shelters will help the farm to rebound after a tough year.

"We always carry a year's silage ahead of us. Now it's gone, but we'll build up and having the shelters will help us to prepare the farm with as much fodder as we can for the next season."

The shelters were finished in July and have already been successfully used for calving cows.

Kevin has built a five-span shelter, two for each herd and one for calving.

"The calving shed hasn't grown at all, but the herd has, so this can help to ease that pressure, and it's good to have airflow for the calves," he said.

The farm recently hosted an open day that attracted strong interest. "Everyone inside commented how it was warmer when the rain stopped and the sun came out," Kevin said.

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# ASHLEY PARK

'NO RAMS, NO LAMBS' **TOP OF THE DROPS**

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

## 100 Poll Dorsets

## 100 Border Leicester

## Southdowns Rams

**AUCTION 11AM**  
Inspections from 10am

**Vendors:**  
Ian & Pam Kyle - 0407 846 016  
1445 Bengworden Rd, Bairnsdale, Vic 3875

Colin Jones - 0400 830 531 | Jake Fullgrabe - 0437 999 943  
Gerard Ogilvie - 0408 530 533 | Mick O'Callaghan - 0447 258 515

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**James Robbins of Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock and Jake Anthony of Phelan & Henderson & Co display their confident styles while auctioning cattle in the recent State competition in Mortlake. Photos: ALPA.**

## Local young auctioneers impress

WHILE South Gippsland's representatives in the recent Victorian Young Auctioneers Competition, held at the Mortlake saleyards, missed out on a top-two finish and a spot in the 2026 National Young Auctioneers Competition, both performed strongly.

Jake Anthony of Phelan & Henderson & Co. and James Robbins of Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock came across as confident and in control as they introduced themselves and while selling their allocated pens of cattle.

"It was great," Jake said of his first go at the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association (ALPA) run event, seeing it as valuable experience and pleased not to have suffered any nerves, explaining that is something you learn to control through experience as an auctioneer.

"I had the mindset of, just go and do it," he said.

With the maximum age for the competition being 25, Jake gets another couple of cracks at the event.

"Having a first go is good, then you know what to do for the next time," he said, confident he did well in describing and valuing the cattle, but identifying some areas for improvement, having watched a replay of his performance.

One of those opportunities for improvement was the way in which he signed off, but he was philosophical about that, looking forward to making refinements next time. Jake explained that there's no feedback from the judges, with the

competing auctioneers having already received advice at a two-day young auctioneers school held previously in Mortlake.

"The auctioneers competition is for you to showcase what you're about," he said.

James was also pleased with how he performed, having gained experience since last year's competition.

He was impressed with the standard of this year's competition and will, like Jake, be striving to be part of the action again next time, also being eligible for a couple more goes.

"I was nice and clear, conducted the auction well and I was happy with how it went," he said, pleased with the lots he was assigned and having cattle that presented well.

While everyone is striving to win, James said there is a strong sense of camaraderie between the competing auctioneers.

"You pick tips up off the other guys who you don't normally see sell," he said.

James Gadd of Elders Rural Services in Ballarat, who has a bit more experience and was in his final State competition, was the Victorian winner, with Will Holt of McKean McGregor in Bendigo the runner-up, the pair set to represent the State in the 2026 National Young Auctioneers Competition at Sydney's Royal Easter Show.

"The nine competitors from Victoria all acquitted themselves extremely well, and the Gippsland guys did a really good job." ALPA Southern Regional Manager Liz Summerville told the Sentinel-Times.

## Rivers in the spotlight for World Rivers Day

RIVER lovers around the world united for World Rivers Day on Sunday, September 28. West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) took the opportunity to highlight the rivers' beauty and importance and gave them a special 'thank you' for working so hard to allow the community the quality of life it enjoys.

"West Gippsland's rivers give us water to drink and use, support agricultural productivity and enrich our lifestyles," West Gippsland CMA CEO Martin Fuller said. "Rivers are also living entities filled with life and cultural significance. Our work at CMA aims to give back to the catchment by restoring and reconnecting rivers to transform them from working rivers to healthy rivers where the natural cycles are working again."

Restoring rivers requires a planned and long-term approach working along their course from their source in the mountains to where they enter the sea.

"The CMA team follows the lead and knowledge of Traditional Owners and works with landholders, partners and community. Our vision is of a healthy catchment where native fish and wild-life can thrive, agriculture is productive and sustainable, and the community can

enjoy and contribute to river health in their own area of the catchment," Martin said.

Across the world, rivers need help, and the unique model of Victoria's Catchment Management Authorities allows teams to be on the ground delivering dedicated works towards river health.

In 2024-25, West Gippsland CMA delivered 204 hectares of revegetation, 1194 hectares of weed control, 31,084 hectares of pest animal control, and hosted events attended by 2330 people.

"We love rivers and are proud to be working for them in West Gippsland. We hope you'll join us in caring for the waterway in your local patch," Martin said.

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways.

It highlights the many values of the 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 active involvement can their health be ensured in the years ahead.

Find out more about the work of West Gippsland CMA and sign up to the e-news for updates via [wgcm.vic.gov.au](http://wgcm.vic.gov.au).

## Beyond Blue and Just a Farmer team up for rural mental health

BEYOND Blue is proud to announce the appointment of Leila McDougall, farmer, filmmaker, and mental health advocate, as Campaign Ambassador for Farming and Rural Communities as part of the Just a Farmer Regional Screening Project.

Leila's appointment to the campaign reflects a strong and genuine alignment with Beyond Blue's mission to support mental health in farming and rural communities, in addition to supporting small business owners who live and work in rural and regional Australia.

As both a farmer and the creator and lead actress of the feature film Just a Farmer, Leila brings lived experience and authenticity to her advocacy. She understands firsthand the pressures of financial uncertainty, isolation, and mental health challenges that often affect farmers, their communities and rural small business owners.

"Living and working in a rural community, I've seen how mental health struggles can go unnoticed or unspoken," said Leila McDougall.

"Through Just a Farmer, I wanted to start conversations that matter and genuinely reflect what life is like on the farm



**Leila McDougall, farmer, filmmaker, and mental health advocate, is the Campaign Ambassador for Farming and Rural Communities as part of the Just a Farmer Regional Screening Project.**

and for rural communities.

"As a Beyond Blue ambassador for farming and rural communities, I'm proud to help continue to break down stigma and encourage people to seek support. Beyond Blue is there for farmers and rural communities and offers support such as NewAccess for Small Business Owners (NASBO) – a free and confidential service, tailored to the realities of farming and small business life. It's exactly what our communities need."

## VLE - LEONGATHA

# STORE SALE

## 2000 CATTLE 2000

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025 - Starting at 9am**

**PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES**

### GROWN STEERS

#### Black Range Angus, Ryanston (Alex Scott)

40 Angus steers, 14 Mths, by Banquet & Absolute Angus bulls, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred.

#### A/c C & G Eden, Bass (Alex Scott)

5 Hereford x steers, 20 months, GF & ABF, very quiet

### GROWN HEIFERS

#### A/c BCA Pastoral (Alex Scott)

12 Angus Heifers, 15 months GF & AB Free

#### A/c C & G Eden, Bass (Alex Scott)

4 Angus Heifers, 18 months by Harris Farms Bull, VB, GF & ABF

### ANGUS WEANERS

#### A/c Northside Pastoral, Inverloch (Alex Scott)

90 Angus steers, 100 Angus heifers by Bowman & Kirribilli bulls, 10 months, Cydectin drench, Multimin, yard weaned & well handled for 7 days on the 30/7 Incarcerate lice and fly treatment on the 28/8, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred

#### A/c Meringo Pastoral, Swifts Creek (Elders)

120 Angus Steers, 100 Angus Heifers

Connamara Blood, GF, NE ACC, EU accredited

#### A/c Hurley Family Angus, Dargo (Alex Scott)

90 Angus steers, 12 Angus heifers 11-13 months, by Stud Millah Murrh bulls, weaned 30/5/25, drenched with Zeromec Gold 3/8/25 & Easy dose, Multimed and 3x 5 in 1, NE Accred

#### A/c P&M Hanratty, Traralgon East (Elders)

33 Angus & Hereford steers, 10-11 months

44 Angus & Hereford heifers, 10-11 months

East Gippsland Bred, weaned, GF, ABF

#### A/c RA Cook & H Galna (Baw Baw)

50 Angus Heifers, 6-12 months, NE Accred, drenched

5 weeks ago, very quiet, easy to handle.

20 Angus heifers, 6-12 months, drenched 5 weeks ago, very quiet, easy to handle.

#### A/c Mirawah Pty Ltd, Wattlebank (Alex Scott)

40 Angus steers 12-14 months, by Fernleigh bulls, Dectomax V

#### A/c A & J Gordon, Woodside (Elders)

38 Angus Mix Sex Weaners, 12-14 months, Innesdale & Pinora blood

#### A/c Estate of RJ Sutton, Modella (Elders)

30 Angus mix sex 12-15 mths, weaned

#### A/c Brad Rinaldi, Wonthaggi (Alex Scott)

25 Angus steers 12 months, by Absolute Angus bulls, out of Leawood cows

#### A/c Somers Electrical, Bingenwarri (Elders)

22 Angus mixed sexed weaners, 10-11 months,

weaned, VB, GF & ABF

#### A/c R Langley, Nar Nar Goon (Elders)

20 Angus x mix sex weaners, 6-10 months

#### P Cashman, Stratford (Elders)

18 Angus mix sex weaners, 10-11 months,

Millwillah Blood, VB, weaned, GF, ABF, NE Accred

#### A/c C & G Eden, Bass (Alex Scott)

15 Angus steers, 10 months, by Harris Farms bull,

very quiet, GF & ABF

#### A/c P Peluso, Mirboo North (Alex Scott)

14 Angus x steers 6 months, by Fernleigh Bulls,

Weaned, VB, GF & ABF

#### A/c Breeder, MJ & PF Williams,

Glen Forbes (Alex Scott)

12 Hereford/Angus heifers, 8-12 months, weaned

#### A/c Cobbah Downs Grazing (Alex Scott)

11 Angus heifers 12 months, VB & AB free

#### Colleen Hurley, Hillside (ALEX SCOTT)

9 Angus steers, 12-14 months, Banquet Blood,

Weaned, Drenched, Multimin, GF & AF

### XBRED & DAIRY

#### A/c M Gheller, Dalyston (Elders)

20 Angus/FF x mix sexes 18 months

### COWS & CALVES

#### A/c Breeder, P & S MacGregor,

Pakenham South (Alex Scott)

5x5 Speckle Park 1st calf heifers, with 4-5 month old

C.A.F. depast to Angus bull for past 2 months

4x4 Speckle Park 1st calf heifers, with 4-6 week old C.A.F. not rejoined



5655 1133



5658 1894



5941 4666

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS**



# Home market on the move

THE good news for homeowners in Bass Coast, South Gippsland and West Gippsland is that the property market has taken a turn for the better.

And there's good news for prospective buyers too with sellers showing a willingness to meet the market at new levels.

Properties are selling in solid numbers again, right across the board, according to Executive General Manager at Alex Scott and Staff, Greg Price, and more first-home buyers are back in the market as well.

"Yes, we're seeing renewed interest across Bass Coast, South Gippsland and West Gippsland," said Mr Price this week.

"A cross-section of vendors has recognised that there's been a correction in the market, and they've adjusted their values accordingly.

"And we've got buyers coming back in now attracted by that.

"We're also seeing first-home buyers coming back in for a range of reasons to do with the market correction, lower interest rates providing a more stable repayment outlook and, of course, the cost of renting.

"They're lining up rental costs with purchase costs and deciding that they would rather be putting money into a mortgage than renting. And that's exciting."

It's not to say that the pressure has come off the tight rental market, however.

"There's still a lot of demand for rentals. Anything we get is still attracting 10 to 20 applications, but there's

certainly a lot more crossover inquiry from those who are looking to buy rather than rent, if the price is right," said property manager at Alex Scott in Wonthaggi, Kate Reda.

"Before they preferred to rent or stay with mum and dad, but with interest rates on the way down, people are coming back (into the market) to look at property for their own use or as an investment as well," said Mr Price.

"The demand from renters starts online, where \$450 would be the minimum, up to \$600-plus, with time online being 12 days on average before being leased, but some don't even get listed online before they're leased," said Kate.

"People can see what West Gippsland and Bass Coast has to offer, including an easy commute to the south-eastern suburbs for work, shopping and services, while being close to the coast, close to recreation and with good-sized centres at Korumburra, Leongatha, Wonthaggi and on Phillip Island," said Greg.

Mr Price said the market had absorbed a correction to inflated COVID values and sales were moving again.

"Overall, like the Mornington Peninsula, property in West Gippsland and our coastal areas saw up to a 25 per cent reduction after the COVID bubble and one of the reasons we are seeing more interest is that vendors are starting to take notice of where the market really is, from properties that have sold near them, or as a result of new properties coming on to the market closer to buyers' expectations," he said.

"You've also got a lot of people coming



Property management staff at Alex Scott and Staff Wonthaggi, Vanessa De Vink and Kate Reda chat with Executive General Manager Greg Price about the availability of rentals and the increasing number of people converting from rental to purchase.

to this area for employment as well," said Kate.

"We've got a number of big employers in the area, including Bass Coast Health and Kilcoy (Lance Creek's meat processing plant) and that has increased the demand for rents here as well."

Of course, Alex Scott and Staff, as an organisation, has seen it all before,

many times.

"We're turning 140 next year, so we've been doing this for a very long time," said Greg.

"We've built a lot of relationships over the years and with 14 offices across the region, from Melbourne to Sale, and right through south-west Gippsland, we're in a strong position to provide clients with the best possible outcome."

## AUCTION

Friday, October 31 at 12 noon onsite



### 103.21 ACRES

268 Leongatha South – Outtrim Road, Leongatha South

This is an outstanding and highly productive parcel of land in tightly held location close to Leongatha and Inverloch.

Prime Leongatha South, heavy carrying country.

Machinery and hay shed, water bore, dams, cattle yards & loading race and power to shed.

**TERMS 10% DEPOSIT, BALANCE 30/45 DAYS**



Andrew Newton 0402 940 320 **5662 0922**

HM13013



### 103 acres minutes from Leongatha

LOCATED just minutes out of Leongatha and 15 minutes to Inverloch, this 103.21 acres is ideal for those wanting to run a small farming enterprise, or as a dairy turnout block. The land is gently undulating and most of it can be cut for silage or hay. The property features lock up shedding, cattle yards, loading race and crush, water bore and dam storage, power to the shed and has sealed road frontage with a private access driveway.

Please note, the property has a restriction for building a dwelling and is being offered by public auction as a grazing block.

Leongatha South region is renowned for some of Victoria's best grazing land, with its heavy carrying soils and reliable rainfall, and this property is right in the centre of it! Very rarely do parcels of this size become available for a turnout block

in this area, so don't miss out!

Prime acreage just minutes from town. For more information or a copy of the Section 32 Vendors Statement, please contact Alex Scott & Staff Leongatha.

AUCTION – Friday 31st October 2025 – 12 noon on site.

10% Deposit, Balance 30/45 days.

For more information contact Andrew Newton on 0402 940 320.

103 Acres

268 Leongatha South-Outtrim Rd, **Leongatha South**  
**Auction** Friday October 31, 2025  
 12 noon on site  
**Agent** Alex Scott & Staff  
 Andrew Newton 0402 940 320



## Impeccably presented!

HARCOURTS Leongatha is very excited to offer this immaculately presented property for sale at 12-14 Reserve Street, Port Franklin. Here is a fabulous opportunity to secure an outstanding property in the quaint village of Port Franklin. Everything has been thought of and perfectly executed for sale!

This property consists of a magnificent block of approximately 1997 m<sup>2</sup>, with a contemporary, north facing two storey home as well as a superb shed, perfect for the entertainers or somebody who wants to run a home-based business (STCA), or just plenty of space for the man who loves a good shed!

### Key Features:

#### House:

- Consisting of three generous bedrooms with built-in robes
- Luxurious, resort-style bathroom
- An elegant kitchen with high-quality appliances
- A spacious lounge area downstairs, light and bright
- Functional dining room opening up onto a fully enclosed alfresco area
- European style laundry
- Built in BBQ area
- Upstairs features an additional bedroom, bathroom and second living area
- Quality features of the home also include stone kitchen

benchtops, floor heating in both bathrooms, plantation shutters throughout, exquisite floor coverings and light fittings

- There are double-glazed windows to all living areas and bedrooms in the house, as well as double-glazed windows throughout the rumpus room

#### Shed:

- Approximately 30 m x 7.4 m
- Concrete, lock up and power connected
- Three roller doors, with a personal access door at one end, with a fully lined, built in rumpus room at the other end
- The rumpus room consists of a kitchenette, powder room, a wood heater and two RC AC
- An undercover alfresco/BBQ area
- Plenty of room for boat or caravan parking

This exceptional property is a credit to the current owners and is meticulous in the presentation. The manicured garden is low maintenance, the outlook is private and peaceful and the northerly aspect captures all the gorgeous sunlight.

Don't miss this opportunity to secure a stunning property where all the hard work has been done.

Call Kellie Thomas on 0438647449 for further details or to arrange your private inspection.



3 2 5 1.997m<sup>2</sup>

12-14 Reserve Street, Port Franklin  
**For Sale \$995,000**  
 Agent Nutrien Harcourts  
 Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449  
 kellie.thomas@nh.com.au

**Nutrien Harcourts** Leongatha

*We make it possible*

47 Bair Street (03) 5662 2292  
 nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha



JUST LISTED

**LEONGATHA** 5 3 1  
 Modern and Charming!  
 • Renovated cottage-style home on approx 644m<sup>2</sup>.  
 • Spacious kitchen, wood fire & open plan living.  
 • Backyard with entertaining area, shedding, rear access.  
**\$639,000**



FOR SALE

**LEONGATHA** 3 2 2  
 Lovely Outlook!  
 • Quality built family home on a huge 1,007m<sup>2</sup> block.  
 • Modern design, spacious living, double lock up garage.  
 • Gorgeous north facing rural views, quiet court.  
**\$765,000**



FOR SALE

**MARDAN** 3 1 2  
 Lovely Lifestyle Property!  
 • Lovely renovated home on approx. 41 acres.  
 • Well appointed kitchen, good sized living areas.  
 • 5 main paddocks, shelter belts, good shedding.  
**\$1,280,000**



**Barry Redmond**  
 Director / Estate Agent  
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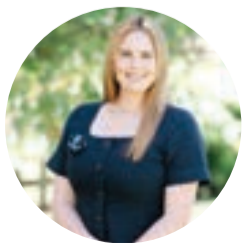


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# St Paul's Drouin recognised with Vic Kids Eat Well 'Big Bite' achievement



ST PAULS Anglican Grammar School's Drouin Campus has been recognised for its commitment to student health, achieving a Vic Kids Eat Well 'Big Bite' for its food and drink options on the canteen menu.

The Vic Kids Eat Well initiative encourages schools and community organisations to create healthier environments for children.

Educators collaborated with health promoters from the West Gippsland Healthcare Group (WGHG) to make changes to

the campus' canteen menu, giving students improved access to nutritious food and drink. WGHG health promoters also visited students to provide them with information on how to make healthy choices.

Head of St Paul's Drouin Junior School, Rowan van Raay, said the decision to take part was driven by a belief that every child deserves the right to healthy choices during the school day.

"Vic Kids Eat Well gave us the perfect opportunity to make

positive changes to our canteen menu to ensure our students are fuelled to learn, play, grow and thrive, and we are very proud of what we've achieved," he said.

The school's recognition marks an important step in promoting healthier lifestyles for young people across the community.

**LEFT: Jackson Melrose presents a yummy healthy food option.**

**RIGHT: Thomas Proctor ready to enjoy healthy eating.**



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**DEATHS**  
**DAW, Debbi Joy:**  
 Loving mother of Nicholas and Kirra (dec.). Beloved sister of Suzanne, Julie, Lindy and their families. Friend to many. *Sadly Missed.*

**FOWLES, Leo (Tony) Michael:**  
 With the heaviest of hearts, we share the news of the passing of Leo Michael (Tony) Fowles, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather, who left us on September 22, aged 89, surrounded by his adoring family. Cherished husband of Fay, adored father of Jan, Kerrie, Cathy (Cate) and Murray and a dearly loved father-in-law and friend to David, Roo, Andrew and Genine. A treasured Pa to William, Edward, James, Bridget, Tess, Josh, Zach and Sam - each one blessed by his love, wisdom and gentle presence. A true gentleman, who touched many lives with his kindness, integrity and quiet strength. His legacy of love and character lives on in the heart of all who knew him.

**FOWLES, Tony:**  
 Passed away 22.09.2025. Beloved Brother and Brother-in-Law to Brian (dec.) and Betty, Uncle to Danny, Tony, Tim, Mark, Brendan, James, Peter, and Michael and their families. Will be missed by all. God has you in His keeping. We have you in our hearts.

**DEATHS**  
**FOWLES, Leo Mitchell (Tony):**  
 Someday there will be a phone line directly to heaven and we will speak again. Great mate and friend of Stan (Anne). Uncle Tony to Craig, Debbie, Tracey and families. *Rest in Peace Buddy.*

**HAMILTON, Ronald David 'Ron':**  
 Of Bairnsdale, formerly of Wonthaggi. Passed away peacefully on September 19, 2025, aged 88 years. Cherished husband of Joy (dec.), married for 65 wonderful years. Much loved Dad of Russell (dec.), Alan, Judy and Daryl, and Michelle. Adored Pop of Lenyssa, Deabian, Shane, Kelly, and Matthew; Robert, and Michael; Emily, and Joshua; and 16 great-grandchildren.

**JESSUP, Alan Alfred:**  
 Passed away peacefully on September 20, 2025. Dearly loved husband of Margaret (dec.). Loving Dad and father-in-law of Stephen and Jacqui, Jacque and Gary. Loved Pa of Jade, Tahlia, Nate, Jake, and Alex. Reunited with Mum. Privately Cremated.

**DEATHS**  
**MASON, Gregory Harold:**  
 16.04.1948 - 26.09.2025. Late of Dingley, formerly of Leongatha. Dearly loved eldest child of Vic and Ruth Mason (both dec.). Loved brother of Russell (dec.), Joan Spencer and Bruce (dec.).

**PETERS, William (Bill):**  
 With deep sadness we mourn the passing of William (Bill) Peters. Dearly loved and loving husband of Jacky, father of Geoff, Stephen, Russell, Matthew, and Daryl. Grandfather of Amber, Danielle, Jake, Bradley, and Heidi. Great-grandfather of Elijah, Micah, and Jayce. *Forever at rest and peace in the arms of his Saviour.*

**WICKHAM, Peter Edward:**  
 29.05.1934 - 20.09.2025. A kind and gentle man. Cherished father to Julie and Christopher, Dianne and George, Garry, Sue and Camille. Grandfather to Alexandra, Jacqueline, Rebecca and Ryan, devoted friend to Gael and former Husband to Margaret. He will be greatly missed but always with us.

**DEATHS**  
**TAYLOR, Lorna:**  
 Passed peacefully after a short illness at Wonthaggi Hospital on Saturday, September 20, 2025, aged 73 years. Dearly loved wife of Phil. Loved and loving mother of Kendall, Vanessa, and Lisa. Respected and loved mother-in-law of Tracey, Richard, and Matt. Treasured Nan of Milla and Ellie. Much-loved Nan of Marlo and Murphy. Daughter of Aline and Charlie (dec.), loving sister to Peter and Sue. *Always in our hearts.* As per Lorna's wishes, a private burial service will take place.

**HAMILTON:**  
 The funeral service of Mr. Ronald David 'Ron' Hamilton of Bairnsdale, formerly of Wonthaggi, will be held at Our Chapel, 613 Main Street, Bairnsdale, on Friday, October 3, 2025, at 11am. Private Cremation. Please see Ron's funeral notice at [stephenbaggs.com.au](http://stephenbaggs.com.au) for a link to the livestream. **Stephen Baggs Funeral Directors** Bairnsdale 5153 2150

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**DAW:**  
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**FOWLES:**  
 Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mr. Leo Michael (Tony) Fowles will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Guys Road, Korumburra on Friday October 3, 2025, commencing at 12 noon. A Private family burial will follow. Tony's service will be live-streamed. Please go to [www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au) for details. **Handley & Anderson** FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**HAMILTON:**  
 The funeral service of Mr. Ronald David 'Ron' Hamilton of Bairnsdale, formerly of Wonthaggi, will be held at Our Chapel, 613 Main Street, Bairnsdale, on Friday, October 3, 2025, at 11am. Private Cremation. Please see Ron's funeral notice at [stephenbaggs.com.au](http://stephenbaggs.com.au) for a link to the livestream. **Stephen Baggs Funeral Directors** Bairnsdale 5153 2150

**FUNERALS**  
**PETERS:**  
 A celebration of life service for William (Bill) Peters was held at the Wonthaggi Anglican Church on Thursday, September 25, at 11am. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to be given to the Wonthaggi Anglican Church. At the conclusion of the service, the funeral departed for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

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**WHITE (nee Gow), Melissa:**  
 13.10.1980 - 03.10.2009. Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near, forever wishing you were here. Melissa, you are not forgotten. We think of you every day and remember you with love. -- Mum, Dad and Laura.

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**BENETTI, Victor:**  
 The family of Victor Benetti would like to thank everyone who attended Dad's funeral, sent sympathy cards, flowers and condolence messages. We appreciate your kind thoughts and heartfelt words. To Scott and Sharon Anderson from Handley and Anderson, we thank you for your professional guidance, kindness and care to our family. To the staff at Rose Lodge, thank you for taking care of our Dad. Thank you, Fr Darren, for your compassion and support. Our sincere thanks to all.

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# Sentinel-Times Classifieds

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

## SITUATIONS VACANT



South Gippsland Hospital

### Positions Vacant

**Director of Nursing**  
Campus DON, Group 8D  
1.0 EFT full time position

**Occupational Therapist**  
Grade 2  
0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

**Dietitian**  
Grade 2  
0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

**Administration Officer**  
- Front of House  
HS1A- HA1  
(depending on experience) Casual

**Kitchen Assistant**  
Food and Domestic Assistant, Grade 2  
Casual

For more information:  
<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

**Volunteer Expression of Interest**  
Community Information Volunteer  
Volunteer Catering Administration Assistant

For more information call  
Annie on 5683 9704

[www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers](http://www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers)

## PUBLIC NOTICES



**Making a real difference in the lives of people across Bass Coast.**

If you can give, please give where you live.  
[www.bccf.org.au](http://www.bccf.org.au)

### Miners' Dispensary Our Community Pharmacy

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Wonthaggi Miners Dispensary will be held on  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2025, commencing at 4pm at 169 Graham Street, Wonthaggi**

#### Items of Business:

Receipt of Annual Report  
Election of Directors  
Appointment of Auditor  
Appointment of office bearers and remuneration

Members have the right to appoint proxies to vote on their behalf. If a member appoints a proxy the proxy does not need to be a member of the company. The proxy form must be delivered to the Dispensary at least 48 hours before the meeting. Proxy forms can be obtained at the Dispensary.

**Note** - If you wish to attend the meeting, please advise us by no later than **Friday October 11, 2025** so that arrangements can be made for the meeting.

**Contact details** - Phone: 03 5672 1034, [retail.manager@minersdispensary.com.au](mailto:retail.manager@minersdispensary.com.au), Dispensary: 169 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

### Is your employment opportunity listed online?

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at [www.sgst.com.au](http://www.sgst.com.au)

Email your job adverts to: [ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)  
DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

**Sentinel-Times**

### GIS Coordinator



With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

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
- Attractive Salary Packaging options available (eligibility conditions apply)
- 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.

- Permanent Full Time
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 7 - \$91,505.57 - \$101,070.60 + Leave Loading + Superannuation
- Foster or Leongatha Office/Hybrid working arrangements available subject to negotiation

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

Applications Close: Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 5pm

1300 851 636 | [www.sgwater.com.au](http://www.sgwater.com.au)

## DEADLINES

**Classified single column**  
Mondays 12.00 noon  
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Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

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**47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi**

**Office Hours:**  
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

#### Payments accepted:



#### Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

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States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

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**Sentinel-Times**



Residents look on from the ground below as the Roulettes perform delta loop over Korumburra. Photo: Australian Defence Force.



Korumburra-raised Squadron Leader Lachie Hazeldine headed back to his hometown on Friday, putting on a spectacular display with the RAAF Roulettes. Photo: Australian Defence Force.

# Roulettes thrill Squadron Leader's hometown of Korumburra

THE weather played its part in allowing Korumburra-raised Squadron Leader Lachie Hazeldine to lead the six-member RAAF Roulettes team in a spectacular display for the town on Friday afternoon.

"It opened up just in time," Lachie said of the sky, with earlier rain and low cloud unsuited to the planned performance.

"We wouldn't have had the visibility or the distance between the hills and the cloud to do any significant displays," he elaborated.

Fortunately for the many enthusiastic locals who stationed themselves around the Korumburra Showgrounds, everything was able to proceed as intended.

The Squadron Leader was delighted to get another opportunity to bring the Roulettes to his hometown, knowing quite a few people there and with his dad still living in the area, and was pleased to see lots of positive feedback on social media following the display and to hear from locals he hadn't chatted to for some time.

Korumburra's hilly environment, particularly the hilltop towers, presents an extra challenge for the team, preventing them from flying over at the lowest level they are ever able to, of just 200

feet or about 60 metres.

Spectators were treated to a great mix of formations and manoeuvres.

That started with loops and barrel rolls, labelled by Lachie as "fairly simple formation aerobatics", working into more advanced displays where pilots are changing formations during manoeuvres, through to dynamic aerobatics such as corkscrews and rollbacks.

Typically, the aircraft get within five metres of each other, or a bit over, but they can be as close as three metres, sometimes making it appear from the ground that they are touching.

The planes tend to be travelling at 300 knots when they start a display, that being about 550km/h, coming back to about 120 knots or around 200 km/h at the top of the manoeuvre.

During the Korumburra display, forces of 4G were typically achieved, making every part of a pilot's body feel four times heavier than normal.

"It's something that takes a bit of getting used to when you first start flying, but is also about what people typically do when they're learning to be a pilot in the Air Force," Lachie said.

All members of the Roulettes are part of the Air Force and experienced flying instructors, having to undergo an intensive five-week training course for

the Roulettes on top of the low-level flying aerobatics and formation aerobatics skills they already have.

The Roulettes come from various locations around Australia, having flown a variety of aircraft, the team flying the basic trainer for the Air Force, the Pilatus PC-21.

While Lachie describes it as quite easy to fly compared to some aircraft, he explained it is reasonably complex for a basic trainer and has a cruising speed of about 240 knots or 400km/h,

the PC-21 having a fast roll rate and being capable of withstanding 8G of force.

Doing displays for local communities is a great way to create public awareness while training, the Korumburra performance an excellent preparation for the Roulettes' involvement in the weekend's RAAF Richmond Air Show in NSW that attracted close to 70,000 people over its two days.

Lachie tends to make it back to Korumburra every few months to visit his father.



The Roulettes were greeted with a beautiful sight from the air, even without the sun shining. Photo: Australian Defence Force.

## PUBLIC NOTICES



Stony Creek  
Racing Club

### Annual General Meeting

will be held on

**Monday 20 October 2025**

6:00pm at Stony Creek Racecourse

Nominations of members for election to the Committee will be received by the CEO up to 7 October 2025.

Members are also invited to submit any business for consideration, or submit any questions for the Auditor by 7 October 2025.

For further information please contact Jason Benbow,  
Stony Creek Racing Club CEO on [j.benbow@stonycreek.com.au](mailto:j.benbow@stonycreek.com.au)  
or (03) 5664 0099



The view was certainly different from the ground, with many impressed by the acrobatics. a100\_3925





Gracing the MCG grounds for the second year in a row, Marni McGrath lit up the AFL Grand Final entertainment, performing alongside Snoop Dogg.

# McGrath joins Snoop Dogg for AFL Grand Final showstopper

From page 52

"Both experiences are unique to themselves. This one did feel extra special because I was flying home for it, and I feel like I have grown a lot as a person and an artist."

Marni lives in America and therefore couldn't attend an in-person audition. For this opportunity, she delivered a self-tape.

"I learnt the choreography through a video and sent it in."

"We then had one week of rehearsals to put it together. They were very long days and there was a lot of choreography and information to retain. I always stay prepared for when jobs like this come up, so physically I was ready. Mentally, it can get challenging at times, but that's when having a good routine comes into play. I eat well, try to get a good amount of sleep, and journal every morning before rehearsal. It helps me get into the zone and prepare for the day."

The entire show at the MCG was choreographed from the entrance to the exit, transitions, and performance.

Travelling back to Australia, Marni said this one felt so special!

"After living abroad for over four years, being back on Aussie soil to perform at an event of this scale is something I will never forget," she said.

"I was dancing alongside friends I have known for up to 10 years, and I also met so many new, talented dancers



Marni McGrath ahead of the AFL Grand Final Day entertainment.

from around Australia. I had younger dancers with me on the job who have been following my journey overseas, and for that, I am so grateful."

Marni highlighted that paving a way for the next generation is so special.

"The MCG never gets old. When I first stepped out onto the field, I saw a sea of faces and knowing my family were at home watching, it's honestly hard to put into words. I'm emotional, reliving it in my head," Marni laughed.

Travelling for work, Marni said she still gets time with family back in the Bass Coast.

"I have sacrificed a lot by living in the States, and it always feels bittersweet, so I will be

making the most of having this week with them and enjoying every moment."

Marni has been lucky to perform in many places across Australia and around the world, including Macau, Singapore, New Zealand, LA, Las Vegas, and New York City, but out of all her performances, Marni said this one is now at the top of her list.

Growing up, Marni started at Dance Design when she was seven years old and then moved to Studio Phoenix (both in Wonthaggi) before moving to Melbourne at 18 to attend Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance.

Dancing commercial, street styles and heels are Marni's

favourite genres and moving internationally for her career has been an adventure that constantly comes with challenges.

"No one can prepare you for it, but I wouldn't change a thing," she said.

"The US is fast-paced."

Marni also works as a model, but said it feels like a side hustle.

"At the moment I'm focusing on booking jobs with artists, but I always stay open-minded because you never know what can happen."

Marni travelled to New York City when she was 17, and 10 years later, packed her bags and left Wonthaggi to move across the world.

"Younger me at Wonthaggi Secondary College would never have believed I would have achieved the things I've done. I was just a little country girl," she said.

"But coming home always grounds me. As much as I love my life in America and what I have created and achieved for myself, I'll never forget where I came from and who helped me get here. I have endless gratitude."

Marni is returning to America on October 6 and said her chapter in New York is done for now.

"I am heading to Las Vegas, where I will base myself, and I'll start auditioning there and in LA. This industry comes with the unknown, and I am excited to see where it takes me."



The team of Paul, Alby and Brendon won round three of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League Spring Series.

## Strong win and a ladder shake up

THE Phillip Island and Districts Darts League returned to the darts centre on Monday night for round three of the Spring Series, with 26 players enjoying a spirited evening of competition.

The standout performance came from team Paul, Alby and Brendon, who secured a dominant six to one victory to claim the night's honours.

Their consistency on the oche proved too strong, marking them as serious contenders in the weeks ahead.

The evening also featured plenty of community spirit, with Dave Healey – a dual threat as both chef and darts champion – taking out the meat tray raffle prize, thanks once again to the generous support of Des and the team at San Remo Butchers.

On the season ladder, the competition remains fierce – Bob Hee continues to lead the way with an impressive 25 points, and Paul Gleeson holds second place on 17 points, narrowly ahead of the pack.

A strong showing from Healey, including a maximum 180 and a nine-point haul, has elevated him into third position with 15 points.

Looking ahead, round four, players are reminded to arrive before 7.15pm to ensure their names are entered.

With high scores, standout finishes and plenty of camaraderie, the Spring Series continues to build momentum as the competition heads into its next stage.

## Tigers announce their best and fairest winners

By Rover

MIRBOO North Football Netball Club's best and fairest awards for season 2025 were announced at its Walter J Tuck Tigerland headquarters on Sunday, September 14.

### Football results:

Seniors: Jesse Chila.  
 Runner-up: Beau Peters.  
 Reserves: Luke Gervasi.  
 Runner-up: Will Jacka.  
 Thirds: Charlie Crutchfield.  
 Runner-up: Zane Fleming.  
 Netball results:  
 A Grade: Marley Wallace.  
 Runner-up: Jessie Holland.  
 B Grade: Emma Evans.  
 Runner-up: Maddie Knowles.  
 C Grade: Amy Symmons.  
 Runner up: Brooke Lagerwey  
 D Grade: Lexie Andrews.  
 Runner-up: Carolyn Movchan.  
 U17s: Marley Wallace.  
 Runner-up: Mia O'Brien.  
 U15s: Amy Conlan.  
 Runner-up: Lucy Woodall.  
 U13s: Georgie Schaeche.  
 Runner-up: Jorge Chila.

## Bake to raise money for gymnastics club venue

THE Leongatha Gymnastics Club are inviting everyone to start baking and selling their goods in their month-long Bake Off campaign to help raise money to secure a permanent venue.

The Bake Off is running from now until Monday, October 20, and everyone is invited to get involved.

Gymnasts and their families have been avidly baking and holding bake sales at school, family and sporting events, with the money going to the clubs fundraising campaign, which is through the Australian Sports Foundation, and will go towards trying to secure a permanent venue.

The person who raises the most amount of money by the end of the Bake Off will get to pour slime on their coach – or if it is not a gymnast, they can allocate the prize to a gymnast who can then choose who they slime.

If bakers tag the club on social media, there'll be additional, small prizes for the most creative stall and things like that.

Lily Akers, head coach and program coordinator explained the future security of the club is at risk and having a permanent set-up is the long-term goal of the fundraising campaign.

"There are definitely lots of people who have been helping out. And even if it's not donating, people have been helping out in other ways, whether it's saying they'll do the plumbing for us, people that have understandings on leases and going through the lease agreements and lawyers and all sorts of things."

Their goal is to raise \$100,000 over time and have raised about \$2000 so far and are holding many other fundraisers. The club will be seeking grant opportunities to eventually secure a permanent and, if necessary, a shared sporting facility.

Get baking now, or donations can also be made at: [asf.org.au/campaigns/leongathagymnastics-club/help-build-leongatha-gymnastics-club-a-new-home](http://asf.org.au/campaigns/leongathagymnastics-club/help-build-leongatha-gymnastics-club-a-new-home).

## Leongatha Small Bore Rifle Club

2025: 20m Bench Pennant – Section B.  
Round one: Leongatha A 599.36 defeated Hamilton A 598.27. Christopher Sargent 200.14; Peter Gallus 200.11; Kenneth Hart 199.11; Bradley Hall 197.07.

Ladder: Leongatha A 4; Brunswick 4; Oakleigh A 4; BERC A 0; Frankston B 0; Hamilton A 0.

2025: 20m Bench Pennant – Section G  
Round one: Leongatha B 591.20 defeated Sale C 585.02. Robert Clements 199.06; Robert Spratt 197.07; Jack Sargent 195.07; John Cafarella 192.04.

Ladder: Leongatha B 4; Sale D 4; Fairfield B 4; Frankston D 0; Sale C 0.

2025: 20m Prone Pennant – Section H.  
Round one: Leongatha D 582.10 defeated Leongatha C 572.08. Allan Ross C 193.04; William Ross C 191.03; Cameron Davidson C 188.01; Mathew Eldridge C 185.02; Brianna Kelly D 194.05; Hannah Hengstberger D 194.04; Leah Considine D 194.01; Iesha Considine D 187.02; Agan Hengstberger D 193.06.

Ladder: Leongatha D 4; Portland 4; Shepparton 4; Leongatha C 0; Warburton C 0.

The club shoots on Friday nights at 8pm at the rifle club on the Leongatha Recreation Reserve.

Any inquiries, please call R. Spratt 5664 2358.

# Gippsland's best swimmers to join Australia's elite

SIXTEEN Gippsland swimmers will be among Australia's best as they compete in the 2025 Australian Open Short Course championships at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre next weekend.

The team consists of five swimmers in the multi-class section and eleven in the able-bodied section. The swimmers have all swum a qualifying time to be entered in the event and are really looking forward to it.

The Gippsland swimmers will compete in seeded heats meaning they will often swim against swimmers they have idolised, and just to be there at the event is exciting.

To be competitive against them is even more amazing.

Well-known Australian swimmers Felix Dressel-De Bruyn, Tara Kinder and Ahmed Kelly will be amongst those the Gippsland Swimmers will line up with.

A number of the Gippsland MC swimmers have been setting Victorian records for their classification this year and any Personal Best in those events will mean records will continue to fall.

For young swimmers like 13-year-old Emily Croatto from SGB, it is a huge step up swimming at the open event, when at the start of the year Emily wasn't even old enough to swim at the National Age Championships.

Added to the excitement, Emily and her sister Claudia

have both qualified for the same event, the 200 metre breaststroke.

Emily said she was excited to race against Australian dolphins.

"It's going to be so much fun."

Sister Claudia said she was thrilled to have the opportunity to race at such a high level and thanked her coaches that have helped her get there.

For some of the older swimmers, the years of hard work have paid off, with swimmers like Ashley Nicholes from Traralgon ranked in the top 10 and hoping to make the finals.

For those unable to attend, the event will be broadcast on 9Now.

### Gippsland Representatives:

Isabelle Nash, Warragul; Olivia Ballie, Traralgon; Zayden Burton, Traralgon; Jessica Whiting, Traralgon; Ashley Nicholes, Traralgon; Darcy Connell, Traralgon; Brody Cargill, Traralgon; Miah Roberts, South Gippsland Bass; Claudia Croatto, South Gippsland Bass; Emily Croatto, South Gippsland Bass; and, Sophie McKenzie, South Gippsland Bass.

**Multi-class Swimmers:** Ayvah Dennis, Warragul; Tyra Jensen, Warragul; Lockie Bellion, Traralgon; Levi Jarrett, South Gippsland Bass; and Gemma Cook, South Gippsland Bass.



Ashley, Kody and Jessica from Traralgon will be competing amongst some of Australia's best swimmers at the Sports and Aquatic Centre in Melbourne.



Lockie Bellion from Traralgon is one of 16 Gippsland swimmers heading to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre next weekend.



Multi-class swimmer Ayvah Dennis from Warragul will be competing against Australia's best at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

## Bike Education valued at Wonthaggi North

STUDENTS in Grades 3 to 6 completed an important term of Bike Education at Wonthaggi North Primary School recently.

The program, run by a group of passionate volunteers, assists students at schools across the shire to help them increase their knowledge of bike riding and to learn about bike safety on the road.

One of the volunteers Don Turner, a retired teacher, began the Bike Education program 21 years ago at Newhaven Primary School on Phillip Island.

Don said the program began when Bass Coast Community Road Safety applied for a road safety grant from VicRoads.

He was asked to join the committee, and it all went from there.

Don and the other volunteers Clem, Ken and Ron received their training through the Department of Transport



A group of enthusiastic Wonthaggi North Primary School students with staff Lorraine (ES), volunteers and PE teacher Beth Walker about to embark on their final bike ride around the streets of North Wonthaggi to practice what they'd learned in Bike Education this year.

and Planning.

They all said the Wonthaggi North Primary School (WNPS) groups this year have shown 'so much improvement' over the five weeks.

From students not wanting to ride to now being emerging riders, the volunteers said 'everyone's loving it' when asked about student opinions of the program.

Don said the number of bikes required to be loaned out this year is the indicator

of the success of the program.

A couple of years ago, 24 bikes were needed to be loaned to students to participate in the program.

However, this year, due to a greater interest in bike riding and more students asking for bikes for birthdays and Christmas, only 12 bikes needed to be borrowed.

All schools who take part in Bike Education are extremely grateful to Wonthaggi Blue Light, through Victoria Police,

for providing the loan bikes each year.

"I liked Bike Ed because it helped me learn how to ride a bike and not be scared," Grade 5 student Emma said.

WNPS PE teacher Beth Walker said Bike Education has become a highlight of the school year for the students.

"It has been fantastic to watch the number of students riding to school grow each year," she said.

## 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 30	WEDNESDAY October 1	THURSDAY October 2	FRIDAY October 3	SATURDAY October 4	SUNDAY October 5	MONDAY October 6
▲ 5.02am 1.54m	▲ 5.43am 1.47m	▲ 6.30am 1.40m	▼ 12.03am 0.46m	▼ 12.51am 0.52m	▼ 1.54am 0.58m	▼ 4.11am 0.62m
▼ 10.42am 0.70m	▼ 11.15am 0.75m	▼ 11.51am 0.80m	▲ 7.25am 1.34m	▲ 8.29am 1.30m	▲ 10.35am 1.30m	▲ 11.36am 1.34m
▲ 4.45pm 1.41m	▲ 5.19pm 1.36m	▲ 6.01pm 1.30m	▼ 12.33pm 0.83m	▼ 1.29pm 0.85m	▼ 3.43pm 0.81m	▼ 5.03pm 0.70m
▼ 10.53pm 0.38m	▼ 11.26pm 0.42m		▲ 6.56pm 1.24m	▲ 8.09pm 1.21m	▲ 10.38pm 1.25m	

Email us your fishing photos  
news@sgst.com.au

## State appearance for Bass Coast basketballers

FOR the second year in a row, Bass Coast College's senior girls' basketball team was represented at the School Sport Victoria state finals on September 18.

The team represented the school with pride, coming away with one win and two losses.

They enjoyed a five-point win against Albert Park Secondary College.

The game started competitively, but the girls from Bass Coast managed to pull away and retained their lead.

Good zoning, defence and court structure was credited for this win.

Bass Coast was defeated by Box Hill Senior Secondary College 20 to 48, and Maribyrnong College 39 to 46.

Box Hill went on to win the pool and go into the grand final against Catherine McAuley College.

Box Hill was later named state champion after a 38 to 18 grand final win.

Bass Coast College ultimately ranked third in its pool.

For the Year 12 girls, the last game was made memorable when they were allowed to play six on six for the last 10 minutes, so they could all play as a team one last time.

"We had some fun in the end because for our Year 12s, it's the last time they will represent the school. It was a good game to finish on," student engagement principal and coach Ross Bramley said.

"What I was most pleased with was that these girls don't play together regularly, but they still performed incredibly well. They showed great teamwork and were just wonderful examples for the other students at our school. They represented our school beautifully. The encouragement from the sidelines and the positivity made them a lovely team to coach."

Mr Bramley said the way everyone contributed to the team made the difference on their path to the state finals.



**Bass Coast College's senior girls' basketball team competed at the School Sport Victoria state final on September 18. Pictured back from left, Matilda Walton, Eva Garnham, Ally Morris, Ruby Mewett, middle from left, Makayla Oates, Isla Walton, Ruby McCartney, front from left, Sophie Carter, Macy Peterson, and student engagement principal and coach Ross Bramley.**

## Grand Slam trophies bring big stage buzz to Inverloch

INVERLOCH will get its own taste of Grand Slam tennis when the Australian Open trophies arrive in town next month, alongside an Australian tennis legend.

On Sunday, October 26, the Inverloch Tennis Club will host AO on the Road, a Tennis Victoria program supported by Visit Victoria that brings the Australian Open trophies to regional communities. The free event begins at midday and promises something for everyone.

Visitors will have the chance to see the trophies up close, grab a photo or autograph, and enjoy lunch from the Lime and Co food truck.

For the younger players, there will be tennis games to join in on, while the highlight of the afternoon will be a talk from guest speaker John Fitzgerald, a former professional player and seven-time doubles Grand Slam winner.

Club president Sam Hodgson said being chosen for the program was a proud moment for the community.

"Honestly we are all just really proud of everyone at



**Inverloch Tennis Club coach Bill Oliver and President Sam Hodgson with junior players enjoying a hit ahead of AO on the Road. W04\_3925**

the club," she said. "Often in regional towns you can feel a bit overlooked, so to see that Tennis Victoria and Tennis Australia are recognising what we are trying to do and what we are growing is great. We are a volunteer-run club, and it is things like this that keep us going."

The recognition comes at a time of remarkable growth for the Inverloch Tennis

Club. Membership is nearing 200, with more than 130 children now part of the Hot Shots program and nine junior teams taking to the court competitively. The club has gone from a handful of juniors before the pandemic to record numbers today.

Coach Bill Oliver said it was that momentum that caught the attention of Tennis Australia.

"The clubs that have some energy and are growing usually get the nod. Tennis Australia called us and said they chose us because of the growth of the club, and that is what they are trying to do, stoke the fires of regional tennis. We are all so excited," he said.

For the community, the visit is more than just a chance to see silverware. It's about creating a buzz in the town and inspiring the next generation.

"To have people from one of the biggest four tournaments in the world showing up on our doorstep is pretty cool," Oliver said.

Hodgson agreed, pointing to the pathways the sport can provide.

"We have one young kid at the moment at the Young Leaders Program at the Australian Open. One of our coaches was on a scholarship to a US university, playing tennis. Tennis can take you pretty far."

The club's motto is simple: tennis for everyone. On October 26, the whole community is invited to celebrate that spirit as the Australian Open comes to Inverloch.

## WONTHAGGI TABLE TENNIS

DONIC defeated Andro four to one.

Donic, led by Rocketballs Charley, has won four in a row and are surging like a Southern Ocean squall. Charley dismantled the formidable duo of Luke and Yeti with demonic fury shepherded by angels. Her merciless attack has horns but always with good-natured, winning intent. In contrast, teammate Michael will trap you like a Fischer bishop-pawn combination until your ego breaks. Donic is now placed top four with momentum.

Stiga defeated Butterfly three to two. Stiga's Tim and Trish escaped with a thrilling win against the luckless Butterfly. Being three to two up in the doubles, Butterfly was looking for the upset. Tim's headwear even had evidence of sweat. A bead is still a bead.

Stiga came back, winning sets six and seven to claim the match and get home early to watch Collingwood add another chapter to the Collewobbles story.

Nittaku defeated Double Fish three to two.

Nittaku proved its worth with a commanding top-of-the-table victory against the previously undefeated Double Fish.

Braden, his albatross wingspan and his ever-improving sidekick Jake won the crucial doubles encounter.

Double Fish played like a pufferfish.

Radak had the bye.

Ladder: Double Fish 28; Nittaku 24; Stiga 24; Donic 16; Andro 12; Radak 8; Butterfly 4.

Leading players: Braden 14; Tim 11; Brad and David 10.

## LEONGATHA TABLE TENNIS

LEONGATHA Table Tennis A Grade is heating up halfway through the season with a lot of close matches in every round.

The leaders after nine rounds are Mocha, closely followed by four other teams.

Michael Chang is the aggregate leader on 17, followed by the great Case Debont.

There was no A Reserve this week.

## PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE CLUB

IT WAS a week of celebration and strong competition at the Phillip Island Bridge Club.

Monday's Duplicate Bridge session drew a turnout of five and a half tables.

Rising to the top were Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson, who claimed first place with an impressive 65.42.

On Wednesday, new member Janus Wolknik earned himself an early birthday present by taking top honours alongside his partner, Caroline Shaw. The pair finished with a commanding 62.5 per cent across three and a half tables. Adding to the celebration, Janus's wife, Malgorzata, delighted members with a traditional Polish birthday cake, which she brought to share with the club at the conclusion of play.

The gesture was warmly received, marking a cheerful end to the session.

The club continues to welcome new faces and celebrate both the game and its community spirit.

## SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE RESULTS

ON MONDAY night, five tables were gathered to play for the South Gippsland Bridge Club.

Susan Ruffin and Clive Hope led with 67.71 per cent, Mike McGregor and Peter Campbell 66.55 second, and Pamela Nisbet and Neville Chapman 56.25 third.

Tuesday saw Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson score 57.14 per cent, Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston 54.76, Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 51.49 and in E/W Philip and Neville Chapman 62.8, Denise Allitt and Mary Brewis 62.5, Matti Shub and John Quayle 61.61 per cent.

On Friday, with 7.5 tables, Matti Shub and John Quayle tied for the lead of N/S with Ruth Harvey and Su Edwards, both pairs gaining 56.25 per cent, Philip and Neville Chapman 55.21, Deb Anglim and Tom Kudelka 51.74. In E/W Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh 59.52, Faye Rowlands and Bron Sund 58.33, Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd 54.56 per cent.

Anyone wanting to learn the game and join us would be welcome to ring the secretary, Kathy Dowd, on 0438 859 561.

## Frankly amazing two years in a row at the Australian Masters

INVERLOCH resident Frank Bugeja has done it again, proving that last year was no fluke, taking out the Australian Masters Squash Championship title in his age group once again.

Frank recently returned from the Australian Masters Squash Championships in Perth after a very successful fortnight of competition, winning the Australian Masters Men's Open Championship 80-84 Years.

Frank also won the event last year in Canberra.

Frank, a very fit 82-year-old, who runs the Poowong Squash Club competition on a Monday and Wednesday night and plays competitively in all the



**Men's Open 80-84 leaders, from left, Alastair James (NSW), winner Frank Bugeja (VIC) and Ken Kable (NSW).**

Victorian Masters Tournaments held around Victoria every few months.

The Australian Masters Squash Association (AMSA) Interstate Teams Series was also played in Perth, and Frank's team came runners-up in their division.

Frank's motto is, "You have to keep doing what you can, while you can."

The Poowong Squash Courts are open from 6.30pm on Monday and Wednesday nights and players of all standards are welcome.



**Eighty-two-year-old Frank Bugeja took home the Australian Masters Squash Championship title in his age group for the second year in a row.**



Friday's winners at Breakaway Bowls were Pat Novak, Les Stanbury and Margaret Morgan.



Rob Howard (second), Jon Justin (third), Laurel Lee (skip) and Ted Lee (lead) enjoyed a win together at Inverloch Bowling Club's social bowls.



After a close contest, the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners were Margaret McConville (L), Vern Elliott (S), Bill Williams (2) and Phil Wright (3).



Tuesday's winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were Theo Scholey, Glenda Binch, Judy Sweetnam and Ray McCurrie.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners were Peter McBain and Lyn Tagell.



John Postlethwaite, Thelma Kavanagh and Ed Henry enjoyed a win together in their footy colours at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Friday.

## BREAKAWAY BOWLS

ANOTHER enjoyable Monday was had by the members who came to bowl and enjoy the other players. The winners were Peter Grenville, Brian Newman and Gordon Peters. They had a very respectable score of +16

Well done guys.

Friday was spent with friends all enjoying a day of bowls and a great afternoon tea.

The winners were Pat Novak, Les Stanbury and Margaret Morgan.

They won with a score of +14 – great score, guys.

## INVERLOCH

IT WAS Footy Day on Thursday. Players were encouraged to dress in their footy favourites' outfits, and the club was treated to a complete range of allegiances represented by their respective colours and usual parochial team banter.

Unfortunately, due to the weather, most had their colours covered by the wet weather gear, but once back in the clubhouse it was like the spring flowers display on the McBride Avenue and Graham Street roundabout – very colourful indeed.

Twenty-seven players – three fours and five triples – braved the gale force winds and intermittent but increasing showers. The morning session went off without a hitch, but the afternoon game became progressively wetter, and play was eventually abandoned after all rinks had completed eight ends.

Using games won (10 points) and ends won (one point), there were only two two-game winners on the day.

The winning team with two wins and 33 points, was that of Laurel Lee (skip), Jon Justin (third), Rob Howard (second) and Ted Lee (lead).

The runners-up with two wins and 31 points was the team of John Hallas (skip), Jenny Slater (third) and Nancy Stevens (lead).

Reminder: this week's social bowls is on October 2 and will be the last of the winter series, which starts at 11am – names in by 9.30am.

Summer times will change after the introduction of daylight savings on October 5.

The new summer times will start on October 9 and are a complete break from the usual afternoon tradition.

Instead of starting later, the club will be starting earlier so that summer social bowls will be played in the morning and early afternoon where players will be better protected from the heat of the afternoon sun.

New times will be names in by 9am for a 10.30am start time.

## LEONGATHA

MOTHER Nature hasn't been kind to the bowlers.

A couple of events have had to be cancelled.

The Monthly Triples was a wash-out.

Social bowls was hit and miss, but the club did manage one day with the winners being Scott, Ken and Cole – good job, guys.

The practice match against Foster was changed to Inverloch.

Leongatha won all three rinks – hopefully a good sign for the Penant season coming up soon.

Thank you to Inverloch Bowling Club for its hospitality

The Monday roll-ups have started.

Anyone is welcome – come down and get some coaching lessons and a practice with a 10am start.

The gods were not going to be nice on Friday for the John Richards

Memorial Day, but it turned out quite nice.

Thirty-six people rocked up for 12 teams of Triples.

They played 18 ends with alternate rotating positions after six ends.

It gave bowlers a chance to see what it's like to play in different positions – it was a lot of fun.

Robyn and Faye Bland were the sponsors.

The winners were Vito Serafino, Meryl Harvey and Robert Brown.

Runners-up were Natalie Short, Scott Witchell and Bruce Douglas.

It was nice to see Rhonda Richards there to give out prizes.

October 3 will see the first kitty tea.

This is a good night to relax and have a meal and a chat with fellow members.

There are great salads, lots of raffles and meat trays to be won.

Last year, up to 80 people were coming.

It's a great night, so please get names down early for catering purposes

Thanks to everyone whether in a big or small way for putting your hand up and helping.

## SOUTH WEST GIPPSLAND MIDWEEK

IT WAS a great day down at Corinella for 48 of the family of bowlers.

The weather was dry, but the temperature was still quite cold with quite a solid breeze.

The bowlers were signed in by Bev and John while Vern did the work to prepare the teams once we were all present.

Out on the green, it was exactly as expected, with the wind making it slightly tricky for the bowlers.

The temperature had most players rugged up in an attempt to keep the blood flowing. This weather, however, did not take anything away from the players.

The quality of the games was second to none as player after player bettered in many cases the previous shots.

One or two wrong bias shots to help fill the tin for the kiddies.

Yes, the club has so many charitable players most weeks.

Determining the winner was tough with a very close result, relying on a count back as the winners and the runners up both ended up on a score of 34.

The winners were Margaret McConville (L), Vern Elliott (S), Bill Williams (2) and Phil Wright (3).

Runners-up on a count back as stated were Shirley Corcoran (3), Mick Sheers (S), Robyn Banks (2) and Beb Hyslop (L).

Best one game winners this week on a score of 20 were Peter Taylor (L), Mark Andreatta (2), Michael Saunders (3) and Louis Magri (S).

As always, a big thank you to Phil and Terry for setting up before and after for the day.

Also, thanks to Mark behind the bar, as well as Claire, Gwen, Shirley and Max for cleaning up in the kitchen as well as the hall after the game.

Next week, the club will be meeting at Loch to once again fight it out for team of the week.

It will be returning to its advertised schedule as of this coming week.

Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams.

Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity, the club will have to be strict on a 10am cut-off time.

Meanwhile till then, have fun and stay safe.

## WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another good week at the club, although the weather was not the best.

Wednesday saw a smaller number of bowlers on the greens.

With Triples being played at other clubs that day, the numbers were down.

Sixteen bowlers played two games of three-bowl pairs over 10 ends.

After a wet, cold morning, the conditions improved to fine and sunny after lunch.

The unlucky teams with two wins and 31 and 32 points were Denise Silver, Frank Tagell, Caroline Donohue, and Joy Phillips.

The winners, with a score of two wins and 33 points, were Peter McBain and Lyn Tagell.

Thursday brought a windy but fine morning for the social bowlers.

After standing at the windy end, it was decided to bowl north-south against the back fence.

It proved to be a good decision, with shelter from the wind and warmer conditions.

As a result, everyone had a good day. Friday night was once again a success.

The members' draw didn't go off, with Kyal Birt's name coming out.

Next week it will be \$150.

Glen Birt collected a meat tray, Stan Noad a chicken tray, while John and Roger each collected a brekky pack.

Other winners were Steve, Stan, and Paul.

Saturday was Grand Final Day.

The club had teams of two-bowl triples playing four games of five ends, starting at 11am, followed by a barbecue before watching the footy on the big screen.

There was only one team able to win all four games: Teresa Davidson, Allan Ireland, and Sommer Phillips.

How good was it to see Sommer take the next step from barefoot bowls and play so well in competition bowls.

Bowls this week:

Wednesday: Turkey Triples Day.

Thursday: Social bowls at 10am.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Pennant practice match against Inverloch – check the web for time and teams.

Tuesday, October 7: Midweek Penant practice match against Phillip Island.

The club needs more names to fill three teams – check the web for times and teams.

Good luck to Caroline and Joy, who are off to Barham this week to represent Wonthaggi at Country Week.

Don't forget Friday night's members' draw, with the total this week being \$150, plus meat trays and other prizes.

Doors open at 4pm, with the draw at 6pm.

Have a good week, and good bowling.

## WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THIS week, the club had a total of 50 players.

Tuesday's winners on a plus 14 were Judy Sweetnam, Glenda Binch, Ray McCurrie and Theo Scholey.

Runners-up on a plus 10 were Ed Henry, Paul Holmes, Mary Spooner and Thelma Kavanagh.

Friday was another great day with everyone wearing their AFL team colours and enjoying party pies/sausage rolls for afternoon tea.

The winners on the day were John Postlethwaite, Thelma Kavanagh and Ed Henry on plus 17.

Runners-up on plus nine were Helen Rook, Jeannie Slocombe and Theo Scholey.

# Trish Owen proudly awarded life membership at Leongatha Golf Club

ON SUNDAY, September 14, Leongatha Golf Club (LGC) held its Annual General Meeting and was thrilled to announce Trish Owen as the newest Life Member.

Over the past 20+ years, Trish has been a quiet but unwavering force behind the scenes – a true champion of the club. From her dedicated service on countless committees within LGC to her active involvement in South Gippsland Golfing Inc., Trish's love for the game and the community has never gone unnoticed.

General Manager Kate Rowe described Trish as a humble achiever, an honourable person, and someone who makes everyone's day just that little bit brighter.

"Trish embodies everything we value here at Leongatha Golf Club. We couldn't be prouder or happier to recognise her outstanding contribution with Life Membership. Congratulations, Trish – and thank you!"



**Trish Owen, surrounded by Leongatha Golf Club Life Members who were present at the 2025 AGM. Left: Jon Smith, Trish Owen, Peter Waters, Pat Pease, Darryl Pease, Trevor Steer, Fred de Bondt, Pat West, and Dot Stubbs (Absent: Allan Edney, Nancy Sperling, and Noreen Webster).**



**The winners of the Breast Cancer Network of Australia Charity Day at the Leongatha Golf Club were Delia Perry, Michael Thomas, Ryan Thomas and Wendy Brown.**

## KORUMBURRA

**RESULTS:** Tuesday, September 23.

Stableford: 29 players.  
Winner: A Grade Rob Gallagher 43 points.

Winner: B Grade Julian Patterson 38 points.

NTPs: first Ray Ludenia, seventh Greg Jones, 10th Peter McMaster and 13th Greg Jones.

Thursday, September 25:  
Stableford: nine players.

Winner: A Grade Rob Gallagher 36 points.

NTPs: first Billie Wrigley, 10th Paul Hopkins and 13th Steve Duffield.

Saturday, September 27:  
Sponsor: Greg Jones and Ian Gibson.

Stroke Monthly Medal: 42 players.

Winner A Grade and Medal: Matt Burns 69 net.

Winner B Grade: Lucas Gallagher 70 net.

NTPs: first Ian Morris and 13th Steve Duffield.

## Ladies

WELL done to all the women who braved the weather for the early October Monthly Medal.

Congratulations to Lyn McIvor, winning with a great back nine and two chip-ins, to seal the Monthly Medal and win the Tiny Teapot Cafe award.

A Grade: Lyn McIvor 95(22)73 net.

Runner up: Trudi Mantell 99(23)76 net.

BDTL: Julie Hillberg (22) 77 net c/b.

Best Scratch Score: Merrissa Cosson (10) with 89.

NTPs: first Julie Hillberg (Kelly's Bakery), and seventh (second shot) Heather Grist.

The nine-hole competition was won by Julie Cole – well done.

## LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, September 23: Stableford.

Tuesday's Stableford round had 63 members/guests entering the competition.

Overall winner: Ross Paul (20) with 35 points on a countback.

A Grade winner: Michael O'Rafferty (13) with 35 points.

A Grade runner-up: Christopher Leaver (8) with 34 points.

B Grade winner: Ken Smirk (14) with 34 points.

B Grade runner-up: Jeffrey Brewer (18) with 33 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Ross Paul (20) with 35 points on a countback.

C Grade runner-up: Russell Miller (23) with 35 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Alan Starkey (10) at 1.83m.

NTP 14th: Dave Brown (15) at .84m.

NTP 16th: Chad Clasby (5) at 3.05m.

Thursday, September 25: Invy Espy Par Event.

Thursday was a Par event generously sponsored by the Invy Espy Hotel with 56 members/guests hitting off with a shotgun start.

A Grade winner: Alan Starkey (10) with a score of 0.

A Grade runner-up: Glenn Marsham (12) with a score of -1 on a countback.

B Grade winner: Alan Black (23) with a score of 0.

B Grade runner-up: Peter Stivic (20) with a score of -1.

NTP 14th: John McInnes (13) at 1.20m.

NTP 16th: Doug Clemann (15) at .43m.

Saturday, September 27: Stableford.

Saturday was a Stableford round with windy but clear conditions on this Grand Final Day with 74 members/guests entering the competition.

Overall winner: Jeremy de Silva (9) with the high score of the day with 38 points.

A Grade winner: Jeremy de Silva (9) with 38 points.

A Grade runner-up: Alan Starkey (10) with 34 points.

B Grade winner: Gordon Morrison (15) with 31 points on a countback.

B Grade runner-up: Ian Debenham (18) with 31 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Adrian Banks (28) with 35 points.

C Grade runner-up: Shane Robinson (26) with 34 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Dean Kellert (6) at 2.00m.

NTP 14th: Ray Matthews (13) at 3.84m.

NTP 16th: Mick Reinhard (25) at .84m.

## Ladies

A LARGE group of men and women participated in an Ambrose event to support the Breast Cancer Network of Australia. This event raised over \$850 for the charity, with additional funds generated from raffle proceeds.

Michael Thomas, along with his son Ryan Thomas, grandmother

Wendy Brown, and vice-captain Delia Perry, combined well to finish with a final score of 53.75.

In second place were Trevor and Jill Steer and Teresa Bennett and Peter Hodder with 57.75.

One ball down the line was awarded: Brendan Simon, his son Thomas Simon, grandmother Ev Indian, and Glenys Day, who won with a countback score of 57.875.

Brendan and Simon received small prizes for their colourful pink outfits, while Robin Smith was named 'pinkest woman'.

Michael Thomas was closest to the pin second shot on the fifth, Alan Briggs on the 14th and Simon Thomas on the 16th.

## MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, September 23: Stableford.

A Grade: P. Woodall 37 points c/b.

B Grade: S McKenzie 37 points.

DTL: N. Baker, P. Cummaudo, 36, P. Willshire and T. Bradshaw 35.

NTP: fourth P. Woodall, sixth J. Robbins, 13th T. Bradshaw and 16th T. Bradshaw.

Birdies: sixth J. Robbins.

Saturday, September 27: Stableford.

A Grade: S. McInnes 37 points.

B Grade: P. Draper 36 points.

C Grade: Cam Le Page 37 points c/b.

DTL: G. Dawson, J. Gunn and P. Woodall 34, and N. Baker and S. Woodall 33 c/b.

NTP: fourth G. Dawson, sixth J. Robbins, 13th D. Quigley and 16th T. Bradshaw.

Birdies: fourth G. Dawson, sixth J. Robbins and H. Kerr, 13th S. McInnes, and 16th T. Bradshaw and S. Evison.

## WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: September 25, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Roger Kilpatrick 34.

Runner up: Graeme Campbell 33.

Ball sweep: Ian Johnson 33, Tony Schipano 33 and Chris Wilkinson 33.

Results: September 25, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.

Winner: Kevin Bayley 18.

Ball DTL: Graham Ryan 14.

Results: September 27, S.R. 71.

Competition: Stableford.  
A Grade: Brad Andrews 33.  
B Grade: Glenn Hewlett 34.



**Woorayl Golf Club's A Grade winner Kylie Collins with B Grade winner Janet Thompson.**



**Bev Sloan was the Stableford winner at the Wonthaggi Golf Club.**



**Match play final of the Board Foursomes Pairs winners Jenny McRae and Donna Brosnan with runners-up Marg Johnson and Anne Tschiderer on the first tee at the Wonthaggi Golf Club.**

C Grade: Graeme Crawford 32.

Balls down the line to 31: Shaun Stirton 33, Tony Schipano 32, Jim Jordan 32, Rod McBride 32, Steve Terrill 21, Glen Turner 32, Shane Osborne 31 and Ian Johnson 31.

NTPs: Ross Lovett second, Steve Brann fourth, Jim Jordan propin eighth, Rod McBride 13th and Peter Liddle money hole 17th.

Coming events:  
October 5: Equal Opportunity Mixed.

October 19: J&P Martin Club Mixed Foursomes.

November 4: Melbourne Cup Day Ambrose – 9am shotgun start.

November 9: Wonthaggi Hospital Charity Day.

**Ladies**  
TWELVE ladies played a Stableford event, sponsored by Gardiner Kitchens.

Many thanks to them for their sponsorship over the years and may they enjoy retirement.

The ladies started in rain, but it cleared for a few hours, then rain again, but a beautiful afternoon followed.

A Grade's winner was a visitor from Foster again, Kylie Collins 37 points.

B Grade's winner was Janet Thompson 34 points.

BDL: Bev Bridge 31 points and Joan Smith 31 points.

NTP: eighth Kath Davis, 11th Elly Berryman and 17th Janet Thompson.

Brosnan who played very solid golf all day and defeated Marg Johnson and Annie Tschiderer – well done, girls.

Of the Stableford field, most stopped, but for those who persevered, the winner on the day was Bev Sloan (17)27 points, including the NTP eighth.

Kaylene Hodgetts claimed the 17th NTP and made her birdie putt.

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**Tiger 'Macca' a life member at Mirboo North**

THOSE at Mirboo North Football Netball Club were delighted to present Brian McCormack with life membership at the Tigers' recent presentation night, recognising his extensive contribution as a player, coach and administrator.

The livestock agent and auctioneer played for Mirboo North for about 10 years, generally either at fullback or in the centre, before coaching the Reserves for five seasons, culminating in the 2004 Premiership.

While such achievements are always memorable, the condition of the ground on Grand Final Day made it all the more so.

The game against Trafalgar was played at Yinnar, substantial rainfall hitting on match eve after days of glorious Spring weather and turning the ground into a bog heap.

That resulted in a final score of 2.5-17 to 2.3-15 and while Brian said it was probably one of the worst games of finals footy in which he's been involved, it's no doubt a happy memory.

"We kicked 1.5 in the first quarter, I think, and our other goal was with four and a half minutes to go in the last quarter," Brian said.

A couple of weeks prior to the decider, in good conditions, Mirboo North had flogged Trafalgar by 10 goals.

After being less involved at the club for a period, Brian returned as an assistant coach for the Reserves.

He's been team manager for the Seniors since 2017, making sure everything runs efficiently on match day, down to ensuring players have the right numbers on their jumpers.

"If you're not noticed, it's running



**Brian McCormack is honoured to be announced as a Life Member of Mirboo North Football Netball Club.**

smoothly," he said, explaining little challenges pop up all the time, the key being to deal with them and make it appear everything comes together by itself.

As team manager, Brian works closely with the Senior coach throughout the week preparing for games.

After match days there is follow-up, such as ensuring injured players are okay.

There's a sense of pride in being named a life member.

"It's recognition for the years of work and things you've done for the club; it's something you never really look to get, but then when you get it there's a fair bit of pride in it," Brian said, with it meaning a lot to have colleagues acknowledge they respect what he does.

"It was a thoroughly enjoyable presentation night, but the clear highlight was announcing Brian 'Macca' McCormack as our newest Life Member," the club stated in a Facebook post.

"Macca has done so much for our club, a lot of which is unnoticed," the Tigers declared, describing him as "the most professional and organised person you would ever hope to meet" and noting that despite his full schedule, he's always happy to lend a hand.

But it's not just about his accomplishments, Macca acknowledged as "the kind of person that you build a club culture around".



**POOWONG FOOTBALL NETBALL PRESENTATIONS 2025**



**17 & Under Netball. Emma Henshall (best and fairest, 150 Junior game milestones, also got EDFNL U17 equal B&F), Tara Zealley (most improved), Abbey Henshall (runner-up B&F, player's player and 100 junior game milestone), and Abbey Kelson (coach).**



**16 & Under Football: Joel Norton (assistant coach), Lochie Wilson (coach's award), Christian Dorian (runner-up B&F), Cruze Deal (goal kicking award), Kohen Gilliate (most consistent), Lachie Moriarty (best and fairest), Johnny Wilson (most determined), Mitch van't Hof (coach), and Dylan Watson (most improved).**



**15 & Under Netball. Mia Blackwood (coach), Nicola Fort (best and Fairest and 100 junior game milestone), Pallas Jackman-Riches (runner-up B&F), Mia Wilson (most consistent and best in finals), Sharlette Broadmore (most improved), and Mackenzie Fort (coach).**



**13 & Under Netball: Aaylah Tagliaferro (best and fairest), Ebony Ware (most consistent), and Amy Nieuwerth (runner-up B&F).**

**WONTHAGGI & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION**

**2025 SENIOR MIXED NETBALL**

Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve, Korumburra Road Outdoor Netball Courts

**Sunday Nights from 6pm Starts Oct 2025**

- Short season
- Need to supply your own umpire
- 16 years and older
- For charity and CUN

Starts Sunday, October 1 at 6pm  
Text team to 0419 399 415 or via WDNA Facebook or Cargills Sports store

HMT13022



**WE ARE HIRING**

**OPERATIONS MANAGER**

The SGJFC is seeking applications for the role of Operations Manager to support the delivery and growth of junior football across the region.

Applicants should demonstrate strong organisational skills, excellent communication, and the ability to work collaboratively with clubs, volunteers, and league stakeholders.

Send through an email for a full job description or alternatively to apply, please send a cover letter and resume to:

southerngippslandjuniorfl@gmail.com

Applications close Friday, 3rd October 2025



# POOWONG FOOTBALL NETBALL PRESENTATIONS 2025



A Grade assistant coach Prue Blackwood (far left) with coach and best and fairest winner Sarah Hogan, runner-up best and fairest Mia Blackwood and Players' Player Georgia Chiavaroli at the Poowong Football Netball Club. Georgia was also congratulated on her 200-game milestone.



Poowong Football Netball Club's team manager Tiarna Blackwood (far left), assistant coach Bonnie Hendrick (second right) and coach Sarah Hogan (far right) congratulated most consistent Jess King, runner-up best and fairest Zara McNair, and B Grade best and fairest Emma Henshall.



Michelle and Jake Peacock presented the Noah Peacock Memorial Award for Best Young Player to Tommy Burgess at the Poowong Football Netball Club.



Ted presented the Ted Attenborough Best Club Person award to Sally Wilson at the Poowong Football Netball Club.



Zara McNair and Emma Henshall were the recipients of the 2025 Inaugural Rising Star Award at the Poowong Football Netball Club.



Poowong Football Netball Club presented awards to junior club members who helped the senior teams this year. These awards went to Lochie Wilson (Seniors) and Marlon Cawcutt (Reserves).



The Reserves awards for the Poowong Football Netball Club went to Jake Graue (Reserves club culture award), Rohan Verma (most improved), Jerome Cawcutt (most consistent), Troy Smethurst (best utility) and Connor King (best and fairest). They are pictured with coach Dan McDonald.



Poowong Football Netball Club's Senior award winners were Conor Cunningham (third best and fairest and 200 game milestone), Tommy Burgess (Noah Peacock Memorial – Best Young Player), Joseph Bisognin (best utility), Alex Henshall (runner up best and fairest), Zac Gray (best and fairest) and Mitch van't Hof (100 game milestone and captain). They are pictured with coach Dale Carroll.



Poowong Football Netball Club's C Grade award winners were best and fairest Ishkah Butler, runner-up best and fairest Ruby Simpson and most consistent Jazmine Findlay. They are pictured with coach Melissa McNally and team manager Abbey Kelson.



18 & Under Football: Aaron Damon (Best Utility), Hayden Hessels (most improved), Jett Blackwood (runner-up B&F), Marty Cook (coach's award), Gavin Monson (best and fairest), Zac Gray (coach), and Alex Henshall (coach). Absent: Ben Camp (most determined) and Zac Sherar (most consistent).



Leongatha Under 13s centre Finlay Bradley receives her best on court award from former Gippsland Stars captain Daisy Hill.



Incoming, Georgia Rump lobs a high pass to goal shooting partner Clancee Salmon in the Under 13 Grand Final.



The first premierships of the day on Gippsland League grand final day on Saturday, September 20 went to the Leongatha Under 13s. They are, from left, Lexi Gostling, Matilda Bester, Jasmine Herrald, Georgia Rump (c), Alicia Marshman (coach), Kobie Effer, front, Clancy Jenkins, Finlay Bradley, Jaya Dowel, Indi Jacobsen, and Clancee Salmon.

## Leongatha Under 13s start finals day in style



Best on court, Finlay Bradley drives the ball forward on the wet courts in the Gippsland League Under 13s grand final on Saturday, September 20.



Leongatha's Lexi Gostling looks for the best option during an exciting finish to the Under 13s grand final.

THE Leongatha Under 13 Netball Team came back from a Qualifying Final defeat to Sale a few weeks ago to narrowly turn the tables on them in the grand final at Morwell on Saturday, September 20.

In a game that started in squally wind, rain and even hail, the players on both sides, especially the goalers, displayed great skills and resilience to compete at a high level, up and down the court.

But there was nothing in it throughout. Sale started better to have a nice three-goal lead at the first break, but Leongatha's goalers Clancee Salmon and Georgia Rump found their loop and range and pegged them back with good feed coming through the centre via the Parrots' dynamo centre player and league best award winner Finlay Bradley.

At the start of last quarter, Sale was leading 18-17 but Leongatha was coming home to the more sheltered end of the court, with a vocal supporters group dominating the grandstand in green and gold.

Clancee Salmon was on the end of some nice passing in and got the first two goals to put Leongatha up by one, 19-18.

It then went to 21-19 with Leongatha's defenders Matilda Bester and Kobie Effer working overtime, especially against Sale's excellent shooter Kelly Owen. A great rebound by Kobie and down the court went the Parrots again with the cheers of the crowd trailing after them. A goal by Georgia and Leongatha were up by 22-19.

But soon, with Sale forcing a turnover and getting the next centre pass, it was back to only one the difference, Leongatha up by one. Sale surged forward for the equaliser, but no goal was the result. Leongatha's attacking players worked it around the goal circle at their end, but it amounted to nothing and Sale was away.



With the first premierships cup on Gippsland League grand final day were captain Georgia Rump and coach Alicia Marshman.

A key intercept by Lexi Gostling, now in WD, was important and off Leongatha went down the court once more.

The shot goes up and Georgia has another important goal in the swirling conditions, 23-21. Leongatha's GK Matilda Bester wins it back, but there's a turnover and Sale's GS takes a great pass and goal. Leongatha in attack again. It's thrilling.

The ball goes loose in the wind, down the wet shining court. Passing is hard under the pressure and in the difficult conditions. Another Clancee goal and Leongatha retains its buffer 24-22. Leongatha gets it back on a miss by Sale. But it's a turnover in midcourt and Sale comes back to get the next goal to make it 24-23. Could it go to extra time?

Down the court go the Parrots where Georgia Rump is forced to shoot from outside, but her long bomb goes in for a crucial goal.

There's a bit of play both ways, but no

more score, siren! The first premierships on a huge Gippsland League grand final day goes to the Parrots.

Final score: Leongatha 25 to Sale 23.

Janelle Stothers, the Sale coach, is full of praise afterwards for the skills and talent shown by both teams in tough conditions. Leongatha parents, she says, should be proud of their kids. There's also credit for her team and thanks the Sale parents and the league.

Likewise, Leongatha coach Alicia Marshman praised the improvement shown by both teams through the year, noting that after Sale defeated the Parrots in the Qualifying Final, it could have gone either way on the day.

Best players for Leongatha include Finlay Bradley, Georgia Rump and Matilda Bester. Best on court in the Under 13s was Leongatha centre Finlay Bradley, receiving an award from former Gippsland Stars captain Daisy Hill.



## Parrots' Under 17s do Leongatha proud

THE Leongatha Under 17s did an enormous job just making the Gippsland League Grand Final against Bairnsdale at Morwell on Saturday, September 20.

They finished fifth on the ladder, with nine wins and nine losses, just squeaking into the finals by half a game from Moe in sixth. But they roared into the grand final on the back of some great performances in the lead-up finals, overcoming teams above them, including Drouin and Sale in convincing style.

This earned them a crack at Traralgon, equal top with Bairnsdale at the end of the season, with 17 wins and one loss each, and apparently destined to play off against each other in the grand final.

But in a thrilling preliminary final at Sale, the star-studded Leongatha lineup had other ideas.

Boasting four girls who played in the historic SSV State Title-winning Mary MacKillop College team during the week, including Gemma Meadley, Hattie Jefferis, Lucy Heber and Tyler Peters, but also with Lucy Fennell up from the 15s, they took it right up to Traralgon throughout the match and got up in thrilling circumstances by one goal, 27-26.

The prelim was goal for goal from the outset with Leongatha up 19-18 at the last change, but with the wind playing havoc and the defenders of both teams on top, including Tyla Peters GD and Hattie Jefferis GK for Leongatha, scoring was restricted.

Gemma Meadley was working overtime through the midcourt, not only providing good supply to Tess Croatto and Lucy Heber in goals but also applying immense pressure to the Traralgon passing game.

In the last quarter, it was more of the same with the scoreline even most of the time, and both teams hitting eight goals each, the go-ahead goal coming with only seconds remaining when Tess Croatto held her nerve to get the score and the win.



Lucy Heber was all concentration as the ball left her fingertips. She ended the match with six goals. w08\_3825

On the back of a thrilling preliminary final win, the Leongatha girls were delighted to be there on grand final day, but not just to make up the numbers. They were represented by Tess Croatto, Claudia Donohue, Danay Grabham-Andrews, Charlize Hawkins, Lucy Heber, Hattie Jefferis, Willow McGannon, Gemma Meadley, Tyla Peters, and Mia Yates.

The Parrots started well, leading 8-7 at the first change and even went two goals up at the beginning of the second quarter until the talented Bairnsdale side kicked into gear, dominating the scoring in the latter part of the quarter to go in at half time 18-11.

They doubled down in the third quarter as Mia Ballinger (17 goals) and Eve Sabell (20 goals) found their range and they put on 12 goals to five to have their game in their keeping by the last change.

Best Players: Bairnsdale, Olivia Pearson, Maizy Duck, Mia Ballinger (Bairnsdale); Leongatha, Gemma Meadley, Hattie Jefferis, Tyla Peters.

Best on Court: Liv Pearson (Bairnsdale).

Final Scores: Bairnsdale 37 def Leongatha 20.



Tess Croatto, with active eyes, surveys the court for the right option. W12\_3825



Lucy Heber scraps with her Bairnsdale opponent for the rebound after a missed shot. W11\_3825



Gemma Meadley dives to get a finger to her opponent's pass in 17s and Under. W09\_3825



Hattie Jefferis looks past her defender to find a passing angle. W10\_3825

## Win some, lose some

By Michael Giles

WE WOULD like to apologise for a mistake we made in last week's Sentinel-Times, forgetting to include premiership-winning team photos of three netball teams, the Leongatha B Grade and Under 13s, and also the Wonthaggi Power C Grade team.

We have tried to make up for it in whatever way we can this week.

But, as much as we received justified criticism for those glaring omissions, we also received thanks from Lorraine Cayzer of Sydney, wife of Robert Cayzer, formerly of Leongatha, managing the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

According to Mrs Cayzer, while her husband doesn't take everything in, it simply made his day to see the "green and yellow" of the Leongatha Parrots on the front page, and the photos and names, recalling families and people of the past in the local district.



## Leongatha claims B Grade Premiership

Leongatha claimed the 2025 Gippsland Netball League B Grade premiership with a 42-38 win over Wonthaggi in Morwell on September 9. In a tight, back-and-forth contest, the Parrots steadied after Wonthaggi's fast start, led by Emma Ton's 28 goals and Ava Brown's 14. Kate Sperling's midcourt dominance earned her Best on Court, while Alicia Marshman and Kayla Redpath impressed in defence. Wonthaggi's Milly Jobe scored 25 goals in a gallant effort. The Leongatha Parrots B Grade Netball Premiership Team. Back row: Emma Ton, Jade Bowman, Tyla Peters, Lyndell Bruce (coach), Alicia Marshman (captain), Kasie Rump, Laura Curtis. Front row: Kate Sperling (Best on Court), Ava Brown, Kayla Redpath, Lily Scott, Stacey Gilliam. W03\_3925



Best on court in the C Grade grand final Brigette Tack finished with 31 of the team's 40 goals in blustery conditions at Morwell.



Wonthaggi Power C Grade coach Leanne Brown praised the big Power supporters group, which she said "got us over the line today".



Brigette Tack lines up another shot on goal in the C Grade grand final.



Isabella Tiziani has eyes only for the ball in this contested situation during Saturday's C Grade grand final.



Bec Farrell was named among the Wonthaggi team's best in last Saturday's C Grade grand final.



Wonthaggi Power won the C Grade Gippsland League C Grade premiership at Morwell on Saturday, defeating the Tigers 40-32. The members of the team are as follows: Back, from left: Zac Mabilia (assistant coach), Aimee Tessari, Kealey Lindsay (assistant coach), Brigette Tack, Libby Hutchinson, Linda Tack (team manager), Sam Kolden. Middle, Ruby Trew, Jess Tiziani. Front, Isabella Tiziani, Jemma Gilmour, Leanne Brown, Bec Farrell and Elise De Santis.

## Wonthaggi Power tastes success on Gippsland Grand Final day

A HUGE crowd in black, white and teal turned out at the Morwell netball courts on Saturday, September 20 and they got what they came for first-up when the club's C Grade team came through a gruelling finals campaign to claim the premiership.

Morwell finished top and deserved their place in the grand final after beating Power in the semi-final 45-32 a few weeks earlier. Wonthaggi had earlier beaten second-top team Leongatha 31-24 in the first round of finals, but then had to come up against Leongatha again at Sale in the preliminary final, which turned out to be one of the games of the whole final series.

At three-quarter time in that game, Leongatha led 23-21, but with two turnovers and a centre pass to start the last quarter, Brigette Tack hit three goals in a row as the team surged to the lead. With turnovers both ways and the wind playing havoc with scoring, Leongatha got the last score in ordinary time to make it 28-all.

Extra time was like another game. Wonthaggi with the first goal, Leongatha's Kate McCarthy missing hers, but a turnover and it was all tied up once more.

It went like that right down to the wire with defenders on both

sides heroic, but finally Wonthaggi went two ahead close to the end, Leongatha pulled one back and it finished as a 39-38 win to Wonthaggi.

They'd done the hard yards and clearly played themselves into grand final form by the time the match started on Saturday, September 20.

Both teams contesting the grand final, Wonthaggi and Morwell, started the game well with 11 and 10 goals respectively, but Power really turned it on in the second quarter to take a six-goal lead and they never looked back.

Quarters of 10-5 in the second and 11-7 in the third took away the heart-stopping conditions of the previous week and while Morwell closed the gap to five at one stage in the last quarter, Wonthaggi answered the challenge to take it back out to eight at the finish.

Bridgette Tack, who had a stellar finals campaign in goals, won the best-on-court medal and Power went on to a glorious 40-32 win, much to the delight of the surging Wonthaggi Power crowd.



Wonthaggi wing attack in C Grade Libby Hutchinson passes the ball forward in midcourt.



The big Wonthaggi Power crowd was a factor in the grand final win by C Grade in the recent Gippsland League finale.



## GOANNAS

# Goannas ready for upcoming season

THE new cricket season is about to start, and a tentative draw has been circulated.

The first game of the season for the Goannas veterans will be a home game for the Over 70s on Sunday, October 5, against the 'Barkly St Mob', who hail from the Maribyrnong area, while the Over 60s will possibly play an away game on the following Sunday.

Most of the Over 70 games will be played mid-week, so that some players could still play in the younger age group on Sundays.

A possible fixture for the Over 50 team is yet to be released.

In another exceptional effort by Goannas' players, 11 of the Over 50s playing group and four of the Over 60s are representing the state in the upcoming National Championships.

Gippsland Goannas' players selected:

Over 50s: Brisbane, Queensland, November 22 to 27 – Chris Anders, Anthony Bloomfield, Dave Nobels and Craig O'Brien.

Over 55s: Busselton, Western Australia, November 15 to 21 – John Daddo, Brenton Howe, Ken Hutchison, Geoff Kinnish, Graeme Rankin, Steve Rogers and Steve Webley.

Over 60s: Illawarra area, New South Wales, November 8 to 13 – Rob Taylor.

Over 65s: Christchurch, New Zealand, November 22 to 27 – Rino Metlikovec, Peter Anton and Bernie Symons.

Over 70s: As reported earlier, seven Goannas took part in these Championships on the Sunshine Coast August 27 to September 2

Over 75s: Albury, New South Wales, November 24 to 27 – Phill Higgins and Gordon Cowling.

In other news, the Goannas held their annual general meeting recently with Neil Meredith,

Ian Gibson and Ray Smith returning as president, secretary and treasurer respectively.

Peter Anton was elected vice-president and Steve Webley and Ray Floyd were elected to the committee.

Other jobs were shared around with VCV delegates Pete Anton and Ian Southall, social sec/fundraising Ray Floyd, webmaster Adrian Quirk, Play HQ coordinators Rod Jones, Deidre Hunter, Ian Gibson, Pete Anton, Gordon Cowling, clothing Andy Slevin, equipment Murray Moore and Bob Duljas, and media Gordon Cowling.

## VETERANS



South Gippsland veteran cricketers are seeking new recruits for the Over 60 and Over 70 sides this season.

# Players wanted for Vets' season

AFTER a long cold winter, South Gippsland's veteran cricketers (Over 60 and Over 70) are looking forward to another summer of cricket.

Beginning in the first week of October this season, South Gippsland will field two sides – one team of Over 60 and one team Over 70 from Phillip Island, Foster, Korumburra, Wonthaggi and surrounding areas.

To ensure the teams have the numbers to be competitive over the season, new recruits are being sought to join the ranks – long-retired players who would love to rekindle their love of the game.

The competition runs throughout the usual cricket season, with games played on Sundays (15 games Over 60) and on Tuesdays (13 games Over 70) each week.

Sides from Melbourne plus several local clubs make up the competition with an emphasis on participation as well as catering for the competitive spirit with players able to nominate for Victorian teams competing at Interstate Carnivals.



Neil White in action for the South Gippsland veteran cricket team.

Veterans Cricket Victoria administers the competition and oversees registrations, fixtures and insurance.

Often described as "men's shed on grass", aging ex-players get a chance to continue their love of the sport at different levels depending on their ability.

Games are 40-over innings and played on both turf and synthetic wickets.

Travel to Melbourne venues

is usually by carpooling or via a community bus.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in rediscovering your love of the great game and still has the urge to snare a wicket or send a ball to the boundary, further information regarding training times or about the coming season is available from either Robert Francis on 0417 121 619 or Neil White on 0428 689 883.

## NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 1  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

ONE DAY: ALL GRADES ALL GAMES  
START AT 12 NOON

### A GRADE, Division 1

**Nerrena v Phillip Island**  
LEONGATHA TURF  
Ashleigh Stride  
**OMK v Club**  
OUTTRIM  
John Schelling  
**Inverloch v Imperials**  
EAST CAMPUS  
Shane Moore  
Town - BYE

### A Grade, Division 2

**Glen Alvie v Koonwarra L/RSL**  
WONTHAGGI TURF  
Warren Williams  
**Kilcunda Bass v MDU**  
BASS MAIN  
Ian Salmon  
**Foster v Nyora**  
FOSTER GOLF CLUB  
Michael Thomas  
Korumburra - BYE

### B GRADE, Division 1

**Phillip Island v Korumburra**  
COWES  
Steve Williamson  
**Club v OMK**  
McMAHON  
Geoffrey Parkinson  
**Nerrena v Town**  
NERRENA  
Les White  
Inverloch - BYE

### B GRADE, Division 2

**Glen Alvie v Koonwarra L/RSL**  
GLEN ALVIE  
Tyson Tootel  
**MDU v Kilcunda Bass**  
MEENYAN  
Geoff Birnie  
**Nyora v Foster**  
NYORA  
TBC  
Imperials - BYE

### C GRADE, Division 1

**Club v Kilcunda Bass**  
WONTHAGGI SC  
TBC  
**Phillip Island v Korumburra**  
RHYLL  
TBC  
**Nerrena v MDU**  
LEONGATHA VELODROME  
TBC  
OMK - BYE

### C GRADE, Division 2

**Nyora v Koonwarra L/RSL**  
POOWONG  
TBC  
**Glen Alvie v Club**  
DALYSTON  
TBC  
**Inverloch v OMK**  
DIGGER PARK  
TBC  
L'gatha Town - BYE

Subject to Confirmation.  
Any prospective umpires can contact  
Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or  
Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

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## Sentinel-Times

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## • GLEN ALVIE



Gaby Hynes, Lauren Sinclair and Caroline Moore are ready to launch into Glen Alvie's second season in the women's competition.

## United club out in Glen Alvie

CRICKET in Glen Alvie has proven to be fun for everyone with whole families now becoming active members of their local club.

Glen Alvie formed a women's team last season, and the flow-on effect has done wonders for futureproofing the club.

Glen Alvie's team is predominantly filled with mother/daughter duos, and the increased family interest has driven membership numbers substantially.

The women's team just missed out on finals last season, but coach Gaby Hynes is confident the side will continue to build on its foundation.

"The first season was a good learning curve, but it did take a little bit to find our feet," she said.

"Now that everyone has a foundation of what their cricket style is and how they want to play, we can develop into a team that can get straight into it and know what we're doing consistently each week."

Gaby is looking forward to the women's competition continuing to go from strength to strength.

In the Seniors, Ben McRae has once again been named captain/coach, alongside vice captain Matt Dakin.

A Grade just missed out on finals last season, so the club is looking to make up some ground in the 2025/26 season.

Daniel Hales is set to make a return to the Glen Alvie side, and the club is still in talks with other potential recruits.

Glen Alvie will be fielding teams in A2, B2, C2, women's, U17s, U15s, and is still discussing the structure of the remaining junior sides at a league level.

This season's focus for the club will be the ongoing development of the juniors.

"We had great success last season with the U15s winning the grand final. The U17s did pretty well too, and a lot of young players will be moving up this season," president David Hynes said.

"We have been getting excellent

- **A2 captain:** Ben McRae
- **Key recruits:** Daniel Hales (returning)
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A2 finish:** Sixth
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Matt Donohue
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Ben McRae

numbers as all our young players have been eager to get into preseason, and we will be looking to promote our youth into captaincy roles in B and C Grade."

Around the grounds, Bass Coast Shire Council has taken back over the maintenance of the Glen Alvie oval.

"The Glen Alvie Cricket Club has been self-sufficient for many years, but it has gotten to the point where it's a bit beyond us. Having the shire involved now, they will bring some proper maintenance so our ground can get back to its former glory," David said.

"We will be doing some minor renovations to our rooms, and we have plans to increase the size of training facilities, because the club trains together.

"As we are a family-friendly club, we try to make it as easy as possible for our members by having all our training sessions on the one night, which means we are getting some big numbers. It works really well for us and it's unique for our club. It's a real advantage to create this atmosphere where we have everyone involved together, but we need to look at improving our facilities to cope with that capacity."

Cricket aside, the club is looking forward to an action-packed season, which is set to include its annual trivia night, silent auction and potentially assisting with luggage transfer for the Hills Are Alive Festival.

## • MDU



MDU's A Grade captain Mitch McGrath is ready for MDU's round one clash against Kilcunda Bass. B01



Jake Palmer is in good form during pre-season training. B04



Andrew Richardson serves it up to Riley Prosser in pre-season training. B03

## Mitch McGrath new MDU A Grade Captain, hungry for a flag

KEEN to build on the success of MDU's C2 side last season, newly appointed A Grade Captain Mitch McGrath is hungry for his own premiership flag.

Former vice-captain, leading run scorer and captain, now club president and opening batsman, Paul Le Page noted Mitch McGrath is no slouch with the bat or ball.

"We made it to the finals last season and hopefully Mitch can take us one step further," said Paul Le Page.

With former president Russell Widows stepping down this year, Paul Le Page has the challenge of leading all divisions of the club.

As the leading run scorer last year with 430 runs, Paul wants to develop new talent.

"We've maintained all our key players with a mixed bag of veterans," said Paul. MDU will be running three teams this season, with Semba Lakshan a key player.

Paul Le Page and Semba Lakshan were both selected in the A2 Team of the Year with Semba taking 32 wickets for the season and making 300+ runs.

- **A2 captain:** Mitch McGrath
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A2 finish:** Fourth
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Paul Le Page
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Sembakuttige Chathura Lakshan

MDU's C2 side was presented with their premiership plaque at the League Presentation Night, and on hand to accept it were team members Kurt Sinclair, Dale Thomas (c), Steve Riley, Craig Hooper, Keiran Brown and Tim Bright.

Meeniyana Dumbalk United Cricket Club is a community-based sports club that offers cricket opportunities for players of all ages and skill levels. The club fosters a spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork through competitive matches, training programs, and community events.



Riley Prosser faced up to a challenging bowling session in the nets at MDU. B02

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## • IMPERIALS



Sam Vagg, Aydan Williams, Campbell Reid, Kristian Gray, Jack Ginnane and Gary Sauvarin get ready for a new season with the Imperials at preseason training.

## Imperials are gathering steam

THE Imperials are going from strength to strength and are striving for finals representation in the 2025/26 season.

After coming close to folding almost a decade ago, the Imperials are on a trajectory that promises a thriving future.

This season, the Imps will be fielding teams in A1, B2, U11s, U13 and U15s.

The U17s will once again be a composite team with neighbouring clubs, but a standalone side in the coming years is all part of the Imperials' rebuild.

"We are in a good position with our juniors, but we could always do with a few more," club president Kristian Gray said.

"We aren't expecting a standalone U17s team for another two years."

The dip in junior numbers occurred during the COVID period, but the club is hopeful it is well on the way to recovering from that time.

Membership is going well for the Imperials across the board, with all players hungry to go all the way to the finals series.

The Imperials finished sixth in A1 last season in a fairly tight competition.

Jack Ginnane is set to captain the Seniors once again, with Sam Vagg captaining the B2 team.

B2 has additional motivation to get to the premiership contest after falling short last season, going down in the semi-final.

Around the grounds, the Imperials were lucky enough to secure a South Gippsland Shire Council grant, which will go towards new nets.

The club is starting to organise trades to bring this project to fruition.

Andrew Myer has taken over as vice president on the committee, and plans are in the works for the club's 50th anniversary of its A Grade premiership.

- **A1 captain:** Jack Ginnane
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A1 finish:** Sixth
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Tim Sauvarin
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Lachie Wright

The Imperials are going into the new season with a similar side to last year, which has given the club exciting momentum to reach its goals.

"We're going in with the same side, so we just need to play it a bit better," Gray said.

"From a club perspective, nine years ago we only had one senior team, so we just have to keep on keeping on. We have to make sure we are doing everything right on the field and off the field and continue to be a good place for young kids to get involved.

"It won't be far away. We are competitive from an on-field perspective. Things are definitely looking more solid for us, but we can't sit on our hands. Things like COVID can really put you behind on your plans.

"For us, we missed out on five or six kids coming into our program during COVID. Across Leongatha, we will probably only have 15 U17 kids playing, but then we are all looking alright after that. You just have to make sure you keep your young kids at the club and not have a generation where they drop off."

Ultimately, the Imperials are aiming to reintroduce a C2 side into the competition.

It is anticipated that this goal is around three years away.

## • WONTHAGGI CLUB

## Wonthaggi Club relaunches C2 side

WONTHAGGI Club will be reintroducing its C2 side in the 2025/26 season.

The C2 team will be a developmental squad, giving the club's junior players the opportunity to hone their skills at a higher level.

"We want to give our talented U15s somewhere to play. They were all bottom age players last season and only just missed out on finals by percentage," club president Luke McGuirk said.

"We'll be looking to include some of our former, retired cricket players in this team, so there is a good mix of young and experienced players in C2."

Wonthaggi Club will also be fielding A1, B1, C1, U15s, U13s, U11s and women's.

Club's women's team debuted last season.

Despite a bottom-of-the-ladder finish, there were a lot of positives to take out of the introduction of the team.

"We were able to field a team every week, and everyone had a lot of fun," McGuirk said.

"It encouraged new people to join our club and we're looking forward to seeing how they go this season."

Joel Brann has once again stepped up as captain/coach of the Seniors, with Brian Osborne coaching the women's side.

"Joel is now 23 years old and last season was his first in a leadership role. He is mature beyond his years and keen for more success this season. The training sessions under Joel have been going well with good numbers out at the Korumburra Indoor Centre," McGuirk said.

"He will be assisted by Jakeb Thomas, who brings a wealth of experience from his time at the Dandenong Cricket Club. Under this leadership team, we are heading in the right direction."

McGuirk will be coaching the U15s, Greg Selby and Phil Dynes will coach the U13s, and the U11s coach is yet to be announced.

Club will also be hosting a Woolworths Blast program from October 23 to December 11.

Fifteen children took part in the Blast program last season, and registrations for this season's program are already starting to roll in.

Off the field, the club has received a grant from Monash MP Mary Aldred for a bathroom renovation at the clubrooms. This project is set to kick off soon.

The pitch at McMahons Reserve will also be renovated once the soccer season has come to an end.

With no new recruits or retirements, Club is ready to pick up where it left off last season.

A1, B1 and C1 will be pushing hard for finals representation, with the premiership flag firmly in their sights.



Drew Herbet and Jakeb Thomas had a hit out at McMahan's Reserve in Wonthaggi recently.



Heath Crump and Angus Benetti are ready to get the season started with Wonthaggi Club.

- **A1 captain:** Joel Brann
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A1 finish:** 2nd (Semi Finalists)
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Alex Geyer
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Joel Brann

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## • INVERLOCH



Inverloch Stingray's Lucas McMillan at home during last season's C grade clash against Nyora.

## Stingrays return to A1

INVERLOCH has ascended back into A1 after a triumphant A2 premiership win in the 2024/25 season.

The Stingrays are looking forward to competing in A1 once again, appreciating the upcoming season will be a test, but keen to deliver a competitive finals-worthy team.

The premiership side will be returning to play this season, with the exception of Callum Asbury, who has moved interstate.

Inverloch has also recruited Ron Abeysinghe, who played for Leongatha Town last year and is sure to be an asset for the Stingrays.

Dylan Clark and Kit Rotthier have returned as Senior coaches, with premiership captain Dave Newman once again leading the A Grade side.

Newman will be taking Jack Butcher under his wing as vice-captain, mentoring him through to a permanent leadership position at the club.

In the Seniors, Inverloch will be fielding A1, B1 and C2.

The junior program will be overseen by Will Rankin, entering U17s, U15s and U13s.

Inverloch has been inundated with U11s interest.

With around 30 U11s players looking to get a game, Inverloch has decided to run an intra-club competition to ensure everyone can be included.

Inverloch is very proud of its junior club success.

"We've been blessed with the interest from our junior players. We have some great junior coaches, and more local families are getting on board, which is helping our juniors become more successful," Clark said.

"There's a nice feel around the club at the moment – a real family vibe. It's great to have such a strong group of kids and

- **A1 captain:** Dave Newman
- **Key recruits:** Ron Abeysinghe
- **Key departures:** Callum Asbury
- **2024/25 A2 finish:** Premiers
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Jack Butcher
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Jesse Dugard

hopefully it will return more success for our senior program."

Inverloch has also been incredibly successful in the women's competition.

The Stingettes were established three years ago and have since then picked up back-to-back flags and were premiership runner-ups last season.

The women's team is coached by a sub-committee of Clark, Rotthier, Rankin and Butcher, as well as Nicole Creaser and Trina Bean.

Inverloch is looking for another strong season in the women's competition and is welcoming more interested players.

At Inverloch's home ground Thompson Reserve, the Stingrays are looking to build a synthetic pitch.

This will ensure more games can be played out at Thompson Reserve, reducing the reliance on the Inverloch Recreation Reserve.

The Stingrays have not planned any social functions yet, but they will be once again running their weekly draw on a Thursday night with \$100 to be won.

With the start of the season in sight, Inverloch's priority is delivering a competitive A1 side.

"Our B and C Grade sides have always been quite competitive, so this season will be about ensuring A Grade is just as strong," Clark said.

"We had a great A2 side, and we want to be a strong A1 contender."

## • LEONGATHA TOWN



Leongatha Town's Ryan Jorgensen, Frazer Livingstone, Davern Goss, Archie Fixter, Rhett Hume and Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe trained at the Korumburra Indoor Centre during pre-season.

## Leongatha Town storms into B1

LEONGATHA Town is gearing up to launch a successful 2025/26 season.

Coming off a premiership, Town's B Grade side is heading into B1.

Club president Cameron Dowling said the team is determined to deliver competitive contests each week.

"The boys from B Grade are keen and confident about heading into B1. They will keep building themselves up each week, and we're anticipating they will be competitive through the season," he said.

Town will be fielding A1, B1 and C2 in the Seniors this season, with Jesse Giardina taking on another stint as captain/coach.

The U17s will be a combined team once again, with good numbers coming through in the rest of the junior grades.

The women's team is ready for another strong season, aiming to go one better and earn a premiership ticket this season.

Town launched its women's side two seasons ago, and both times they have been knocked out in the semi-final.

Seb Kyle has been welcomed onto the Scorpions' A1 side, with no departures from the team.

At Scorpion Park, Town is getting ready to start a renovation at the clubrooms.

The works will include female toilets and a change room to accommodate the growing women's team.

An events calendar for the season is set to be released soon, and Town has had some changes of the guard with a couple of new, young faces stepping onto the committee.

Town's main goal for the 2025/26 season is to produce strong performances across all competitions, challenging every opposition that comes its way.

The A Grade side just missed out on finals last season and is keen to have some finals representation this time around.

- **A1 captain:** Jesse Giardina
- **Key recruits:** Seb Kyle
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A1 finish:** Fifth
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Madura Madusanka
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Madura Madusanka



Town's Lachlan Gill sends down an accurate delivery during last season.

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## • KILCUNDA-BASS



Elyse Fisher, Brad Wright, Matt Grayson, Greg Miller and Tiana Gold are the 2025/26 captains and coaches at Kilcunda-Bass.

## Sharks ready to deliver a strong season

AFTER getting a taste of finals cricket last season, Kilcunda Bass is going into 2025/26 hungry for more.

The Sharks' A2 side lost in the semi-final but was proud to see some finals representation after a few years of falling short.

Kilcunda Bass will be fielding three senior teams this season and will once again be putting forward a women's side.

Kilcunda Bass has previously been the only club to have two women's teams in the competition.

At the time of writing, the club was unsure of numbers.

At least one women's team will be entered into the competition this season, with the aim of entering two.

Last season, both women's team finished in the middle of the pack and will also be looking for more success in 2025/26.

In the juniors, Kilcunda Bass is fielding U15s, U13s and U11s.

Kilcunda Bass entered an U15s team for the first time in 10 years last season and hopes to see the junior program continue to thrive.

Greg Miller is the Sharks' junior coordinator and will be coaching the U15s team alongside Joel Huckett.

Elyse Fisher and Tiana Gold will be coaching the U11s and U13s.

An eight-week Woolworths Blast program will also start in October, with Matt Grayson at the helm.

Grayson has also taken on the role of A2 captain, with Brad Wright taking over as senior coach from Cameron Davidson.

- **A2 captain:** Matt Grayson
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A2 finish:** Lost semi-final
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Matt Grayson
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Brad Wright

The Sharks have been thrilled with the turnout at training, with preseason numbers increasing compared to previous years.

Kilcunda Bass has been training at the Pakenham indoor nets but will be moving training back to Bass.

A club open day was held on September 14, giving players the opportunity to meet the coaches, gain assistance with any registration issues, and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

Around the grounds, Kilcunda Bass is considering upgrades to its nets and is working on its calendar of social events.

A fixture on the calendar is the Melbourne Cup Calcutta, which is a highly anticipated event.

Over the season, Kilcunda Bass is looking forward to continuing to develop its juniors.

"Last season was the first time we'd had U15s in a while, so we hope to see them come through and play some senior cricket," club president Ash Larcombe said.

"We want to keep the juniors strong and there will be opportunities for them to fill out the B and C Grade sides."

## • KOONWARRA L/RSL



Callum Buckland, Josh Thomas, Brad Anderson, Mick Caruana, Will Cashin and Melissa Gheller enjoy a Sunday morning preseason training session at the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve.

## Seizing new opportunities at Koonwarra L/RSL

ALTHOUGH relegated back into A2, Koonwarra L/RSL is embracing what's to come in the 2025/26 season, with high hopes of strengthening its developing A Grade side.

Koonwarra L/RSL's A Grade team is still young and gaining experience with each game that comes its way, and club president Nick Arnup is confident the team is exactly where it needs to be.

The Seniors will be led by coach Brad Anderson, who has a wealth of knowledge to share.

Anderson is a stalwart of the club, having played more than 530 club games and is eager to step up and share his experience.

The captains for all Senior sides have yet to be announced.

James Rushton has stepped down from the A Grade captaincy after four years at the helm.

The club is grateful for the time Rushton has given to his team.

Although no longer captain, Rushton will still be a valued member of the A2 team.

Training has been going well for the Seniors on Thursdays and Sundays, with many players keen to get involved and back out onto the ground.

In the juniors, Koonwarra L/RSL will be fielding composite teams with Leongatha Town and the Imperials in the U17s, U15s and U13s, with its own standalone U11s side.

Koonwarra/LRSL will also be running a Woolworths Blast program and already had 12 enrolments at the time of writing.

The program will include 10 sessions – five before Christmas and five after – and will kick off on November 6.

Coming off a very successful 2024/25 season is Koonwarra L/RSL's women's team, which was crowned the premiers after an exciting win against Inverloch.

Everyone is excited to be playing again, led this season by Brit Thomas and Melissa Gheller, who also have a wealth of knowledge to share.

- **A2 captain:** TBA
- **Key recruits:** TBA
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A1 finish:** Eighth
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** James Rushton
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Jason Kennedy

With some new recruits in the lineup, the women's team is going into the new season with strong numbers.

Across the board, membership is very healthy at the club, with everyone coming back for another season after sharing a lot of enjoyment in both the senior and the junior programs.

Koonwarra L/RSL has also attracted a few new families to the club, and the members are thrilled to welcome them.

A lot of effort has gone into continuing to build the club up through the off-season, under the guidance of president Arnup, vice president Anderson and secretary Melissa Buckley.

The club was successful in receiving a South Gippsland Shire Council grant, which allowed it to update its irrigation system and upgrade its nets.

The committee has not finalised a social calendar yet, but Thursday night teas will be back, run by Lenny Buckland.

Joker Poker will also run on Thursday nights, and the annual pool night and reunions will be arranged.

During the off-season, the club ran its Col Sperling Memorial Day at the Leongatha Golf Club.

For Koonwarra L/RSL, the 2025/26 season is going to be all about development and retaining its player base.

The club is keen to focus on its juniors, creating opportunities for the U17s and U15s to step up into A and B Grade games.

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## • KORUMBURRA



Korumburra Cricket Club's Liam Dole, Aaron Damon and Caleb Turton with new Senior coach Jason Richards.

## Cobras ready for new challenge

DESPITE being relegated back into A2, Korumburra Cricket Club is optimistic a great season is on the way.

The Cobras are taking on the perspective that this is not a setback, but rather an opportunity to help the young members of the club reach their full potential.

"We have good quality young kids coming through the juniors, so we are going to take the initiative to invest time in our kids. We don't see the need to race back into A1 for a year or two if it allows us to build up some opportunities for them," club president Glen Barrett said.

"We've got our junior development program, which has been running for four years now, and we are seeing a lot of improvement out of that. It's hard to find players, so if we can build up a good core group of young players and bring them through as a group to keep them playing cricket, that's great."

Barrett said he anticipates Korumburra will handle the A2 competition well.

"I think we will stack up. Our core group fits in well with the upper echelon on A2, so it will be competitive," he said.

"It's an opportunity for us to reset. We really love what Inverloch did when they went back into A2 and the way they invested time in their young cricketers. It's a great blueprint for the rest of us."

Korumburra will field three senior teams and four junior teams this season.

It is one of the few clubs across the association with a standalone U17s team, showing the strength of the junior program.

Korumburra will also be hosting a Woolworths Blast program, which attracted 20 participants last year.

"We did a program with the Melbourne Stars at St Joseph's (Primary School) last year too. We had around 80 kids there and five ended up joining the club," Barrett said.

In the Seniors, the A Grade captain is

- **A2 captain:** TBA
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A1 finish:** seventh
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Ben Spicer
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Mustafa Nader

yet to be announced, but Jason Richards has been named as coach.

Richards has nearly 200 club games under his belt and has always been a great supporter of the Cobras.

"Jason has got a great passion for helping educate the cricketers and the club is looking forward to seeing what he can do," Barrett said.

Shane Dole is back to captain B Grade.

On the social calendar, a request has been made to have another past players' night, but the highlight of the season will be Chopper Lotto, to be held before Christmas.

"Chopper Lotto was a great initiative by Allen Summerfield. We hope to announce that night that we will be naming the ground the Summerfield Oval in Allen's honour," Barrett said.

"It's a great recognition of the work Allen did for the club and the community."

The club is also looking forward to having new nets at the ground following a grant received last year.

This project has gone out to tender, and the club hopes it will be completed during the season.

Looking ahead, Korumburra Cricket Club has expressed interest in establishing a women's team.

The women's competition across the association is continuing to grow and the Cobras are keen for representation.

Korumburra encourages anyone wanting to be involved in a women's team to contact the club.

## • OMK



OMK's Ethan Lamers, Clayton Quaife, Toby Nicholas and A1 captain Koby Brann are among those to watch this season.

## OMK strive for back-to-back glory

OMK is shooting for the stars and looking to make club history with a back-to-back A1 premiership win in 2025/26.

In a stunning upset last season, the Diggers came up from their fourth placed ladder finish to defeat premiership favourite Nerrena to win the flag.

The fourth-place finish and a late injury had cricket followers writing off OMK during the finals, but a committed team effort in the last six weeks delivered the top honours.

"Our skipper Koby Brann led the way and the last weeks of preparation into the grand final paid off," club president Russ White said.

"They all worked hard, training three nights a week. We had guys driving from Melbourne on a Friday night to train. Everyone showed their commitment."

"Winning back-to-back would be the ultimate. The club's never done it before."

Brann is back at the helm for another season, and the full premiership side is returning.

B Grade just missed out on finals with a fifth-place finish.

With a few players set to return, B Grade is hopeful for some finals representation this season.

C1 lost in the finals and will be captained by Jordan Myers once again.

C2 suffered a bad start to the season due to the weather and player unavailability and just missed out on finals.

OMK will be fielding the four sides again.

White said some of the young players across the Senior sides will be the ones to watch this season.

"We're looking forward to seeing

- **A1 captain:** Koby Brann
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** None
- **2024/25 A1 finish:** Premiers
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Ethan Lamers
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Ryan Williams

Clayton Quaife and Zavier Lamers – two young guys from our premiership side – take the next step and keep improving," he said.

"We also have Toby Nicholas, who is only 14 years old. He's been training well and has improved a lot over the off-season."

In the juniors, OMK will be fielding U15s and U13s, and is always looking for new players to join.

A Woolworths Blast program will also be run by Paul Fermanis in mid-November.

OMK's grounds are in good nick ahead of the new season.

The club hopes to put up a new picket fence once a grant comes in.

The committee has also been working hard off the ground to organise some exciting functions for the club this season.

A reverse draw with a \$3000 prize will be held in October and Bogan Bingo will take place at the end of November.

The club is also looking forward to its annual Pink Stumps Day.

Scheduled to be held on February 7, the club has teased that this will be a very special event with plans in the works for a surprise guest to be featured.



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## • NERRENA

### Red Caps seek flag redemption

NERRENA is ready to hit the ground running for another crack at the A1 premiership in the upcoming season.

After a dominant 2024/25 season, Nerrena faltered during the semi-final and will be looking to seek redemption.

In B1, the Red Caps will be focused on going back-to-back after winning last season's premiership, along with the U17s, who combined with the Imperials to also win a flag.

Nerrena will be fielding A1, B1, C1, U17s, U15s and U13s this season, and will run a Woolworths Blast program alongside the two Leongatha sides.

The U17s team will be another combined side with the Imperials, while the U15s and U13s will be standalone Nerrena teams.

The U15s coach is yet to be confirmed and the U13s will be coached by Josh Trease.

This season, Nerrena is aiming to continue its focus on developing the juniors, with the hope of eventually entering a standalone U17s team.

New players are always welcome.

Tom Cameron has returned to captain the A Grade side, with Jarrod Hoy and Darcy Berryman taking on the Senior coach role.

Retention has been successful with a full A Grade team returning for another season with no new recruits.

Off the field, Nerrena has a lot to look forward to this season.

The Red Caps will be celebrating their 90th anniversary as a standalone club with an event scheduled for February.

The club also received a grant from South Gippsland Shire Council, Tiny Towns and Cricket Victoria for new nets.

Combined with the club's own fundraising efforts, \$100,000 will go towards this project.

The project is set to start early next year, and the Red Caps are hoping to see it finished by the end of the season.

On the committee, Jane Harrison has stepped down as treasurer with Gerard Murphy now taking over the role.

Matt Price and Jack Curtis have also been welcomed as new committee members.

Nerrena is looking forward to kicking off the new season, hungry for more success.



Tadgh Gannon and Tim Wightman prep for Nerrena's upcoming 2025/26 season.



Nerrena's Gerard Murphy waits for the right moment during a match last December in C Grade.

- A1 captain: Tom Cameron
- Key recruits: None
- Key departures: None
- 2024/25 A1 finish: 1st (Semi Finalists)
- 2024/25 leading batsman: Mitch Clark
- 2024/25 leading bowler: Tim Wightman

## • FOSTER



Brad Cripps, Mitch Allott, Brandon Busuttill and Max Johnston look forward to representing Foster in the upcoming season. A07\_3725

### Tigers ready for a positive campaign

FOSTER is keen to build on last season's efforts that included finishing runner-up in B2 competition, again competing at that level this campaign, as well as in A2 and juniors, both Under 13s and Under 15s.

Talented young A Grade batsman Tex Dyson has departed for Yarram to play closer to home.

Tasmanian Angus Norton has joined the Tigers this season.

"He's a wily spinner, he tells me," Foster president Mitch Allott said, adding the recruit is confident of playing in A Grade, having impressed on the footy field for the Tigers to such an extent he was awarded this year's Mid Gippsland League Seniors Best & Fairest.

That suggests offspinner Norton has the sporting prowess to back up his expectations.

Allott's not taking that for granted though, remarking on Norton's deliveries, "They'll probably just go straight," demonstrating Norton can look forward to plenty of banter. Foster ruckman Allott already well acquainted with the recruit as a footy teammate.

Young batting allrounder Khy Davy returns to action for Foster this cricket season after time in Queensland, adding versatility with his ability to bowl leg spin and medium pace.

Allott looks forward to the ongoing development of young talent at the Tigers as up-and-coming players gain experience in senior ranks.

There is optimism on the junior front after the Tigers made last season's Under 15s Semi Final, Max Johnston again captaining that side which has retained most of its players, the skipper being an allrounder, batting left handed and bowling right arm pace.

Aged just 14, Johnston will also build on his A Grade experience, 15-year-old Lance Moon set to be part of the senior action with his right-arm pace bowling.

"The juniors have been really good the last couple of years, with strong numbers," Allott said, suggesting the Under 15s are likely to be in the finals race again, with those at the club also looking

- A2 captain: None
- Key recruits: Angus Norton, Khy Davy (returning)
- Key departures: Tex Dyson
- 2024/25 A2 finish: Fifth
- 2024/25 leading batsman: Ollie Rook
- 2024/25 leading bowler: Josh Toner

forward to seeing the development of the Under 13 squad.

While senior captains were yet to be named when Sentinel-Times visited the Tigers' den, Brandon Busuttill is likely to continue as B2 skipper.



Max Johnston keeps an eye on the ball in the nets. A08\_3725



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## • PHILLIP ISLAND



At Phillip Island Cricket Club training ahead of the start to the season recently were Nat Reichman, George McCausland, Daniel Mock and Heath Womersley.

## Phillip Island aim for a highly competitive season

AFTER narrowly missing out on four consecutive premierships and finishing as runner-up in both their men's and women's teams, Phillip Island Cricket Club ended the 2024 season as a highly competitive club. Under the leadership of President Andrew Finnlayson, the club is focusing their 2025 season on developing young talent and aiming for success.

"With four key departures and no recruits to this point, we will be promoting our younger players from B grade, all of whom had a taste of A1 cricket last season," said Andrew.

"And with strong junior numbers, we are hoping to see more of our kids getting senior opportunities."

As the club's leading batsman, Daniel Mock will continue to captain the A Grade team this season; his invaluable experience will help guide the younger players stepping into key positions.

The opening of these new positions comes from the departure of four key players, Max Royal, Lachie Cleeland, Jarrod Black and Zac Brown.

- **A1 captain:** Daniel Mock
- **Women's Captain:** Grace Webster
- **Key departures:** Max Royal, Lachie Cleeland, Jarrod Black, and Zac Brown
- **2024/25 A1 finish:** Runners-up
- **2024/25 Women finish:** Runners-up
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Daniel Mock
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Max Royal

Royal's exit leaves a gap, as he was Phillip Island's leading bowler, but despite the change, Andrew is confident that the players will build confidence on the field.

"Our women's team also had a great season last year, finishing as runner-up, and they will be pressing hard to go one better this year," said Andrew.

Phillip Island now have their new four-lane net facilities completed, which will allow all squads to train together this season.



Captain of the Phillip Island Women's Cricket Team, Grace Webster, with Connor Epifano and Kate Williams, at training recently, looking for more women to join them this season.

## • NYORA



Newly appointed President of the Nyora Cricket Club and Captain of the A2 team Jake Henry in action last season against Inverloch.

## Nyora strives for A2 flag

NYORA'S 2025/26 campaign will be all about making it back into the grand final for some redemption in A2.

Nyora had a strong season in 2024/25, but Inverloch proved to be the stronger team come grand final day.

Preseason has been an opportunity to regroup before launching into another pursuit of the flag.

This year, Nyora will be fielding A2, B2 and C2.

Senior coach Aaron Kaddatz has stepped down from his role, allowing Reece Cordeux to step up with a fresh perspective.

The A2 captain will be Jake Henry.

The team has been completely retained, with the exception of Bailey Henderson, who has moved interstate.

Nyora will also be vying for finals representation in B2, while C2 is expected to be a development side.

Nyora will be providing opportunities for its U15 players to have some Seniors exposure in C2 to continue to hone their skills.

In the juniors, Nyora will be fielding U15s, U13s and U11s.

A Woolworths Blast program will take place on Thursdays from November 20.

Nyora is still looking for numbers to field its women's team.

Its women's team had a decent season

- **A2 captain:** Jake Henry
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** Bailey Henderson
- **2024/25 A2 finish:** Runners-up
- **2024/25 leading batsman:** Aaron Kaddatz
- **2024/25 leading bowler:** Aaron Kaddatz

in 2024/25, placing fifth and only just missing out on finals.

Off the field, Nyora received a grant from the State Government, which has gone towards uniforms and equipment.

The club is also looking forward to its exciting social calendar.

Its Halloween event will be held on Friday, October 31.

A junior training session will be held at 6pm before launching into the event, with a disco for the children.

Pink Stumps Day will also be a major event.

It is set to be held on Valentine's Day with a cupid theme.

A past players' day is scheduled for December 6.

Nyora has been holding its training at the Pakenham Indoor Nets and is excited to get back out on its ground ahead of the season.

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# Leongatha & District Cricket Association

# 2025/26 DRAWS



## A GRADE

### DIVISION 1

<b>Round 1 - October 4</b> Nerrena v P-Island OMK v Club Inverloch v Imperials Town - BYE	<i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Outtrim</i> <i>E Campus</i>	<b>Round 8 - Dec. 20</b> Club v P-Island Nerrena v Town Inverloch v OMK Imperials - BYE	<i>Won. Turf</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i>
<b>Round 2 - October 11</b> Imperials v OMK P-Island v Town Club v Inverloch Nerrena - BYE	<i>E. Campus</i> <i>Cowes</i> <i>Won. Turf</i>	<b>Round 9 - January 10</b> P-Island v Inverloch Town v Club Imperials v Nerrena OMK - BYE	<i>Cowes</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i>
<b>Round 3 - October 18</b> Town v OMK Inverloch v Nerrena P-Island v Imperials Club - BYE	<i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i> <i>Cowes</i>	<b>Round 10 - January 17</b> Club v Imperials Nerrena v OMK Inverloch v Town Phillip Island - BYE	<i>Won. Turf</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i>
<b>Round 4 - October 25</b> OMK v P-Island Nerrena v Club Imperials v Town Inverloch - BYE	<i>Outtrim</i> <i>Nerrena</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i>	<b>Round 11 - Jan. 24 &amp; 31</b> P-Island v Nerrena Club v OMK Imperials v Inverloch Town - BYE	<i>Cowes</i> <i>Won. Turf</i> <i>E. Campus</i>
<b>Round 5 - Nov. 8 &amp; 15</b> P-Island v Club Town v Nerrena OMK v Inverloch Imperials - BYE	<i>Cowes</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Outtrim</i>	<b>Round 12 - Feb. 7 &amp; 14</b> OMK v Imperials Town v P-Island Inverloch v Club Nerrena - BYE	<i>Outtrim</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i>
<b>Round 6 - Nov. 22 &amp; 29</b> Inverloch v P-Island Club v Town Nerrena v Imperials OMK - BYE	<i>Inv. Turf</i> <i>Won. Turf</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i>	<b>Round 13 - Feb. 21 &amp; 28</b> OMK v Town Nerrena v Inverloch Imperials v P-Island Club - BYE	<i>Outtrim</i> <i>Nerrena</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i>
<b>Round 7 - Dec. 6 &amp; 13</b> Imperials v Club OMK v Nerrena Town v Inverloch Phillip Island - BYE	<i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Outtrim</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i>	<b>Round 14 - March 7 &amp; 14</b> P-Island v OMK Club v Nerrena Town v Imperials Inverloch - BYE	<i>Cowes</i> <i>Won. Turf</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i>

**SEMI FINALS:** Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22  
**GRAND FINAL:** Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29

## A GRADE

### DIVISION 2

<b>Round 1 - October 4</b> G-Alvie v Koon L/RSL K-Bass v MDU Foster v Nyora Korumburra - BYE	<i>Won. Turf</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Foster GC</i>	<b>Round 8 - Dec. 20</b> MDU v Nyora Korumburra v K-Bass Foster v Glen Alvie Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>Meeniyon</i> <i>K'burra</i> <i>Foster GC</i>
<b>Round 2 - October 11</b> Nyora v Glen Alvie MDU v Korumburra Koon L/RSL v Foster K-Bass - BYE	<i>Nyora</i> <i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i>	<b>Round 9 - January 10</b> Glen Alvie v MDU K-Bass v Koon L/RSL Nyora v Korumburra Foster - BYE	<i>Glen Alvie</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Nyora</i>
<b>Round 3 - October 18</b> K-Bass v Glen Alvie Koon L/RSL v MDU Foster v Korumburra Nyora - BYE	<i>Bass 1</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Foster GC</i>	<b>Round 10 - January 17</b> Koon L/RSL v Nyora Korumburra v G-Alvie Foster v K-Bass MDU - BYE	<i>Koonwarra</i> <i>K'burra</i> <i>Foster GC</i>
<b>Round 4 - October 25</b> K'burra v Koon L/RSL Nyora v K-Bass MDU v Foster Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>K'burra</i> <i>Nyora</i> <i>Meeniyon</i>	<b>Round 11 - Jan. 24 &amp; 31</b> Koon L/RSL v G-Alvie MDU v K-Bass Nyora v Foster Korumburra - BYE	<i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Nyora</i>
<b>Round 5 - Nov. 8 &amp; 15</b> Nyora v MDU K-Bass v Korumburra Glen Alvie v Foster Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>Nyora</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Won. Turf</i>	<b>Round 12 - Feb. 7 &amp; 14</b> Glen Alvie v Nyora Korumburra v MDU Foster v Koon L/RSL K-Bass - BYE	<i>Won. Turf</i> <i>K'burra</i> <i>Foster GC</i>
<b>Round 6 - Nov. 22 &amp; 29</b> MDU v Glen Alvie Koon L/RSL v K-Bass Korumburra v Nyora Foster - BYE	<i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Koonwarra</i> <i>K'burra</i>	<b>Round 13 - Feb. 21 &amp; 28</b> Glen Alvie v K-Bass MDU v Koon L/RSL Korumburra v Foster Nyora - BYE	<i>Won. Turf</i> <i>Meeniyon</i> <i>K'burra</i>
<b>Round 7 - Dec. 6 &amp; 13</b> Nyora v Koon L/RSL G-Alvie v Korumburra K-Bass v Foster MDU - BYE	<i>Nyora</i> <i>Won. Turf</i> <i>Bass 1</i>	<b>Round 14 - March 7 &amp; 14</b> Koon L/RSL v K'burra K-Bass v Nyora Foster v MDU Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Foster GC</i>

**SEMI FINALS:** Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22  
**GRAND FINAL:** Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29

## B GRADE

### DIVISION 1

<b>Round 1 - October 4</b> P-Island v Korumburra Club v OMK Nerrena v Town Inverloch - BYE	<i>Cowes</i> <i>McMahon</i> <i>Nerrena</i>	<b>Round 8 - Dec. 20</b> OMK v Korumburra Town v Inverloch P-Island v Nerrena Club - BYE	<i>Outtrim</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Cowes</i>
<b>Round 2 - October 11</b> Inverloch v Club Town v P-Island Korumburra v Nerrena OMK - BYE	<i>Inv. Turf</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>K'burra</i>	<b>Round 9 - January 10</b> Club v Town Nerrena v OMK Inverloch v P-Island Korumburra - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Nerrena</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i>
<b>Round 3 - October 18</b> Nerrena v Club OMK v Town Korumburra v Inverloch Club - BYE	<i>Nerrena</i> <i>Outtrim</i> <i>K'burra</i>	<b>Round 10 - January 17</b> OMK v Inverloch Town v Korumburra P-Island v Club Nerrena - BYE	<i>Outtrim</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Cowes</i>
<b>Round 4 - October 25</b> Club v Korumburra P-Island v OMK Inverloch v Nerrena Town - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Cowes</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i>	<b>Round 11 - Jan. 24 &amp; 31</b> Korumburra v P-Island OMK v Club Town v Nerrena Inverloch - BYE	<i>K'burra</i> <i>Outtrim</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i>
<b>Round 5 - Nov. 8 &amp; 15</b> Korumburra v OMK Inverloch v Town Nerrena v P-Island Club - BYE	<i>K'burra</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i>	<b>Round 12 - Feb. 7 &amp; 14</b> Club v Inverloch P-Island v Town Nerrena v Korumburra OMK - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Cowes</i> <i>Nerrena</i>
<b>Round 6 - Nov. 22 &amp; 29</b> Town v Club OMK v Nerrena P-Island v Inverloch Korumburra - BYE	<i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Outtrim</i> <i>Cowes</i>	<b>Round 13 - Feb. 21 &amp; 28</b> Club v Nerrena Town v OMK Inverloch v K'burra P-Island - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i>
<b>Round 7 - Dec. 6 &amp; 13</b> Inverloch v OMK Korumburra v Town Club v P-Island Nerrena - BYE	<i>Inv. Turf</i> <i>K'burra</i> <i>McMahon</i>	<b>Round 14 - March 7 &amp; 14</b> Korumburra v Club OMK v P-Island Nerrena v Inverloch Town - BYE	<i>K'burra</i> <i>Outtrim</i> <i>Nerrena</i>

**SEMI FINALS:** Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22  
**GRAND FINAL:** Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29

## B GRADE

### DIVISION 2

<b>Round 1 - October 4</b> G-Alvie v Koon L/RSL MDU v K-Bass Nyora v Foster Imperials - BYE	<i>G-Alvie</i> <i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Nyora</i>	<b>Round 8 - Dec. 20</b> K-Bass v Foster Imperials v MDU Nyora v Glen Alvie Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>Bass 1</i> <i>E. Campus</i> <i>Nyora</i>
<b>Round 2 - October 11</b> Foster v Glen Alvie K-Bass v Imperials Koon L/RSL v Nyora MDU - BYE	<i>Foster GC</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Koonwarra</i>	<b>Round 9 - January 10</b> Glen Alvie v K-Bass MDU v Koon L/RSL Foster v Imperials Nyora - BYE	<i>Dalyston</i> <i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Foster GC</i>
<b>Round 3 - October 18</b> MDU v Glen Alvie Koon L/RSL v K-Bass Nyora v Imperials Foster - BYE	<i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Koonwarra</i> <i>Nyora</i>	<b>Round 10 - January 17</b> Koon L/RSL v Foster Imperials v Glen Alvie Nyora v MDU K-Bass - BYE	<i>Mary Mac.</i> <i>E. Campus</i> <i>Poowong</i>
<b>Round 4 - October 25</b> Imperials v Koon L/RSL Foster v MDU K-Bass v Nyora Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>E. Campus</i> <i>Foster GC</i> <i>Bass 1</i>	<b>Round 11 - Jan. 24 &amp; 31</b> Koon L/RSL v G-Alvie K-Bass v MDU Foster v Nyora Imperials - BYE	<i>Koonwarra</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Foster GC</i>
<b>Round 5 - Nov. 8 &amp; 15</b> Foster v K-Bass MDU v Imperials Glen Alvie v Nyora Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>Foster GC</i> <i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Glen Alvie</i>	<b>Round 12 - Feb. 7 &amp; 14</b> Glen Alvie v Foster Imperials v K-Bass Nyora v Koon L/RSL MDU - BYE	<i>Glen Alvie</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Nyora</i>
<b>Round 6 - Nov. 22 &amp; 29</b> K-Bass v Glen Alvie Koon L/RSL v MDU Imperials v Foster Nyora - BYE	<i>Bass 1</i> <i>Mary Mac.</i> <i>E. Campus</i>	<b>Round 13 - Feb. 21 &amp; 28</b> Glen Alvie v MDU K-Bass v Koon L/RSL Imperials v Nyora Foster - BYE	<i>Glen Alvie</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>E. Campus</i>
<b>Round 7 - Dec. 6 &amp; 13</b> Foster v Koon L/RSL Glen Alvie v Imperials MDU v Nyora K-Bass - BYE	<i>Foster GC</i> <i>Glen Alvie</i> <i>Meeniyon</i>	<b>Round 14 - March 7 &amp; 14</b> Koon L/RSL v Imperials MDU v Foster Nyora v K-Bass Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>K'warra</i> <i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Nyora</i>

**SEMI FINALS:** Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22  
**GRAND FINAL:** Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29

## C GRADE

### DIVISION 1

<b>Round 1 - October 4</b> Club v K-Bass P-Island v Korumburra Nerrena v MDU OMK - BYE	<i>WSC</i> <i>Rhyll</i> <i>Leon. Vel</i>	<b>Round 8 - Dec. 20</b> OMK v Korumburra Town v Inverloch P-Island v Nerrena Club - BYE	<i>Outtrim</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Cowes</i>
<b>Round 2 - October 11</b> Korumburra v Nerrena K-Bass v P-Island OMK v Club MDU - BYE	<i>Poowong</i> <i>Bass 2</i> <i>Outtrim</i>	<b>Round 9 - January 10</b> Club v Town Nerrena v OMK Inverloch v P-Island Korumburra - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Nerrena</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i>
<b>Round 3 - October 18</b> P-Island v OMK Nerrena v K-Bass MDU v Korumburra Club - BYE	<i>Rhyll</i> <i>Leon. Vel</i> <i>Dumbalk</i>	<b>Round 10 - January 17</b> OMK v Inverloch Town v Korumburra P-Island v Club Nerrena - BYE	<i>Outtrim</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Cowes</i>
<b>Round 4 - October 25</b> K-Bass v MDU OMK v Nerrena Club v P-Island Korumburra - BYE	<i>Bass 2</i> <i>Digger Pk</i> <i>WSC</i>	<b>Round 11 - Jan. 24 &amp; 31</b> Korumburra v P-Island OMK v Club Town v Nerrena Inverloch - BYE	<i>K'burra</i> <i>Outtrim</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i>
<b>Round 5 - November 8</b> Nerrena v Club MDU v OMK Korumburra v K-Bass P-Island - BYE	<i>Nerrena</i> <i>Dumbalk</i> <i>Poowong</i>	<b>Round 12 - Feb. 7 &amp; 14</b> Club v Inverloch P-Island v Town Nerrena v Korumburra OMK - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Cowes</i> <i>Nerrena</i>
<b>Round 6 - November 15</b> MDU v P-Island Korumburra v Club K-Bass v OMK Nerrena - BYE	<i>Dumbalk</i> <i>Poowong</i> <i>Bass 2</i>	<b>Round 13 - Feb. 21 &amp; 28</b> Club v Nerrena Town v OMK Inverloch v K'burra P-Island - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Scorpion 1</i> <i>Inv. Turf</i>
<b>Round 7 - November 22</b> OMK v Korumburra Club v MDU P-Island v Nerrena K-Bass - BYE	<i>Digger Pk</i> <i>McMahon</i> <i>Rhyll</i>	<b>Round 14 - March 7 &amp; 14</b> Korumburra v Club OMK v P-Island Nerrena v Inverloch Town - BYE	<i>Nerrena</i>
<b>Round 8 - November 29</b> K-Bass v Club Korumburra v P-Island MDU v Nerrena OMK - BYE	<i>Bass 2</i> <i>Poowong</i> <i>Dumbalk</i>	<b>Round 1 - October 4</b> Nyora v Koon L/RSL G-Alvie v Club Inverloch v OMK Town - BYE	<i>Poowong</i> <i>Dalyston</i> <i>Diggers Pk</i>
<b>Round 9 - December 6</b> Nerrena v Korumburra P-Island v K-Bass Club v OMK MDU - BYE	<i>Nerrena</i> <i>Cowes</i> <i>WSC</i>	<b>Round 2 - October 11</b> Koon L/RSL v G-Alvie Club v Inverloch Town v Nyora OMK - BYE	<i>Leon. Vel</i> <i>McMahon</i> <i>Scorpion 2</i>
<b>Round 10 - December 13</b> OMK v P-Island K-Bass v Nerrena Korumburra v MDU Club - BYE	<i>Digger Pk</i> <i>Bass 2</i> <i>Poowong</i>	<b>Round 3 - October 18</b> Koon L/RSL v G-Alvie Club v Inverloch Town v Nyora OMK - BYE	<i>Leon. Vel</i> <i>McMahon</i> <i>Digger Pk</i>
<b>Round 11 - Dec. 20</b> MDU v K-Bass Nerrena v OMK P-Island v Club Korumburra - BYE	<i>Dumbalk</i> <i>Nerrena</i> <i>Rhyll</i>	<b>Round 4 - October 25</b> Club v Inverloch Town v Koon L/RSL Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>Inv. FG</i> <i>G-Alvie</i>
<b>Round 12 - January 10</b> Club v Nerrena OMK v MDU K-Bass v Korumburra P-Island - BYE	<i>WSC</i> <i>Outtrim</i> <i>Bass 2</i>	<b>Round 5 - November 8</b> Inverloch v Nyora OMK v Town Club v Koon L/RSL Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>Koonwarra</i> <i>Poowong</i> <i>Scorpion 2</i>
<b>Round 13 - January 17</b> P-Island v MDU Club v Korumburra OMK v K-Bass Nerrena - BYE	<i>Rhyll</i> <i>McMahon</i> <i>Digger Pk</i>	<b>Round 6 - November 15</b> Koon L/RSL v Town OMK v G-Alvie Inverloch - BYE	<i>Koonwarra</i> <i>Digger Pk</i> <i>McMahon</i>
<b>Round 14 - January 24</b> Korumburra v OMK MDU v Club Nerrena v P-Island K-Bass - BYE	<i>Poowong</i> <i>Dumbalk</i> <i>Nerrena</i>	<b>Round 7 - November 22</b> Town v Club Nyora v OMK G-Alvie v Inverloch Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>Scorpion 2</i> <i>Poowong</i> <i>G-Alvie</i>
<b>Round 15 - January 31</b> Club v K-Bass P-Island v Korumburra Nerrena v MDU OMK - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Rhyll</i> <i>Nerrena</i>	<b>Round 8 - November 29</b> Koon L/RSL v Nyora Club v G-Alvie OMK v Inverloch Town - BYE	<i>Leon. Vel</i> <i>McMahon</i> <i>Digger Pk</i>
<b>Round 16 - February 7</b> Korumburra v Nerrena K-Bass v P-Island OMK v Club MDU - BYE	<i>Poowong</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Digger Pk</i>	<b>Round 9 - December 6</b> Inverloch v Club G-Alvie v Koon L/RSL Nyora v Town OMK - BYE	<i>Inv. FG</i> <i>G-Alvie</i> <i>Poowong</i>
<b>Round 17 - February 14</b> P-Island v OMK Nerrena v K-Bass MDU v Korumburra Club - BYE	<i>Rhyll</i> <i>Leon. Vel</i> <i>Meeniyon</i>	<b>Round 10 - December 13</b> Town v G-Alvie Koon L/RSL v Inverloch Club v OMK Nyora - BYE	<i>Scorpion 2</i> <i>K'warra</i> <i>WSC</i>
<b>Round 18 - February 21</b> K-Bass v MDU OMK v Nerrena Club v P-Island Korumburra - BYE	<i>Bass 2</i> <i>Digger Pk</i> <i>WSC</i>	<b>Round 11 - Dec. 20</b> OMK v Koon L/RSL Inverloch v Town G-Alvie v Nyora Club - BYE	<i>Digger Pk</i> <i>Inv. FG</i> <i>G-Alvie</i>
<b>Round 19 - February 28</b> Nerrena v Club MDU v OMK Korumburra v K-Bass P-Island - BYE	<i>Leon. Vel</i> <i>Dumbalk</i> <i>Poowong</i>	<b>Round 12 - January 10</b> Koon L/RSL v Club Nyora v Inverloch Town v OMK Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>Koonwarra</i> <i>Poowong</i> <i>Scorpion 2</i>
<b>Round 20 - March 7</b> MDU v P-Island Korumburra v Club K-Bass v OMK Nerrena - BYE	<i>Dumbalk</i> <i>Poowong</i> <i>Bass 2</i>	<b>Round 13 - January 17</b> G-Alvie v OMK Nyora v Club Town v Koon L/RSL Inverloch - BYE	<i>G-Alvie</i> <i>Dalyston</i> <i>Scorpion 2</i>
<b>Round 21 - March 14</b> OMK v Korumburra Club v MDU P-Island v Nerrena K-Bass - BYE	<i>Digger Pk</i> <i>McMahon</i> <i>Rhyll</i>	<b>Round 14 - January 24</b> Club v Town OMK v Nyora Inverloch v G-Alvie Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>McMahon</i> <i>Digger Pk</i> <i>Inv. FG</i>
<b>Round 1 - October 4</b> Nyora v Koon L/RSL G-Alvie v Korumburra K-Bass v Foster MDU - BYE	<i>WSC</i> <i>Rhyll</i> <i>Leon. Vel</i>	<b>Round 2 - October 11</b> Koon L/RSL v Nyora Korumburra v G-Alvie Foster v K-Bass MDU - BYE	<i>Poowong</i> <i>G-Alvie</i> <i>Inv. FG</i>
<b>Round 3 - October 18</b> Koon L/RSL v Nyora Korumburra v G-Alvie Foster v K-Bass MDU - BYE	<i>Poowong</i> <i>G-Alvie</i> <i>Inv. FG</i>	<b>Round 4 - October 25</b> Imperials v Koon L/RSL Foster v MDU K-Bass v Nyora Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>Scorpion 2</i> <i>G-Alvie</i>
<b>Round 5 - Nov. 8 &amp; 15</b> Nyora v MDU K-Bass v Korumburra Glen Alvie v Foster Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>Nyora</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Won. Turf</i>	<b>Round 6 - Nov. 22 &amp; 29</b> MDU v Glen Alvie Koon L/RSL v K-Bass Korumburra v Nyora Foster - BYE	<i>WSC</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Digger Pk</i>
<b>Round 7 - Dec. 6 &amp; 13</b> Nyora v Koon L/RSL G-Alvie v Korumburra K-Bass v Foster MDU - BYE	<i>Nyora</i> <i>Won. Turf</i> <i>Bass 1</i>	<b>Round 8 - Dec. 20</b> K-Bass v Foster Imperials v MDU Nyora v Glen Alvie Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>Bass 1</i> <i>E. Campus</i> <i>Nyora</i>
<b>Round 9 - January 10</b> Glen Alvie v MDU K-Bass v Koon L/RSL Nyora v Korumburra Foster - BYE	<i>Glen Alvie</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Nyora</i>	<b>Round 10 - January 17</b> Koon L/RSL v Foster Imperials v Glen Alvie Nyora v MDU K-Bass - BYE	<i>Mary Mac.</i> <i>E. Campus</i> <i>Poowong</i>
<b>Round 11 - Jan. 24 &amp; 31</b> Koon L/RSL v G-Alvie MDU v K-Bass Nyora v Foster Korumburra - BYE	<i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Meeniyon</i> <i>Nyora</i>	<b>Round 12 - Feb. 7 &amp; 14</b> Glen Alvie v Foster Imperials v K-Bass Nyora v Koon L/RSL MDU - BYE	<i>Glen Alvie</i> <i>Leon. Turf</i> <i>Nyora</i>
<b>Round 13 - Feb. 21 &amp; 28</b> Glen Alvie v Nyora Korumburra v MDU Foster v Koon L/RSL K-Bass - BYE	<i>Won. Turf</i> <i>K'burra</i> <i>Foster GC</i>	<b>Round 14 - March 7 &amp; 14</b> Koon L/RSL v Imperials MDU v Foster Nyora v K-Bass Glen Alvie - BYE	<i>Koonwarra</i> <i>Bass 1</i> <i>Foster GC</i>
<b>Round 15 - January 31</b> Nyora v Koon L/RSL G-Alvie v Club Inverloch v OMK Town - BYE	<i>Poowong</i> <i>G-Alvie</i> <i>Inv. FG</i>	<b>Round 16 - February 7</b> Club v Inverloch Koon L/RSL v G-Alvie Town v Nyora OMK - BYE	<i>WSC</i> <i>Koonwarra</i> <i>Scorpion 2</i>
<b>Round 16 - February 14</b> G-Alvie v Town Inverloch v Koon L/RSL OMK v Club Nyora - BYE	<i>Dalyston</i> <i>Inv. FG</i> <i>Digger Pk</i>	<b>Round 17 - February 21</b> Koon L/RSL v OMK Town v Inverloch Nyora v G-Alvie Club - BYE	<i>Koonwarra</i> <i>Scorpion 2</i> <i>Poowong</i>
<b>Round 18 - February 28</b> Inverloch v Nyora OMK v Town Club v Koon L/RSL G-Alvie - BYE	<i>Inv. FG</i> <i>Digger Pk</i> <i>WSC</i>	<b>Round 19 - February 28</b> Inverloch v Nyora OMK v Town Club v Koon L/RSL G-Alvie - BYE	<i>Inv. FG</i> <i>Digger Pk</i> <i>WSC</i>
<b>Round 20 - March 7</b> OMK v G-Alvie Club v Nyora Koon L/RSL v Town Inverloch - BYE	<i>Digger Pk</i> <i>McMahon</i> <i>Leon. Vel</i>	<b>Round 21 - March 14</b> Town v Club Nyora v OMK G-Alvie v Inverloch Koon L/RSL - BYE	<i>Scorpion 2</i> <i>Poowong</i> <i>G-Alvie</i>

**Semi Final:** Sat. March 21 **Grand Final:** Sat. March 28



Marni McGrath on stage at the MCG with Snoop Dogg for the AFL Grand Final Day entertainment.

# McGrath joins Snoop Dogg for AFL Grand Final showstopper

GROWING up as a dancer in Wonthaggi, Marni McGrath dreamed of pursuing a dance career. Now she's making an impact worldwide, living in the US and dancing professionally with renowned artists. But her latest performance, taking centre stage with Snoop Dogg at the MCG as part of the AFL Grand Final Day entertainment (September 27),

is one she still finds hard to believe.

Marni said dancing for artists is her dream and her career, but performing for someone like Snoop Dogg was crazy.

"He is a legend and has been present and relevant in the music industry for years! I'm still wrapping my head around it," she said.

This was Marni's second time

performing at the MCG.

"It feels like a dream and like I'm doing it for the first time all over again. Looking out at 100 thousand people will never get old. It's honestly indescribable.

"We put so many hours of rehearsals in before the show, and on the day, I didn't have any challenges arise. We were so ready! But, it all happens so fast, so

throughout the show, I was reminding myself to stay locked in, stay present and take it all in."

With years of experience now, Marni doesn't get super nervous anymore.

"Of course, there are little jitters, but it's more excitement. I've learnt over the years how to calm them down. I always take a deep breath before

stepping onstage and do a lot of positive self-talk in my head.

"Sometimes it makes me want to cry because I just can't believe what I get to experience, and I feel so grateful!"

Marni previously performed live with Katy Perry, and that career highlight, Marni said, can't compare.

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