



Game changer for boaties

The Bass Coast Shire Council Infrastructure Delivery Team's marine project manager David Vaea oversees the finishing touches to the \$5.8 million Mahers Landing Boat Ramp near Inverloch which opened for boat launching on Monday this week. See page 15.

CRIME SHOCK

- South Gippsland no longer safest LGA in Gippsland

THE latest crime figures, released on Thursday last week, by the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA), show that the number of recorded offences in South Gippsland has risen by 20.3 per cent for the year ending June 30, 2024.

By comparison, the number of offences statewide increased 9.1 per cent to 552,228.

Of equal concern, however, is the fact that South Gippsland can no longer claim to be one of the safest places to live in regional Victoria with the rate of offences per

100,000 climbing from 4277.1 in 2015 to much closer to the state average at 7683.3 per 100,000 in 2024 (state average 7925).

The alarming hike in crime has prompted Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien to weigh in saying South Gippsland Shire had recorded the highest 10-year growth in crime in the state.


He said that while it was extremely concerning the number of recorded offences had risen 20.3 per cent in the past year, crime had escalated a whopping 93.3 per

cent in South Gippsland, or almost double, in the past decade.

By comparison, he said the number of offences recorded in the Wellington Shire rose 11 per cent in the past year but only 18.9 per cent in the past 10 years.

"We've seen a significant increase of juvenile offences in recent months, but still very serious crime and that has concerned many people across the South Gippsland area," Mr O'Brien said.


Continued page 3



2024/25
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PREVIEW

PAGES 55-63

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Crime shock: South Gippsland no longer safest LGA in Gippsland

From page 1
“It highlights the challenges we’re facing in our local communities, and I call on the State Government to do more to support police in our region, as well as stopping the revolving door of bail that repeatedly sees offenders released only to offend again.”

Mr O’Brien recently launched a petition highlighting the rising crime rate in Gippsland calling on the Government to “provide more funding and resources to boost police presence and deter crime in Gippsland”.

When asked by the Sentinel-Times what programs were in place to prevent recidivism in youth offending locally, Eastern Region Division 5 Inspector Cath Middleton stated, “Our Proactive Policing Unit members currently engage daily with our youth in both residential and in-home care, supporting their specific needs.”

“Additionally, next year we will see the introduction of a multi-systemic therapy team commencing here in Bass Coast, this will be in partnership with Anglicare and will be led by our Proactive Policing Unit members at Wonthaggi Police Station. Referrals for this team will be made direct to Victoria Police,” Inspector Middleton continued.

“This program has already been implemented in the Latrobe Valley and focuses on engaging youth and their families to address everyday parenting and family challenges. Furthermore, Wonthaggi Police Station recently saw the introduction of three new Police Aboriginal Liaison Officers, who’s roles are to work closely with external agencies to ensure our Indigenous community receives the necessary support they may require.”

The Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) releases the Victorian crime statistics for the year ending June 30 around AFL Grand Final Day each year but the comparison in crime rates across Gippsland isn’t a premiership you want to win. For the first time, South Gippsland has a higher crime rate than Bass Coast, as follows:

1. Latrobe City 11,672 to 12,556, up 7.6 per cent, crime rate 15,979.7
2. East Gippsland 5040 to



The rate of youth crime is up significantly across the state, and anecdotally at least, in South Gippsland Bass Coast as well as exemplified by this incident in Wonthaggi recently.

- 5626, up 11.6 per cent, crime rate 11,392.3
3. Wellington 4494 to 4987, up 11 per cent, crime rate 10,732
4. Baw Baw 4376 to 4885, up 11.6 per cent, crime rate 7980.1
5. South Gippsland 1978 offences (2023) to 2379, up 20.3 per cent, crime rate 7683.8
6. Bass Coast 2792 to 3321 offences, up 18.9 per cent, crime rate 7660.1

The number of offences recorded in Bass Coast for the year ending June 30, 2024 rose by 18.9 per cent from 2792 offences to 3321.

However, the crime rate, at 7660.1 per 100,000, is well below what it was in 2016 at 9060.5 which at the time was well above the state average.

The top five offence categories in Bass Coast are:

- Breach family violence order 559 offences
- Criminal damage 320 offences
- Other theft 216 offences
- Steal from motor vehicle 192
- Common assault 164

The top 5 offence categories in South Gippsland are:

- Breach of family violence order 369
- Breach of bail conditions 244

- Criminal damage 200
- Other theft 186
- Sexual offences 120

Family violence rise

The total number of ‘Family Incidents’ is up in both South Gippsland (12.3 per cent) and Bass Coast (10.1 per cent) from 514 incidents in South Gippsland to 577 and from 784 incidents to 863 in Bass Coast for the year ending June 30, 2024.

CSA Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said the increase in family incidents was a significant problem across the state.

“Family incidents and assaults have reached the highest levels in a decade, with a notable rise in aggravated assaults on females and breaches of intervention orders, often accompanied by criminal damage,” Ms Dowsley said.

Family incidents increased by 6.1 per cent in the last 12 months, with 98,816 incidents recorded across Victoria. The rate also increased, up 3.8 per cent or 1418.1 incidents per 100,000 Victorians.

In other state figures, property and deception offences had the largest increase in the last 12 months, up 14.4 per cent or 39,262 to 311,963 offences but they remain below the record peak in offences of

319,928 in 2016.

The main drivers of the increase, according to the CSA were ‘theft’ up 29,863 to 192,534 offences and ‘steal from a motor vehicle’ up 9103 to 61,959 offences in the last 12 months.

The number of criminal incidents increased, up 10.7 per cent statewide or 39,495 to 410,108 incidents. The rate also increased, up 8.2 per cent to 5885.5 per 100,000 Victorians.

Despite recent increases in property and deception offences in the last year, these figures remain below pre-COVID levels.

Ms Dowsley said that “there has been a 14 per cent increase in property and deception offences recorded in the last 12 months, driven by theft, burglary/break and enter and property damage”.

The number of youth offences increased from 19,345 to 23,236 in the 10 years to 17-year age group, with the 13-17-year-olds contributing the bulk of the increase.

The crime rate per 100,000 also increased significantly in the 15-17 age group up from 5731.3 in 2023 to 7026.8 (aged 15), 5366.2 to 6851.9 (aged 16), and 5255 to 5939.7 (aged 17).

Youth crime not my issue, says Youth Minister

NATALIE Suleyman, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Youth visited Phillip Island last Wednesday, September 25.

The Minister dropped in at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, met with local business owners and operators and attended the IGNITE! Youth Arts Fest at the Berninnet cultural centre.

The youth art show was supported by programs administered by her department, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, including Engage, “investing in opportunities for young people to take the lead on projects, build new skills, achieve their goals and encourage communities” and FReeZA.

However, the issue of the day in relation to youth in Victoria is the rise in youth crime.

This was underscored the following day by the release of Crime Statistics Agency data, for the year ending June 30, 2024, which showed that children aged 10 to 17 recorded 23,236 criminal incidents – the age group’s highest level of offending since 2010.

So, we asked the Minister for Youth if there was an all-of-government approach being taken to the youth crime crisis in the State.

“That comes under the Youth Justice portfolio. You’ll have to ask the Minister,” was the response from Minister Suleyman.

“As the Minister for Youth, I’m responsible for delivering these programs, including Engage and Freeza, supporting events like Victorian Youth Fest 2024, a month-long festival during September celebrating the vibrant energy and creativity of young people at 110 events right across the State.”

Minister Suleyman went on to say she was responsible for taking action on the priorities identified in Victoria’s Youth Strategy highlighting that one of the government’s recent initiatives was the development YouthNav, an exciting new online resource for young Victorians.

But surely, when there’s an issue as serious as the rise in youth crime, the Youth Minister would be involved in an all-of-government approach to the problem?

No, she said, that’s Youth Justice.

Couldn’t youth programs be developed that would steer youth in the right direction, that would address the negative influence of social media for example, and other problems identified by the Department of Justice and Community Safety Victoria and other agencies?

“Yes, we work with Youth Justice, but our role is to make sure we’re providing the right support to youth services,” she said.

So, there’s no all-of-government approach to the youth crime problem, or if there is, Minister Suleyman isn’t directly involved.

Maybe she should be.

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CONTACT

WONTHAGGI OFFICE:	47 McBride, Avenue, Wonthaggi, VIC, 3995 (03) 5672 1888
LEONGATHA OFFICE:	36 McCartin Street, Leongatha, VIC, 3953 (03) 5655 1422
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
EMAIL:	EDITORIAL & LETTERS news@sgst.com.au ADVERTISING ads@sgst.com.au ACCOUNTS accounts@sgst.com.au
MANAGING DIRECTOR:	Michael Giles michael@sgst.com.au
OPERATIONS MANAGER:	Jim Akers jim@sgst.com.au
EDITOR:	Chloe Kent news@sgst.com.au
ADVERTISING MANAGER:	Holly McMaster holly@sgst.com.au

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

DISPLAY:	Advertising closes at 3pm on Fridays
CLASSIFIEDS:	Advertising closes at 12.30pm on Mondays
The South Gippsland Sentinel-Times is published on Tuesdays.	
*Please note changes occur as a result of public holidays.	

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

AC0490-V40

6 Day
Weather
Forecast

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TUE Oct 1	WED Oct 2	THUR Oct 3	FRI Oct 4	SAT Oct 5	SUN Oct 6
Shower or two. Wind AM: W-NW 15-20km/h Wind PM: W-SW 15-25km/h	Sunny. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h	Sunny. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: Light	Showers. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: N-NW 15-20km/h	Showers. Wind AM: W-NW 15-25km/h Wind PM: W-NW 15-25km/h	Shower or two. Wind AM: W-NW 20-30km/h Wind PM: W-NW 20-30km/h
9° 17°	7° 17°	8° 22°	12° 21°	10° 17°	11° 19°

IN BRIEF

Turbine fire
risk highlighted

THE safety of regional communities is being placed at risk, according to the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Richard Riordan, as it is revealed the State Government's energy regulator has no records of internal fire suppression equipment being installed in any of Victoria's nearly 1500 wind turbines.

He said a wind turbine fire near Portland in June this year had to be left to burn, as there is no equipment available to fight fires at such heights. A high-intensity fire 200 metres in the air, he claimed, had the potential to spray burning oil and fibreglass kilometres in certain conditions.

"Regional fire safety should not be optional. The government is fast-tracking the wind industry in regional Victoria but failing to ensure fire safety standards keep pace," Mr Riordan said.

More natives
in Cape chatter

THE Cape Sustainable Housing Project is proving to be the ideal home, not just for the sustainable community who've settled there but also for an increasing number of native animals and birds.

Resident bird enthusiast at the Cape, David Hartney, the number of recorded bird species is now at 140, with nine species of frog and 25 mammal species living at the revamped farm site, including koala, antechinus, echidnas, kangaroos, wombats and swamp wallabies.

"We are about to plant another constructed habitat wetland to add to the network of restored wetlands and waterways we have created here," said Cape director Brendan Condon.

"This wetland has been specifically designed to attract and support the endangered Australasian Bittern which live in freshwater wetlands in dense beds of reeds and rushes, where their secretive nature makes them difficult to see.

"When disturbed, Australasian

Bitterns disappear slowly into cover or blend into the surrounding reeds by keeping perfectly still with their neck and bill pointing skywards. The drainage of swamps removes the habitat of Australasian Bitterns," he said.

You can hear David Hartney explain his observations of nature at the Cape on his nature blog at capechatter.com.

Great ship pity
about the weather

PHILLIP Island's summer cruise ship season started on Sunday morning, September 29 with the Princess Cruises line ship, the Diamond Princess, dropping anchor at its usual mooring place off Rhyll Inlet, on the north-east side of the island, at about 8am.

But oh dear, what a difference a day makes!

Where Saturday had been a gloriously sunny day of 23 degrees and the main street of Cowes, and the rest of Phillip Island, absolutely groaning with people, traffic and activity, the cold weather and rain had returned, the streets cleared and the long weekend punters hit the road back to Melbourne early.

But the cruise ship arrivals jumped in and enjoyed themselves anyway, being ferried around the island on buses and boats to see the sights or simply stretching their sea legs on the streets of Cowes.

The British-registered Diamond Princess, with a guest capacity 2670 passengers and 1100 crew was only in port for the day, time enough to go and visit the penguins, then off again by 11pm. But it will return again on October 20, November 10 and December 1 this year, with several other smaller ships to follow through to February 11 when an island favourite, the Seabourn Quest, sails in to complete a busy season.

David Dower delight

THE South Gippsland Jazz Club are holding their next

afternoon of entertainment on Sunday, October 6 at the RSL, Inverloch from 2pm – 4.30pm.

This month will be the David Dower Group, comprising David Dower on keyboard, David Galea on bass, James Osborne on drums, Jacinta Bennett on vocals and Simon Carter on trombone.

The leader David Dower was originally from Foster but has since toured through the United Kingdom, USA, Ireland, Bulgaria as well as Australia playing with the likes of Kate Ceberano, Jack Jones and Lachlan Doyle.

In the UK he performed for Prince Edward. Last week David's trio performed at Fish Creek backing Nina Ferro. The evening was a huge success for the fundraising committee due to the enormous vitality of the backing that David and his group supplied. We look forward to the same level of energy and excitement from David's group to thrill our audience.

Cost to visitors \$18 cash only, details Marg 0438 420 770.

Free legal advice sessions
available in Wonthaggi

ARE you facing issues as a renter, such as unexpected rent increases, unaddressed repairs, or delays in getting your bond returned? If so, you're not alone – and help is available.

The Gippsland Community Legal Service is offering free, confidential advice to tenants in need of support. Qualified lawyers will be on hand to discuss your rights and options in a series of monthly sessions every second Thursday of the month from 3pm – 4.30pm.

Upcoming Sessions:
• October 10
• November 14
• December 12
Time: 3.00pm - 4.30pm
Location: Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre, 6 Murray Street, Wonthaggi
Contact:
Phone: 5672 3731
Email: reception@wonthaggi-neighbourhoodcentre.com

Bookings are essential, so be sure to reach out in advance to secure your spot.

Don't let your rights as a tenant be overlooked – take advantage of this opportunity to get informed and empowered.

Don't forget to
change your clocks

DAYLIGHT saving time begins this weekend! Clocks will move forward one hour at 2am on Sunday, October 6, giving us longer evenings as we head into warmer months. Don't forget to adjust your clocks and enjoy the extra daylight! It's also a great time to check smoke alarms and prepare for the upcoming summer season.

Tarwin Lower Red
Cross meets today

THE next meeting of the Tarwin Lower Red Cross will be Tuesday, October 1 at 1.30pm in the Tarwin Lower Health Centre, School Road, Tarwin Lower.

The Red Cross will be taking donations for the children's shoeboxes to send overseas, donations for women in need of essential toiletries and also for the community food pantry.

A guest speaker will open the meeting, followed by general business – planning will also start for the Christmas breakup – and afternoon tea.

There is no meeting in November due to the Melbourne Cup holiday.

All welcome.

CORRECTION: Four
hundred trees planted

IN THE Tuesday, September 24, 2024, edition, on page 42, it was incorrectly stated that the South Gippsland Conservation Society was looking to plant Western Australian Bluebell. The correct information is that the Society is, in fact, removing the Western Australian Bluebell, and have for many years targeted the species, alongside other species to eradicate. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

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No home for turbines in South Gippsland

IF VICGRID and the State Government listens to the South Gippsland Shire Council they'll forget about prioritising most of this area for investigation for future renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure.

And they'll take their turbines and transmission towers and stick them... a lot closer to Melbourne, to save on power transmission costs.

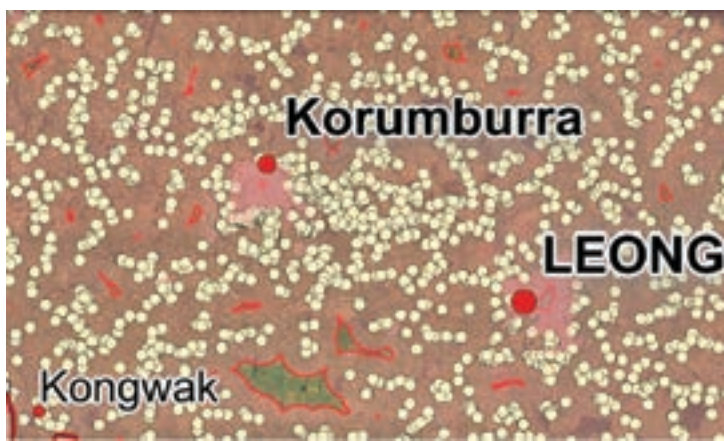
Feedback on the renewable energy zone study area map, published by VicGrid on July 22, 2024 depicting a large 'Tier 1' investigation site around Korumburra and another between Foster North and Fish Creek, closed yesterday, Monday, September 30.

As well as submissions, members of the public were invited to complete a feedback form to raise their concerns.

At its council meeting in May, the South Gippsland Shire Council endorsed its submission about which Renewable Energy Zones should be included for further investigation, noting that while South Gippsland does have some natural advantages when it comes to wind energy, there were some key impediments to the development of wind energy facilities here – local residents' homes!

In a nutshell, the council said: "The Council urges the State Government to recognise the national significance of South Gippsland's agricultural production and the high density of rural dwellings outside townships, which have been important for supporting existing land use and current housing needs."

Included with their submission is a housing density map



Between the location of dwellings in the closely settled rural areas of the South Gippsland Shire, and the one kilometre buffer zone around houses, there's not much area left for the development of wind turbines.

with yellow dots representing existing dwellings and pink shaded areas, within one kilometre from an existing dwelling, covering almost the entire shire area.

"This shows the high density of rural dwellings in South Gippsland outside of townships and would indicate the limited locations for new wind farm developments to be considered without obtaining landowner consent."

During debate about their submission and the very limited opportunity for genuine consultation provided by the State Government, councillors said prior engagement with the council might have saved a lot of heartache.

"Unfortunately, the release of the Draft Guidelines and associated Study Area Map has created unnecessary angst and concern among the community, which is being reflected back to Council."

Cr Scott Rae, a farmer from Foster North, within one of the Tier

1 study areas, and Cr Jenni Keerie, a resident of the Korumburra area, spoke passionately about the rushed consultation and the prospect that inappropriate areas could be selected for turbines and transmission lines.

Cr Keerie said South Gippsland Shire Council made sure the community's voice was heard when it came to protecting the Prom coast from offshore wind turbine developments but had been taken completely unaware by the onshore renewable energy proposals.

Cr Rae said he'd been taught by his mother not to say anything if you have nothing good to say but found it difficult to live up to that in the present circumstances.

"If these were such wonderful, wonderful items that were so good and not intrusive in your life, Port Phillip Bay would be full of them. So would the Dandenongs. The cost for transmission lines is massive. Imagine how much money the state could save by putting wind

turbines in Port Phillip Bay and on the Dandenongs. They don't seem to want to, because maybe the votes in South Gippsland don't count for the state and federal government at the moment," said Cr Rae.

"This is decisive. This is divisive. It will pit neighbours against each other based on a windfall. You might be living in the shadow, you might be listening to the beat of the blade, but you might not get a \$1 out of it."

"This assertion of no turbines within a kilometre of any dwelling, it only actually applies if the dwelling owner says, no. We know that these massive international companies have got huge chequebooks. They turn up, buy a couple of 300, 400 acre farms, and look at that, bingo, you've got spots to put wind turbines. It's happened before."

Cr Rae said the fear was this would happen at Foster North where farming land was already under pressure from trees for carbon credits projects.

"They're planting out heaps of farmland in trees in the name of carbon credits that will never be farmland again, and now we're going to have this (turbines) as well."

"I support that we need a way to create electricity, but dropping turbines all over productive farmland, ain't it. We've got 1000s of acres of desert in this country. Why isn't that suitable?"

Other councillors also weighed in.

Those wishing to make a submission or to complete a feedback form have likely missed the deadline but go to Engage Vic website or Google 'Victorian Transmission Plan. You may still be able to complete the feedback form.

Police charge three after Inverloch assault

POLICE are seeking information in relation to an assault in ABeckett Street, Inverloch late last Thursday night, September 26.

It is alleged that at about 11.30pm, a 22-year-old male from Wonthaggi was leaving a licensed premises when he was involved in an altercation with three males, which resulted in the 22-year-old male being repeatedly assaulted, and losing consciousness.

It is further alleged that at approximately 11.40pm, police located a vehicle on the eastern outskirts of Wonthaggi, which was driven by a 20-year-old male from North Wonthaggi, with a 23-year-old male from Ryanston and a 19-year-old male from North Wonthaggi being passengers in the vehicle.

The occupants of the vehicle were all arrested and then interviewed regarding the incident in Inverloch.

The 20-year-old male from North Wonthaggi was charged with offences including affray, assault and refusing a preliminary breath test. The driver's licence of the 20-year-old male from North Wonthaggi was immediately suspended.

The 23-year-old male from Ryanston was charged with offences including affray and assault.

The 19-year-old male from North Wonthaggi was charged with the same offences.

The 20-year-old male from North Wonthaggi and the 19-year-old male from North Wonthaggi have been bailed to appear at the Korumburra Magistrates' Court on February 6, 2025.

The 23-year-old male from Ryanston has been bailed to appear at the Korumburra Magistrates' Court on February 13, 2025.

The 22-year-old male from Wonthaggi was taken to the Wonthaggi Hospital for treatment for his injuries.

If you have any information in regards to this incident, please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime.

Two vehicles stolen in aggravated burglary

TWO vehicles, tools and electronics were stolen from Freda Street in Inverloch overnight on September 26-27, as the victims, a family, slept.

Specific details of the aggravated burglary are unknown; however, it is understood the offender/s gained entry to a vehicle first before entering the house.

The two vehicles, a Mazda 6, which was recovered on Sunday in the Latrobe Valley, and a Mitsubishi Triton were stolen along with tools inside one of the vehicles and electronics from inside the home.

Anyone with information, including CCTV or dash cam footage are urged to contact Bass Coast Crime Investigation Team on 5671 4100 or submit a report online at Crimestoppers.

Police are reminding the community to keep their cars and house locked, with keys away from entranceways; and to undertake the #9pm routine – lock up, bring in and turn on.

Zero tolerance for Inverloch Good Samaritan over long weekend

LOCAL police gave fair warning prior to the AFL Grand Final long weekend that there would be zero tolerance for drink and drug driving however some visitors didn't get the memo and a few locals ignored it.

As part of Operation Scoreboard police had a visible presence on the road in an effort to reduce road trauma.

Police reported that during a busy round of random breath tests in Bass Coast and South

Gippsland they stopped two foreign nationals on Sunday, September 29, the first in Korumburra, at about 1.43am, when a vehicle was intercepted on King Street, driven by a 33-year-old male from Kiribati. It is alleged the driver returned an evidentiary breath test of 0.164.

The second detection occurred in Wonthaggi, at about 5.42am, when a vehicle was intercepted on McKenzie Street, which was allegedly driven by a 29-year-old

female from New Zealand. It is further alleged that the driver returned a preliminary breath test that was positive for alcohol, and that the driver returned a breath test at the police station which was 0.097. This driver has been issued an infringement notice and their licence will be cancelled for a period of six months.

On Saturday, September 28 in Wonthaggi, at about 12.15am, a vehicle was intercepted on South Dudley Road in South

Dudley driven by a 21-year-old female from Inverloch, with two passengers. It has been reported that the driver returned a breath test at the police station of 0.063, where she should have been 0.00. The driver was issued an infringement notice and will lose her driver licence for six months. Police said the driver told police she was only trying to do the right thing and drive her friends home, but it hasn't ended well.

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Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, Warragul

Cr Laing’s own goal a re-election setback

AFTER a storm erupted on social media last week, over remarks made by Bunurong candidate and sitting Bass Coast Shire Councillor, Leticia Laing, the administrators of Inverloch Community Voice Facebook page took the post down.

But not before an avalanche of public comment did further damage to Cr Laing’s re-election campaign.

Cr Laing was responding to a post by Inverloch resident Paul Cross in which he put forward his “perception as to what politics each of the new candidates support”. Ms Laing noted that he’d forgotten to mention the councillors nominating.

“FYI I’m a member of the ALP but not endorsed and receive no campaign funds from the party. If anyone has any more questions feel free to give me a call,” said Ms Laing, adding her phone number and email address.

But Cr Laing went further. “You may want to ask your candidates if they’ve ever been in a Council that was sacked. I haven’t.”

Very few Victorian councils have been sacked, but locally, it is well known that the South Gippsland Shire Council was sacked in June 2019, and the shire spent a number of years under administrators’ rule until new elections were held in October/November 2021.

The only person Cr Laing could have been referring to was Meg Edwards, and she confirmed that later in an apology of sorts.

In fact, Ms Edwards was not “in a Council that was sacked”.

After accepting endorsement by the Liberal Party to stand as a candidate for the Legislative Council in Eastern Victoria, ahead of the November 24, 2018 election, Ms Edwards initially requested a leave of absence from the November 2018 meeting.

However, after the resignation from council of her colleague Maxine Kiel on September 26, 2018, citing “continual harassment by fellow councillors”, Ms Edwards decided to follow suit.

“I resigned for two reasons, one was to do with being endorsed as a candidate in the state election, the other was because I would have been missing from the November meeting when the mayoral vote was coming up, and I thought that by resigning, it might stop the wrong person being elected as mayor.

“I also stand by the statement that I made at the time,” Ms Edwards said.

Among other things, her resignation statement said:

“Just because someone doesn’t make or pursue a formal complaint process of bullying, intimidation and harassment does not mean it isn’t happening,” she said, referring to the abuse and harassment she had copped, especially by email, making her position on council untenable.

Ms Edwards resigned, effective October 30, 2018, but the council wasn’t sacked, by an Act of Parliament, until June 21, 2019, after months of

attempts at council reform by government-appointed moderators.

“I’m not going to bite back, but I’m not going to walk away either. If there’s one thing I learned from that time it’s that there’s no point turning the other cheek, that doesn’t stop them.”

Ms Edwards said she understood that people who stood for election were occasionally targeted by members of the public but she said she wouldn’t put up with it from other candidates.

“I’ll be reporting it to the Local Government Inspectorate and leaving it with them to deal with.”

Ms Laing has made an apology of sorts after the exchange attracted plenty of criticism.

“I am sorry. Meg Edwards resigned in October 2018 from a council that was sacked by the local government minister in June 2019,” Ms Laing said as clarification.

But it did little to placate the detractors. Here are a few examples:

- Leticia Laing - dirty politics by you Ms Laing. Meg was subjected to immense bullying by some members on the SG council and resigned prior to the sacking.

- Very poor form Leticia Laing to try to smear the character of a candidate. Meg Edwards was not on the council when it was sacked as she had resigned prior to that because of bullying within the council.

- Leticia Laing – why make a comment like this re a candidate having been in a Council that was sacked? If you are a current sitting Councillor in Bass Coast it’s incumbent on you to act with respect in debates in the community.

In typical social media fashion, the exchange developed a life of its own:

- Leticia Laing is part of the famous five that included Michael Whelan, David Rooks, Clare Le Serve and Geoff Ellis that voted for all Bass Coast Ratepayers to vote ‘Yes’ at the last Referendum that was thoroughly defeated when 65 per cent of Bass Coast residents voted No. Her ideology is completely wrong for Bass Coast where we need to get back to basics and not grandstand on woke rubbish. She also backed Michael Whelan with his white elephant the Cowes Cultural Centre that is incomplete, costing this shire a fortune in interest repayments (and yes, we are still paying megabucks on this), while in the meantime we have second-rate sporting facilities and a crumbling seashore. Time for a change. Vote Meg Edwards.

All nine Bunurong candidates have been invited to a ‘Meet the Candidates’ forum at the IK footy clubrooms on Sunday, October 6 from 4pm to 6pm.

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



You can dump sand at either end of the Inverloch Surf Beach but the signs of major erosion remain, including this section of the dunes between the surf club and Wreck Creek this week.

No ‘hard engineering’ for Inverloch, says Minister

AFTER the storm event at Inverloch, in the days leading up to Sunday, September 1, Jordan Crugnale formally asked the government, in parliament on September 10, what it was doing to support the Inverloch community.

The response from the Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos MP came back last Thursday, September 26.

Jordan Crugnale: My question is to the Minister for Environment. How is the government supporting the Inverloch community following the extreme weather conditions across the state recently? We saw a one-in-10-year storm surge event which has caused damage to Victoria’s land and coastline.

I want to thank our fantastic emergency services members, local community groups, land managers, councils and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action working to help our community in affected areas.

I visited the Inverloch surf club several times, met with club reps to discuss coastal erosion and damage and the Cape-to-Cape Resilience Plan, which has mapped out and modelled the adaptation pathways from present day to 2100. The C2C plan clearly outlines the present-day pathway being nature

based dune enhancement and restoration, which is an engineering solution, and this is what is being done, and the design’s tender process is also underway.

I look forward to informing my community on what we are doing to best address the impacts on the Inverloch coastline, backed by science and informed by experts.

Steve Dimopoulos MP Minister for Environment: I thank the member for her question and for her advocacy following the storm event. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action is preparing to undertake nature-based engineering works that align with community and stakeholder values shared during development of the draft Cape to Cape Resilience Plan.

The department is collaborating with a working group of land and asset managers, who are also party to the Inverloch Regional and Strategic Partnership, to complete emergency response works on Inverloch Surf Beach to make the area safe and replace some of the sand lost during the August and September storms.

This working group includes Bass Coast Shire Council, Department of Transport and Planning, Parks Victoria and the West Gippsland Catchment

Management Authority. Community and stakeholder feedback was strongly in favour of maintaining the natural beach and not undertaking hard (rock/sandbag) engineering interventions which would negatively impact beach amenity and use.

Consequently, the initial adaptation pathway for Inverloch Surf Beach aims to engineer and reconstruct natural dunes and transition land use so the natural (foreshore) can continue to maintain its important community, social, recreational and tourism values.

The department engaged coastal engineers in March 2024 to undertake an off-shore sand sourcing study to investigate the availability of appropriate sand for use in dune reconstruction at Inverloch Surf Beach.

Tenders are presently being sought from coastal engineers to design the reconstruction of the dunes which will provide a protective buffer for the coastal reserve and infrastructure therein, whilst longer term land use planning and transition is underway. This important engineering project aligns with the values shared by the community and stakeholders during the Cape to Cape Resilience Project’s engagement activities in 2021-23. The draft Plan is presently out for public consultation.

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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

How TAFE is letting Bass Coast down

THERE is no face-to-face TAFE training in hospitality in Bass Coast.

Quite incredible when you consider the municipality captures more than 3.1 million visitors annually, generating a tourism spend of \$753 million (year ending December 2022) and supporting more than 7000 jobs (2018/19 financial year).

And chefs in particular are always in hot demand. There's nothing for those interested in a career in the burgeoning local health sector either or in-demand childcare and aged care services.

Despite what looks to be an attractive Chisholm Institute of TAFE campus on the corner of South Dudley and White roads in Wonthaggi, the institute doesn't offer a single in-person course.

And despite the best efforts of Bass Coast College teacher and tertiary trainer, Malcolm Beasley, who launched a petition on Change.org in June this year, urging immediate action on the return of face-to-face training in Bass Coast, there's been little response from government or from Chisholm.

"The Victorian Government and Chisholm are working together to assess the demand for in-person courses in the Bass Coast region so that our TAFE network

continues to meet local skills and training needs in the area," said a spokesperson for Chisholm recently.

However, after delivering a range of nationally accredited TAFE certificate courses at its Wonthaggi campus for more than 20 years, Chisholm Institute of TAFE followed the lead of other training and education providers and took their courses online during COVID never to return.

While other providers resumed face-to-face classes, offering the benefits of group work, collective knowledge, social interaction and professional connections; Chisholm continued to offer enrolments online as the only option, unless you are prepared to travel to their other campuses located at Dandenong, Frankston, Berwick, Springvale or Rosebud.

No wonder then that Mr Beasley has accused Chisholm TAFE of having no interest in Bass Coast, concentrating instead on Melbourne's outer south-east and the Mornington Peninsula.

"Gippsland TAFE has a campus at Leongatha and Chisholm has campuses at Dandenong and the Mornington Peninsula but as with almost everything else, Bass Coast falls somewhere between the



Minister for Youth and Small Business Natalie Suleyman hears a pitch for face-to-face TAFE courses in Bass Coast from Wonthaggi teacher Malcolm Beasley during a visit by the Minister to Phillip Island last Wednesday.

two. It's not good enough," said Mr Beasley.

"We've compared Bass Coast with other regions that have smaller populations, like Colac-Otway and Leongatha that do offer a range of face-to-face courses at their local TAFE, why not Bass Coast, with a population of more than 42,000 and a huge holiday population and workforce demand.

"There's absolutely no doubt, the lack of courses in hospitality, health, childcare and aged care is holding this area back economically."

Mr Beasley took the opportunity of a visit by the

Minister for Youth and Small Business, Natalie Suleyman, to Phillip Island last week to make a pitch for TAFE courses.

"She listened and said she admired my enthusiasm," said Mr Beasley.

Having already penned an open letter to the former Federal Training Minister Brendan O'Connor (now Andrew Giles), his next stop is State Minister for Training and Skills, the Hon. Gayle Tierney.

And he won't have to look far for an ally.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale is onboard.

"Concerns about availability to TAFE in Bass

Coast are absolutely valid," Ms Crugnale said this week.

"The scaling back over time of courses available to now there being no courses has impacted many young and older people in our area.

"Travelling long distances on limited and infrequent V/Line services to access other TAFEs is not conducive to keeping young people especially engaged in further education," Ms Crugnale said.

"The need for a proper TAFE presence in the Bass Coast is something I have long advocated for and continue to advocate for with the Minister.

"We are currently working with Chisholm and the TAFE Network to explore options for future TAFE course delivery in Bass Coast.

"On a physical presence aspect, I have also been active in speaking to Bass Coast Shire about exploring partnerships with Gippsland TAFE and Bass Coast Health for a presence on the old school site – something they are looking into, though this will take time and funding.

"The Health and Construction sectors are two big employers and growing with demand and having pathways to this and other industry-led courses would be and is

so needed.

"We want everyone in our community to have access to quality vocational education and training, aligned to industry needs," she said.

Eastern Victoria MLC Melina Bath is also well aware of the problem for Bass Coast.

"Not to have access to face-to-face TAFE courses in Wonthaggi, to serve the Bass Coast area, when other towns the size of Wonthaggi or smaller have TAFEs simply isn't good enough," Ms Bath said this week.

Candidate for Western Port in the Bass Coast Shire Council elections, Glenda Minty, wrote a letter to the editor of the Sentinel-Times recently saying she'd like to see the Bass Coast Shire Council lobbying more heavily for face-to-face training in Bass Coast.

"Bass Coast College may be the largest school in Gippsland with 1600 students and Bass Coast Shire may have a total of 2504 secondary students and Chisholm Institute may have a lovely building in Wonthaggi but there are no practical, face-to-face TAFE classes anywhere in the shire," Ms Minty said.

If you want to help, go to Change.org search for 'Bass Coast Shire needs a TAFE NOW' and add your name to the petition.

GELLIONDALE WIND FARM PROJECT

HAVE YOUR SAY ON COMMUNITY FUNDING

Synergy Wind invites you to share your thoughts on a Community Benefit Fund that would contribute up to \$240,000 annually to local projects when the proposed Gelliondale Wind Farm becomes operational.

The fund aims to support a range of community needs, from education and sports uniforms to medical equipment. If you have an idea or suggestion, we'd love to hear from you, so please reach out to the project team using the details below. We also welcome your feedback and questions as the proposal moves through the planning and approvals phase.

This is your chance to create opportunities that benefit your community. We invite your ideas, feedback and questions via e-mail, phone or the project website (details below).

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Turbines: Up to 13
Height: Up to 210 metres
Location:

- Approximately seven kilometres south-west of Yarram, three kilometres west of Alberton and eight kilometres east of Welshpool.
- The area is cleared agricultural land with supporting infrastructure including energy storage and a substation next to an existing 66 kV transmission line.

Installed capacity

- About 80 MW
- About 37,000 average Victorian homes powered annually with clean renewable energy

Jobs:

- About 50 jobs during construction and about 10 ongoing positions

Project status:

- Planning and approvals processes underway at State and Commonwealth levels
- Planning and technical investigations completed along with targeted flora and fauna surveys, ecological surveys and a range of detailed environmental assessments being finalised
- Engagement with neighbouring properties ongoing
- Broader community engagement underway

\$300m project

Local investment

Renewable energy generation

Local suppliers

Community Benefit Program

Local jobs



Gelliondale Wind Farm Project Office: 310 Commercial Road Yarram VIC 3971.
Open every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 1 pm to 6 pm, or by appointment. P: 1800 931 871 E: contact@gelliondalewind.com
www.gelliondalewind.com





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Victorian Minister for Veterans Affairs Natalie Suleyman and local MP Jordan Crugnale spent time with Inverloch RSL committee members recently to discuss veteran support and welfare.

Minister Suleyman visits RSL

IN A meaningful visit to the Inverloch RSL on Wednesday, September 25, Victorian Minister for Veterans Affairs Natalie Suleyman and local Bass MP, Jordan Crugnale, met with community members to discuss significant advancements in veteran support and welfare.

The meeting highlighted the successful grants provided by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) for capital works and commemorative initiatives aimed at honouring the sacrifices of veterans and their families.

Among the key projects celebrated during the visit were the beautiful mural and RSL and Legacy commemorative garden at the Inverloch Cemetery. These projects, made possible through DFFH funding, not only beautify the local area but also serve as a poignant reminder of the dedication and bravery of those who have served in the armed forces. The mural, depicting vivid scenes of military history, has

garnered admiration from locals and visitors alike, while the garden provides a serene space for reflection and remembrance.

Minister Suleyman expressed her gratitude for the ongoing efforts of the local RSL and the wider community in supporting veterans. “These projects are not just about aesthetics; they symbolise our respect and recognition of the sacrifices made by our service men and women. They create a place where families can come together to remember and reflect,” she stated.

MP Jordan Crugnale spoke of the comradeship at the Inverloch RSL and that ‘we have our arms wrapped around each other’ and focused on veteran and community support.

Another significant topic on the agenda was the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. Minister Suleyman emphasised the Victorian Government’s commitment to ensuring that the

recommendations from this vital report are effectively implemented.

“Our veterans deserve the best possible support as they navigate the challenges that can arise after service. We are dedicated to working collaboratively with the Federal Government to create a framework that keeps their mental health and wellbeing at the forefront,” she said.

The discussions were marked by a spirit of hope and determination, with both the Minister and MP Jordan Crugnale stressing the importance of comprehensive support for veterans in the region.

“It is imperative that we listen to our veterans and their families as we form policies and support systems. Their insights will be invaluable as we move forward,” Jordan Crugnale remarked.

Minister Suleyman’s respectful approach to discussing these crucial matters resonated with attendees, many of whom are veterans and families directly affected by

the issues at hand.

“It is reassuring to know that our state leaders are attentive to the challenges veterans face and are committed to finding solutions,” commented Ross Gabb, Inverloch RSL President.

The gathering at the Inverloch RSL served not only as a platform for sharing important updates but also as a reaffirmation of the community’s commitment to looking after its veterans. As Minister Suleyman and MP Crugnale continue to engage with local leaders and veterans alike, the hope remains that positive changes will come from their discussions, ensuring that all Victorian veterans receive the respect and support they deserve.

As the event concluded, attendees were left feeling inspired by the Minister’s dedication and the collaborative spirit among community members. With ongoing efforts and open dialogue, the future looks promising for veterans in the Bass Coast region.



Luca and Nico display their handiwork at Leongatha Library.

Myli Libraries offer school holiday fun

THERE’S plenty for kids to do during the school holidays at Myli library branches, with enthusiastic participants enjoying last Tuesday’s Money Box Craft session in Leongatha.

Each child received a blank wooden money box in the shape of a house, choosing from a table of creative craft supplies such as pom poms, feathers, paint pens, stick-on-shapes, and tissue paper to embellish it.

“The patrons were encouraged to get creative and decorate their money box in any design they could come up with,” Library Programs Officer Kate Lochlin said.

“It was a lot of fun and everyone seemed really engaged.”

Participants Luca and Nico were clearly enjoying themselves, with their mum Donna joining in.

There is a range of other Myli activities during the holidays.

“We got to chat about other free programs coming up, like Box Head Creations at Leongatha Library and the wonderful activities at each of our other branches,” Kate said.

The Box Head Creations session runs from 10.30am until 11.30am on Wednesday, October 2, inviting children to make an imaginative and colourful box head puppet to wear.

While all holiday activities are free, there are limited numbers for each, so people are encouraged to book as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Book through eventbrite.com.au or by calling or visiting a Myli library branch.

A couple of this week’s sessions are Paper Robot Craft at Wonthaggi Library at 11am on Wednesday, October 2, and Royal Creations at Foster Library on Friday, October 4 at 2pm, the latter offering the chance to create crowns and sceptres using stick-on jewels, textas or pencils and special paper.

Bass Coast Shire Council postal election

My council, my vote



An election will be held for Bass Coast Shire Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit vec.vic.gov.au to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au

A photo and candidate statement will also be included if provided by candidates. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Old Post Office
74 McBride Avenue
Wonthaggi

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. This includes state-enrolled and council-enrolled voters.

If you don’t vote and don’t have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:
• عربي (Arabic) 9209 0100 • ܐܪܡܝܐ (Assyrian) 9209 0160 • မြန်မာစာ (Burmese) 9209 0161 • 简体中文 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 • 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101
• Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 • دري (Dari) 9209 0193 • Thuận ngữ (Dinka) 9209 0119 • Ελληνικά (Greek) 9209 0103 • آذري (Hazaragi) 9209 0162 • Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104
• ខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0192 • 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 • македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 • नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0163 • فارسي (Persian) 9209 0195 • မြန်မာစာ (Thai) 9209 0164
• Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 • اردو (Urdu) 9209 0165 • Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112
Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic





South Gippsland Shire Council News

October is Seniors Month

Happy Seniors Month!

South Gippsland Shire Council is excited to support a range of events as part of this year’s festivities. These include:

Milpara Community House (Korumburra)

- Chair Yoga - Tuesday 8 October, 10.00am to 11.00am.
- Seniors Luncheon - Thursday 10 October, 1.00pm.
- Qigong - Tuesday 15 October, 10.00am to 11.00am.
- Tai Chi for Arthritis - every Wednesday from 10 to 31 October, 10.30am - 11.30am.

Mirboo North Hotel

- Seniors Lunch - Saturday 28 October, 12.00pm (bookings essential).

Leongatha Seniors Citizen Centre

- Seniors entertainment, Friday 11 October, 1.00pm

The Horse Within Equine Assisted Therapy, Loch

- Hoof to Heart: Tea with Horses, Tuesday 8 October and Tuesday 22 October, 10.00am (bookings essential).

Foster War Memorial Arts Centre

- Senior U3A Prom Coast Performing Arts Concert Singalong, Wednesday 23 October, 10.00am.

Be sure to keep your calendar handy and pencil in these exciting events - you won’t want to miss out! More information can be found at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsmonth

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

2024 Garage Sale Trail



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

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

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

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

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

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Additional Council Meeting

Wednesday 2 October 2.00pm
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

Council will be considering the Authorisation of Councillors for Certification of the 2023/24 Financial Report and Performance Statement.

Dates are also listed on Council’s website at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting-dates

To watch the ‘open’ part of the meeting live or when it suits you, visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Please Note: For Council Meetings in the Election Caretaker Period (17 September to 26 October) there will be no public question time.

IN THE KNOW

Want to stay up to date with the latest Council news?

Council’s fortnightly e-newsletter, ‘In The Know’, will keep you informed about upcoming events, engagements, and initiatives shaping the future of our region.

A thriving community starts with informed residents.

To sign up, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/intheknow

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

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www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

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

Upgrades taking place at Korumburra Cemetery

DRONES are flying over the Korumburra Cemetery this week, mapping the entire site using state-of-the-art GPS technology, making historically and personally significant sites available at one's fingertips.

Secretary of the Korumburra Cemetery Trust (KCT), Geoff Wyatt has been working with cloud-based company Opus Xenta for the past few months on the project.

"They'll map all the graves, and then you'll be able to, when you go in, get a direction of where the graves are because there'll be mapping of where the grave is in the cemetery and everything," explained Geoff.

"You'll be able to look up on your phone and it will give you the satellite location."

The mapping of the cemetery using high-resolution imagery will also allow KCT to optimise the utilisation of space, which will come in handy as the cemetery requires expansion.

"We're in the process now of extending the cemetery, we've got another ten acres next door. That's the project now because we haven't got a lot more room left there. It means putting a new bit of road in and some fencing, new beams and stuff like that," said Geoff.

The Opus Xenta system also has a record management component and members of KCT have spent the past six months manually entering records which will now automatically update across the system and streamline their operations.

It will also ensure that historic records are preserved and protected.

"It's been a lot of work, over four and half thousand sites and over 5800 interments," explained Geoff.

"With Doug Boston, we've gone through all the cemetery records from 1894, that are 130 years old and verified all the records for this."

Geoff anticipates the virtual mapping and systems will be up and running in the next two weeks and they are also in the process of improving the cemeteries' physical surroundings.

"We're updating our memorial garden. We've re-concreted all the paths and everything. And we're updating the clearing, putting some new shrubs in it, and that looks very good," explained Geoff.

"We get a lot of very positive comments about the cemetery from people that come here, to put ashes, from all over Australia."

Pedestrian bridge works progressing

WORKS on the pedestrian bridge connecting the car park in the Leongatha rail yard area to the shopping precinct in Bair Street are now progressing steadily after some design and fabrication delays.

"Bridge foundations have been constructed onsite and the offsite fabrication of the bridge is nearing completion," South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis said.

It is expected that the bridge, and associated ramps and stairs, will all be installed and open to the public by the end of the year.

The bridge was originally intended to be completed by mid-2023, with a contract awarded to South Gippsland Quarries Pty Ltd in September 2022 for \$657,800 excluding GST.

Ms Ellis said the new pedestrian bridge, ramps and associated works remain on budget at approximately \$750,000 and that delays experienced during the bridge project have not increased the cost to council.

The difference between the contract amount and the overall figure is accounted for by contingency and project management costs.



David Head, Rob Parfett and Bob Beilby from the Leongatha Men's Shed have been able to reduce costs and have greater security thanks to the Men's Shed Funding Program from the State Government. ob01_4024

Grants help Men's Shed with upgrades

THE LEONGATHA Men's Shed received a \$21,921 grant which will go towards placing solar panels on the roof and security screens on the doors and windows.

While the Venus Bay Tarwin Lower and District Men's Shed were also recipients of the funding program and received \$64,260 to add a 12x5 metre extension to their shed.

The grants are part of the Victorian State Government's 2023-2024 financial year Men's Shed Funding Program.

David Brereton, President of the Leongatha Men's Shed said that the funding has allowed them to upgrade their facilities, making a difference to the group both financially and safety-wise.

"The solar panels are

substantially reducing our power bills," explained David.

"The security upgrades will prevent break-ins, which will make us all feel much more comfortable."

The Men's Shed have experienced a number of break-ins over the past couple of years and thanks to the funding the building is much more secure.

"We've just put security doors on the front of the building and security grates on the windows," said David.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are now available to build new Men's Sheds or the replacement, extension or refurbishment of an existing shed.

There are more than 325 Men's Sheds across Victoria supporting their communities in various ways

and The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien is encouraging Gippsland Men's Sheds to apply for the latest round of grants.

"Men's Sheds are one of our most powerful tools in supporting men in our communities," said Mr O'Brien.

"When visiting sheds across Gippsland South I hear stories of the invaluable support Men's Sheds provide to men of all ages.

"I am encouraging all Men's Shed across Gippsland South who require refurbishments, extensions or replacements to ensure they get their applications in."

Applications close Wednesday, October 16. More information is available online at vic.gov.au/mens-shed-funding-program.



Residents of Mirboo North were invited to have a chat with their council candidates about what matters to them. Residents Heather Butler, Liz Morris and Liz Radcliffe with candidates John Schelling, Brad Snell and (kneeling) Clare Williams.

Council candidates connect with locals

MIRBOO North residents were invited to meet the candidates running for council face-to-face over a coffee last Thursday morning to discuss the community and town needs.

Clare Williams and John Schelling who are both running again for election for the South Gippsland Shire Council together with new candidate Brad Snell, were stationed at Mirboo North café Lamezleighs, to connect with and chat with locals.

Ms Williams commented that they are looking to connect with South Gippsland communities on a more micro-scale and discuss how

they can create another level of engagement.

This could look like Councillors coming to local markets or working at the Mirboo North Community hub on a regular basis.

They also discussed how council could work more closely with the community in rolling out grants as well as creating greater engagement around schools, kinder and childcare, specifically in Mirboo North.

Liz Morris, a 35-year resident of Mirboo North who has played an instrumental role in the town's past upgrades and changes, discussed with the candidates the need for

faster recovery after storms and future planning.

Liz feels that since February, storm recovery has gone at "a snail's pace," and believes that given the town's relative geographic isolation, it is essential to plan for independence in the face of future natural disasters.

Mr Schelling mentioned that residents had also voiced concerns about the delayed recovery efforts in Baths Road Reserve and having this useable again would be appreciated by locals.

The council candidates are looking at visiting other South Gippsland Towns in the lead-up to the election.



IN recognition of Police Remembrance Day last week, I would like to thank all our local Police Officers who work hard to keep our community safe. We know that it can be a thankless task at times, and a dangerous one, and are lucky to have such committed Officers in our community.

Seniors Month

October is Seniors Month and a time to celebrate the older members of our community. Events are being held across Gippsland, and in South Gippsland, Council is proudly supporting the following five events:

- Seniors Month Activity – Hoof to Heart: Tea with Horses held at The Horse Within Equine Assisted Therapy in Loch (Tuesday, October 8 and Tuesday, October 22 from 10am).
- Seniors Month Luncheon held at the Korumburra Community Hub (Thursday, October 10 from 1pm).
- Seniors Week Entertainment held at the Leongatha Senior Citizens Centre (Friday, October 11 from 1pm).
- Seniors U3A Prom Coast Performing Arts Concert Singalong held at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre (Wednesday, October 23 from 10am).
- Seniors Month Lunch held at Mirboo North Hotel (Monday, October 28 from 12 noon).

For more information on these events, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsmonth

What's Happening in South Gippsland

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

Every weekend there are things to do in South Gippsland. Keep an eye out for local markets, musical acts, gallery openings and more.

October and November highlights include ArtCubes on the move to Foster, the Tarwin and District Community Lifestyle and Auto Festival, the Art Connect Open Studios event, and the largest second-hand treasure hunt the Garage Sale Trail.

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

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

Election Information

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

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

Still room for more volunteers at Leongatha SES

WHILE Leongatha SES Unit's recent recruitment efforts have delivered impressive results, more members are always welcome, with a particular need for volunteers available during the day.

The Unit ran a highly successful Youth Night at the end of July, giving young people the chance to see what the SES is all about.

"We picked up five or six young members, so we're just going through the process now of getting them onboarded and paperwork finalised," Leongatha SES Unit manager Matt Saario said.

He noted that a previous batch of young members has matured and is continuing to thrive at the Unit.

About another four adult members have joined in recent weeks, with their training getting started soon.

Matt said that while recent recruitment has been impressive, there is a bit of a gap during the day, with some members only able to give time to the service outside work hours.

He explained some employers are unable to release employees during work hours, particularly small business operators, and that it is sometimes difficult if the SES volunteer holds a key role within the business that employs them.

Visit ses.vic.gov.au/join-us to learn more and to volunteer.

Railway precinct works advance

WORKS on the renewed toilet block and shelter in the Korumburra railway precinct are expected to commence on site in the coming weeks and be completed this summer.

A new barbecue shelter and toilet block in the Leongatha railway precinct are already in place, the toilet block to be operational soon, with GR Design and Construct having been awarded the contract for both projects.

These facilities are funded as part of Council's Great Southern Rail Trail Railway Precincts Development Project, which involves upgrades to the railway sites at Leongatha and Korumburra.

The Project is possible thanks to funding contributions from the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund and the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

The overall project cost for these facilities in both Leongatha and Korumburra is \$1,061,520.

State honour for Burra Foods

BURRA Foods was recently announced as winner of the 2024 Governor of Victoria Export Awards category Agribusiness, Food and Beverages.

That section recognises outstanding international success in the field of manufactured foods, beverages and agricultural products.

"It's fantastic to be recognised for all the hard work that goes into exporting dairy," Burra Foods CEO Stewart Carson said.

He credited the company's milk supply partners and their focus on producing high quality milk that is then collected and processed into "a myriad of products for export".

Burra Foods is now in the running for November's Australian Exporter of the Year Awards.

"With a global footprint and a strong presence in Australia, Japan and China, Burra Foods offers a comprehensive range of premium dairy products," it is acknowledged in the Governor of Victoria Export Awards booklet.

"Burra Foods' state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Korumburra incorporates cutting-edge technology and a focus on continuous product innovation," it adds, praising the high quality of milk the company sources and the fact it ensures its products meet the most stringent demands.

The company's General Manager of Sales and Marketing

Josephine Rees accepted the award.

"The Governor of Victoria Export Awards recognise the State's brightest talents and most innovative businesses and we're proud to be part of this esteemed group," Burra Foods stated.

The business thanked Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria, and congratulated all the other winners for their achievements.

"It was wonderful to see so many of Victoria's businesses showcased, and the event highlighted the incredible talent and innovation within our State," Burra Foods said, noting a diverse array of industries was represented.



Burra Foods General Manager of Sales and Marketing Josephine Rees displays the Governor of Victoria Export Awards trophy for Agribusiness, Food and Beverages.

Keen to continue serving South Gippsland communities

NATHAN Hersey's belief that he still has more to give after his first term representing South Gippsland communities as a councillor prompted him to again run for election in the Strzelecki ward.

The Loch-based beef farmer and Highland Cattle breeder stressed the importance of striking a balance between development and ensuring the protection of agricultural land and the South Gippsland lifestyle people desire.

"I've worked hard within council to continue to push that we need to maintain and protect the look and feel of what we have here because that's what attracts people to South Gippsland," Nathan said.

"That includes the protection of agricultural land and the right to farm, but also includes work around the heritage protections of some of our towns."

He highlighted the importance of preventing overdevelopment, such as a proposed residential estate in Korumburra that council voted against during the current term.

However, Nathan acknowledges the need for appropriate progress.

"We need to look at where we can develop, particularly on the jobs front, where we can do that without ruining or altering too greatly what we have here," he said.

The requirement for larger industrial lots in South Gippsland is something Nathan has heard from business operators contemplating a move to the shire, including



Nathan Hersey brushes Scottish Highland cow, Alexis. A29_4623

one who considered relocating his chocolate manufacturing business before establishing there was no suitable land available.

Nathan is a strong advocate for value-adding to South Gippsland produce, something he has pushed for through One Gippsland, arguing much of that value-adding currently occurs in Melbourne.

Burra Foods' cream cheese production facility is an example of the value-adding philosophy being applied locally, taking South Gippsland milk, turning it into a product with

great export potential and creating jobs for those in Korumburra and surrounds.

Advocacy is a key responsibility of councillors Nathan argues.

"One of the biggest roles councillors play is advocacy to State and Federal Governments," he said, adding "That's where we get the results."

Nathan spoke of the importance of council's document detailing its advocacy priorities, something he pushed for to ensure there is a clear vision of what is required and what to ask for, maximising the chances

of winning funding and support.

He acknowledged that the councillors as a group and council CEO Kerryn Ellis combined to advocate for South Gippsland Shire communities.

Nathan has strong community involvement, being a volunteer and committee member for the Korumburra Agricultural & Pastoral Society, and a member of Rotary in Leongatha, and previously belonged to the Loch Community Development Association.

He is president of the Australian Highland Cattle Society.

As for his first term as a councillor, Nathan is confident the councillor group has helped rebuild trust following the period in which council was run by administrators.

He has enjoyed working with the other councillors and the diversity within the group, noting that while they don't always agree with each other, there is always respect and professionalism, ensuring issues are dealt with appropriately.

"I've learnt from other councillors and others have learnt from me," Nathan said.

He held leadership positions throughout the three-year term, including a couple of periods as deputy mayor, and the time in between as mayor.

While confident other opportunities will come his way if not elected, Nathan conceded he will be disappointed if he doesn't get a chance to continue his advocacy for South Gippsland Shire and his involvement in planning for its future.

MAKING GIPPSLAND PROUD



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2024

Winners

A step towards a bright educational journey

THIS term, Newhaven College was delighted to welcome the Prep students enrolled for 2025 into the Pre-Prep Transition Program. As part of this initiative, the young learners participated in weekly library sessions designed to introduce them to the world of books and the school environment.

The library sessions have provided students with the opportunity to enjoy story time with the College's Head of Junior School, Cath Huther, and Principal, Tony Corr, who have both thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the future Preps and their families.

These learning experiences have not only helped the future Preps become familiar with their new surroundings but also allowed them to build connections with their peers. Equally important, the transition program has served as a valuable opportunity for parents. As their children participated in the library sessions, parents had the chance to connect with other families embarking on the Prep journey next year.

Cath Huther, is passionate about the importance of welcoming future Preps.

"Our Pre-Prep Transition Program is more than just an introduction to school – it's the beginning of an educational journey. We are thrilled to see our future Preps take these



Head of Junior School Cath Huther was happy to share a book with 2025 Prep student Maddy, with mum, PFA Vice President, Jenni Lewandowski watching on.

first steps with confidence and enthusiasm, knowing that they are supported by a strong community of peers, educators and families," she said, "we look forward to witnessing the many milestones they will achieve as they transition, grow and become valued members of our Newhaven College community."

There are currently no vacancies for the Prep 2025 intake at the College, how-

ever, spaces are available for 2026 and beyond. All interested families are welcome to come along on a College Tour on Wednesday, October 16. There is a special Prep Information Session prior to the tour, particularly tailored for 2026, 2027 and 2028 prospective enrolments.

This Prep Information session is designed to provide prospective

parents with a comprehensive overview of the programs offered in the Junior School. The event will feature an informative presentation, followed by a guided tour of the school.

Go to 'Book a Tour' on the Newhaven College website or contact the Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 5956 7505 or admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au.

Tasty way to help Leongatha SES Unit

LEONGATHA SES Unit has launched its annual Mango Fundraiser, the sweet and versatile fruit available by the tray. The initiative has been running for the last six or seven years helping the Unit pay for a variety of required equipment and gear.

"The service is underfunded for the amount of work that we do, and the volunteers spend a lot of time fundraising to get extra gear that we need to help the community in times of need," Leongatha SES Unit manager Matt Saario said.

Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath has spoken out in State Parliament of the need for an increase in government support to adequately fund Victoria's volunteer SES units, labelling this year's budget as an "insult".

"We know our SES volunteers are spending an enormous amount of time and effort fundraising to supply or replace basic necessities and equipment," she said.

This year's mango funds will go towards a generator to ensure the Leongatha Unit's building has power even when events such as February's storm knock out the town's electricity supply. The Queensland-grown mangoes are provided by a company that runs fundraising campaigns for various organisations.

"They supply all the mangoes and organise the freight," Mr Saario said.

He and his kids are looking forward to another delivery of the succulent fruit.

"Last year we got four trays," he said, with that split over the two available pick-up periods.

With each tray of mangoes weighing about seven kilos, people can preserve what they can't eat fresh, either by using them in recipes such as mango chutney or by freezing the fruit. Mr Saario freezes a lot of his.

"Generally, they come semi-green, so you can wait for them to ripen or do whatever you want with them," he said.

He pointed out that it's a great opportunity for local hospitality businesses to add mangoes to their menu.

Trays cost just \$30 each and must be ordered by October 20, with collection periods between November 25 and 29 and December 16 and 20.



Come along to our

College Tour WEDNESDAY 16 OCT 2024

Prep Info Session - 9.00am

If you're contemplating where to send your child to school in 2026 or beyond, come along to our special information morning. Learn about our unique educational programs and gain a deeper understanding of the wonderful opportunities offered to students at Newhaven College. This will be covered in a tailored presentation specifically designed for future Prep enrolments.

Whole School Tour - 9.30am

Join us for an opportunity to meet our principal and let our students guide you on a tour of our incredible school, where excellence in education truly comes to life.

To find out more contact our Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or email admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au



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A fire fully engulfed a garage in Grampian Boulevard Cowes last Friday, also causing extensive damage to the rest of the house.

Tried to go back for his dogs

THE Grampian Boulevard neighbours of Cowes' house-fire victim might have saved the man's life after he emerged from his fully-alight home last Friday in a blackened state.

The man insisted on going back inside the home to rescue his two dogs but was encouraged by neighbours to stay safe outside.

The dogs were subsequently found safe and well at the back of the property.

Police on the scene, around lunchtime last Friday, September 27, said they believed the fire started in the garage as a result of an electrical fault, raising no suspicions.

Neighbours reported hearing two loud bangs before firefighters arrived to find the garage fully involved and flames and smoke spreading into the main structure of the home. A car in the garage was also lost.

The male occupant was affected by smoke inhalation and taken to hospital by ambulance as a precaution.

The neighbours of the house directly adjacent to the impacted garage arrived home from a bike ride after danger was averted and were relieved to find firefighters had stopped flames from spreading onto their property.

A significant number of Bass Coast CFA brigades attended the fire, with a large number of firefighters using breathing apparatus and working in pairs to bring the fire to a conclusion. Firefighters could be seen being hosed down of debris and smoke in their protective structure gear and receiving precautionary health support afterwards.

Bass Coast Police and Ambulance Victoria paramedics also attended.

Agreement reached as paramedics thank community for support

AFTER 18 months of intense negotiations and months of industrial action it's finally over for our hardworking paramedics, as the Ambulance Victoria Enterprise Agreement (AVEA 2024) was reached in principle last Monday evening.

In a joint statement released by Acting CEO of Ambulance Victoria, Danielle North, Victorian Ambulance Union Secretary, Danny Hill, and United Workers Union leader, Fiona Scalon, the trio announced, 'The settlement offer... follows careful consideration of 800-plus submitted claims'.

Locally paramedics are celebrating as their voices are finally heard.

"We've secured a four per cent annual wage increase and the long-awaited MICA uplift, which is a major win," explained local Victorian Ambulance Union representative, Samantha Nicholls.

"There is now a pay gap between Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedics and Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) paramedics, which reflects the increased responsibility of MICA roles.

"Additionally, end of shift management was agreed upon – which will aim to ensure staff can try and finish closer to their scheduled times."

However, the agreement is still only in principle and verbal at this stage. A vote by union members is still required, and documents need to be finalised. "This agreement will help with retaining experienced staff," Ms Nicholls noted.

"But this deal has been hard-fought, and like in every industry, there's always more to do to improve conditions for the next generation.

"There are still key issues which haven't been addressed with the EBA, ramping at hospitals, delays and wait times for patients who require an ambulance – these are things that



Local paramedics are pleased a new enterprise agreement has been reached verbally. C30_4024

still need to be addressed by the government, but we've been given a vote of confidence from Ambulance Victoria that they're going to review our dispatching grid."

Speaking on ABC Melbourne Breakfast with Dave O'Neil last week Mr Hill was pleased with the results.

"Building the public pressure appears to have worked... we finally reached an agreement," Mr Hill stated.

"There are about 80 improvements to working conditions.

"There were too many paramedics leaving the job early, after only four or five years they were leaving when life starts to get more complicated; have children, develop an injury, the job no longer welcomes you.

"So, we wanted ambos to have a life too, and to be able to have a work-life balance, so I think we've delivered a significant improvement that actually allows that to happen. Time will only tell whether it turns things around.

"But certainly, it's the biggest improvement to wages

and conditions that we've seen in decades, and in particular, the ability of our members to be able to finish their shift on time, still respond to emergencies, but be able to prioritise getting home to their family and actually enjoy a work-life balance."

The new agreement will deliver wage increases of up to 17 per cent for paramedics and 33 per cent for MICA paramedics, significantly boosting compensation.

Although paramedics did not receive a sign-on bonus this year, the one per cent uplift to base salary will see them fare better overall.

"We are incredibly grateful to the community for all their support," Ms Nicholls said.

"We've had lots of community members coming up and supporting our paramedics, which is lovely and has really helped us get it over the line.

"Thank you to everyone for emailing and messaging the local members of Parliament. The tweeting, texting and emailing has helped – we are really

grateful. "(Locally) we are very happy with what's been proposed."

Joint Statement from AV, VAU and UWU

We are pleased to announce we have today reached in-principle agreement for the Ambulance Victoria Enterprise Agreement 2024 (AVEA 2024).

The settlement offer – which will be shared with employees and members tomorrow – follows careful consideration of 800-plus submitted claims, where we heard directly from you about your experiences, and focused on key priority areas you identified.

We acknowledge that negotiations have taken longer than anyone had hoped, and recognise the impact this had on everyone at AV, along with our partners and community.

We are hopeful this in-principle agreement creates a new and stronger foundation for collaboration, building of trust and cementing our position as a world-leading ambulance service.

South Gippsland Shire Council postal election

My council, my vote

An election will be held for South Gippsland Shire Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit **vec.vic.gov.au** to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at **vec.vic.gov.au**

A photo and candidate statement will also be included if provided by candidates. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at **vec.vic.gov.au**

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

6 - 12 Smith Street
Leongatha

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. This includes state-enrolled and council-enrolled voters.

If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at **vec.vic.gov.au**

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:

* عربي (Arabic) 9209 0100 * ܐܪܡܝܐ (Assyrian) 9209 0160 * သူဌိပ် (Burmese) 9209 0161 * 简体中文 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 * 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101 * Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 * دري (Dari) 9209 0193 * Тхуонг (Dinka) 9209 0119 * Ελληνικά (Greek) 9209 0103 * آذربائی (Azerbaijani) 9209 0162 * Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104 * ខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0192 * 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 * македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 * नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0163 * فارسی (Persian) 9209 0195 * มลรัฐ (Thai) 9209 0164 * Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 * اردو (Urdu) 9209 0165 * Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 * All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



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Game changer for boaties at new Mahers Landing ramp

A NEW dual-lane boat ramp is now open at Mahers Landing near Inverloch, improving boating access to Anderson Inlet thanks to the licence and registration fees paid by boat owners, reinvested into facilities by Better Boating Victoria (BBV) and the State Government.

And apparently you do get a lot for the \$5.45 million price tag.

The Minister for Outdoor Recreation, Steve Dimopoulos, announced the opening of the new ramp and jetty on Monday this week, where there's space for up to eight boats to be tied up and nearby car parking with 55 spaces big enough for a car and trailer.

"This ramp upgrade at Mahers Landing has transformed the area and will provide boaters with better access to a day out on Anderson Inlet," said Minister Dimopoulos.

"We're making it easier for people and families to get out on the water for fishing, water fun or just a great day in nature with family and friends."

The new concrete ramp is elevated two metres above the beach, which means boats can launch into deeper water. Previously the single-lane boat ramp only allowed high-tide access into Anderson Inlet for small boats.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale kept boaties informed ahead of the holiday weekend, saying Inverloch's boat ramp would



A local boatie arrives to check out the flash new boat ramp, jetty, toilet block and boat trailer parking complex which opened for use at Mahers Landing on Monday this week.

remain open until the Mahers Landing facility was operational, and that's what happened.

"The upgrades at Mahers Landing will provide all tide access to our much-loved Anderson Inlet and be another launching option for boaters, fishers and other water users," Ms Crugnale said.

Inverloch's boat ramp will remain closed until Christmas while a new jetty is constructed, making it safer for boat owners to retrieve their vessels. The \$1 million project

also includes reinstatement of the existing rock wall.

The \$5.45 million Mahers Landing project includes guard rails, a centre lane divider to make reversing easier and safer, rubber fenders on the jetty to protect boats, and solar lighting so boaters can launch before dawn or after dark.

All new car parking spaces are asphalted, and the old boat ramp has been retained for smaller boat use, high-tide launching and kayak access

– all popular activities in the area.

There's also a new, 24-hour toilet block providing a stopping off point for travellers as well as boat owners.

With work at Mahers Landing now complete, attention will turn to nearby Inverloch where a second jetty will be built to provide more protection from tidal flow. Meanwhile the existing jetty will remain open for land-based fishing, a popular holiday pastime as demonstrated this week.

Last gasp for Inverloch boat ramp

THERE could hardly have been a better day for getting your boat out, for the first time in months, than last Saturday and from early morning the ramps across the region, from Cowes to Port Welshpool, were positively groaning with boat owners.

For the Inverloch Boat Ramp, it was something of a last gasp before the facility is closed ahead of a \$2 million upgrade to the jetty and reinstatement of the existing rock revetment.

According to the Bass Coast Shire Council, the project is expected to be completed by December 20 but they're a week late getting started so completion by Christmas will be the aim.

But boaties don't be deterred, the flash new boat ramp at nearby Mahers Landing officially opened on Monday, September 30 – out with the old and in with the new!

Both projects, \$2 million for the new jetty at Inverloch and \$5.8 million for the new boat ramp facility at Mahers Landing, are all being provided out of the State Government's Better Boating Fund, coming from licence and registration fees paid by boaters.

Posting on social media at the weekend, Bass MP acknowledged the chatter around the two projects, the timing, overlap, access, boat rescue and completions.

"The upshot is one opens before the other closes which has always been the plan – maintaining access for our emergency services and boaters," Ms Crugnale said.

There's some confusion about whether or not the Inverloch Boat Ramp will stay open for the school holidays but if it is closed, you're not far away from Mahers Landing.



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with Claire



Supporting our volunteers

By author Claire Chitty

EVERYONE loves ‘a man in uniform’, so when a group of volunteers hosted an event to raise funds for a worthy cause, the community came together. It wasn’t about the men or women dressed in navy blue with red trimming regalia; it was the goal behind the occasion.

Our local Corinella CFA do an amazing selfless job, sacrificing their free time for training and on call 24/7 for emergencies. These unpaid members recognised a need for a second fire truck, and so, with a dedicated committee, organised the Equinox Rox event. It was an opportunity for Corinella, Coronet Bay and the wider region to socialise, mingle with new people and have fun. Local musicians, both experienced and the younger generation, provided live entertainment, all eager to showcase their talents.

Thanks to the hard work of the organisers, and donations by local businesses, the revenue generated from the night made a dint in the goal, yet still a long way off the \$300,000 required. Their next fundraising event the Bake-Off Festival, took place on September 29 with a family fun atmosphere, including petting farm, facepainting and Devonshire teas.

Life doesn’t come cheaply, and the need for groups to be resourceful and proactive is virtually a given. Yet, anyone who has undertaken applying to organisations and corporations for funding, knows the hoops you have to jump through, the red tape that needs to be navigated, and it’s exhausting. In addition, despite the time and effort invested filling out forms and getting quotes, does not always guarantee a successful outcome.

One thing that we all agree on is the exorbitant Council Rates, equivalent to city prices, and always, a bone of contention. Rather than going down rabbit holes, and money grabbing mentality, let’s just say, money is a cycle of energy where resources could be better directed back into the community rather than multi-million dollar soulless buildings and plans that fizzle in a heap of discontinuation.

The Coronet Bay Community Garden, another volunteer group, is for the first time, having to fundraise in order to pay council a yearly fee, simply for the privilege of growing vegetables for families in need. The garden has requested a permanent shelter for weekly meets up and workshops and has been met with conflicting information from council employees, dictating terms and conditions, and figuratively, wanting a slice of the pie. Simply put, it shouldn’t have to be so hard, nor should essential services and those who give to the community, have to fight for funding.

As I see it, the region is about community spirit and connection, where individually and collectively people are choosing to move away from old restraints and control; the way life should be.

And if you looking to volunteer, the CFA is seeking new members.



Corinella CFA Junior volunteers participate in demonstrations at the bake-off fundraiser. Z20_4024

Corinella CFA spring fundraising bake-off

THE Corinella community gathered for the CFA bake-off on Sunday, September 9 – a fundraising event to support the local fire station. With live music, a petting zoo, and delicious baked goods, residents united to praise the work of CFA volunteers and their commitment to the safety of the community.

Among the stallholders was Shahni, showcasing her beautiful handmade embroidered designs, while CFA volunteers Les Smith, David Jarratt, and Community Safety Coordinator Martin Griffin engaged with the public about smoke alarm safety. Together they emphasised the importance of checking smoke alarms monthly, dusting them annually, and replacing them every ten years. “New smoke alarms with long-lasting lithium batteries have a ten-year lifespan,” said Griffin, highlighting the critical role these devices play in home safety.

Baked goods were dropped off to the hall at 9am with judges Karen Vincent, Tinka Crux, and Keith Ritchie awarding winners of the bake-off. “The results showcased some outstanding talent among our young bakers,” said Amanda Bozelle of Corinella CFA.

In the under-eight-years category, Samson took home the top prize, with Ciana as the runner-up. The nine-12 years category was dominated by Porsche Rigby, who emerged as the overall winner, while Kynan secured the runner-up position. In the 13-16 years category, Christian claimed victory, with Jazmin following as the runner-up. Finally, in the 17 years and up category, Sasha was crowned the winner, and Mary was the runner-up. Each participant brought their unique skill, making the competition a true testament to the baking ability in young competitors.

Deputy Mayor Rochelle Halstead officially opened the event, which included cooking demonstrations and fire safety demonstrations led by CFA volunteers. Junior members of the CFA showcased their skills from months of training, highlighting the importance of youth involvement in community service.

The Junior Volunteer Development Program is open to youth aged 11-15, with 16-year-olds transitioning to senior members, gaining invaluable experience.

The junior volunteers were applauded for their skill and confidence.

Captain David Cox expressed gratitude to local businesses for their generous contributions to the fundraising raffle. He also acknowledged Christina and John, owners of Nicols Family Hobby Farm, for entertaining children with a petting zoo.

The face painting was also a favourite with a few Fireman Sam’s on display, plus a tour of a fire truck always leaves lasting memories for the young ones.

New Executive Committee for Friends of State Mine

THE Friends of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine wish to announce the retirement of the current executive committee who have been extremely active for many decades. They have accomplished many projects to ensure all the wonderful historical buildings and artifacts have been maintained to a high standard for visitors from around Australia and the world.

They have decided to handover their roles to the new executive committee so they can continue their volunteering roles in other activities, onsite which they love and are committed too, at the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine.

New and former President Gary (Moz) Willson from FSCM Executive Committee wishes to thank the retiring Executive Committee for their dedication and ongoing commitment. Also, outgoing President Steve Harrop, who has put in countless hours with his team of volunteer committee members who took care of the overall management and maintenance of the projects and the many activities they have been involved with.

Some of their volunteer roles have been the Walk In and Walk Out Mine tours and their devotion to working seven days a week in the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine Gift Shop.

While there are too many Volunteer Roles to mention it is proof that their dedication and their love of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine has always been in their hearts and also with the community at large.

We wish all those involved the very best for the future and thank them once again for everything they have achieved at the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine.

New Executive Committee Members of the Friends of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine

President: Garry (Moz) Willson, Vice Joint Presidents: Sheila Ormerod and George Scott, Treasurer: Geoff Jones, Secretary: Michelle Barnes, Membership: Coral Blackwell Jones, Gift Shop: Jill Harrop – Gift Shop Coordinator, Garden Care: Marg McCully – Garden Coordinator, Event and Media Liaison: Dyonn Dimmock, Sprag co-editors: MARG McCully and Aileen Jones, Community Member: Frank Cengia



New executive committee, from left, Geoff Jones, Garry (Moz) Wilson, George Scott, Frank Cengia, Coral Blackwell Jones, Sheila Ormerod and Michelle Barnes.



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Dog steals show at Three Men in a Boat event

ON TUESDAY night, September 24 Emma of Nice Stack of Books hosted an author event in the Meeniyen Town Hall.

Three renowned Victorian authors, (one a South Gippsland resident), spoke about their recently published books and their writing journey to an enthusiastic and enraptured audience of nearly fifty local booklovers.

Leslie Kilmartin, an ex-university dean, has written a satirical novel “Open Day” about a mythical Australian university’s open day when anything that could go wrong, does. It is also a cynical view of the upper administration echelon of our universities, of which Les was one.

Peter Fitzpatrick, coming off the back of the highly successful debut of his musical “Castro’s Children”, talked about his humorous mystery-murder novel with a twist, “Mayo Street” set in leafy Australian suburbia. Peter had previously written two murder-mystery novels, a genre he clearly enjoys.

In a change of genre, Simon Carey mapped out the path that led him to write a historical novel, based on real people and events, about a family caught up in the Russian Revolution and Civil War. His book; The Siberians: Fire on the Ice” has been a best seller in several of our local bookshops.

The “Three Men in a Boat” theme was based on Jerome K. Jerome’s famous satirical novel of the early 1900’s about three friends sailing up the Thames from Oxford, and fittingly, the story of their journey. But they were not alone in the boat – accompanied every step of the way by their faithful dog, Montmorency. It was therefore entirely appropriate that our three authors on-stage at Meeniyen had a canine companion. “Cosi”, the border collie from Yanakie, took on the role of Montmorency for the evening, much to the delight of the audience.

Mahob at Moos had agreed to especially open for a post-show dinner. It was much appreciated by a ravenous crowd of diners who were delighted with the new Moos menu of fusion-Cambodian food.

Gippsland’s reading community will be pleased to know that Nice Stack of Books has plans to continue to showcase local authors with this type of event at regular intervals during the year.

Copies of the books by the three authors of Three Men in a Boat are available for purchase from Nice Stack of Books, 93 Whitelaw Street, Meeniyen.

Climate Action film night

SIXTYpeople attended the community film screening on Wednesday, September 15, dining together and watching two films at the Black Box Cinema at Newhaven College on Phillip Island.

In ‘Walanbaa Ngiiyani’ they saw the devastating effects of coal mining on Gomeroi country in NSW but were inspired by the incredible work of Gomeroi traditional custodians and young people in fighting back against the coal industry.

‘The First Wave’ is the story of how thousands of people came together last year to block the world’s largest coal port in Newcastle for over 30 hours.

“This year, we’re building for more people to block it again for even longer,” said Joey Thompson, from School Strike for Climate, one of the organisers of the film night.

“Locals are already making plans to travel to attend the blockade in November.”

New home for Cowes art and craft gallery



It was Phillip Island artist Sue Brown’s turn to volunteer at the new Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery, in the old fire station, on Settlement Road Cowes last Friday admiring textile craft by Jennie-Maree Tempest.

IT WAS always proposed that the Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery group would find a home for their exhibitions and sales in the new Cowes Cultural Centre.

And Berninneit could have benefitted from the foot traffic that a commercial gallery space would have generated.

But plans changed, there wasn’t the space, and ultimately the Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery group had to move. But all’s well that ends well with the art and craft group finding a new home in the old fire station building in Settlement Road, Cowes.

And, the Bass Coast Shire Council did everything possible to help them settle in, from attending to all the OH&S issues, including constructing a wheelchair assessable ramp, updating all the amenities needed by the group and generally renovating the new

facility ready for the group to move in recently.

Officially opening last Thursday, in time for the grand final long weekend, there’s plenty of time to settle in ahead of Christmas and the summer holidays.

“It’s taken us the best part of 12 months to get set up but thanks to the shire, it all looks fantastic now,” said gallery volunteer and local artist Sue Brown.

“There’s a wide range of art, craft and styles including knitting, painting, jewellery, pottery, photography, hand-made cards, woodwork and a whole lot more.”

All of it’s for sale and you’re bound to find something ideal for a special gift.

The gallery is open Thursday to Sunday, 11am-3pm at the moment but hours are sure to be increased closer to Christmas and the summer holidays.

Retiring Vice Principal Jason Scott honoured by Rotary



The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo and member Brian Holloway recently honoured Jason Scott, congratulating him on his retirement.

NEWHAVEN College recently bid farewell to Vice Principal Jason Scott, who retired after many years of dedicated service. Throughout his tenure, Jason was not only a respected educator but also a passionate advocate for Rotary Youth Programs, significantly enhancing opportunities for students to engage with these transformative initiatives.

Jason’s support for a range of Rotary programs has left an indelible mark on the Newhaven College community. He was a strong proponent of the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), where students debate global issues, honing their diplomatic and critical thinking skills. Additionally, Jason championed the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program, which educates students on safe driving practices.

Jason’s advocacy extended to the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN), aimed at helping young people build self-confidence and leadership abilities, and the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), which provides students with opportunities to engage in advanced scientific learning and

research.

In recognition of his unwavering commitment to these programs, the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo recently honoured Jason Scott, congratulating him on his retirement. The club expressed deep gratitude for his role in ensuring that Newhaven College students consistently participated in these valuable programs, which Rotary trusts have significantly enriched their educational experience and personal development.

Brian Holloway, of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo remarked that Jason’s deep understanding and commitment to his students allowed him to thoughtfully select those who would benefit most from these programs.

“He knows his students extremely well,” said Brian.

Jason’s dedication to education and his unwavering support of Rotary Youth Programs were met with enthusiastic applause from all members of the Club. As he begins this new chapter in his life, the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo extend their heartfelt gratitude for his years of service and wish him every success in his retirement.

Inverloch Farmers Market bustles on cold spring morning



Lou Fallace sources local produce, selling fresh fruit and vegetables at the Inverloch Farmers Market. Z19_4024

SUNDAY was a chilly spring morning, but the brisk air couldn’t dampen the spirits of the community as they flocked to the bustling Farmers Market. The scent of fresh produce mingled with the tantalising aroma of sizzling sausages, courtesy of the Inverloch and District Rotary, creating an inviting atmosphere that still drew everyone in.

Stalls brimming with colourful fruits and vegetables lined The Glade, where local farmers proudly displayed their harvests. Bright red tomatoes, crisp greens, and fragrant herbs were among the many offerings, enticing locals to fill their baskets. Nearby, vendors

showcased homemade treats – delicious pastries, artisan bread, and sweet jams.

As patrons browsed, the soft melodies from a local band added a lively soundtrack to the morning, whilst families continued to wander even in the misty rain.

The Rotary’s sausage sizzle was still on with volunteers sourcing their own produce from other local stall holders. Marketgoers not only enjoyed delicious food and hot coffee but also the chance to connect with local farmers and artisans. Lou Fallace was selling locally sourced produce including large asparagus that he mentioned is simply rejected

by supermarket chains due to the size, as well as ripe avocados and large punnets of tomatoes fresh for the week ahead.

“It’s so important to support local farmers because so much of their produce isn’t to standards in the shopping centres just based on appearance – but look it’s beautiful and fresh,” he shared.

Karen Jung from Pots and Knots held the marquee down whilst still showcasing her indoor and outdoor plants – a regular to the Inverloch Market for the past six months, whilst the group of men from Inverloch Men’s Shed had an expansive display of handcrafted furniture on sale.

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Sentinel-Times COMMENT

Weekend traffic provides reality check for shire

YOU don't have to look far past the Bass Coast Shire Council's high-level reference document, 'Community Vision 2041', to see which issues the council has chased hardest over the past four or more years.

And one of the first priority jobs of the new council must certainly be to throw that document in the recycle bin and start again!

Number 1 on the vision is 'climate change', hardly surprising after the council declared a climate change emergency in September 2019, adopted its Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030 in May 2021 and committed millions of scarce ratepayer and taxpayer dollars to projects and programs on an extensive list of climate-change actions.

Many of these projects and programs are, however, the responsibility of State and Federal government not the local council.

Even in the latest 2024-25 council budget, there's a long list of such actions including introducing an organics bin for household food waste, delivering more electric vehicle fast-charging stations across the shire, more council-only charging stations to support their own uptake of EVs, delivering a climate resilience toolkit and campaign (whatever that is?), more solar on council buildings, continuing the Biolinks program (habitat enhancement), emphasising pedestrian transport, providing the agricultural sector with a land management rebate, delivering the Urban Forest Strategy, and delivering significant coastal erosion management, including detailed monitoring and grant-funded projects.

Rounding out the top three vision priorities are (2.) Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment, and (3.) Healthy and Inclusive Communities.

Among the 'Healthy and Inclusive Communities' goals, for example, is "we are committed to reconciliation with our Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community members, and to celebrating and learning from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage".

This vision statement no doubt provided some of the strategic justification for the council adopting a policy, in September 2023, of "supporting a constitutionally enshrined voice to Parliament for First Nations people", in other words, recommending everyone vote 'Yes' at the Referendum.

Again, not the job of a local council.

The fourth priority in the Vision 2041 document is 'Access and Movement' but you have to look past six dot points about encouraging low-emission modes of

transport (including electric tuk-tuks, ferry shuttle, centralised car parking, community transport, car share, bike share, scooter hire, electric charge points), reducing car use in main streets and prioritising walking and cycling before you get to point 4.7 that "we continue to maintain and improve our road networks and advocate for safety improvements".

And you only had to see what happened on the first holiday long weekend of the spring-summer season to know that the road network, especially on and off Phillip Island, is a first-order priority after you've delivered the basics of planning, maintenance, waste management, environmental health and the other statutory responsibilities.

Whether it's the nationwide publicity given to Phillip Island by The Block or the burgeoning growth of Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, it looks as if visitor demand is set to reach a whole new (scary) level this summer and the road network simply isn't up to it.

Yes, you can talk about reducing car traffic by trying to divert more people on to the ferry, car shares and public transport and encouraging more people to cycle and walk but the reality is most people arrive by car and they're going to continue to arrive by car.

The world may be facing a climate change emergency but there's a traffic emergency looming for Phillip Island right now, the imperative of which is not properly reflected in the woke-leaning 'Bass Coast Integrated Transport Strategy' currently in development.

The Bass Highway, the bridge and Phillip Island Road are the direct responsibility of Regional Roads Victoria, but public amenity and safety are firmly in the council's bailiwick.

They've called for \$26 million for traffic lights at the San Remo Back Beach Road intersection, \$1 million to design an alternate freight route through Wonthaggi and there are "shovel ready" roadworks associated with the Cowes streetscape plan; but the overall problem has not been given the prominence it needs by the council.

It's not the only "back to basics" issue neglected by the present regime.

So, when the ballot packs for voting in the October council elections are sent out from Monday, November 7 next week, give serious consideration to voting for candidates who are best placed to deliver the practicalities first rather than waste time, effort and ratepayers' or taxpayers' money on personal ideologies.



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grob' Robinson.

The red bin dilemma

IN MY term as Councillor one of the hot issues that the community spoke to me about was the summer pick up of the red (landfill) bin.

I tried twice to have the red bin picked up each week from Christmas to Australia Day. Sadly, twice the motion was defeated.

With the announcement by the State Government that composting will become optional. It has become urgent to put in place measures to have the red bin (landfill) picked up weekly from Christmas to Australia Day.

Under the new State Government proposal, the kitchen caddies with the green liners will be eliminated. It is inevitable that the food scraps will end up in the red bin. The argument that a weekly pick up will create more rubbish is ludicrous. A weekly pick up will only collect the rubbish that is already there.

In the summer months we cannot have a situation where the stinking red bin is "cooking" in the summer heat. We cannot allow the red bin to be only picked up once a fortnight.

Besides the stench, it is also an Occupational Health and Safety issue. Phillip Island/Millowl is on one of Victoria's leading tourist destinations. If we want to keep that reputation measures must be put in place now. It will require some lead time to renegotiate the waste contract to accommodate the extra pick-ups.

If elected, I will again move to have the red bin picked up each week from Christmas to Australia Day.

Ronnie Bauer, Candidate for the Island Ward

Plan for maternal and child health services

AS A mother and child and family welfare professional, I know firsthand the importance of the early years in a child's life.

Maternal and child health services are critical to ensure children are meeting their developmental goals, that they are well and thriving, and that families have the support they need to give their children the best start in life.

If elected to council, I will deliver a three point Maternal and Childhood Health Plan that will:

- Uncap the number of free maternal

and childhood appointments (currently capped at 10), and increase support for families experiencing vulnerabilities

- Expand outreach maternal and childhood health appointments into people's homes, and provide easier access to more of the services new parents need

- Establish free playgroups so that children, parents and families can better connect with each other and the community they call home
- Currently, maternal and child health nurses offer 10 appointments at key life stages, but too often families, and especially mums, need support outside of this regimented approach.

My plan will deliver flexibility to the council delivered service so that nurses can deliver additional appointments when babies and children have unique challenges that need extra support and advice.

By uncapping the number of free appointments, people's incomes won't dictate their ability to get the care, guidance and support they and their children need.

In-home maternal and childhood health support: Too often in the early days of parents, families need all the support they can, but our current maternal and child health system doesn't offer them the flexibility they need. By delivering additional in-home appointments, we can deliver the healthcare and support where its needed most.

Free playgroups: Interaction, socialisation, exposure to new sounds, smells and activity are key to helping young brains develop. But too often there aren't enough playgroups for young children.

The Bass Coast is a fantastic place to live but with a growing population we deserve better access to maternal and child health, and mental health services, and more access to quality, affordable childcare for all families.

Caitlyn Robertson, Candidate for Bunurong Ward

Rock walls for Inverloch, perhaps?

A CHILD building a sandcastle on the beach has no understanding of the futility of this exercise. The only difference between this and the process of sand replacement is the \$3 million it will cost.

Last Friday, I had a relaxing time over a glass of wine and a bowl

of chips at the RACV cocktail bar watching the four-metre plus waves break over Petrel Rock. It dawned on me how effective several hundred metres of such a barrier would be in taking the power out of the waves that are causing the beach erosion.

It's not a new idea. It has been done many times before here and overseas. So, what's the problem?

Neville Drummond, Inverloch

Environmental Audit Overlay – a final few words!

TO OUR knowledge all 630 properties affected have had the EAO lifted, no one has been left out and no contamination found. The Community Action Group has now completed its work but still reserves the right to reform if there are any complications.

The Action Group was incredibly busy, engaging with all levels of the community and government, strongly lobbying and advocating for the removal of this unnecessary "blight". The signing of the Petition to Parliament was a key plank in this strategy and the debate recently was the final saga in the process.

The Government had the opportunity to explain how this debacle was allowed to happen and what they had done to fix the situation. What a feeble result to say the least! And the Minister and our local member couldn't even be bothered attending and the Government not interested!

Finally, there was some minor acknowledgement of the stress caused but still no apology and a real lack of respect throughout.

There is instead a clear picture of poor management, poor information and no real appreciation of the indisputable damage the EAO had on our own residents. And again, this need not have happened! The incredible "backflip" was brought about by the incredible support and pressure from the residents and community friends who banded together to ensure justice. It was an inspirational effort!

The people cruelly affected by the EAO will no doubt remember what happened to them at a later time.

John Duscher, Community Action Group

Vox Pop

Do you feel betrayed by the big two supermarkets (Coles and Woolworths)?



Ian Rasmussen

Inverloch

"I shop at Woolworths and I'm quite happy. I'm not happy with government charges – I think it's those that are killing housing costs and businesses."



Dawn Rasmussen

Inverloch

"We shop at Woolworths and I'm happy, but I also like to buy from the local farmers markets to support the locals and the farmers."



Andy Forster

Inverloch

"I don't shop there, I shop at Aldi – it's much cheaper, and I love their choice of cheeses. I also like their efficiency at the checkouts."



Lou Fallace

Inverloch

"Yes, it is just shocking how they can do this. I shop at IGA and source fresh produce to support farmers markets. It's also ridiculous how much they reject from farmers."

It seems to me the ideal councillor is one who prioritises community needs over political agenda and ideology.

In listening to elements of the community, I have so far heard the following.

- Building our community with progress on the sports complex and common-sense capital works
- Preserving our community with a maintenance strategy for our shoreline and road and footpath assets
- Improving our community with a Phillip Island parking strategy and a holiday period Waste Management Plan

If elected to council, I will advocate for the above.

Darrell Silva, Candidate for Island Ward

Promises, promises

Here we go again, another council election and a new gambit of promises. We are still waiting for the promises from current council.

I remember a current councillor who promised to clean up Graham Street in Wonthaggi, lucky I am not holding my breath.

They certainly don't listen to the ratepayers, too busy pushing their own agenda, more trees in the main street, removing multiple car park spaces, but that's okay you can walk up to half a kilometre to Watt Street where the new parking spaces will be. they have forgotten the three r's roads, rubbish and rates, well roads, go to Baillieu Steet behind Rose Lodge and the hospital, what an absolute disgrace, Mary Street, Longstaff Street, North Wonthaggi, Moray Street, dirt road, no guttering or footpaths, but we can always create another walking track.

The old tech/high school, still sitting idle, no one can make a decision on a large block of prime land.

We have close to the highest garbage rates in Victoria, no questions asked.

Cowes cultural centre nearly doubled in price, nearly \$14m over budget, but no council consequences.

So are we in for another period of this same monetary waste.

I hope not, I was born and raised in Wonthaggi, and now watch it slowly denigrate the town and its history.

Lyall Broughton, Wonthaggi

McCrindle Report, challenging occupation shortages

AS STUDENTS consider their 2025 learning options, the 'TAFE Value and Perception Challenge' report by McCrindle Research, highlights a shift from traditional career paths to more dynamic ones, with school leavers now expected to have 18 jobs across six careers in their lifetimes.

Despite outdated perceptions, TAFE outcomes often match or exceed university graduates, with more than 150 courses spanning industry fields like business, ICT, and healthcare.

TAFE qualifications can fill 57 per cent of Victoria's occupation shortages, with four in five jobs accessible through TAFE.

TAFE Gippsland, with 13 campuses and industry-aligned programs, offers strong options for school-leavers and adults seeking education or career changes.

For more on the report, search "McCrindle TAFE report."

Laura Macpherson, Chief Executive Officer, TAFE Gippsland

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.

Nyora's time has come

IN WHAT is or will be the shire's fastest growing township, Nyora's infrastructure requirements continues to be put in the too-hard basket and is in the proverbial "kick the can down the road" position of Council.

In 2016 our rates of around \$100,000 produced a consultant's report Future Nyora – Nyora Development Strategy – of over 100 pages, action taken to date nil. Another report completed in 2020 – Northern Nyora Development Plan – and in April 2023 Council recognised Nyora's growth but has failed to implement recommendations from the above reports nor has any money been allocated in this year's budget and future forecasts.

Nyora's current population of 1664, projected to be around 3000 in 12 years' time, will make Nyora South Gippsland Shire's third largest township but it lacks the basic infrastructure for a town of its size now, let alone the future.

Reports show that millions of dollars must be spent on drainage, kerb and channel, footpaths, Early Childcare Centre (kinder) for example. The current Councillors have failed to put money for new footpath extensions in last year's budget, with \$115K this year all going to the Tarwin Ward and zero for the following three years, it clearly demonstrates that Nyora will continue to be neglected under this regime.

Nyora's population is double that of Meeniyan, and has a third more children from 0 to 4 years of age, yet Meeniyan is getting a new Early Childhood Centre and Nyora is left languishing. Hundreds of new housing blocks are on the verge of being house-ready, yet works and facilities needed in the township have not been done.

My commitment if elected, is to work to have the necessary budget to action the works and facilities needed by Nyora are delivered in this coming term of Council. As a potential Councillor, I promise, if elected to keep the community informed. Council has recognised the plan for Nyora to grow but has not budgeted for the infrastructure to service the growth. It's time!

Jim Forbes, Poowong, Candidate Strzelecki Ward.

Cultural precinct or eyesore?

IN 2018, the State Government announced that the McBride campus of the Wonthaggi Secondary College would be handed over to the council for a cultural precinct once it was vacated.

Five years since the school moved to its new campus, the site sits abandoned and vandalised, an eyesore in the middle of Bass Coast's biggest town.

Wonthaggi residents are frustrated at the bickering between council and State Government over a two-hectare prime site

in the CBD.

The council insists the buildings are beyond repair. They commissioned a report on the state of the buildings but refuse to release it.

Talk about transparency. Bass Coast ratepayers paid for this report. We need to know what the options are.

A regional gallery perhaps, where we can see our own art collection, as well as the Robert Smith collection, a gift to our community by a noted art collector.

Or a library. We've paid \$3 million in rent for our current Wonthaggi library since 2012. We could have built our own library for that money.

Some people favour a mixed precinct: cultural, commercial and residential. Maybe we could also add a business incubator, with mentoring and support for emerging local businesses.

Perhaps a public private partnership would work. A developer gets access to some of the site to build apartments and boutique shops (no major chains!) in return for building us a gallery, a library, rooms for community groups and a courtyard garden.

Or let's tap AquaSure, operator of the Wonthaggi Desalination Plant, which has evaded rates for the past 12 years, courtesy of the State Government. At an estimated \$7 million a year, that's \$84 million in rates that should have gone into council coffers for community infrastructure and services.

Come on, AquaSure. You've made a fortune out of Bass Coast and contributed nothing. Back in the early days you talked about a legacy project in lieu of rates. Here's your chance.

There's no shortage of ideas about what to do on the site. Now let's make it happen.

Jon Temby, Candidate for Western Port Ward

Council gets a D for Communication

BASS Coast Council's report card has read "Must communicate better" for far too long.

Sometimes those in positions of power, like Councilors and Council officers forget two basic facts about democracy.

A, they are servants of the people, the voters. Their jobs are to improve the lives of those they represent, us.

And B that communication allows society to function. Effective communication involves the exchange of information; the word exchange being vital.

If elected I will use my lifetime experience of listening to others, helping them solve problems and even occasionally, regrettably, explaining why the solutions they want are just not possible.

But Bass Coast Council's communication

issues are a problem much bigger than any individual councillors can fix.

Council must not only improve telling the community about what Council is doing and why, but they must actively seek to get information from their community about what is wanted and needed. There is a danger of only the squeaky wheels being heard, leaving the rest of us in silence.

Recently, I have been asked plenty of questions.

1. There will be an October Bass Coast Council meeting even though they can't decide anything. Is this for a nosh-up at our expense?

2. Lack of parking in the Wonthaggi CBD is a problem. Last Thursday night was so busy, as often happens, there were no vacant spaces. Does Council have a plan?

3. One-hour parking is too short to shop, browse and coffee with friends. Could two-hour permits be issued for those non-disabled who can't walk very far?

4. The Bass Coast council offices don't open until 10am. Can they open earlier and stay open later? Maybe there could be one early/late opening day for the novel idea of convenience of ratepayers.

5. Organisations lack volunteers vital to keep our communities going. We might be too old, too young or too busy, we might be newcomers, or just might not know that these groups are about. Council needs to take a more active role in matching community groups with much-needed potential members.

While council officers are very helpful once contacted, the Council must find ways to reach out, or we risk losing the wonderful events and services that enrich our lives.

Glenda Minty, Wonthaggi, Candidate for Western Port.

Editor's note: Candidates are not required to authorise 'letters to the editor' as these are the responsibility of the Sentinel-Times.

Lobby group pressures

THIS election cycle has the topic of the day being "Transparency and Accountability". Being a candidate for the upcoming council election has been enlightening, especially with the number of pledge/promises/guarantees of action I have been asked to take. Nearly all of the emails are from single issue groups asking for the exclusive promotion of "their agenda".

None of these emails were solicited by me but arrived "out of the blue". I can only assume that the other candidates have been similarly "bombarded". This leads me to think about how other candidates deal with such lobbying to "pledge" and how they may behave if elected.

Will they be transparent and accountable for any pledges they felt pressured to make?

EMMA McKAY
COASTAL-PROM. WARD



Lives in: Foster

Why are you running for council?

The reason I'm standing for council is to ensure that this beautiful part of the world remains a wonderful place to live and in tune with its natural surroundings. I hope to represent the people of South Gippsland on the council, putting your hopes and concerns forward to ensure accountability and that decisions are made consciously with proper thought for the future.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

By being on council, I hope to ensure that the council remains financially sustainable. This in turn ensures that the council can help the local communities to thrive and remain viable. As a councillor an important part of the role is to provide support to navigate the services the council provides. These services include council response to emergency situations and support to enable people to find the assistance, help and the support they need.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

My thoughts on the livestreaming of the council briefing sessions are that these types of decisions should be made in consultation with the other councillors. It should be a group decision and not an individual preference.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

In regard to the community being better included in council decision making, community consultations are a way to provide community members with opportunities to be more informed about what is occurring within their council. Consultations are happening more frequently and potentially could be better publicised to ensure the community is aware of them.

SCOTT RAE
COASTAL-PROM. WARD



Why are you running for council?

To represent agriculture and ratepayers, because I have the skill set and commitment.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Lack of road maintenance on state roads in our shire. We are an agricultural community with no rail and need to move produce and livestock out and into our shire daily, and the main roads maintained (or not) by the state are sadly not fit for purpose.
2. Conflicting land use plans, eg. renewable energy and its transmission across high rainfall productive agricultural land rendering it no longer productive or usable for agriculture, as well as carbon and environmental revegetation projects buying productive farms and removing them from agricultural use in perpetuity via covenant. Farms being turned into "AirBnB" resorts or gentrified and not farmed.
3. Having to do more with less. The rate system is broken yet legislatively controlled by the state and councils can't change it. Councils are expected to maintain various state-owned land and maintain or renew infrastructure on it as well as delivering services on behalf of the state such as kindergartens. Rural residents seem to go without essential infrastructure due to cost issues.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

I support publishing high level minutes but not live streaming, by nature some things need confidentiality.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

This needs reform. Unfortunately, community engagement is usually overloaded with those with an agenda and time to burn. Residents with business interests and careers to build often can't physically spare the time so aren't heard.

MICHAEL POORE
COASTAL-PROM. WARD



Lives in: Welshpool

Why are you running for council?

My association with the Gippsland and coastal areas is extensive, over 40 years in agribusiness and vacationing with the family throughout Cape Paterson, Inverloch, Wilsons Promontory and Welshpool. Currently I live in Welshpool. I am a Marketing Professional with a Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees. Professionally, I worked in a number of agribusinesses, mainly in senior management roles. In particular the dairy industry in which I successfully garnered multi-million dollar contracts to supply most major supermarkets and convenience store chains. Better marketing practices and strategy enabled growing turnover from \$40 million to \$100 million per annum in just four years whilst adding millions to the bottom-line. In another company I was involved in leading edge research in animal nutrition, especially applicable throughout the intensive livestock industry. In addition, I was exposed to a wide range of agribusinesses when serving as the Marketing Manager to the Victorian Farmer's Federation.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

The future: I believe the principal issues that will be of vital importance to this region will be (1) preparing to accommodate the influx of a large numbers of workers to service the Gippsland Dawn Off-Shore wind project, and (2) the advancing drive to forcibly limit the consumption of meat and dairy as part of the crusade to reduce greenhouse gases. Already they are pressuring banks and other financial institutions to defund farming industries.

Due to these experiences and insights, I believe I can make a demonstrable difference to the growth and enhancement of the Coastal Promontory Ward and Shire.

STEVE FINLAY
COASTAL-PROM. WARD



Why are you running for council?

I'm standing for council to represent the people, and communities of South Gippsland. To give an alternative candidate choice to the electors in Coastal Promontory.

Steve has lived and worked most of his life in South Gippsland and with his wife has raised three children (and now grandchildren) who all live nearby. He has been involved with local sport, church and community groups. He will work to achieve the best for a free and strong South Gippsland.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Standing against council overreach, as evidenced by the recent by-laws' fiasco.
Cutting council waste and reducing rates.
Freedom issues. Standing for South Gippslanders against bureaucracies and corporations.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

I support live streaming of council meetings, why shouldn't the community see everything that goes on!

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

To be better included in decision making I would reintroduce public presentations and unfettered questions at council meetings. Also, I would do away with council's confidential meetings.

SARAH GILLIGAN
COASTAL-PROM. WARD



Why are you running for council?

I have a lot more to offer South Gippslanders in advocacy and strategy, particularly in the small-town resilience and disaster management/mitigation space. I'm running to be part of a team that ensures South Gippsland council remains stable, professional and accountable and that relationships with state and federal counterparts continue to thrive, without those the money runs dry! The last three years have been an honour and a privilege, and I'd be thrilled to have another four to finish the work I've started.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Our roads still need a lot of work particularly in the Coastal Prom ward.
2. The impacts of the energy transition for our agricultural land, housing, population growth, employment, ports activation and the economy; change always brings opportunity and it's important we have a seat at the table.
3. Creating a more equitable shire for our small towns; organic growth and history has created an inequitable shire. This inequity is embedded into our statutory and budgetary obligations, and I'd like to continue the work in defining and addressing this so everyone feels valued.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Live streaming may curtail some bad behavior in the chamber but risks diluting the depth of due diligence between councillors and officers, limiting the presentation of confidential information and compromising decision-making. I prefer hardworking, accessible councillors in live-streamed meetings, but I'll go along with whatever the new council majority decides.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

I'm not a fan of spending lots of money on consultation processes that reach a fraction of the community so I think better proactive, consistent marketing and inviting the community to get in touch well ahead is the way to go.

BRON BEACH
STRZELECKI WARD



Lives in: Korumburra

Why are you running for council?

I have worked as a community volunteer for the past 11 years in executive committee positions and think it is time I took this incredible experience and used it to continue supporting South Gippsland on a broader level. I have also been impressed with the way the team of councillors have worked together, and I am keen to be a part of the next successful chapter for this beautiful part of the world.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. An activated and engaged community which supports local business sector, families/individuals and tourism to thrive not just survive!
2. Sustainable living – e.g. renewable energy, energy saving in households
3. Strategic planning around sustainable infrastructure to support our community now and into the future

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Transparent process is vital for building community trust. However, I also believe that there is a need to ensure the principles of privacy particularly when presented with sensitive information.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

Get involved! Respond to "Your Say" surveys, talk to your local representatives. Be curious and ask lots of questions!

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD BY POST.
BALLOT PAPERS WILL BE MAILED OUT FROM NEXT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 OVER FOUR DAYS

JENNI KEERIE STRZELECKI WARD



Lives in: Korumburra

Why are you running for council?

I have always been interested in community and working with others to be more effective in achieving outcomes that benefit our area. Working in collaboration has shown me the benefits of working in this way, drawing from a range of skills, age groups, interests, skills, knowledge, experience and perspectives. I am running again because I want to continue the work done over the last three years, to rebuild confidence in the leadership of our region, confidence that was broken by the previous Council. This region deserved so much better and the last three years have been hard work putting the pieces back together. I want to continue to be part of that.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Balancing community expectations and requirements in an environment that is constrained financially by rates capping, picking up the tab for other tiers of government, increasing costs of materials and human resource requirements.
2. Balancing future growth and development, (including housing, infrastructure, employment, public transport – advocacy to State and Federal Governments) while protecting our major economic treasure and what we love about this region. Progressing the town framework for Nyora is essential.
3. Improving our road networks (including weed management) for better movement throughout the Shire on Council managed road networks (we can only highlight and advocate for State Government controlled roads).

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Knowing just what is discussed in briefings, I don't believe it would be suitable for these sessions to be livestreamed. Briefings are the time when Councillors can unpack matters before them, to ask questions for better understanding and clarification and to hear broad perspectives. It's also a time when ratepayers' private dealings or concerns are discussed.

JOHN KENNEDY STRZELECKI WARD



Lives in: Kardella

Why are you running for council?

I moved to Kardella from Melbourne 12 years ago. I ran a successful cycling business in Black Rock Melbourne since 1993. The country appealed to me and I bought 32-acre property here.

I started cycling shop in Korumburra (2016) and was instrumental in pushing to have the rail trail implemented from Leongatha to Nyora.

The last nine years I've noticed a dramatic increase in the cost of living, especially property rates, water rates, etc. to the point that a person contacted me that they got a \$1980 fine for having their grass too high on their lawns.

I feel people have had enough and most are struggling now, I see this everyday so it's time for everybody to come together and steer South Gippsland in the right direction, especially with all the red tape, bureaucracy in building/permits and a rate freeze working towards a rate reduction.

I used to be in the construction industry for 16 years and employed dozens of people, I've been a national professional cycling champion and world record holder – I can deal with pressure. We need everybody on board so we can voice our thoughts and opinions, so the shire council fully understand what we all want.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Look at council overheads and costs in workforce, equipment, and services to be economical and efficient
2. To make every ratepayer dollar spent scrutinised and proportionately given to each ward and town.
3. For the community to be consulted in all areas

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Live streaming is essential for honest and open presentation.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

I will give time for community consultation personally to groups or individuals by appointments.

JIM FORBES STRZELECKI WARD



Lives in: Poowong

Why are you running for council?

There has been an abandonment of the Councillors directly acting for the people. Unfortunately, the incumbents act as if they are directors on a corporate board led by the staff rather than being the champions and voices of the people. Rarely is debate at the Council table seen and in effect few if any motions have been driven by incumbents.

My vision is to see far better governance in meeting procedure, that Councillors act first and foremost for the ratepayer and residents and to be in touch with the communities they represent.

- I want to see orderly planned growth across the Shire.
- Provision of key services in the most economical way possible,
- Work to ensure South Gippsland retains its agricultural clean and green image,
- Building wonderful communities that we all enjoy to live and work.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Delivering the essential infrastructure and maintenance of same across the Shire.
2. Councillors to be connected directly to the community and representing the people
3. Coping with the continual cost shifting from State and Federal governments causing huge budget implications so doing more with less \$

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes, but certainly not all – yes for general background information. However, it would be inappropriate to livestream involving private investors, planning changes, others that may request privacy etc. Only a dozen or so watch the livestreaming as it is for formal meetings.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

Greater direct councillor connectedness with all of the townships across the ward i.e. councillors attend township meetings on a regular basis.

NATHAN HERSEY STRZELECKI WARD



Why are you running for council?

Service to others is at the very core of how I conduct myself. I've enjoyed using my skills and experience to contribute to our community in a professional way shaping policy, guiding strategy, and advocating at all levels for local needs. I'm proud to have helped build stability and trust, offering leadership for the past three years. I have more I can give and more to achieve.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Increase engagement with the community and taking the direction from our people. We have had to do a lot of repair work.

Planning for our future. Providing the right framework for local employment and housing without over developing or losing the essence of what we all appreciate in South Gippsland.

Protection of our highly fertile and significantly important agricultural land and opportunities for local value adding for our agricultural industry. Once it's gone, it's gone. We need our agricultural land to be protected for the benefit of food production and our local economy.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes, or high-level minutes. However, like any organisation there must be an opportunity to speak openly, honestly, and frank with one another and that is sometimes not best done in front of the whole world. There must be opportunities for confidential and Councillor only discussion.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

'The world is run by those who show up' – this is something I have said many times over the past three years. This term has seen a steady but significant increase in community engagement. I encourage residents and groups to reach out, pick up the phone, send an email, turn up, show up. As a human, I am good at a lot of things, but mindreading isn't one of them.

AARON TAYLOR TARWIN VALLEY WARD



Why are you running for council?

I'm running for council primarily because the storms in February and September have given me strong links with this community, and showed me ways this council could be improved. I feel I have many ideas and abilities I can bring to the table, and a new perspective compared to many councillors both past and present.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

The absolute most important issue will be dealing with larger and more frequent disasters. The budget for disasters is already well exceeded this year, and storms will only be worse now that we've lost many trees that were previously acting as windbreaks. The council needs to focus on disaster prevention methods and disaster mitigation methods like community batteries, emergency systems for urgent response, and individual power generation that doesn't rely on petrol. Lastly, long term disaster response focused on making it as cheap and easy as possible for our communities to get back on their feet after fires, floods or storms.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Live streaming council briefing sessions would help to hold the council responsible, ethical and open to the public, and so have my full support. Decisions by the council that affect the public should be made publicly available.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

Open council meetings where the public could attend on occasion, the above-mentioned live streaming of council briefings, and a summary of decisions made hosted in a concise list are idea's I would like to make sure happen if elected. The council should reach out to community organisations when possible, and it is my understanding they do to some extent already. Wait times for council responses to their public contact details could also be cut down.

BRAD SNELL TARWIN VALLEY WARD



Why are you running for council?

To help form an informed and connected team; a conduit between you and your concerns and enable great outcomes. Our community is at the centre of my motivations, I see this as an opportunity to offer my life's work and also forge new pathways.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Being relevant. The world is deeply interconnected, having the ability to understand and execute processes and outcomes takes depth.

The environment. It has the ability to provide us with life, income, but also the power to take it. I see a need for much improvement in the way infrastructure meets these demands. We need to invest in new technology, methods in order to not only keep up, but build something that lasts.

Global, local and circular economies. Much of our municipality economic prosperity rides on only a handful of large foreign owned companies. We need to back ourselves with a solid plan, build greater resilience, maintain a purpose that seeks out an economy that can stand up no matter what happens.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Transparency is vital in order to form any healthy trustworthy relationship, however I would place accountability ahead of transparency. A council is an informed panel that has the ability to deeply affect people's lives. Great consideration needs to be taken when undertaking briefings to ensure that the required transparency does not generate hallmark moments.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

I have been a part of community engagement recently and throughout my working career, I have often seen these processes contracted and sometimes lacking in the standard required. A higher level of community engagement must be undertaken, red flags need to be addressed immediately.

CLARE WILLIAMS
TARWIN VALLEY WARD



Why are you running for council?

I'm standing again for our community, for our council to remain focused on the needs of community. To maximise funding from state and federal government to help provide services that impact our daily lives, we all want to be comfortable, safe and have opportunity. I'm asking for your support to maintain our focus on your needs.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Infrastructure for family services.
Supporting opportunities for young people and business to be successful.
Protecting our farmland.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

I absolutely support transparency.
I also support privacy and free conversation for our residents.

I want applications to remain in the hands of our residents. It is not fair to expect our resident's business both personal and commercial to be on display for the public. There is a balance between transparency and protecting our resident's privacy.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

Councillors are there to represent you. Vote in representatives that are open, approachable and connected with your needs.
Get to know your councillors, give your councillors a call, connect with them.
We are here to work together.

CANDIDATES' EVENTS IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

THERE'S less than a week now until the ballot packs are posted out in the local council elections, from Monday, October 7, and in both South Gippsland and Bass Coast, local voters are being given a few chances to 'Meet the Candidates'.

The main wards attracting the interest in South Gippsland and Bass Coast appear to be Strzelecki ward and Bunurong ward.

In Strzelecki ward, from Korumburra west to Nyora, growth pressures at Nyora and Poowong, lack of support for Korumburra and lingering issues about the Korumburra Hub and Senior Citizens Centre are still simmering away, while in Bunurong (covering most of Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cape Paterson) its coastal erosion, settlement boundaries and the Surf Parade pathway, among many other issues that are getting people excited.

"Given the issues that Inverloch currently faces, there a good number of them, it is important and essential that we are represented both truly and rigorously over the next four years. Nine candidates have put themselves forward to do this. To get a measure of each candidate we have organised a meeting and invited all candidates to attend. Eight have expressed a willingness to attend in person and one, unfortunately, is unable to due to prior travel commitments," said convenor Kim White on social media this week.

"The format will give equal time to all candidates to answer questions. Candidates will not have seen the questions beforehand as they will come from the audience. One additional element of the meeting will be an explanation of how the voting system works. This is an important part of the election process, and it is important for people to understand properly if they want their vote to really count for Inverloch," he said.

Here are the event details:
South Gippsland

- Strzelecki ward candidates, Korumburra Scout Hall, Queen Street, Thursday, October 3 two sessions 2pm-4pm and 6.30pm-8.30pm including Q&A.
- Promontory Coast candidates, TBA.
- Tarwin Valley ward candidates (only Clare Williams, John Schelling & Brad Snell) Lyon & Bair Café, 24 Bair St, Leongatha Monday, October 7 from 9am-10.30am and Sweet Life Café & Cakes 1 Bair St, Leongatha Tuesday, October 8 from 9am-10.30am.

Bass Coast

- Bunurong ward candidates, Sunday, October 6 at 4pm at the Inverloch Football Clubhouse, convened by Kim White.
- Western Port candidates, Grantville Recreation Reserve Friday, October 4 6pm.

DON HILL
TARWIN VALLEY WARD



Why are you running for council?

I am running to restore the transparency and good governance of Council, to introduce a three-year rate freeze, review the Capital works program, investigate the allegations of impropriety in the procurement process as evidenced by the whistleblower revelations from the released documentation from the Information Commissioner and the Freedom of Information process.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

I will assist Mirboo North residents and review the bushfire planning amendments that many will have problems with if implemented as proposed and accepted by the current Councillor group. Many will be adversely affected by these proposed changes.
The Municipal Precinct Project was removed in 2017 after I moved a motion at Council to remove it from the budget. Council is working to reintroduce the Municipal Precinct Project (mark 2) in 2025. This is likely to cost over \$30 million. Not required!

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

I introduced livestreaming of Council meetings in 2017 and was the first to propose live streaming of Council briefing sessions due to the current Councillor group making decisions behind closed doors in briefing sessions which is illegal.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

Current Councillors have allowed the administration to limit consultation periods to two weeks from minimum of four weeks and altered the online community engagement platform I helped introduce in the 2012-2016 Council. That allowed people to post suggestions and to see other people's ideas and to vote on them. This needs restoring to enable full community engagement with all ideas put forward. Council have reduced that process to an online submission only and no ability to view other's ideas.

KATHLEEN MURRAY
TARWIN VALLEY WARD



Why are you running for council?

I want to be a voice for the community

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Rates, Roads and Rubbish.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

One hundred per cent yes, as not everyone can attend council meetings.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

I believe the money that the council receives via rates, is entrusted to them, to do what is needed by the rate payers. I have walked the streets on different subjects asking the community for their opinion eg. when we wanted the train returned to the area, what they thought about the new local by-laws.

I also have a Facebook page where I ask people opinions.

They can also make more time at their council meetings when deciding on a decision for feedback from the gallery, eg. the Agnes Fall Viewing Platform.

Listen to what the public think.

Also have an office where a councillor can meet the public to discuss issues concerning them.

I am in the Tarwin Valley Ward, though I will gladly listen to anyone in the shire to be their voice.

BASS COAST SHIRE
COUNCIL CANDIDATES
WILL FEATURE IN NEXT WEEK'S
EDITION OF THE
SOUTH GIPPSLAND
SENTINEL-TIMES

JOHN SCHELLING
TARWIN VALLEY WARD



Why are you running for council?

As we head into the election, I reflect on the success that the previous council achieved over their three years in our region.
The return to stable local governance fed right from the top through the ranks of the staff, which created a workspace where everyone felt important, this was also driven by the management team at the shire who felt supported in their roles. Balance and strong governance in the workplace is very important and is why I have become a candidate again, so that we retain this stability and continue to build from a strong base going forward.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Should I be re-elected I will continue to listen to our people, act on their thinking, plan for the future and work collaboratively with all to achieve a better place for us all to live, work and enjoy. Protection of our agricultural land and those that farm it is also high on my agenda as that is where our strength lies, which drives our community's growth.

My other aims centre around support of the volunteers in sport and our community groups who are integral to the structure of our youth and the region as a whole, these volunteers don't look for any special pats on the back, they just enjoy being involved and providing structured entertainment for all, and we should support them.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

No. We should be able to discuss openly and freely without livestreaming, it might stop people saying what they really want to say.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

I think they already are – we have lots of community consultations on major policy changes and items, such as Coal Creek, the Coastal Strategy, and Local Laws.

ROSEMARY COUSIN
TARWIN VALLEY WARD



Why are you running for council?

Many people have become alienated by local government. With my experience in agriculture, government at all levels, and a deep appreciation of South Gippsland's environment and the issues challenging our diverse communities, I intend to be a proactive councillor, part of a team who restore community confidence and involvement in local decisions that impact on them.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. To ensure we have an open, honest, and ethical Council committed to achieving best value for money in all its expenditure.
2. To strengthen our preparation, response and recovery from the increasingly frequent climate driven disasters, we need support volunteers and community groups; regenerate our natural environment; and better maintain our roads and other infrastructure.
3. To achieve a better future for us all, South Gippsland Shire Council needs to listen more carefully, advocate for and work together to rebuild positive connections between Council and our diverse communities.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

I give this a qualified yes. It will certainly improve transparency of Council decision making and better inform the public of complexities of issues Council must consider and decide upon. But there must be respect for and appreciation of the neutral and professional role that Council's employees play in briefing Councillors; and an opportunity to hold closed briefings when confidential matters arise, as they will.

How can the community be better included in council decision making?

We need councillors who actively listen and advocate for the interests of local communities. But more than that, when communities help set Council priorities and directions, there is a sense of empowerment that strengthens our community wellbeing and prosperity.

Students don pirate garb to raise funds for the Amazon

INVERLOCH Primary School's Grade 3 and 4 students have struck a lasting relationship with the Amazon Shipwreck Committee.

To celebrate the students' discovery of local history, the school's student action team co-ordinated a 'dress like a pirate day' on Friday, September 13.

The funds raised will go towards the museum the committee hope to obtain to store its artefacts.

"In term two, the students were learning about information reports. We through we'd engage with the Amazon Shipwreck Committee and learn all about it," teacher Loree-Lee Jamieson said.

"We had Karyn (Bugeja) – who is the secretary of the shipwreck committee – come to the school to show us some artefacts.

"From there, the students went away and wrote the most amazingly detailed information reports about the history of the Amazon shipwreck. We've made a book to present to Karyn (on Friday) and we've decided to help

raise money to go towards the museum.

"We hope this can become an annual event, where the school can connect with the community and raise money for something that's really significant within the community."

Students dressed up in their best pirate gear and donated a gold coin on the day.

The students enjoyed learning about the story of the Amazon, including the fact it was carrying salts and meat to Mauritius, encountered a storm that blew it further east to Inverloch where the ship was damaged at Flat Rocks, and the crew survived the ordeal.

The Grade 3 and 4 students walked to the beach to see the newly revealed remains of the shipwreck recently, which proved to be an exciting excursion.

"We reflected on how lucky we are to have such an amazing part of our history right here on our beach," Ms Jamieson said.

"We hope to keep the connection with the Amazon Shipwreck Committee moving forward."



Back from left, Zara, Charlie, Cooper, front from left, Zac and Archer enjoyed learning about the Amazon shipwreck during the term, which culminated in a dress-up day at Inverloch Primary School. Tk69_3824

Kite making in Korumburra

CHILDREN were involved in the ancient Chinese practice at the Korumburra library last week of kite making as part of Myli's school holiday program.

It was thought the humble kite originated nearly 3000 years ago in China for the purpose of sending messages, measuring distance, for military tactics and religious and celebratory reasons.

While paper kites were commonly made, other readily available materials such as fine, high-tensile strength silk and bamboo for frames gave the Chinese the means to make excellent kites.

Back in Korumburra, the children were creating simple, bright and decorative kites from paper bags, with colourful

light-weight streamers for the tail and string to tether the kite and hold onto while running around and making the kite 'fly'.

Patterned paper and hearts and stars were cut out and glued to the bags which saw many unique and vibrant creations made during the morning.

While it was raining outside during the process of creation, with Korumburra being its typical windy self, it will no doubt produce what's needed to make the kite makers' dreams of flying their beautiful creations on a clear day during these school holidays a reality.

And if not, it provided a great activity for kids to do on a grey, rainy day.



Ella and Jason said creating a kite was a good activity to do when it was raining outside. ob03_4024

Head start on higher education with ACU Uni Step-Up Online

THE Uni Step-Up Online program is an exciting development for Year 11 students in regional and remote communities: an initiative established by Australian Catholic University (ACU) that aims to provide secondary students with a unique opportunity to explore higher education courses while still completing their studies.

ACU has partnered with Country Universities Centre (CUC) Bass Coast so students can utilise the facilities at CUC – a conducive learning environment. With no disruption to their current studies, participants can explore their interests and better prepare for their future academic pursuits.

The Uni Step-Up Online program offers access to courses in Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedicine, Sports and Exercise Science, and Business. One of the standout features of the program is its alternative pathway to university.

Students participating in the program can complete two university units HECS



Year 11 students in regional and remote communities can embark on their educational journey with the Uni Step-Up Online program, gaining a head start on university thanks to the collaboration between Australian Catholic University (ACU) and County Universities Centre (CUC) Bass Coast.

free, allowing them to gain valuable academic experience without any financial burden. Additionally, they will receive comprehensive support services, ensuring that they are well-equipped to handle the demands of university-level coursework.

"This program is designed to empower students in regional

areas, giving them a head start on their educational journey," said Jamie Fenech of ACU.

"It's a fantastic opportunity to develop essential skills in academic writing and referencing, all while still in Year 11."

Year 11 student at Bass Coast College Annabelle Birt is currently enrolled in the

Uni Step-Up Online business course as well as completing a Year 12 subject this year.

Annabelle's father David Birt said Annabelle is handling the coursework well.

"It was our initial concern that the workload would be too heavy; however, Annabelle is great at managing her time and the structure means she has great support," he said.

"She plans to study law – perhaps law and business as a double degree and this opportunity provides her with credit towards the business course."

The initiative has garnered positive feedback from educators and students alike, highlighting the importance of accessible education in regional towns.

Interested students are encouraged to reach out to ACU or CUC Bass Coast for more information on how to apply and take advantage of this transformative opportunity.

To get a head start at university visit acu.edu.au/about-acu/widening-participation/uni-step-up



Year 11 Bass Coast College student Oscar Hughes was recently accepted into the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. Tk02_3924

School acceptance music to Oscar's ears

BASS Coast College student Oscar Hughes was recently accepted into the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School.

Oscar plays alto saxophone and baritone saxophone and gained acceptance into the school after an online audition in June.

The audition consisted of four pieces, some scales and an etude, which is technical work.

"I was called back for a theory test and a live audition," Oscar said.

"I went into VCASS (Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School) to do the audition. Two weeks later, I received an acceptance letter."

The acceptance will mean some major life changes for Oscar.

Currently in Year 11, he will move to the city with his mum and see out his Year 12 studies at VCASS.

"I'll hopefully join some bands and do some gigs. I'm looking forward to surrounding myself with like-minded people and people who love music," he said.

"Being surrounded by amazing musicians will help me become a better musician."

Oscar played the clarinet in primary school.

After picking up the saxophone in Year 7, he decided to stick with the instrument and has put endless hours into rehearsal.

At school, he is part of the concert band and the show band.

His instrumental teacher is Sara Beale, who has been extremely supportive of his music journey.

Oscar has filled out his enrolment and chosen his subjects for next year and has big plans for his future.

"I definitely want to do a degree in music and maybe one day travel overseas to study," he said.

McKenzie campus principal Ross Bramley said the school is thrilled with Oscar's achievements.

"We're very proud of him and we're excited for the next chapter in his journey. He's been very committed to his music all the way through, and this is a reward for all the extra rehearsals and practices he's done before school, during school, after school and the countless hours at home. It's a real credit to him," he said.

"We're sad to see him moving on to another school but we are very happy to see him exploring his passion for music. We do hope he comes back to visit once he's graduated and plays for future students."

CWA afternoon tea for cancer research

THE KORUMBURRA CWA will be hosting its third Love Your Sister event this October to raise money for cancer research.

The Love Your Sister charity was started by Australian actor Samuel Johnson and his sister Connie Johnson in 2013 when she dared him to ride around Australia on a unicycle to raise awareness about breast cancer and one million dollars for cancer research.

Samuel did this and Connie said it wasn't over yet and Sam committed to raising \$10 million. In 2017 Connie sadly passed away and by 2019 Samuel had raised \$10 million. He has since hit \$15 million with the support of communities and groups like the Korumburra CWA.

"We're hoping to raise \$2000 for the Love Your Sister Foundation. They're a charity where every single cent raised goes straight to cancer research," said Ellie Walter, Korumburra CWA Branch President.

"We've had our members affected by cancer; our family members affected by cancer. So, it's a cause really close to our heart," said Ellie.

"The CWA stand for helping women and supporting women. So getting rid of cancer is very closely aligned to the CWA's purpose."

To contribute to the cause, the Korumburra CWA will be hosting an afternoon tea, with all the wonderful CWA fare available, including scones with jam and cream, and good cups of tea.

Local businesses have been generous in supporting the event and there are also three major prizes to be won from the raffle.

The first prize is a Dine and Bathe voucher for the Peninsula Hot Springs valued at \$360, donated by Area Specialist South Gippsland.

Second prize is a Tasting and Underground Tour for two to ten people at Gurney's Cidery, valued at \$289, donated by Gurneys Cidery.

And, third prize is a Lucent Globe pack valued at \$60, donated by Lucent Globe.

CWA members will be selling raffle tickets at the Korumburra IGA in the weeks leading up to the event.

Last year's event raised \$1613.92 and about \$300 the year prior, so Ellie is hoping the event will keep growing.

The Love Your Sister afternoon tea will be held at the Korumburra Scout Hall on Sunday, October 19.

Natives planted to help swamp antechinus

By Linda Nicholls, Coronet Bay Community Assoc. Committee member

CORONET Bay Community Association (CBCA) held a community planting on Thursday, September 5.

The planting was to restore coastal vegetation around the edge of Wang toolome parrung (Duck Waterhole) at Norsemens Road in Coronet Bay.

A small but robust group assisted with planting the 300 native plants comprising grasses, sedges, coast correas, bursarias and coastal banksias – to name a few – with Bass Coast Shire Council supplying the plants.

The planting is part of ongoing restoration work by the Natural Resource Team at the Shire headed by Dave Martin.

The area at Norsemens Road is the site of the recent discovery of the vulnerable Swamp Antechinus. This small native Australian marsupial will benefit from the native grasses and sedges to improve its habitat. The Swamp Antechinus lives in dense grasses.

The group of planters were accompanied by an array of bird life as they worked, including the buff banded rail, the superb fairy wren, some red browed finches and purple swamp hens nearby.

Coronet Bay Community Association continues to work closely with Dave Martin at the Council and Bass Coast Landcare Network for control of weeds and continued restoration and improvement of these important habitat areas.

Come and have a walk along the foreshore track and enjoy the birdsong

Final service for Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson

IN A heartfelt farewell service this past Sunday, Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson reflected on the biblical story of Queen Esther, drawing powerful connections to the themes of prayer, petition, and community support. The congregation gathered to celebrate Elson's impactful ministry, focusing on Esther's courageous plea to save her people; with the service concluding with a release of ties with Rev Fiona Morrison.

Rev. Elson emphasised how Esther's story highlights the importance of standing together in times of crisis, a message that resonates deeply in today's world.

"Like Esther, we are called to advocate for those in need, to speak truth to power, and to rely on the strength of our community," she told the congregation.

This reflection served as a reminder of the critical role of prayer and the power of communal support in facing challenges.

Rev Deacon Wendy Elson has been in placement to the Uniting Church since December 2019 in Wonthaggi and Inverloch – a part of the shearwater team, whilst too working at Bass Coast Health as spiritual care coordinator and undergoing her PHD for the past 18 months with the University of Divinity in Melbourne.

The service also featured a reading from the book of James, which reinforced the



Janet Snashall-Woodhams, Rev Deacon Wendy Elson, Rev Deacon Judy McLeod and Rev Fiona Morrison at the Inverloch Uniting Church for release of ties service. Z17_4024

message of healing through prayer.

"The prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective," Rev. Elson noted, encouraging attendees to come together not just in worship but in action, echoing James's call for communal support in times of need.

As Rev. Elson prepares to embark on a new chapter, she urged the congregation to continue fostering inclusivity within the church.

"Our faith must be rooted in action – whether that means

providing shoes for those in need or advocating for justice in our community," she stated.

The role of deacons was also a focal point of the service, underscoring their vital function as servants who bridge the gap between the church and the world.

"Deacons are the hands and feet of Christ, bringing our faith into tangible actions," Rev. Elson affirmed.

Reflecting on the evolving nature of the church, she reminded attendees that

adaptability and compassion are essential in today's society.

"As we move forward, let us remember that we are not just a church in isolation, but a vibrant community engaged with the world around us."

The service concluded with prayers, hymns, and heartfelt tributes to Rev. Elson's years of dedicated service. Attendees left inspired to carry forward her legacy of love, action, and unwavering faith, ready to continue the work of the church in their community and beyond.

Gippsland Go Girls changing lives through empowerment

GIPPSLAND Go Girls have been praised for transforming the lives of hundreds of vulnerable Victorian women by The Nationals' Melina Bath in State Parliament.

Ms Bath said the Go Girls Foundation empowers women at risk, supporting those who have experienced challenges including domestic violence, social isolation and homelessness.

"The Go Girl Foundation helps local women create new opportunities and a positive future," said Ms Bath.

"It is a purely philanthropic organisation receiving no government funding despite the many benefits it delivers."

"Go Girls Foundation is one-hundred per cent reliant on donations and fundraising activities."

The major fundraising activity for the foundation the 'Go Girls 100km Challenge'



Go Girls Gippsland Heidi Vanzet, Cr Clare Williams, Caroline Grainger, Melina Bath MP, co-founder Michelle Jobson and Emma Bowditch.

is occurring on October 17.

Ms Bath said it was a privilege meeting present and past Go Girls and learning about their personal transformations.

"I congratulate the Gippsland Go Girls for connecting with

each other, learning from their mentors and becoming work-ready and, financially independent."

"Thank you to all local sponsors and mentors for their dedication to improving the lives of women

in Gippsland."

Anyone wishing to help support Go Girls can do so by contacting the foundation's website at gogirls.org.au or by calling co-founder Michelle Jobson on 0406 998 612.

Ping pong balls and poop, a recipe for school holiday fun



THERE was plenty of laughs and lots of fun on Tuesday, September 24 as You are a donut came to Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre and entertained young and old alike.

From the creators of "The Alphabet of Awesome Science" came the brand-new multi-award-winning family show... You are a doughnut!

According to the duo, it's true! You are a great big fleshy lump with a remarkable hole running all the way through your middle – your digestive system.

Biology teachers Oesoph A. Gus and Dewey Dean

embarked upon an utterly brilliant all singing, all-dancing (and all-clowning!) exploration of every twisting tube and remarkable organ – with sketches, songs, and sensational science that had the audience in fits of laughter. From the frenzy of enzyme powered ping pong balls, to singing with a rainbow collection of poop puppets, and witnessing the weirdest poetry performance one had ever seen it was a riot of fun... and a tad gross.

LEFT: The Donohue girls with performers Rod Schultz and PJ Oaten.

If only you knew my story

By Chloe Kent

THERE is something magical about the unknown. The smaller lesser well-known plays, the twists and turns you don't see coming, the ones you might, especially in intimate venues.

It's different to the bold architecture of *The Phantom of the Opera* at His Majesties Theatre, Palais des Sports' *Les Misérables*, and the all-singing, all-dancing display at Eugene O'Neill for *The Book of Mormon*.

There is something special about stepping away from the classics and into a new world – a world where you don't know the songs or the steps.

And, that is what happened Thursday night when Wonthaggi Theatrical Group opened *Bright Star* to a near full house.

A journey to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina in 1946, *Bright Star* is a heart-warming and poignant musical that weaves together themes of love, hope, redemption and the enduring power of the human spirit.

But before we delve into the story and cast one must not forget those who make it happen behind the scenes, and this, as follows is certainly not an exhaustive list.

Firstly, the set design by Tad Hendry, in its minimalism is simple and sparse, yet effective as you are transported between 1946, 1923, Hayes Creek, Asheville and Zebulon, with a train journey in between. The ensemble plays a large part in transposing between scenes.

The costumes curated by Mayumi McPhee are a reflection of the historical periods and the emotional roller coaster between eras. An authentic representation of rural Southern fashion, suspenders and florals that transition to mature tailored attire and three-piece suits, and it would be remiss not to mention the pink dress and shoes – absolutely delightful!

The fluid and expressive choreography designed by Angela Hogan is energetic and purposeful elevating the story that at times is high energy and intense, whilst infusing the more sombre moments of the soft and subdued. Musically *Bright Star* is brilliant, a fusion of bluegrass, folk and Americana, the band, under the guidance of Musical Director Jane Chambers, brings the distinctive and authentic sound of the show's Southern roots into a soulful and immersive soundscape. Balancing the elements, and creating seamless transitions be prepared for foot-stomping, energetic clapping and emotionally charged ballads.

David Wall, in his WTG Stage Manager debut, brings to life the subtle sounds and lighting changes on cue with Trevor Wyhoon (Lighting Design) and Brett Van Hoorn (Sound Design) and the team.

Seasoned director Karen Milkins-Hendry once again brings a beautiful script to life in her interpretation of *Bright Star*. The cohesive production seamlessly blends emotively charged action with subtle silences that take the audience on a journey



Another Round performed by Jaz Hendry, Brad Boucher, Jay Nelson and Taine Lowe. Tickets are still available for shows this Thursday to Saturday.



Alice (Leisel Burrow) and Jimmy Rae (Jonah Van Stekelenburg) share a pivotal moment in *Bright Star*.

through deeply moving moments, light-hearted humour and unexpected twists, offering an experience that is both heart-wrenching and heartwarming.

Her vision is brought to life through the wonderful casting of seasoned WTG actors and impressive new debuts.

Eighteen-year-old lead Leisel Burrow imbues Alice Murphy's multifaceted story – from a wild, young girl to a poised, accomplished woman, a nuanced performance. Learning all the lines before the first rehearsal, Leisel's portrayal in a pivotal scene is gut-wrenching.

Heartthrob Jimmy Ray Dobbs, played by Jonah Van Stekelenburg, immerses the audience in his flirtatious and handsome charm. The quick wit contrasts the difficult conversations and belting vocals.

The music, co-written by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, interweaves the parallel storyline of Billy Cane and Margo Crawford, played by Taine Lowe and Cecily De Gooyer respectively. It would be remiss not to mention the expressive and dynamic performances of the duo and their take on young love, it will melt

even the coldest heart, filling one with the fluttering sensation and memories of first love.

The light-hearted comedy duo of Daryl (Jay Nelson) and Lucy (Jaz Hendry) is dynamic and understated in a musical that blends thought-provoking and challenging topics.

Nick Carver, Brad Boucher, Joel Stevenson and Kathryn Stephan round out a fantastic feature cast that is accompanied by a spellbinding ensemble that includes Archie, Camryn, Lachlan, Lara, Linda, Lou, Mark and Yasmin, who are hugely active throughout.

The themes certainly resonate long after the final curtain with one audience member noting she needed tissues.

The production is complemented by a great front-of-house and behind-the-scenes team, that includes production assistants and coordinators, hair and make-up, photography and marketing.

"We didn't know about (*Bright Star*) until a very special member of the group, Mungo Trumble had his very first professional lighting gig, designing for the musical *Bright Star* at Chapel

Off Chapel. We went because we wanted to see Mungo's lighting work. We knew nothing of the show," Karen explained.

"We fell in love within the first five minutes.

"A year later, another friend was starring in it, and (Tad and I) saw it again, and decided we really wanted to bring it to South Gippsland."

Released the same year as *Hamilton*, *Bright Star* received multiple Tony nominations but was overshadowed by the immense popularity and critical acclaim of *Hamilton*, making it challenging for *Bright Star* to gain the recognition it deserved.

"Chapel Off Chapel is a similar sized stage to ours and we were inspired; it's got all the feels."

There is no denying the audience was moved, Karen noting the aspiration for the audience take-away is to encourage hope against the odds, "the enduring resilience for people who have had life throw them some tough curves."

"(Opening night) my creative soul was filled," Karen said.

"I was really proud watching the performance and thinking of the many, many people behind what the audience was seeing... A very talented local cast, the talented band and their energy and enjoyment that the audience could see – I loved that. And all the production elements surrounding that, that were on point. It all came together to create a really warm, heartfelt experience for the audience."

A short nine-week rehearsal period, Karen was emotionally moved by Alice and Jimmy Ray's duet, and during Jimmy Ray's solo "Heartbreak". You'll have to see the musical for more on these moments!

Tickets are still available with the production running at 7.30pm tonight, tomorrow night (Grand Final Saturday) and a 2pm matinee on Sunday. With cast and crew taking back to the stage next Thursday and Friday evenings (October 3 and 4) and Saturday, October 5 for a 2pm matinee and 7.30pm evening show.

Let Wonthaggi Theatre Group take you on a journey to the South in the years 1923 and 1946. Tickets available at trybooking.com/CTWIT.



The Gippsland Wine Show judging is done and dusted with the much-anticipated results to be announced next month.

Gippsland Wine Show judging comes to Cape

By Kit Fennessy, Arts and Culture Correspondent

THE Cape Paterson Life Saving Club was thrilled to host the Gippsland Wine Show judging last week, featuring Gippsland's best wines in 12 classes. There were over 114 entries this year from 20 wineries across Gippsland – from as far apart as Phillip Island to Lakes Entrance (300 kilometres).

"Gippsland excels in cool climate varietals like pinot noir, chardonnay, a cheeky little riesling and the odd surprisingly good sparkling wine," international wine writer and Halliday Gippsland Region expert Jane Faulkner said.

"It's great to get a snapshot of all the vintages, and what's happening across the region, where things are at. When we judge, we're looking for joy in the wines."

Some of Australia's best wine tasters were on the judging panel. In addition to Jane Faulkner, there was the chair Sarah Fagan (Tarrawarra's chief wine maker), Julian Grounds (Stonier Wines, Mornington Peninsular), Dom Kearton (Purple Hen, Phillip Island) and Frank Butera (from Bass River Winery).

"Judging requires a lot of expertise," Dom said, "but the hardest bit is making sure you get the right wine in the right glass. Otherwise, it's a nightmare. That's where Frank comes in with the logistics."

Chief wine steward Frank Butera explained.

"We blind taste the wines so we don't know which is which, and judge each on its merits. The wineries enter online through software supplied by the Australian Wine Research Institute, which gives the wine a number and class that follows the bottle to the comp. We put our judgements in the software with no discussion, and after the adjudications are lodged we might have a second round if there's more than one gold in a class. That's when things get really exciting, because we're judging the best of the best."

Wine tasting is a very serious business, and not to be taken lightly. The Wines of Provenance class alone features three vintages from each winery, the same varietal across a five-year span, which allows the judges to see consistency of style and place. There were 20 entries in Wines of Provenance, which required 300 glasses to be poured for just that one class. With an additional 11 classes to judge, that means there were a lot of glasses. Judging took over two days to complete.

Results will be revealed at the 2024 Westpac Gippsland Wine Show awards tasting and dinner on Thursday, October 17 at Carrajung Estate, near Traralgon.

Earlybird tickets are available at: trybooking.com/CURUY or via winegippsland.com

Tickets are also available for the bus running from Bass Coast (Coves and Anderson) to the venue and return.



Aus Rock Legend Ross Wilson brings the Now Listen, We're Steppin' Out: 50 Years of Hits Tour to Wonthaggi on October 4. Photo: James Penlidis.

50 Years of Hits Tour to Wonthaggi

CONTINUING an extensive tour he began at the start of summer, Ross Wilson is set to venture forth again with his all-star band The Peaceniks to celebrate over 50 years of hits.

Ross's action-packed show includes all the Daddy Cool and Mondo Rock favourites you'd expect along with tracks from the latest offering from his almost six-decade career, the She's Stuck On Facebook All The Time EP, and everything in between.

The tour will hit the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on October 4 and in an interview with the Sentinel-Times, Ross Wilson shared his enthusiasm about performing in modern, well-designed regional theatres, which have become a focus of his recent tours.

From Daddy Cool to Mondo Rock and as a solo artist with no less than 26 ARIA Top 40 hits to his credit as a singer, songwriter and producer, Ross Wilson is one of Australia's most awarded, respected and well-known artists.

The legendary band Daddy Cool whose number one anthem 'Eagle Rock' and debut album Daddy Who? smashed all previous sales records in Australia an astounding 50 years ago in 1971, to the 1977 formation of Mondo Rock, delivering '80s hits 'Cool World', 'State of The Heart', 'Chemistry', 'No Time', and 'Come Said The Boy' and into the 21st century as a solo performer, Wilson has never been out of the limelight. His latest release, 2023's "She's Stuck On Facebook All The Time" is a modern-day tragicomedy in the blues genre.

"This latest EP reflects my musical roots; it's got me playing a bit of harp and incorporates more raw humour than I've done in a while," Ross shared.

'She's Stuck On Facebook All The Time' is a tragicomedy about a guy who's not getting any attention because his partner is spending all her time on social media.

"It's the curse of the modern age, and the song is a bit of a dig on the overuse of social media – just me trying to solve the world's problems one song at a time."

Twice inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame and showing no signs of slowing down, Wilson is a legendary live performer who is currently working on his next album.

"The next album is a bit overdue and once that's out, there'll be no stopping me because I'll hit the road again," Wilson said.

See Ross Wilson and support act Aaron Schembri for a night of rock music at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre. Tickets available at Ross Wilson & The Peaceniks @ Wonthaggi Tickets, The Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, Wonthaggi | TryBooking Australia.

Magic Beach becomes a film

A NEW film created from the enchanting children's book, Magic Beach, written and illustrated by multi-award-winning local Alison Lester, has been twenty years in the making.

Magic Beach is centred around Walkerville Beach with its surrounding cliffs and the hills of Wilsons Prom in the distance featured in the illustrations and film.

While the book will celebrate its 35th anniversary next year, the film had its first screening in August, to a cacophony of unruly and outspoken film critics at the Melbourne International Film Festival.

"They had the world premiere at the Astor Theatre in St Kilda that was a children's gala. There were just heaps of kids there and it was very noisy because they were very little ones who don't know that you shouldn't call out," recounts Alison.

"But they were all shouting out very nice things, so I think it's going to go very well with little kids."

The idea for a film came about two decades ago when Melbourne-based filmmaker, Sarah Watt got in touch with Alison because she liked the book.

Sarah had previously created the film Look Both Ways, which was part live-action, part animation and won multiple awards; and she had the idea to create a film of Magic Beach in a similar way.

"She and I worked together for a lot of years, but we were always doing other projects as well. At that stage, I think the film was probably going to have a narrative and we were talking about different stories because the book itself doesn't actually have much of a story. It's really just looking at what happens at the beach," explained Alison.

Before a film could come to fruition, very sadly, Sarah died of breast cancer but passed on the project to film director Robert Connolly.

Robert was also keen to create the film but was busy



Alison and Robert with three extras, Archie, Laker and Harla.

working on large Australian movies including Paper Planes and The Dry.

"And every Christmas he would ring me up and go, oh, Alison, I'm sorry we haven't done it, but we will. We will."

In the meantime, Robert was gathering small amounts of funding to go towards the project and a few years ago was given a grant by MIFF and a deadline in which to have the film made.

A series of events proving to be fortuitous for the film took place.

Robert got paid after making another film, so he could pay animators who were out of work after COVID hit.

"I remember we had a big Zoom meeting, and there were ten animators, I think, who all took one section of the story," explained Alison.

The animators went to work and when their part was completed, child actors that fit with the animated characters were cast and a week of filming took

place at Walkerville Beach at the beginning of this year.

"It was really lovely, the way the whole local community supported the movie. I don't think they brought in anything. Everything was local, caterers and all," said Alison.

"People were so supportive, they'd go and get firewood or if we needed an umbrella, someone would find one. It was lovely having the support of the community."

Shortly after filming finished the long-awaited project came to life.

"It was a big collaboration over a long, long time and I think it was a nice way to do it because Sarah and I were good friends, and Robert and I have become friends too, and therefore I really trust his judgment and it was very easy to share it all," said Alison.

"I think the way that he's done it is real genius, it allows the children to be part of the movie. They can drop themselves into it, which I guess is

how the book also works."

Despite being in her early seventies, the award-winning author and illustrator continues to work with no signs of abating, recently finishing a 100-page book with her friend Coral Tulloch, who is also an author and illustrator.

"It's called Into the Ice, and it's a book about Antarctica. It's some of our writing and illustration, but it's also lots of work of other people that we love."

Additionally, Alison is working on a book called Nicky Catches Koalas, which is the seventh book in a series that started with Clive Eats Alligators, 40 years ago.

While there are no current plans for more films to be made from Alison's books, a few have been adapted for stage and Imagine is touring Australia at the moment.

"But who knows? When things happen after so long, nothing would surprise me really," said Alison.

Wonthaggi Citizens' Band annual concert set to wow

THE Wonthaggi Citizens' Band Annual Concert is always a great night out for audience and performers alike, and this year's event is no exception! Preparations are full steam ahead for the concert on Saturday, October 12 at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, starting at the earlier time of 7.30pm. The band is comprised of around 30 brass and percussion players from the Bass Coast, and will perform the majority of the evening's program, including hymns, marches, works written specifically for brass band and toe-tapping favourites that will have you singing along!

"I am so excited to have the band perform to our loyal supporters again. We have a fantastic program of music lined up with plenty of variety and fun to be had. Our annual



The annual concert for the Wonthaggi Citizens' Band is around the corner, don't miss your opportunity to secure tickets before it's too late!

concerts really are the highlight of our year!" said Musical Director Craig Marinus.

The concert will also feature local guest artist, tenor Tom Green, singing both with the Wonthaggi Citizens' Band and with pianist Dan

Moldrich. Tom is no stranger to local audiences, having performed frequently in Wonthaggi Theatrical Group performances, and recently was part of Castro's Children, a new Australian musical which premiered at

Gasworks in Albert Park. As part of the band's commitment in engaging local young people in music, Wonthaggi Youth Brass, conducted by Nick Beale, will open the second half of the concert. Students from the Training Band program at Wonthaggi and Inverloch PS, directed by Natalie Stewart, will also combine to perform on stage for the first time.

Tickets are now on sale and selling fast: visit basscoast-culturalvenues.com/event-details/wonthaggi-citizens-band-annual-concert-wonthaggi to purchase.

For more information about any of the band's programs, including membership, lessons and performances, contact the band at wonn-citizensband@gmail.com or Secretary Fiona Moldrich on 0407 299 738.

International award-winning artist to judge local prize

MELBOURNE based artist, Herman Pekel will be judging all entries and awarding the prizes at the opening night of an exciting new opportunity for artists and collectors – The Landcare Prize, 2024 at the Kernot Community Hall on the Melbourne Cup weekend.

Herman has been prominent in the art scene since first winning the Camberwell Rotary Travel Scholarship. Like many young artists Herman experimented for a time with abstract expressionism, but he is now well known for his award-winning work in oil, watercolour or gouache. Environmental issues are a great concern to Herman and his love of the landscape reflects that in almost everything he paints.

The Landcare Prize supports the Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund, a non-profit organisation focusing on conserving biodiversity within Bass Coast.

Expect to see an amazing array of art on display from a high standard of experienced and respected artists and beginning and emerging artists of all ages are encouraged to enter.

All subjects, mediums, and styles are encouraged, including paintings, sculpture and photography on any theme. Entries close at 4pm Monday, October 21. To have an entry form emailed to you contact landcareartprize@gmail.com.

Online entry can be made through trybooking.com/CUCNL artist entry. Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to enter the Landcare Prize with a total prize pool of \$2650 available.

There will be a “dress to impress” Grand Opening on Friday, November 1 from 7 – 9pm. Entry on the night is \$20 per person with free entry for exhibiting artists. The art show will be open to the public for a gold coin donation on Saturday and Sunday November 2 – 3, 10am - 4pm at the Kernot Community Hall, 1060 Loch-Kernot Road, Kernot.

Those wishing to attend the Champagne Gala Opening Night on Friday, November 1 can purchase tickets for \$20 per person through Trybooking using the link trybooking.com/CUDND.

Enquiries phone the coordinator Janice Orchard on 0419 301 363.



International award-winning artist Herman Pekel will be judging this years The Landcare Prize supporting Bass coast Landcare Network Public Fund.

Fishy Stories set to make a splash in 2024

BUILDING on the waves of success from previous years, the Fishy Stories festival is back again in 2024! This one-day event, held on November 17, is shaping up to be a magical experience where children can engage in special events focused on story-making and storytelling alongside recognised authors, illustrators, and performers.

Entries to the popular Fishy Stories Writing Challenge closed last week, and the judging panel has been amazed by the depth of young talent across our communities. The judges now face the difficult task of selecting twenty lucky entrants whose stories will come to life on stage at the Fish Creek Festival of Stories. Additionally, picture stories will be on display, showcasing the amazing visual stories we have received. All entries also be featured in the 2024 Fishy Stories E-Book, ensuring every young author's work reaches a wider audience.

The 2024 Fishy Stories festival promises an impressive lineup of events. Andrew McDonald and Ben Woods from the Real Pigeons and the engaging Andrea Row will host workshops and activities throughout the day. Fish Creek's Alison Lester will be celebrating her shop's 10-year anniversary with a range of activities, and a workshop for budding authors. The amazing Box Wars will return for some cardboard combat and the hilarious international man of magic comedy, Luigi Zucchini, will perform live in the Fish Creek Memorial Hall with his goofy Italian antics.

The Bendigo Bank Village Green will host the My Story Tent, Myli Libraries' silly songs and funny games as well as the Fish Creek Primary School UV Treasure hunt to round out the day! Fishy Stories Festival is a day dedicated to celebrating storytellers of all ages and a date to pop into your tackle box. Head to fishystories.org for further information.

**WONTHAGGI
CITIZENS'
BAND**

ANNUAL CONCERT
WONTHAGGI CITIZENS' BAND
TOM GREEN | YOUTH BAND
12 OCT 2024 7.30 PM

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo
★ **RAFFLES** ★ **DOOR PRIZES** ★ **LUCKY NUMBER JACKPOT**

The Bass Coast Landcare Network
Public Fund
ART PRIZE 2024
Kernot Community Hall
Opening Night
Friday 1st November 7pm
\$20 pp
2nd & 3rd November 10 - 4
Entry by gold coin donation

Kernot Community Hall
1060 Loch-Kernot Road, Kernot VIC 3979



Richard Cove, Graeme Beakley and Owen Tyler of Inverloch's Men's Shed operated the stall at the Inverloch Farmers Market on Sunday afternoon. Z07_4024



Jaz Hendry and Jay Nelson head out to the crowd after Thursday's opening night performance of Bright Star. C15_4024



Bright Star lead cast Leisel Burrow, Jonah Van Stekelenburg and Taine Lowe delighted crowds on opening night. C16_4024



Costume Designer Mayumi McPhee did a spectacular job with the cast and ensemble attire for Bright Star. C17_4024



Chris Howard and Trevor Key at the Inverloch Farmers Market as part of the Inverloch Men's Shed community stall. Z08_4024



Lions Club Inverloch and District members Dawn and Ian Rasmussen with Andy Forster volunteering at the Inverloch Farmers Market on Sunday. Z09_4024



Liz Catt, Glenise Turley, and Carol Thorn attended the farewell for Rev Deacon Wendy Elso at the Inverloch Uniting Church luncheon on Sunday. Z10_4024



Jan Coates and Kay Dark farewell Rev Deacon Wendy Elso at the Inverloch Uniting Church. Z11_4024



Cara Manning and Carmel Torcasio volunteered selling raffle tickets at the Corinella CFA Bake Off on Sunday afternoon. Z12_4024

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Inverloch Farmers Market, Inverloch Uniting Church, Corinella CFA Bake Off, You are a doughnut! and Bright Star Opening Night.



Stephan, Siana, Holly, Ivy and Elsie prepared for fun and laughter ahead of 'You Are a Doughnut!' C22_4024



Local ladies Billie and Helena secured the streamers from the performance enjoying the poo guy and the jokes. C18_4024



Max and Nanna (Linda) from Wonthaggi enjoyed the explosion of balls, noting they were a clever idea. C19_4024



Reine and Arnold from Kilcunda were excited to be seeing You are a doughnut! on Tuesday. C21_4024



Cayden, Autumn and Jazmin show off their face painting at the Corinella CFA Bake Off. Z13_4024



Sisters Ciana and Meleena spend time with family at the Corinella CFA Bake Off. Z14_4024



Rochelle Halstead attended the CFA Corinella Bake Off to support Captain David Cox and the volunteers during their spring fundraiser. Z15_4024



VICSES San Remo Unit Controller, Mandy Chancellor with Rob Bishop at the Corinella CFA Bake Off in support of their fellow local volunteers. Z16_4024



MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

TERM 4 will be commencing soon. Here are some of the courses we'd love you to enrol in.

- Exploring Acrylic Art – Six weeks of paint pouring techniques and creative decoration.
- Tarot and Oracle cards – A one off workshop to introduce you to card reading and the Tarot.

- Mandarin language class returns with a combo beginners and next step course.
 - Craft of Story Writing – Eight weeks of tapping your imagination into words.
 - Easy Steps to Computers – A course favourite for gaining confidence at the keyboard.
- These are just a selection of the course on offer, and there

are plenty of other activities and special events.

Please take a look through the program at milparacommunityhouse.org.au/term-program/

Seniors! Please book your seat at the Seniors luncheon. Thursday October 10, 1pm. we'd love to join us.

If any of the above are of interest to you, please get in

touch, we're happy to help.

We are also interested in any suggestions of what interests you, what can we do to engage with the whole community. Let us know your ideas!



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

SO, WHO turned up for the AGM on Thursday last week? Wednesday was the day actually. Days and dates can be fuzzy with bad eyesight. Contact the WNC if interested in what went down. Apologies.

Mitchell House will only be open by appointment for this week of the school holidays and then re-open at the beginning of term 4 on Monday, October 7.

On Wednesday, October 2, 10am to 1pm there is a

volunteer's meeting. (Eyes are focused and glasses are clear, double checked the calendar too.) We haven't had one for a while and it'll be great to see everyone there.

And while on the topic of volunteers consider this: Here at the WNC our Volunteers find it can be a rewarding experience knowing that in such a role there exists an opportunity to help the Centre fulfil one of its most important goals, to assist in building community

and to reach out to those most in need to make a difference. If you have a spare few hours each week to do a shift on the reception desk or some other role, we would be very pleased to have you. Complete the on-line volunteer form available on the website, phone the office for a chat or better still drop in for a face-to-face conversation with our manager Leslie Adams.

Just remember: That it's good for you, brings people

together, you learn a lot, it promotes growth and self-esteem and strengthens your community and you make a difference.

While we are in holiday mode this week, please remember when the next term starts, to book in to your activities.



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

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

FOR Term 4, BCAL is partnering with Selmar Institute to present training in preparing to work as a Personal Care Assistant.

The course provides an ideal on-ramp to completing Certificate III in Individual Support (aged care). This is a growing industry in the area with many people finding Bass Coast a beautiful place to retire. No previous experience is required.

Personal Care is a great opportunity for people looking for flexible working hours. This course offers a unique combination of theory learning and hands-on training in

a real-world setting.

Participants may be offered ongoing employment by local care facilities.

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit bcal.vic.edu.au or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

■ U3A WONTHAGGI

The Wonthaggi University of the Third Age is presenting an event for the Victorian Seniors Festival called Connect, Celebrate, Discover. The event will be a twilight gathering at the U3A Wonthaggi garden.

Enjoy good food, great company and a round of Bocce. This is an opportunity for

members and people new to the Bass Coast to learn more about the classes, workshops and social activities that U3A Wonthaggi offers.

Join the group on Thursday, October 10 from 4.30pm. Entry is free but a donation to offset costs would be welcome.

■ WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

The toy making group has a new model – a truck designed and made by Bob King, Amanda Robbins and Stephen Rosendale.

The toy makers like to keep their designs simple and able

to be made in kit form for children to assemble themselves. A prototype was made and then simplified so as to make it easy for novices of all ages to put together.

This new toy started out as a commissioned piece and will be making an appearance at upcoming Woodies displays.

For more information, visit wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or visit the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 www.bcal.vic.edu.au

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

THE LCH Community Bus is up and running this year with our regular trips and many out and about outings. Regularly weekly routes are: Leongatha Wednesdays, Personal Day where will be picking up in Dumbalk, Dollar, Meeniyah, Koonwarra, Leongatha, Korumburra and surrounds.

The Gatha-Burra Shuttle operates weekly on Thursdays connecting our towns and running from Leongatha through to Korumburra, stopping at several stops along the way. These have been popular for those needing to run errands or attend medical appointments, and anything in between.

Some of our popular exercise

classes starting up next week include:

Slow Flow Yoga – For the beginner as well as the seasoned yogi who would like to slow down their pace. Mondays at 9.30am, \$80 term fee.

Qigong and Stretch – Breathing coordinated with slow stretching and gentle standing movements. Mondays at 12pm, \$80 term fee.

Zumba Gold – A popular, slower-paced, lower intensity version of a regular Zumba class. Tuesdays at 9am, \$80 term fee.

Chair Yoga – Move through gentle yoga poses sitting in a chair while stretching and holding poses or standing and using the chair for balance. Tuesdays 4.30pm,

\$80 term fee.

We are thrilled to be offering the popular Pat Dale's beginners basketry workshop on Saturday, October 20 from 10am-3.30pm. Participants will make a cord line hanging fish using natural plant fibres to create an unusual hanging to love. All materials supplied. \$40 session fee.

Returning after a break will be Roy's Photography classes. Held over five weeks, Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm, Participants will learn the tricks and tips of camera use and how to maximise your camera functions to enjoy improved images. \$100 for the five week block.

For Carer's Week we have a Gratitude Lunch on Friday,

October 18 from 11am-1pm with guest speakers, Monica Pattinson, Community Engagement Officer from Gather My Crew, and Iris Gaillard, Events Support Coordinator from Latrobe Community Health Service who run various Carer activities and events across South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires. This event is free, and bookings are encouraged for catering purposes.

Please call to book on 5662 3962 or email info.leongatha-communityhouse.org.au



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

New courses for U3A

ARE you aged 50+ and retired or semi-retired? Want to keep your brain and body active while making new friends? As 2024 races towards its end, U3A Wonthaggi, based in the vibrant Bass Coast, is thrilled to announce a range of exciting courses and activities commencing in October!

U3A Wonthaggi is a volunteer-run organisation designed for mature individuals who are passionate about learning, creativity, and leisure. With a Term 4 membership fee of just \$30, participants can join one or multiple courses.

In Term 4, members have the opportunity to engage in four brand new courses, two recommencing courses, three ongoing courses with available spots and two special one-off sessions.

1. The Four New Courses for Term 4:

- Health Matters with Sabah (Mondays)
- International Politics and Social Change with Kevin (Mondays)
- Charles Dickens and Bleak House with Graeme (Tuesdays)
- Basket Making with Meg Viney (Fridays)

2. The Two Courses Recommencing in Term 4:

- Memoir and Autobiography Writing with John (Mondays)
- Hormones 101 with Joe (Fridays)

3. Continuing Courses Open to New Participants:

- Modern European History with Louise and Paul (Mondays)
- Spanish for Beginners with Rita (Wednesdays)
- Shakespeare with Lynn Kirk (Fridays)

4. Single One-off Sessions in Term 4:

- French Island – An Island of Isolation with Christine Dineen (Thursday, October 17)
- Healthy Ageing and Wellness Session (Thursday, November 14)

Term 4 promises to be an enriching and social experience for all members. For more information or to sign up, visit u3a-wonthaggi.org.au, call 0493 471 254, or email secretary@u3awonthaggi.org.au

• FAITH FACTOR

You have more to learn

By Mrs Joan Gordon,
Connections Church Inverloch

ONE of the things I love about being a retiree is the endless opportunities to learn.

I love being in Book Club and reading books I never thought I would read. Every book has so many new ideas and events from different countries and times. Frequently heard in a Book Club is the phrase, 'I never knew that' or 'I didn't know there were people who lived like that.'

A few years ago, we read lots of books about life during war time in Europe. I'll never forget the horror of parents who had lived through the 1914-18 war and then saw their own children in 1939 preparing to go to war. Brilliant careers and promising futures lost for another generation.

Then there is U3A (University of the 3rd Age) with its amazing diverse curriculum – so hard to choose. You can join Garden Clubs, and Genealogy Societies. Probus has outstanding guest speakers or member speakers who have experienced different cultures, work experiences and travel opportunities. We learn from each one.

We can search information on any subject on the internet, watch documentaries on television, YouTube, enrol in any tertiary course or just listen to our friends. We always have more to learn.

In the bible the word, 'reveal,' is used thirty-eight times. Hosea 6.3 says, 'Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.'

There is always so much more to learn about God. That's why I love going to church, regularly meeting in a small group and reading the bible and meditating each day. The Holy Spirit instructs us in ways of peace. He guides us through situations that could be messy. He comforts us in disappointing and sad times.

This is how we learn more of His ways.



CROSSWORD

No. 61 - by 'Johnno2' of Cape Paterson

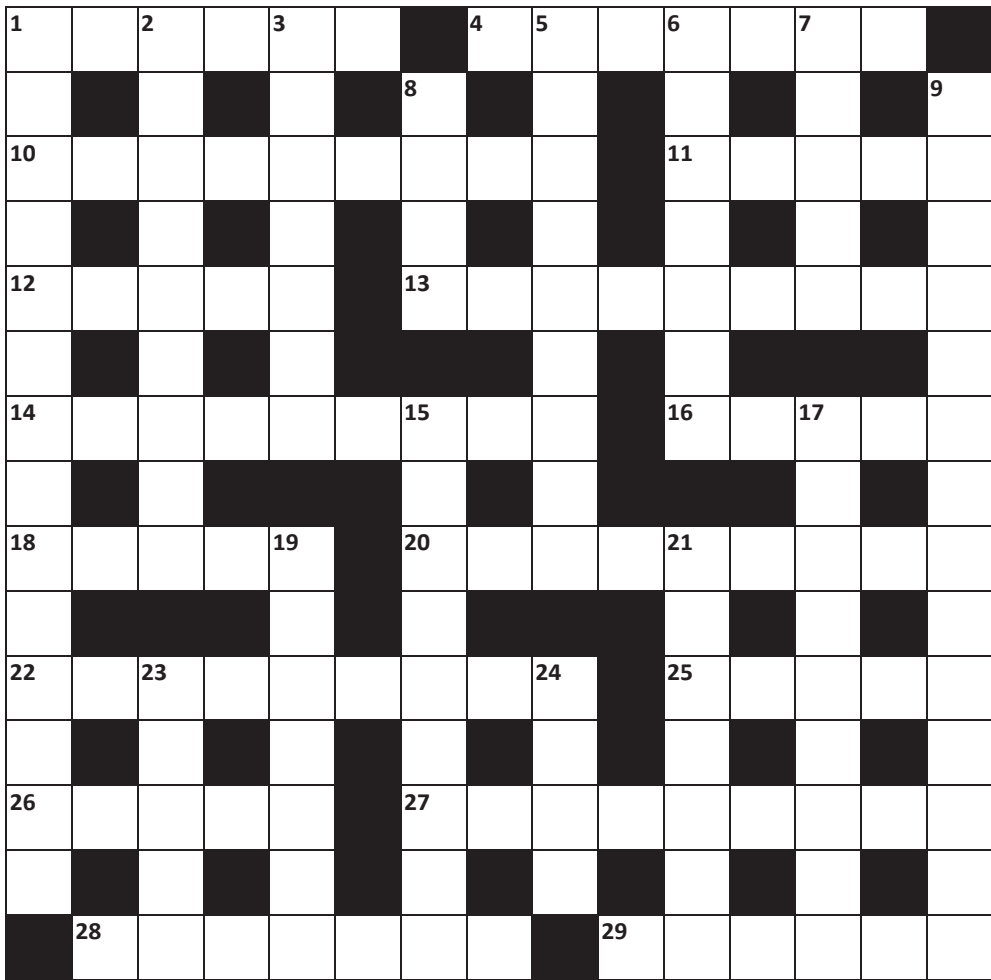
CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Five or ten seconds of utter terror in whirlpool (6)
- 4 Made up negatives first (7)
- 10 Central Slovenia, after Türkiye president's given name to it over 'friendly' (9)
- 11 Genuine ultimate luxury brand, or a mistake? (5)
- 12 Rock duel: even U2 getting right into... (5)
- 13 ...backing *Megatarts* play (9)
- 14 Taken heart, it's 'Gimme a go!' (3,2,2,2)
- 16 Snack made from sodium and carbohydrate ingredients? (5)
- 18 Leave *Rear Window* without twist (5)
- 20 Navy signal dials spun with sweep of palm (5,4)
- 22 Nary a rule broken, for almost 354 days! (5,4)
- 25 Gloves delivery in first, timid over (5)
- 26 Unspoken thanks can start it (5)
- 27 Carefree in France, travelling as cousins (4,5)
- 28 Reflux 'URP!': menu item is a bit starchy! (7)
- 29 Uneven spine / even shoulders missed (6)

DOWN

- 1 Periodic failure in good work of Italy represented in computer simulation (7,7)
- 2 Head-hunted to major firm, by Spooner? (9)
- 3 Support an ability of a 10-across one, with clout, heart and purpose (7)
- 5 Six balls counted and pumped up (9)



- 6 Placate X, following conclusions of access law prejudice case (7)
- 7 Grips twisted shoot (5)
- 8 Spirits left out of sling cocktail *and* in it! (4)
- 9 Firm, even heroic, wandering mouths kissin', with consequential offence of impulse (5,2,7)
- 15 Winner, at last, with a victory in terse final of noughts and crosses (9)
- 17 Songbird's tune-mix in track (9)
- 19 Baffled by yarn (7)
- 21 iTunes, I'm assuming, has tracks up of this Japanese instrument (7)
- 23 Fairer precinct returns after political correctness model abandoned (5)
- 24 Skin portrayed by Rodin with *Fugitive Love* cast (4)

STRAIGHT CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Whirlpool (6)
- 4 Made up (of) (7)
- 10 Friendly, welcoming (9)
- 11 Mistake (5)
- 12 'The Rock' in Australia (5)
- 13 Play, plan (9)
- 14 Gimme a go (3,2,2,2)
- 16 Corn snack (5)
- 18 Leave, bequeath (5)
- 20 Light signal, particularly on ships (5,4)
- 22 Moon's approximately 354-days cycle (5,4)
- 25 Baseball gloves (5)
- 26 Unspoken (5)
- 27 Carefree, from the French (4,5)
- 28 Starchy, prim (7)
- 29 Missed, not observed (6)

DOWN

- 1 Visual computer simulation (7,7)
- 2 Head-hunted, taken on (9)
- 3 Support, advocate (7)
- 5 Pumped up, too much (9)
- 6 Placate, or enhance (7)
- 7 Shoot or twig (5)
- 8 Types of spirits (4)
- 9 Consequential offence through impulse (5,2,7)
- 15 Crosses (9)
- 17 Human female songbird (9)
- 19 Baffled, got the better of; also, a type of yarn (7)
- 21 Japanese stringed instrument (7)
- 23 Fairer, more equitable (5)
- 24 Skin, in e.g. bacon (4)

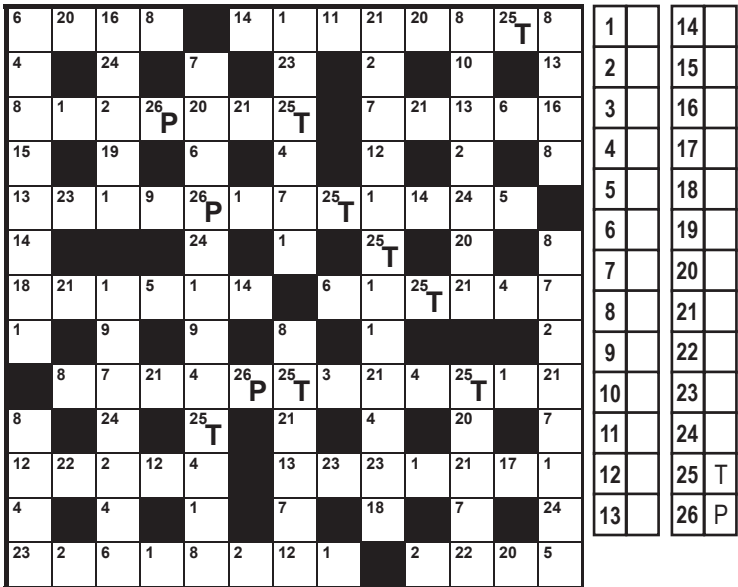
SOLUTION



CODEWORD

No. 207

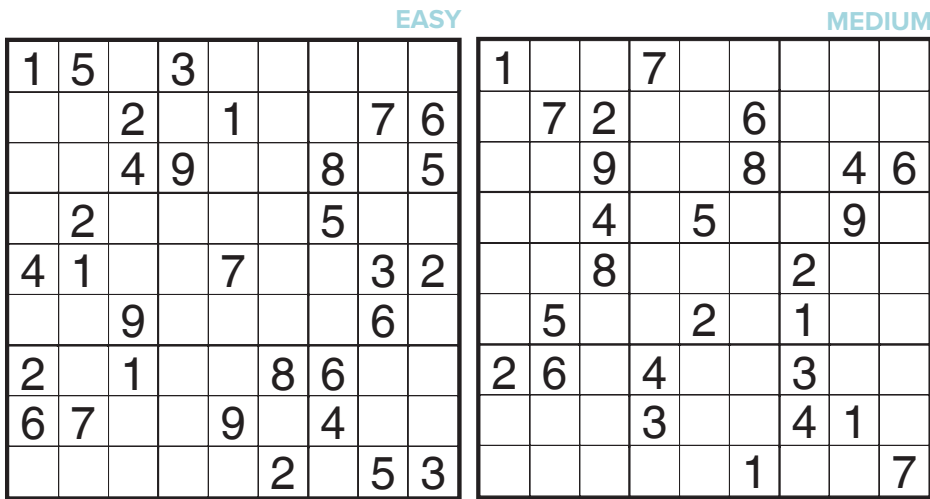
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

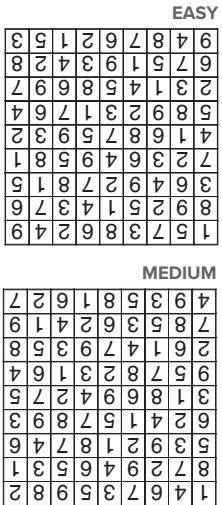
No. 247

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.



2709 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © **pagemasters.**

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

- 1. How many players are there in a game of whist?
- 2. Who composed the waltz *The Blue Danube*?
- 3. Brooke Shields (pictured), Renée Zellweger and Ashlee Simpson have all played which *Chicago* character?
- 4. Do sufferers of myopia have trouble seeing close or distant objects?
- 5. If you doff your hat, are you putting it on or taking it off?
- 6. Which planet is the home of Olympus Mons, the tallest mountain in our solar system?
- 7. Dawn Tinsley is a character from which UK television series?
- 8. What is heliophobia a fear of?
- 9. Catalan is the official language of which southwestern European country?
- 10. What was Beijing known as prior to 1949?



WORD SEARCH

No. 157

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



- ANALOG
- AUTUMNAL
- EQUINOX
- BELL
- CENTURY
- DAY
- DECENNium
- DELAY
- DIAL
- EARLY
- EON
- EPOCH
- ERA
- FACE
- FALL
- GEOLOGIC
- TIME
- GNOMON
- HANDS
- HOURL
- JEFFY
- LATE
- MIDAFTERNOON
- MINUTE
- MONTH
- NIGHT
- NOW
- O'CLOCK
- ON TIME
- OVERTIME
- PAST
- PERIOD
- SEMESTER
- SOON
- SUMMER
- SOLSTICE
- TEMPO
- THEN
- WEEK
- YEAR
- ZONE

SECRET MESSAGE: Can February March? No, but April May.

Gorgeous townhouse

LOCATED in a quiet cul-de-sac, is this well-presented brick veneer, three-bedroom townhouse. One of four residences, it is surrounded by magnificent gardens and perfectly manicured. Elevated and north facing, it captures all the gorgeous sunlight and is a light and bright residence.

- Features of the property include:
- Master bedroom boasting an ensuite and walk-in robe
 - Two remaining bedrooms of generous size, with built-in robes
 - Functional kitchen, electric cooking and a large breakfast bar
 - Climate controlled by reverse-cycle air conditioner
 - Central bathroom, separate powder room and laundry
 - The dining area opens up onto lovely decking overlooking the garden
 - Single lock up garage with electric roller door
 - Established garden, secured backyard and lovely surroundings

This lovely property would be an ideal home for the downsizer, astute investor or those looking for a low maintenance but quality home. The opportunity is endless!

478m²

2/1 Cambridge Court, **Leongatha**
For Sale \$615,000
Agent Nutrien Harcourts
Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449
kellie.thomas@nh.com.au



Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha

47 Bair Street, Leongatha
(03) 5662 2292
Scan the QR code to visit our website



LEONGATHA

Discover Your Serene Sanctuary

- Located only 3 minutes to the town CBD.
- Immaculate 4 bed, 2 bath weatherboard home.
- Horse arena, 4 paddocks, stables & shedding.

\$945,000 - \$995,000



MIDDLE TARWIN

‘Sunnyside’ - A Rural Gem

- A large, solid, 3 BR, 1 bathroom homestead.
- A set of stockyards and hay shed.
- 11 main paddocks with Tarwin River Frontage.

Contact Agent



TARWIN LOWER

Escape To The Country & Coast

- Secluded rural setting with a 4 Bed B/V home.
- Approx. 14 Acres with good shedding.
- Minutes to Tarwin Lower & Inverloch.

\$1,250,000



LEONGATHA

Spectacular Family Home!

- Generous 2094m² block. 3 bed, 2 bath home.
- Open plan living, dining area with natural light.
- Three bay shed, low maintenance gardens.

\$995,000



LEONGATHA

Prime Agricultural Property

- Opportunity to acquire Approx. 229 Acres.
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LEONGATHA

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Licensed Estate Agent
0418 357 341



LEONGATHA

Stunning!

- 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Car, 2 Living area family home.
- Great floor plan with open Plan kitchen/dining/living.
- Quite court location with backyard access.

\$730,000-\$750,000



An excavator was brought in to open the estuary last Tuesday.



The majestic estuary was brimming with birdlife and wildlife last Tuesday. C60_4024

Powlett estuary reopened, as floodplains brim with birdlife

IT WAS a sight to behold last Tuesday as the Mouth of the Powlett was artificially reopened. While some lamented the artificial intervention, others welcomed it. Regardless, the estuary had transformed into a vibrant habitat teeming with birdlife, croaking frogs, and other wildlife. Artificially opened at 3.40pm on Tuesday, September 24 at high tide, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA), in consultation with local stakeholders, decided to open the estuary due to the elevated risk to nearby farmland, roads, and car parks. “The artificial opening was undertaken around high tide to reduce how quickly the estuary drains, which is done to reduce the risk of fish deaths caused by dropping oxygen levels from water rushing out,” Callum Edwards, Coastal Waterways Officer for West Gippsland CMA explained. Artificial openings are only considered when flooding poses a significant risk to the estuary’s

environmental, socio-economic, or cultural values. “Once the risk assessment determines an artificial opening is required, a feasibility assessment must be undertaken before the estuary can be opened. This involves assessing water quality, river flow, ocean conditions and access to the estuary mouth. If these conditions are not suitable, an opening will not take place.” Recent rainfall in the upper catchment brought much-needed freshwater, making the conditions ideal for reopening. Last opened artificially in June 2022, this year’s estuary closure provided critical habitat for many species and nourishment to surrounding wetlands. “The wetland provides important habitat and an abundance of food for many species of fish, birds and invertebrates that seek food and shelter, some of which are endangered,” West Gippsland CMA CEO, Martin Fuller said. Mr Fuller explained that it is very important to support this natural process, otherwise the integrity of the surrounding

wetland and the species it supports may be jeopardised. “There is a flow on effect when the river mouth closes,” continued Mr Fuller. “Algae begins to grow which provides food for insects and fish. The calm waters then turn into a fish nursery and with the increase in fish and insects – birds flock to the wetlands to feed. “The environmental benefits of the estuary mouth closing cannot be overstated.” The estuary supports a rich diversity of birds, plants, and fish, including twenty significant bird species identified in local studies. Among these species, the Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) is listed as critically endangered. This rare parrot relies on the coastal salt-marsh within the Powlett estuary as a key feeding habitat. “An example of some of the species that were spotted or heard during the closure were birds such as the Eastern Great Egret (listed as Vulnerable in Victoria) and amphibians such as the Pobblebonk Frog and the Southern

Brown Tree Frog,” Mr Edwards said. Timing is critical, as an ill-timed artificial opening can have devastating effects on the ecosystem. “Artificial openings have both short-term and long-term impacts. For example, in other parts of Victoria, artificial openings have occurred when water quality conditions were not suitable, causing extensive fish kills. This occurs when dissolved oxygen (DO) levels are low in the bottom waters of an estuary,” Mr Edwards said. “Additionally, regularly artificially opening an estuary at lower water levels and freshwater flows than what would occur during a natural opening degrades the floodplain and surrounding wetlands and vegetation communities that rely on periodic inundation to survive. This reduces the quality of the estuary habitat in the long-term.” The long-term goal is for the estuary mouth to open and close naturally, a vision developed in collaboration with landholders, agencies, and Traditional Owners.

“A partnership approach leads to the protection of the area, allowing the mouth to open and close naturally. Managed for conservation, cultural areas are protected and adequate visitor facilities allow for recreational use. Landowners have been adequately compensated and have been active participants in the process, the area is a valuable bio link.? Resources have been provided and strong management structures are in place with Traditional Owners vital partners in the site which is valued highly within the local and regional community,” Mr Fuller said. “West Gippsland CMA is working with those involved to achieve the long-term vision including exploring options for the management of this land moving forward to reduce the need for artificial openings into the future.” In the meantime, those fortunate enough to venture to the estuary not only captured stunning images and witnessed thriving birdlife but experienced a spectacular sight that won’t soon be forgotten.

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36 | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES



Targeting weeds from above



Rotor Solutions Australia conduct aerial agricultural applications in South Gippsland during the summer, particularly targeting blackberries, thistles and ragwort in hard-to-reach places on farms.

FAMILY-owned and run business Rotor Solutions Australia (RSA) have been working with Gippsland farmers for the past 15 years, helping to eradicate weeds in an efficient and targeted way.

Over the summer months, RSA conducts aerial applications in Gippsland, particularly targeting blackberries, thistles and ragwort on farms.

“In the hills and in the hard-to-reach places that farmers can’t get to and those inaccessible spots,” explains RSA General Manager Monique Acton-Adams.

The manoeuvrability of the aircraft allows the pilot to target locations that ground rigs and fixed wings cannot traditionally reach, making aerial application a cost-effective method of tackling weeds, particularly in our hilly country.

Working with experienced operators and trusted agronomists, RSA also help land owners to make informed choices about chemical use, and they have also been working hard to rebuild the reputation of aerial spraying as a sustainable and environmentally friendly practice.

“When we started, and especially for choppers and aeroplanes, both had a thing where what farmers did, is they went out and wiped out all their trees because they wanted to clear land; and that was 20 to 30 years ago. So, it gave choppers a really bad reputation and we’re literally getting in there trying to turn it around,” explained Monique.

“People think that the chopper or aircraft is going around just wiping out native vegetation and polluting the environment, when, in actual fact, it’s the other way around. We are all about

precision, and it can happen that you can get drift because of misuse of chemicals, misuse of the wrong nozzles, or you can get a random gust of wind. But all that is mitigated through proper practices and procedures and having experienced pilots that do their job and have the right experience and training.”

RSA work to preserve native vegetation as much as possible as they understand that land becomes valueless without it and as new technologies are constantly being developed, the possibilities for farmers are endless; a broad range of options can make light work.

On offer are aerial and spot spraying, fertiliser and seed application, crop management, granular herbicide application and insecticide, herbicide and fungicide and solutions can be tailored to each land owner.

Monique also commented that they always advise farmers that it’s not only a courtesy to let neighbours know if there will be aerial activity, but it’s also a legal requirement.

“We always advise that if it doesn’t fit

within the parameters of the legal obligation to notify your neighbours, it actually is just the neighbourly thing to do.”

Drones are also the shiny new thing in the world of aerial agriculture and RSA began trialling a drone about a year ago.

Monique commented that the drone is good for some things but the technology is not yet developed enough to compete with the chopper.

“It has its place in cropping situations where it’s just a flat paddock and there’s not trees and hills, but in hilly and tree-filled landscapes, it’s not the best tool for the job.”

Some other drawbacks of the drone are that the drift can be detrimental, it is more labour and cost intensive as the operator has to be in the line of sight of the drone the whole time and it’s an unregulated industry so operators with little knowledge of agriculture or chemicals can fly drones and spray.

“The chopper is a much better option. It does a much better job. It has less risk of drift, and it is more cost-effective,” explains Monique.

Three Fire Wise events in South Gippsland

AS PART of South Gippsland Landcare Network’s Fire Wise project, members of the public are invited to attend three upcoming seminars this October.

The first event will be online on Tuesday, October 22, from 7-8.30pm.

It will feature Justin Leonard (research leader – Bushfire Adaption, CSIRO), who will cover building design and surroundings, and how vegetation in gardens and shelterbelts can help with ember attack, wind attenuation and moisture retention to reduce risk.

Attendees will also hear from Hayley King (CFA) about further resources available.

The second event will look at Fire Wise Shelterbelts, and be held at Loch on Thursday, October 24, 9.30am-12.30pm.

Local ecologist Kate Bennetts (Fire, Flood and Flora) will discuss how certain indigenous plant species can be used in shelterbelts to help reduce fire risk on farms.

Afterwards, attendees will visit the Fire Wise shelterbelt demonstration site that has recently been planted at Loch.

The third event will cover Fire Wise Gardens, and be held at Meeniyan on Tuesday, October 29, 9.30am-12.30.

Kate Bennetts (Fire, Flood and Flora) will discuss which indigenous plant species can be used in gardens to help reduce fire risk around houses.

CFA engagement coordinator Hayley King will share information and resources on ember attack and landscaping for bushfire.

Attendees will also hear from James Bremner (South Gippsland Shire Council), and visit the Fire Wise garden demonstration site that has recently been planted at Meeniyan.

All are welcome, with registrations required for catering purposes.

Visit sgln.net.au/event-calendar to register, or for more information contact cassie@sgln.net.au or 0448 739 559.

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government through the Preparing Australian Communities local stream.



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Livestock Sales

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David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
Mitch Cochrane	0438 078 000	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
		Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

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	Maree Malloy	0408 316 715
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783				
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Brian Silver	0407 347 509	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472		
BERWICK		LANG LANG		KOO WEE RUP	
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Michelle Lunney	0457 120 277

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DAIRY SALE

NEXT DAIRY SALE:
**Friday, October 4
at 11am**

**A/c – J & A Zurrer, Mrs N.J Coster &
CR Coster - Longwarry Elenan,
Jaz & Rolynga Holsteins**

8 - Magnificent Young Holstein cows by A.I Samite, Roble, Splendor, Mookie etc
6 - Magnificent Holstein Heifers by A.I B52, Jeromino, Ferrero, etc
Recently calved cows & heifers, with generations of A.I backing. Current herd avg 28 ltrs, 110 BMCC. A great opportunity for anyone to buy cows & heifers of this calibre. Individual breeding & production details available prior to sale.

**A/c – I & L Cocksedge
(Final Stage Dispersal)**

6 - Springing Holstein cows due to A.I Drastic

A/c – G & P Wildes - Yannathan

12 - Freshly calved Holstein Jersey X heifers by Reg Kings Ville sire out of Holstein cows with generations of AI backing. Vendor bred. Herd dispersed

A/c – K Jackson - Toora

20 - Top Quality freshly calved young A.I Bred Holstein cows. Very low CC, 50+ years selective A.I breeding. Milked on undulating/hill farm

A/c – Various Vendors

25 - In milk & springing Holstein & Holstein X cows & heifers

**Food Van on site
ATTENTION FARMERS**
Please ensure all entries are booked in with your agent prior to sale

5623 4744 Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816 Neil Darby 0418 595 265 	5941 0299 Darryl Adams 0408 385 872 Andrew Mumford 0407 803 360
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MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...
CLAAS Harvest Centre

Good yarding for regular buyers

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded around 1950 store cattle at last Thursday's VLE Leongatha sale in a good yarding.

Most of the regular buyers attended and operated with prices holding firm for the top end but eased a little for all other types.

Feedlots again purchased a fair percentage of the heavier cattle with local graziers securing most other classes.

Leongatha Store Sale On Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024

Grown Steers				
Holleywoods, 19 Angus	619kg	\$3.87	\$2400	
Est Aa Birss, 12 Angus	587kg	\$3.88	\$2280	
M & A Lyon, 12 Angus	579kg	\$3.88	\$2250	
Pjr Development, 10 Angus	560kg	\$4.17	\$2340	
Est Aa Birss, 10 Angus	546kg	\$4.21	\$2300	
M & A Lyon, 12 Angus	530kg	\$4.05	\$2150	
Markarna Grazing, 13 Angus	515kg	\$3.49	\$1800	
Markarna Grazing, 11 Angus	490kg	\$3.75	\$1840	
Markarna Grazing, 13 Angus	483kg	\$3.85	\$1860	
P & M Chisholm, 15 Angus	464kg	\$4.31	\$2000	
Markarna Grazing, 15 Angus	458kg	\$3.51	\$1610	

Weaner Steers				
Annsfield, 22 Angus	402kg	\$4.47	\$1800	
J & C Greenwood, 22 Angus	374kg	\$4.30	\$1610	
M Gordon, 10 Angus	332kg	\$4.51	\$1500	
S Auteri, 12 Angus	322kg	\$4.09	\$1320	
L Missen, 11 Angus	314kg	\$4.17	\$1310	
Brookville Ang, 20 Angus	228kg	\$5.35	\$1220	
Brookville Ang, 27 Angus	208kg	\$4.85	\$1010	
Briarsview Beef, 14 BB	394kg	\$3.32	\$1310	
B & A Spiden, 10 Hereford	314kg	\$3.21	\$1010	

Heifers				
Rosslawson, 13 Angus	390kg	\$3.53	\$1380	
S Conway, 16 Angus	373kg	\$3.53	\$1320	
J & C Greenwood, 11 Angus	342kg	\$3.36	\$1150	
S Auteri, 11 Angus	325kg	\$3.56	\$1160	
M Gordon, 10 Angus	314kg	\$3.50	\$1100	
L Missen, 10 Angus	302kg	\$3.57	\$1080	
R,H,T&C Perrett 16 Angus	294kg	\$3.23	\$950	
Brookville Angus, 46 Angus	226kg	\$3.67	\$830	

X Bred & Fries Steers				
Tl Bunn, 13 Angus x	573kg	\$3.05	\$1750	
Tl Bunn, 12 Angus x	529kg	\$3.23	\$1710	
C & A Drew, 15 Angus x ,	451kg	\$3.59	\$1620	
D Pearce, 17 Angus x	294kg	\$3.16	\$930	
Four Winds, 15 Angus x	267kg	\$3.29	\$880	
L Crack, 19 Friesian	333kg	\$2.58	\$860	

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, September 23, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x	\$14 to \$48
Friesian Bulls	\$27 to \$86
Friesian Heifers	\$50 to \$160
Beef Bulls	\$32 to \$240
Beef Heifers	\$32 to \$110
Number of Calves:	396
Number purchased to rear:	207



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David Phelan and Simon Henderson of Phelan & Henderson & Co are ready to sell at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A04_4024

Quieter Store Sale but new arrangement working well

PHELAN & Henderson & Co's Simon Henderson said at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale that everyone has settled into the new pattern of split weekly sales in which two groups of stock agents each sell fortnightly.

"Everyone's accepted it and it's running like clockwork," he declared. Simon explained that agencies are all supporting each other for the benefit of the local market, buying off each other.

"No one is holding a grudge about sales being split," he said.

Thursday's sale was far quieter than a couple of weeks prior with 1978 head of cattle as opposed to about 4500 but Simon stressed that was to be expected.

"All agents had sat on cattle so they could make a statement for our first sales and there had been a period of a couple of weeks in between sales anyway, so numbers had built up," he said.

"We're into a regular rhythm and you're going to see numbers ebb and flow going forward."

Asked if Friday's Grand Final eve public holiday would have reduced cattle numbers at Thursday's sale, Simon said that wasn't a factor.

He pointed out that Bairnsdale Sale Yards would be selling on the public holiday and that when Tuesday Store Sales used to be held in Korumburra, not even Melbourne Cup Day could halt them.

"It's probably a seasonal thing, whereby we're coming into Spring now and a lot of people aren't in a position where they



Heath Crump came for a look at Thursday's Store Sale with his uncle. A06_4024

have to sell because it's the time of year when they've come through the winter, they've done the hard yards and things are getting easier now," Simon said.

He added that the weather is getting warmer, the grass is growing, and people are seizing the opportunity to put a bit more weight on their cattle.

Numbers are set to pick up again in October.

"Everyone's now waiting for another special sale, or larger numbers throughout October," Simon said.

Simon suggested that while people may be expecting prices to rise there is no certainty of that, noting the Australian Dollar has risen a bit in value on the back of an interest rate cut in the USA.

However, he noted prices are currently healthy.

"If it stays where it is, everyone will be pleased; it's at a good price level for breeders and for traders, so you can buy cattle and make some money by fattening them,

and what you're getting for your weaners is quite satisfactory, particularly after the disaster of last Spring," Simon said.

He described the market as solid, adding there is a lot of confidence within the industry moving forward.

Simon stressed numbers tend to be down a bit in September with stock agents often picking that month to take time off because it's not a busy time.

"It starts getting busy in December and runs up until the end of July, and August and September are usually a little bit quieter," he said.

While numbers were lower, there were still some impressive cattle available on Thursday, with Simon highlighting the presence of very good Angus feeder steers and Angus heifers, along with impressive Herefords and Black Baldies.

"So, there's something here for everyone, even good European cross cattle which we haven't seen a lot of for a while," he said.

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GROWN STEERS

A/c John MacIachlan P/L, 'Grassdale', Sale (ELDERS) (property sold)
150 Angus steers 17-18 mths, VB, Sired by top NZ genetics & Banquet bulls, NE Accred, GF & ABF, excellent quality

A/c Mt. Ararat P/C (ELDERS)
120 Angus/P/Hereford x steers, 19-21 mths, By leading Pathfinder bulls, X stud P/Hereford cows, Beautiful line of quiet steers, GF & ABF

A/c “Yarrowyah” Lilydale (ELDERS)
80 Angus steers, 16 mths, Nth East Vic Bred

A/c Dawn Raine (BAW BAW)
64 Angus steers, 16 mths, VB, NE Accred, Dollar Angus Sire, 0-2 teeth

A/c Wallaby Grazing (ELDERS)
30 Angus steers, 18 mths
30 Hereford steers, 18 mths

A/c Bernrosa Pastoral (BAW BAW)
60 Angus steers, 18 mths, NE Accred, Brookville Angus

A/c PQ, PS & AG Sutton (BAW BAW)
60 Angus steers, 16 mths, VB, Kunuma & Innesdale genetics, Top bulls purchased, NE Accred

A/c H&M Mawhinney (ELDERS)
50 Angus steers, 16-20 mths, VB, NE Accred, very quiet

A/c Sladin Pty Ltd (BAW BAW)
45 Angus bullocks, 3 yo, store condition

A/c G Mason (BAW BAW)
40 Hereford steers, 18 -24 mths, VB

A/c Chebada Pty Ltd (BAW BAW)
30 Angus steers, 18 mths, NE Accred

A/c Merlin Park (BAW BAW)
30 Angus steers, 18 mths, NE Accred, Eaglehawk Angus blood

A/c Michael Brown (BAW BAW)
30 Angus steers, 18 mths, NE Accred, VB, Landfall blood

A/c Brewis & Woodhouse, Poowong East (ELDERS)
30 Angus steers, 15-18 mths, Brookfield Park blood, GF & ABF

A/c K Sutherland (BAW BAW)
20 Angus steers, 18 mths
10 Charolais steers, 18 mths

A/c Churchill and Sly, Kilcunda (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus steers, 18-20 mths by Stud Fernleigh bulls

A/c K, P + R Hourigan, Buffalo (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths, by Mawarra Stud Hereford bull, NE Accred

A/c JAD Farms (ELDERS)
30 Angus steers, 16-20 mths, NE Accred, quiet

A/c Black Range Angus, Ryanston (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, By stud Banquet and Absolute Angus bulls

A/c Mitchell Valley Growers (BAW BAW)
20 Angus steers, 18 mths, By Leawood & Pinora bulls, Vendor bred, NE accredited

A/c AA Lamb (BAW BAW)
20 Angus Steers M, 15-16 mths, Yancowinna & Innesdale Angus genetics, Greenhams NE Accred

A/c K Farley (ELDERS)
18 Char steers, 18 mths

A/c Matt Mcdonald (BAW BAW)
12 Angus steers
4 Angus/Hereford steers
18-20 mths, GF & ABF

A/c P & J Fleming, Perry Bridge (ELDERS)
15 Angus steers, 18 mths

A/c J&M Davies, Foster (ELDERS)
15 Angus steers, 18 mths, Bowman blood, VB, GF, ABF

A/c G&J Tuckett, Woodside (ELDERS)
15 Angus steers, 16 mths, Landfall blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c “Sammitch”, Koo Wee Rup (ALEX SCOTT)
15 Angus steers, 14 mths, VB

A/c G K Sisely (BAW BAW)
12 Angus steers, 18 mths, VB, NE Accred, Innesdale blood

A/c N Ireland, Labertouche (ALEX SCOTT)
12 Angus steers, 16 mths, by Turrum Creek bull, VB

A/c D & S Fussell, Nilma North (ALEX SCOTT)
12 Angus steers, 15 mths by Merlewood bull, VB

A/c Forrest Herbs, Nyora (ELDERS)
12 Angus steers, 18 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Halvy Family Trust (ELDERS)
12 Angus x steers, 18 mths

A/c George Tumino (BAW BAW)
12 Angus steers, 18 mths, VB, Latrobe Park sire

A/c Wayne Vandendolder (BAW BAW)
11 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths, VB

A/c P Gilpin (ELDERS)
10 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

A/c M Parsons & L Tate (BAW BAW)
8 Angus steers, 18 mths

A/c Baxter (ELDERS)
8 Angus X steers, 18-20 mths

VLE – LEONGATHA

STORE SALE
5500 CATTLE 5500

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

A/c J&K Bertram (BAW BAW)
7 Speckle steers, 16-18 mths, VB

A/c Syle P/L, Thorpdale (BAW BAW)
6 Charolais steers, 18-20 mths, VB

A/c M. Jackson, Hallston (ALEX SCOTT)
5 Hereford steers, 2 yo

A/c F. Miller, Toora (ALEX SCOTT)
5 Angus steers, 14-18 mths, Multimin, B12, Copper & Cydectin. 30/8/24

A/c G Vandenbeld (ELDERS)
3 Angus steers, 2 yo

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Trickery Partnership (BAW BAW)
38 Angus unjoined heifers 20-24 mths

A/c Mitchell Valley Growers (BAW BAW)
20 Angus Heifers, 18 mths, By Leawood & Pinora bulls, Vendor bred, NE Accred

A/c Hurley Family Angus Dargo (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus heifers, 16 mths, AI by Millah Murrah bulls & backed up with Stud Millah Murrah bulls NE Accred, drenched with Flukazole and Coopers Arrest Easy Dose in Sept 2x7 in 1 & Multimin

A/c G&J Tuckett, Woodside (ELDERS)
15 Angus heifers, 16 mths, Landfall blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c D & S Fussell, Nilma North (ALEX SCOTT)
15 Angus heifers, 15 mths by Merlewood bull, VB

A/c George Tumino (BAW BAW)
12 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths, VB, Latrobe Park sire

A/c N Ireland, Labertouche (ALEX SCOTT)
12 Angus heifers, 16 mths by Turrum Creek bull, VB

A/c G Jones, Foster (ELDERS)
12 Hereford heifers, 20 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c G Mason (BAW BAW)
10 Hereford heifers, 18-24mths, VB

A/c MTR Produce (BAW BAW)
8 Angus heifers, 18 mths

A/c J&K Bertram (BAW BAW)
7 Speckle heifers, 16-18 mths, VB

A/c F. Miller, Toora (ALEX SCOTT)
5 Angus heifers, 14-18 mths, Multimin, B12, Copper & Cydectin. 30/8/24

ANGUS WEANERS

A/c E.J, G.G, M.G & R. Bates, “Maidavale”, Munro (ELDERS) Annual Draft
200 Angus steers, 12 mths
125 Angus Heifers, 12 mths
All AI bred to Hazeldean and Bowman Genetics, VB, weaned, GF and ABF

A/c Zilm Pastoral (BAW BAW)
200 Angus steers
100 Angus x heifers
12 Mths, NE Accred, Vendor bred, Eaglehawk Angus/Mawarra Genetics

A/c Hurley Family Angus Dargo (ALEX SCOTT)
140 Angus steers
70 Angus heifers
10-12 mths, weaned start of June, All AI by Millah Murrah bulls & backed up with Stud Millah Murrah bulls NE accredited. Drenched with Flukazole and Coopers Arrest Easy Dose in Sept 2x7 in 1 & Multimin

A/c Sladin Pty Ltd (BAW BAW)
70 Angus/Angus Hereford steers, 9-11 mths, NE accredited, VB, Dysart Angus genetics

50 Angus /Angus Hereford heifers, 9-11 mths, Dysart Angus genetics, NE Accred, VB

A/c Bloomfield Speckles (BAW BAW)
100 Angus steers
30 Angus heifers
8-10 mths, recently drenched

A/c Allen Angus (ELDERS)
100 Angus steers, 12-15 mths, VB, NE Accred, very quiet

A/c Malanda Pastoral, Stradbroke (ELDERS)
100 Angus & Angus X steers, 12 mths, weaned, Leawood Angus blood

A/c P Evans, Bass (ALEX SCOTT)
100 Angus mix sex weaners, 9-11 mths, By Rosedale Angus bulls, 5in 1 inj, VB

A/c R & J Dalton (BAW BAW)
88 Angus mix sexes, 8-10 mths, VB & NE Accred

A/c Hartay (ELDERS)
80 Angus steers, 11-12 mths, Banquet & Alpine Genetics, NE Accred, 2 X 5 in 1, Cydectin Platinum 7/8/24, very quiet

A/c Gem-Brae AG, Lang Lang (ELDERS)
80 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-11 mths, Te Mania & Bowman Genitics, weaned and had all the treatments

A/c A & J Gerrand, Munro (ELDERS)
80 Angus heifers, 12 mths, Alpine Angus blood, GF & ABF

20 Angus steers, 12 mths, Alpine Angus blood, GF & ABF

A/c R. Kirton & N. Griggs, Outtrim (ALEX SCOTT)
80 Mixed sex Angus calves, 10 - 11 mths old by Cheltenham Park stud Angus bulls. Yard weaned, 6 weeks, Multimin, Copper Cobalt and B12 injections at weaning.

A/c PG, PS & AG Sutton (BAW BAW)
70 Angus steers, 12 mths, VB, weaned 4 mths, Kunuma & Innesdale genetics, Top bulls purchased, NE Accred

A/c John Traill (BAW BAW)
60 Angus steers, 12 mths, VB, NE Accred, Mawarra Genetics blood

A/c G&J Tuckett, Woodside (ELDERS)
60 Angus steer weaners, 10-12 mths, Landfall blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Whiltshaw Farming, Phillip Island (ALEX SCOTT)
60 Angus mixed sex weaners, 8-9 mths, weaned By Stud Te Mania & Fernleigh bulls drenched, 2x5in1 vacc and done with Arrest Easy Dose

A/c Sandy Creek, Munro (ELDERS)
50 Angus mixed sex weaners, Bowman blood VB, GF, ABF

A/c Andy Purden (BAW BAW)
22 Angus steers, 14 mths
22 Angus heifers, 14 mths
Vendor bred, NE Accred, Dollar Angus Bulls

A/c Mitchell Valley Growers (BAW BAW)
40 Angus mix sex, 14 mths, By Leawood & Pinora bulls, Vendor bred, NE Accred

A/c Damien Ferguson (BAW BAW)
40 Angus x steers, 12 mths, NE Accred

A/c Woodcote Pty Ltd (BAW BAW)
40 Angus steers, 12 mths, VB, NE Accred

A/c BSSC Pritchett (BAW BAW)
40 Angus steers, 12 mths, Mawarra Genetics blood

A/c C. Taylor, Ellinbank (ELDERS)
40 Angus mixed sex weaners, Pinora Angus blood

A/c Brewis & Woodhouse, Poowong East (ELDERS)
30 Angus steers, 12-15 mths, Brookfield Park blood, GF & ABF

A/c Eddington Holdings, Loch (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Angus steers, 10-12 mths By stud Banquet, Lawson and Welcome Swallow bulls drenched and Multimin

A/c L Barrett (ELDERS)
30 Angus mixed sex weaners

A/c Wiltara Farms (ELDERS)
30 AA/HFD X steers, 12-14 mths

A/c S&S Storr, Toora (ELDERS)
30 Angus/Hereford x heifers, weaners, East Gippsland bred, weaned

A/c P McDonnell, Glen Forbes (ELDERS)
25 Angus steers, 12 mths, Cluden Newry blood

A/c E.M & V.E White, Kilmany (ELDERS)
25 Angus steers, 12 mths, Pinora Angus blood

A/c Netherwood Pastoral, San Remo (ALEX SCOTT)
25 Angus steers, 10-12 mths by Stud Fernleigh bulls drenched with Trifecta oral dose, 2x7in1 vacc weaned

A/c Bimbimbie (BAW BAW)
25 Angus mixed sex, 10-12 mths, Innesdale Angus genetics, Greenhams NE Accred VB

A/c N.Q Parke, Lardner (ELDERS)
25 Angus heifers, 12 mths, Pinora Angus blood

A/c Jorgensen Holdings Pty Ltd, Tonimbuk (ALEX SCOTT)
24 Angus steers, 8-10 mths, 2 x 5in1, drenched, by stud Wattlewood Angus bulls, weaned 6 weeks

A/c B&S Phillips, Kernot (ELDERS)
20 Angus steers, 14 mths, Harris blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Sam Faila (BAW BAW)
20 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, Pinora sire, NE Accred

A/c JAD Farms (ELDERS)
20 Angus steers, 10 mths, NE Accred, quiet

A/c Nicklen Stockfeed & Performance Horses (BAW BAW)
20 mixed sex Angus 10 mths, Sired by Alpine Angus bull

A/c C Barrett (ELDERS)
20 Angus mixed sex weaners

A/c S&P Hunt, Stratford (ELDERS)
20 Angus mix sex weaners, 10-11 mths, Coolana & Rennylea blood

A/c Belleview (BAW BAW)
16 Angus steers, 12 Mths, NE Accred, VB, Mawarra Genetics blood

A/c B & L Rayner (ALEX SCOTT)
16 Angus heifers, 12 mths, Battersby blood

A/c S Davis, Dalyston (ELDERS)
13 Angus heifer weaners, Tabletop blood

A/c Becxon Ag (ELDERS) ngus mixed sex weaners

A/c Eaglesnest Beef, Neerim south (BAW BAW)
10 Angus steers, 14 mths, By Absolute Angus bulls

A/c Hannah Peatling (BAW BAW)
10 Angus steers, 12 mths, NE Accred

A/c O&J Luff, Woodleigh (ALEX SCOTT)
10 Angus mixed sex weaners

A/c Steven Reeves (BAW BAW)
9 Angus steers, 9-10 mths, drenched, vaccinated, VB, NE Accred, Sire AI Millah bull and Banquet bull

A/c MTR Produce (BAW BAW)
8 Angus steers, 12 mths

A/c N Ireland, Labertouche (ALEX SCOTT)
8 Angus steers, 9 mths by AI Endeavour, VB

A/c M Parsons & L Tate (BAW BAW)
8 Angus heifers, 12 mths

A/c C. Eden, Bass (ALEX SCOTT)
4 Angus steers, 9 mths, Harris blood

COLOURED WEANERS

A/c Breeder, “Kathwal Farm”, Pakenham South (ELDERS)
50 Char X mixed sex yearlings, Kenmere Char blood, weaned

A/c Leighwood Farms, Yarram (ELDERS)
30 Speckle mix sex weaners

A/c R&R Durham (ALEX SCOTT)
25 Hereford and Red Angus steers, 12 mths, Newcomen and Hicks blood, NE Accred

A/c M. Jackson, Hallston (ALEX SCOTT)
25 Hereford mix sex weaners, 10-11 mths, by Wirruna stud Poll Hereford bull. Had 2nd 7 in 1 and Ivermectin drenched 8 weeks ago, yard weaned

A/c I Box (ELDERS)
20 Speckle heifers, 12 mths

A/c Sladin, Pty Ltd (BAW BAW)
20 Hereford heifers, 9-11 mths, NE Accred, VB, Warringa genetics

A/c Oaklands (ELDERS)
20 Limo X heifers

A/c Dawn – Raine (BAW BAW)
19 Char X heifers, 14 mths, VB, NE Accred

A/c B Sellings, Lang Lang (ELDERS)
12 Blonde Aquitaine mixed sex weaners

1 Blonde Aquitaine bull, 14 mths, VB, GF, ABF

A/c Johnson Woods (ELDERS)
13 Char weaner steers

A/c G Harding (ELDERS)
10 Speckle/AA X steers, 12 mths

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c Seaton View Park P/L (ELDERS)
220 Angus X mixed sex, 12 mths

A/c Coulter & Hasthorpe (ELDERS)
50 Speckle x mixed sex

A/c K Farley (ELDERS)
30 Xbred mix sex weaners

A/c V & D Vickers, Mirboo Nth (ALEX SCOTT)
13 BB Steers, 18 mths

A/c G. Hancock, Loch (ALEX SCOTT)
20 beef cross steers, 18-24 mths, very quiet

A/c Bransgrove, Neerim (ELDERS)
10 AA/FF X steers, 16-18 mths

A/c Dimal Industries (BAW BAW)
8 Sim steers, 14 mths, VB

A/c R Wiggins, Bass (ALEX SCOTT)
8 Angus x steers, 16 mths

JOINED FEMALES

A/c Bayonet Trading, Phillip Island (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Angus heifers, 2- 1/2 yo, PTIC to Stud Fernleigh bull to start calving early Nov

A/c N Gregg, Poowong (ELDERS)
10 Angus heifers, 2 yo, Joined to Angus bull for October calving



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For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven or contact Human Resources Manager, Leisa Lomax on 03 5956 7505.

Applications to be submitted to: recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au
Applications close Monday 7 October 2024 at 5 pm

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

SITUATIONS VACANT

FARM HAND

We are looking for a farm hand to assist with our family operated beef and sheep properties.

The position is a hands-on role and will include all aspects of farming, animal husbandry (vaccinating, tagging etc), calving/lambing, fencing, weed control, and farm equipment maintenance.

The successful candidate will be hardworking, reliable, self-motivated employee, able to work independently.

Must have current driver's licence and be physically fit.
Experience with cattle essential.

Please email resume to zelsvenson@hotmail.com or call 0438 636 290

LB1408



Casual Retail Sales

We are currently looking for new motivated and enthusiastic people to join our team at Autopro Wonthaggi and Cowes.

Autopro Wonthaggi and Autopro Cowes are a well-known, well trusted, respected locally owned and run business. Autopro Wonthaggi and Cowes have a great history of long employment and providing a happy productive environment.

The position is for casual retail sales. Autopro is a 7 days a week business. Hours will include weekend work.

We are looking for applicants who have:

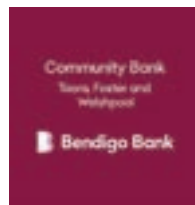
- A positive attitude to work and their work colleagues.
- Strong communication skills with the ability to think on their feet and solution find for customers.
- Able to execute tasks enthusiastically as well as apply initiative, when necessary, to create an efficient work environment.
- Experience in the automotive industry is not critical but an interest in cars is an advantage.
- Training and product knowledge will be provided to any successful applicants.

If you believe you have what it takes to be a member of our team, then we would encourage you to present your resume with references to either Peter or Gavin at our Wonthaggi or Cowes store.

If you are unable to present in store, please email your resume with references to gavin@wonthaggi.autopro.com.au.

VV0131

SITUATIONS VACANT



Marketing Assistant

Do you have a background in administration and a flair for marketing?

Working In conjunction with the Administration Officer we are looking for Marketing support for the Promontory District Finance Group Ltd Board of Directors, Board Committees and the Branch Manager.

Qualifications, Experience and Skills:

Desirable:

Experience with working in committee and corporate company structures
Administrative experience

Essential:

- Office Suite skills – specifically Word & Excel
- Knowledge & experience in Social media platforms – Facebook and Instagram
- Ability to set up and run Zoom & MS Teams sessions
- Skilled in photography and photo editing
- Proven ability to deliver creative content in all multimedia mediums
- Copywriting skills
- Experience in public speaking

Hours of work

Due to the nature of this position, hours may vary week to week depending on the number of meetings and community events requiring attendance. To reflect this, the hours of work will be a minimum of 9 hours per week plus any reasonable additional hours at the discretion of and with the approval of the Board Chair. This will be assessed after six months.

Location of work

Work from home and Branch locations (Toora & Foster), with attendance of meetings and community events in various locations within the Promontory District.

Ability to transport and move heavy marketing assets.

A Position Description can be obtained by emailing admin@pdfg.org.au, expressions of interest to be sent to janbull@virtual.net.au,

Applications close Friday, October 18.

VV0134

DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column

Fridays 3.30pm

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.

TO ADVERTISE



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5672 1888



Email:
ads@sgst.com.au



In person:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi
36 McCartin St, Leongatha



Mail:
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.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Sentinel-Times

FOSTER PHARMACY

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Pharmacy Assistant

Full time • Part time • Casual

Please submit your resume and brief cover letter to
foster.pharmacy@nunet.com.au

VV0133



Business Manager

Full-time

- Drive operational excellence with this hands-on role
- Rewarding career opportunity to positively impact the lives of the ageing
- Not-for-profit salary packaging benefits

About Us
Woorayl Lodge Inc is a not-for-profit aged care facility nestled in the lush, rolling hills of South Gippsland in the township of Leongatha. The Lodge has 41 private rooms in the residential aged care section and 29 independent living units and is proudly community owned and run.

About the Role
Woorayl Lodge Inc is seeking an experienced leader to join our team as the Business Manager. This key role will oversee the daily operations of the non-clinical areas and drive the organisation towards its strategic goals efficiently. Responsibilities include managing financial operations such as budgeting, forecasting, financial reporting, and payroll.

This hands-on leadership role focuses on promoting excellence within the team, fostering a workplace culture that emphasises continuous improvement, exceptional customer service, respect, and safety.

About You
We are looking for a motivated individual who has a:

- Proven ability to foster strong relationships and work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to inform decisions, planning, strategy and action.
- Leadership style that develops, coaches and empowers employees with a focus on accountability, initiative, service improvement and job satisfaction.
- Sound financial understanding with the ability to interpret financial data and information and effectively implement and deliver Woorayl Lodge's long term financial strategy.

To request a copy of the position description, please email hr@woorayllodge.com.au. For additional information, please reach out to Andrew Ross, Co-CEO Corporate Services, via email at andrew.ross@woorayllodge.com.au or by calling 5662 2053.

Application Instructions: Via email to hr@woorayllodge.com.au and must include a resume and cover letter.

Applications Close: Sunday, October 20, 2024.



Qualified Accountant

MJA Accounting is growing and we are seeking a suitable candidate to fill a new full-time, in-office role.

The successful applicant will work in a close-knit team and be exposed to a broad range of accounting and taxation work for individuals and small to medium size businesses.

- The new role will cover a variety of responsibilities, including:
- Preparation of income tax returns and financial statements for individuals, partnerships, trusts, companies & superannuation
 - Preparation of BAS / IAS
 - Liaising with the ATO on behalf of our clients
 - Assisting in the preparation and maintenance of accounting and taxation records
 - Communicating with clients
 - Other tasks as delegated by the team manager

We are looking for a candidate who is a client focused team player with a positive "can do" attitude.

Advancement opportunities exist for ambitious, self-motivated team members with a desire to achieve.

Ideally, candidates will live within 30-40 minutes of Leongatha or Korumburra, as this is a full time, in-office / on-site position.

Applicants must have permanent work rights with no restrictions to apply for this position.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please email your resume and cover letter to: practice@mjacpa.com.au

For a confidential discussion regarding this role, please call Tim Kemp on 0438 623 183



Connect with us

@sentineltimes

Administration Assistant



BRB Law is located in Leongatha in South Gippsland. Our growing team is friendly and supportive with a client base throughout South Gippsland, Bass Coast and Victoria.

BRB Law seeks to employ an administration assistant working primarily in our probate department to strengthen and meet the demands of the practice.

- Duties**
- Opening, closing and managing probate files.
 - Preparation of legal documents, financial statements and correspondence.
 - Liaising with clients, accountants, estate agents and the Supreme Court of Victoria.
 - Keeping clients informed of the file's status.
 - General office administration duties and tasks.

- Skills**
- A professional, enthusiastic, compassionate and highly motivated person which an easy rapport with clients and colleagues.
 - Able to anticipate the needs of the team and take a proactive approach to their work.
 - Outstanding time management skills, the ability to prioritise tasks and attention to detail.

How to apply
Please forward your application to Jennie Whitaker at info@brblaw.com.au.
Applications close 5pm Friday, October 4, 2024.



Your Career. Your move. Come join our team.


At Ray White Wonthaggi & Cape Paterson, we're on the lookout for an experienced, enthusiastic and energetic individual to share our passion for Real Estate and our drive to celebrate success.

We believe that one of our greatest assets are our people and with the right people on our team, we'll continue to expand, grow and consolidate our position as market leader within our area.

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Interested? For a confidential discussion, please contact:
Adam Mabilia
P: 0427 787 238
E: adam.mabilia@raywhite.com

PUBLIC NOTICES



Additional Council Meeting

Bass Coast Shire Council will be holding an additional Council Meeting on Wednesday, 9 October.

The meeting will commence at 11.30am in the Council Chamber, Bass Coast Civic Centre, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi.

The agenda will be available on Council's website on Thursday 4 October at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings.

Please note that neither October 2024 Council Meetings will have an opportunity for public questions due to our Election Period Policy.

PUBLIC NOTICES

STOCKYARD GALLERY

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2024

Stockyard Gallery will hold its 2024 AGM at the Gallery, 12 McDonald Street, Foster, at 5pm on Thursday, October 24.

>>> All Welcome <<<

JOIN OUR GROWING SCHOOL

ECG Secondary College needs you!

Do you love helping students like us grow and reach our full potential?

ECG is preparing to welcome more students to our campuses at Warragul, Leongatha, Pakenham and Dandenong, with improved services to help us succeed in 2025 and beyond. Join ECG team and make a difference in our lives, supporting us through our learning journey.

Learning Support Officer 2025
(EOIs for all campus)
Full-time | Part-time

Generalist Teachers 2025
(EOIs for multiple campuses)

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(EOIs for multiple campuses)

APPLY NOW www.ecg.vic.edu.au/jobs

ECG is a Child Safe organisation that has zero tolerance for child abuse.

JOIN OUR PROGRESSIVE TEAM

Transform learning with CCG!

CCG is committed to empowering communities through accessible education and leadership.

We're inviting passionate and dynamic individuals to join our team in these exciting roles:

Seize the chance to make a difference and explore opportunities to positively change lives through education.

Trainer Cert IV in Business (BSB40120)
Full-time / Part-time | Warragul
Closing Monday 7 October

Trainers 2025
EOIs for Business, Music, Hospitality etc | All campuses

APPLY NOW www.ccg.asn.au/jobs

CCG is a Child Safe organisation that has zero tolerance for child abuse.



School No: 2062
03 5622 6000
www.ecg.vic.edu.au
hr@ecg.asn.au



RTO No: 4181
03 5622 6000
www.ccg.asn.au
hr@ccg.asn.au



SAT. OCTOBER 5

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KIDS IN THE KITCHEN - UNCANNY X-MEN - CHANT OODIES

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Ten per cent of magpies are giving the rest a bad name

A SWOOPING magpie can send unsuspecting strollers sprinting for cover and cyclists veering wildly off into the bushes, so why do magpies swoop and what can we do about it?

When magpie chicks are in their nest, the male's job is to keep them safe by keeping what they think might be predators or threats away from their chicks.

Griffith University Emeritus Professor Darryl Jones holds a master's degree in wildlife management and a PhD in behavioural ecology and authored Magpie Alert, a book about the Australian Magpie and spoke to Reverend Bill Crews on 4BC.

"The bloke's job is to just keep what he thinks is a risk, away from the chicks, and so for whatever reason in their own mind, they decided that some people or cyclists are one of those risks and that's why they're swooping and trying to keep us away."

During his research, Dr Jones found that 90 per cent of magpies never swoop anybody and it's only about 10 per cent of magpies that do actually swoop.

"If every magpie in Australia swooped somebody during the season, we'd have to leave the country altogether, it wouldn't be an inhabitable place," said Dr Jones.

However, these 10 per cent can be a menace, causing moderate to severe injuries, with cyclists bearing the brunt of about 70 per cent of the attacks and walkers about 20 per cent.

Last season a total of 3108 magpie attacks were reported and 409 of those resulted in injuries.

In some cases, there have



Only 10 per cent of magpies swoop and retaliating can make them more aggressive.

also been fatalities reported.

"In the last couple of years there's been a couple of fatalities, really terrible things, an older gentleman fell off his bike and hit his head on the road, and a baby was lost from its mother's arms when she panicked and was trying to get the magpie away. It can be pretty tragic."

Of the 10 per cent of the magpies that swoop, Dr Jones found that half of those only target pedestrians, and

of those, almost all of them attack only a single person.

This person is someone who they are familiar with, as magpies live in a permanent territory and can recognise people that live in the area, able to memorise up to 30 different faces.

Yet the other half of swooping magpies will attack every pedestrian, postie and cyclist that enters their territory and the aggression from swooping magpies can intensify over the

season, especially if people react aggressively towards the magpie.

"It's a really bad idea to retaliate as it will only make it worse," said Dr Jones.

Dr Jones advises that the only real way to avoid a swooping magpie is to avoid its territory while there are chicks inhabiting the nest.

"The simplest thing to do is avoid that area. It's not a huge area. It would only be about a hundred metres across and it surrounds the tree with a nest in it."

If it's difficult to avoid swooping areas, these are the measures that Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action suggest taking.

- Know your local swooping hotspots and avoid the area, there is an app called Magpie Alert that maps where swooping magpies are located.

- Move quickly but do not run if you find yourself close to a swooping bird.

- Wear protective head and eye coverings.

- Don't harass birds, this can make swooping worse.

- Don't feed the birds and do not destroy their nests.

- Avoid known swooping hotspots by planning your route.

- Report a swooping incident on Victoria's interactive swooping bird map by visiting: wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds and Magpie Alert

All native wildlife is protected by law. Harassing, harming or disturbing native birds and other wildlife is illegal in Victoria and penalties apply.

You can report wildlife crime such as harassing, harming or disturbing wildlife to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

How to be a... Baker



First year baker and pastry chef apprentice Nikita Cole.

WANT to know how to bake an award-winning pepper pie?

GO NO further than first year baker and pastry chef apprentices Nikita Cole and Terence Bayley if you want to know how to bake award-winning pies.

"Our apprentices won a bronze medal for their pepper pie," said Paul the Pieman Production Manager, Mitchell Woods.

"If want to be a baker or pastry cook you need to have a passion for baking."

It may be helpful to enjoy baking, but prospective bakers and pastry chefs also need to secure an apprenticeship position and enrol in formal training.

Paul the Pieman is affiliated with Workplace Training Strategies for online training.

A Certificate III in Baking apprenticeship is also available through the William Angliss Institute in Melbourne.

Practical experience is gained in the bakehouse under the eye of a qualified baker and pastry chef with regular visits from a nationally accredited assessor.

"It really is a rewarding job," says Mitchell.

"Success at industry events shows the quality is there."

Apprentices at Paul the Pieman are recognised as among the best in Australia and are encouraged to compete at a national level.

The Baking and Trade Industry Show is held in June each year.

The Victorian Baking and Pastry Championships are held in Horsham.

For more information on the Certificate III in Baking apprenticeship go to angliss.edu.au/courses/foods/baking/certificate-iii-in-baking-apprenticeship or wts.edu.au/courses/fbp30521-certificate-iii-in-baking

Thieving skuas at Cape Liptrap prompt flu pandemic warning

SCIENTISTS are suggesting the deadly H5N1 avian influenza virus which has killed millions of birds worldwide may be spread through the food-stealing behaviour of seabirds.

A study published in the Journal of Conservation Letters looks at food-scavenging birds known as 'kleptoparasites' as a possible transmission path for the spread of avian flu.

'Kleptoparasitic' birds such as the Arctic and Brown Skua and much rarer frigatebirds have been sighted at Cape Liptrap.

Skuas and frigatebirds force other birds to regurgitate their prey.

If seabirds catch avian flu by stealing food from infectious birds, scientists speculate it could provide a clue where to look for outbreaks of avian influenza among vulnerable species.

Led by scientists from UNSW Sydney's Centre for Ecosystem Science and involving BirdLife International, Deakin University and Monash University, the researchers analysed existing information about frigatebird and skua distribution, behaviour and movements.

Searching through a global database for records of birds

contracting avian flu the scientists looked at what species of seabird the frigatebirds and skuas were most likely to steal from.

"Understanding transmission is critical to monitoring and management efforts, particularly when at-risk species or regions are involved," says researcher Simon Gorta, a PhD student at UNSW.

"While the original H5N1 virus first emerged in 1996, the current 2.3.4.4b strain has spread far more than other strains and is highly virulent killing hundreds of thousands of wild seabirds since being first detected in 2021".

Previously restricted largely to Eurasia and Africa the virus spread to North America in 2021 and South America in late 2022.

The virus reached Antarctica in early 2024 and has been declared a panzootic or pandemic among animals.

Marine species such as seabirds have been particularly hard-hit by the panzootic pandemic.

"As one of the most threatened groups of birds on the planet, the fact that seabirds have proven to be particularly vulnerable to diseases like this is of great concern," says co-

author A/Prof. Rohan Clarke from Monash University.

Professor Richard Kingsford says the seabirds are especially vulnerable because of the way they breed in groups.

"Transmission among seabirds is a real concern because of the close contact and potential contamination of communal resources on densely packed breeding islands."

Scavenging of infected individuals is common among predatory seabirds according to Professor Kingsford but now researchers believe 'kleptoparasitism' may also play an important role.

Researchers focused on frigatebirds and skuas in their study.

If a bird the kleptoparasite targets is infected, the regurgitated food item could be coated in saliva with a high viral load which could then infect the kleptoparasite, which could in turn infect other species.

The researchers found this pathway of transmission could lead to transmission of the disease over long distances if birds become infectious on migration.

"Many seabirds, including 'kleptoparasitic' species cover tens of thousands of kilometres in their migrations," says

Alex Berryman, Red List Officer for BirdLife International.

"If kleptoparasites become infected during these migrations and come into contact with other birds in a way that can facilitate transmission, the disease could spread into new, threatened, and previously unexposed populations and regions."

"Early detection is key," said Mr Berryman.

While the H5N1 2.3.4.4b has not yet reached Australia, monitoring for early detection of the disease when it arrives rather than if it arrives, is currently underway.

"Birds globally are already under greater threat than ever before," said Mr Berryman.

"We have identified that migratory kleptoparasites, alongside predatory and scavenging species, could be some of the first species to become infected when H5N1 reaches Australia."

These insights will contribute to the coordinated management of avian influenza in Australia, including the National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Surveillance Program.

Researchers say this is an important step in guiding Australia's preparedness for the arrival of the new strains of avian influenza on our shores.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Miners' Dispensary Our Community Pharmacy

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Wonthaggi Miners Dispensary will be held on

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024,
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, 2024** so that arrangements can be made for the meeting.

Contact details – Phone: 03 5672 1034, retail.manager@minersdispensary.com.au, Dispensary: 169 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

Surfers descend on Phillip Island

TWO hundred of the top junior surfers from across the country are set to arrive in Victoria this week with the Rip Curl GromSearch Phillip Island presented by Bass Coast Shire Council, kicking off today (Tuesday, October 1).

As a 10,000-point Marquee event on the Surfing Australia National Rankings, the event is only one of five events of this calibre in the country and will provide surfers with valuable rankings points in their quest for a spot in the Irukandjis team heading to the ISA World Junior Surfing Titles.

Victorian hopeful Ava Holland (Mornington Peninsula), is currently ranked seventh in the U18 girls and will be looking for a big win on home soil to jump the rankings.

"I'm so excited for the Rip Curl GromSearch at Phillip Island. I've been looking forward to this event for a while now," Holland said.

"As well as it being such a high-ranked event, making it super handy for Victorian surfers like me. I can't wait for the event – it's going to be a great week."

Featuring boys' and girls' divisions for U18, U16 and U14 divisions, the event will run over the Victorian school holidays from October 1 to 5.

Queensland's Mitchell Peterson (Noosaville) has finished in the top three at two 10,000-rated events this year and is looking to crack his first win of the year at Phillip Island.

"I can't wait to get down to Phillip Island," Peterson said.

"I've had a great year and had some good results making the final at the Skullcandy, however, I'm super motivated to get a win to finish off the year."

"There are some epic waves down there, and it's such a cool place to visit. Hopefully, we score some pumping Woolamai."

The event will be webcast for the final two days of the event via Streamer.

Full details, including live scores and schedule, can be found at surfingvic.com/rip-curlgromsearchphillipisland

"It's exciting to be hosting the best 200 junior surfers from around the country in Victoria for the week," Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson said.

"The level of talent across the country is improving year on year and it will be incredible to watch the action over the week."

"Not only will the event showcase incredible surfing, but it is also a key part of our junior surfing pathway and gives our young aspiring athletes a chance to earn valuable points in their home state."

How The Block saved Woolamai's lifesavers

FORGET the squabbles, the tantrums, the walkouts and the style failures for a moment, if you can, Channel 9's hit TV renovation show, The Block, has left a lasting legacy that won't soon be forgotten on Phillip Island.

As well as promoting all that Phillip Island has to offer to a whole new generation of Australians, The Block also has a place in Phillip Island's heart after undertaking a major renovation of the Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

On Friday last week, the surf lifesaving club threw open its doors to the public, allowing them to come and take a look at what The Block contestants and their tradies were able to do and the universal response was "fantastic".

"Yes, absolutely delighted," said Woolamai Beach SLSC President Jason Close.

"We can't thank them enough," he said.

"The clubrooms were looking a bit tired, so this has come at a really good time.

"We're a volunteer group and the fundraising that we do usually goes into buying equipment, maintaining it, fuel and those sorts of things, and also, into the programs we need to support our members.

"We don't have any money to spend on ourselves, so this was much appreciated.

"We also had a team come in from the Cowes Commonwealth



Woolamai Beach SLSC President Jason Close said the renovations by The Block and the Commonwealth Bank had given club members a real boost, especially after one of the most tragic summers ever on local beaches.

Bank to renovate two of our bunkrooms."

As well as putting up the \$10,000 prizemoney for the challenge and renovating the bunkrooms, Combank also provided a \$5000 grant for the club's operations.

"So, they've painted the whole place, created a memorabilia display on the wall here and also worked with our historian Graeme Clausen, improving the look of our honour boards and trophy wall, adding a big new mural where the servery used to be.

"It depicts where surfing on the Island probably first started, at Summerland Beach and makes a great backdrop to the clubrooms."

They've also added electric blinds, new fans, built-in furniture and a whole lot of new furniture. There's shelving and new cabinet work, display cabinets and they've put in a kitchen and bar.

"I couldn't say for sure, but overall, it would amount to more than \$100,000 in work, I'd say," said Jason.

"We'd have 250 patrol members and when you add 400 Nippers annually, a couple of hundred parents and all the rest, we'd have upwards of 1000 people on the books and it's just a great place to come and unwind after being on patrol, looking after the Nippers, and whatever else."

He thanked The Block contestants, even the recalcitrant 'Ocean Crew', Nine in Six team, Channel 9, the tradies, the Commonwealth Bank, Ron Sinclair of E&S Trading, local artist Kirsty Cargill and anyone else who contributed to the project.

Mr Close said volunteer members of the club were involved in the terrible tragedies at Forrest Caves and Kilcunda Beach last summer when five people drowned and routinely undertake 1000s of preventative actions before incidents happen.

"We'd typically have 20-30 rescues a year, and 1000s of preventative actions, which is our aim, to prevent a tragedy from happening.

"It's great to get this sort of support, and as you can see, it's given the place a real lift," he said.

Dozens of people took the opportunity to walk through the clubrooms, which has already been featured in one of The Block episodes where "The Boys" Ricky and Haydn along with Kylie and Brad split the \$10,000 prizemoney.

The effort was judged to be one of the biggest challenges ever attempted in The Block's 20-year history and it couldn't have been a more deserving group that benefitted.

Some of those visiting the Woolamai Beach SLSC Clubrooms also admitted to calling in at the 'Island Cove Villas' site in Justice Road, site of the 20th anniversary production of The Block Island.

Bang Bang Tag Team Shootout kicks off PIBC's 24/25 season

PHILLIP Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) are excited to launch the 2024/25 season with the highly anticipated Bang Bang Tag Team Shootout on Saturday, October 12.

Open to all local surfers aged 10 to 80, this event is designed to include everyone in teams, fostering a sense of community and fun.

The event is free for PIBC members, while non-members can participate with a \$20 registration fee. Registration is available via Live Heats – the link is in PIBC's socials bio.

Event Format:

- Teams of eight-10 surfers (mixed teams)
- Teams are allocated by the experienced Captains Committee consisting of former club captains and presidents
- Approximately six teams will compete in 80-minute heats
- Each surfer has eight minutes to catch their best wave
- Captains and power surfers surf twice
- Rules follow the ABB -Boardriders Battle format
- The team with the highest heat tally wins

The winning team will take home a fantastic prize from Bang Bang with Woolamai Pizza also contributing significantly to ensure the event's success.



Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) President Jake Eisen, PIBC Club Captain Ash Easton, Bang Bang owner Pat O'Garey, with PIBC Grooms Billy Easton and Eddie Maier look forward to the Bang Bang Tag Team Shootout on Saturday, October 12.

The day will wrap up with a celebration of the season's aggregate winners at the Phillip Island Winery, providing a chance for all members to come together and celebrate their achievements in this close-knit surfing community.

The tag team event is about more than just surfing – it promotes teamwork among younger members and more experienced surfers, creates lasting memories, and helps raise mental

and focusing on what makes the club special - "our commitment to surfing, mental health, and each other. It's also about teaching the kids to be kind to one another, supporting their teammates, and creating a positive atmosphere in and out of the water."

Pat, owner of Bang Bang Restaurant and Bar stated "We're thrilled to be supporting this event. Surfing is such a vital part of the island's culture, and we love being part of something that encourages teamwork and fun for everyone involved."

Eddie Maier, 10-year-old PIBC Grom, said of the last tag team event "Last time I got an eight-point ride, and it made me really happy. I hope I can do it again and hopefully, I'm on the same team as my dad."

PIBC also offers weekly yoga classes for surfers and mental health - open to the general public, run by local island yogi Dominique Salerno (@dominiquesalernoyoga) at \$10 for PIBC members and \$15 for non-members.

Yoga schedule: Mondays 6pm – 7pm, Wednesdays 6pm – 7pm, Thursdays 9.30am – 11am and Fridays 6am – 7am.

For more information on PIBC programs and how to get involved visit pibc.com.au

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 October 1	WEDNESDAY October 2	THURSDAY October 3	FRIDAY October 4	SATURDAY October 5	SUNDAY October 6	MONDAY October 7
▼ 3.56am 0.64m	▼ 5.10am 0.63m	▲ 12.16am 1.34m	▲ 1.04am 1.44m	▲ 1.44am 1.53m	▲ 3.17am 1.60m	▲ 3.49am 1.64m
▲ 11.01am 1.31m	▲ 11.52am 1.34m	▼ 6.07am 0.62m	▼ 6.51am 0.60m	▼ 7.28am 0.60m	▼ 9.00am 0.60m	▼ 9.33am 0.60m
▼ 4.52pm 0.75m	▼ 5.49pm 0.65m	▲ 12.32pm 1.38m	▲ 1.06pm 1.41m	▲ 1.36pm 1.44m	▲ 3.05pm 1.46m	▲ 3.36pm 1.47m
▲ 11.15pm 1.26m		▼ 6.30pm 0.54m	▼ 7.05pm 0.45m	▼ 7.37pm 0.38m	▼ 9.08pm 0.33m	▼ 9.40pm 0.31m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au



Phillip Island's Bernard Huigsloot in action out on the water.



The promise of good waves and beach breaks motivated Bernard Huigsloot to compete for the Legends Title at the World Waveski Surfing Championships.

Bernard secures Legends Title

From page 64

Four days before he was due to head out, he suffered a shoulder dislocation and opted out.

“He’s had a few more dislocations and two shoulder surgeries, so it is a pretty mean feat to go from that and still be dedicated enough to do the training to get back out there,” Tania said.

Bernard only started doing push-ups again last Christmas. Tania encouraged him to ‘get serious’ about training if he wanted to go to the World Titles.

“I had the surfing down pat, so I started weight training. I started seeing a personal trainer (Chops) at the Phillip Island Leisure Centre.

“Basically, I said to him ‘I want you to train me as hard as you can, or I’ll probably do an injury just trying. I want you to show me the right techniques and I want to go hard.’

“It wasn’t until the last two or three weeks that I could actually hang with my body weight and not feel like my shoulder was going to give out. I just turned a corner, and I was ready to go.”

Bernard originally discovered waveski surfing through his involvement with the surf lifesaving club in Tasmania.

“I had a pretty bad injury when I was seven years old. I fell on a rusty nail and got tetanus. My knee was really bad – I nearly lost it. Tetanus stunted the growth, and my parents wanted to do the best for me, so they pushed me into exercise. Swimming was the main thing. I didn’t like it much, but I was a good swimmer. I went on to play water polo and there were some guys who were in the surf lifesaving club,” he said.

“I was very interested in that, so I went to the surf lifesaving club and as a junior I used to go into Malibu, surf ski and swimming events, and even an Ironman.”

Though he won a couple of titles, Bernard said taking on the sport professionally was not something he had considered, as often competitions are held on smaller waves and beach breaks.

Instead, he found his home on Phillip Island, enjoying the waves and the country lifestyle.

“I became a chef, and chefs work on weekends so I couldn’t go into contests. Then kids came along and life changes,” he said.

“I still surf locally. I won a Seniors title on the Island even though I was about eight years older than the category. Eight years after that, I went into another one on the Peninsula and won the Masters Title.

“The person who won the world title was in that Masters category, so I had beaten the current world champion. I take that with a bit of pride.”

Bernard is highly rated around the world, not just for competition performance, but for his appearances in surfing photography.

“My photos used to be amongst the best in the world – kudos to the photographers. They’ve won awards and I’ve posted them online. Some of the French surfers follow me and there’s a great mutual respect there. They try to emulate my style,” he said.

“My style revolves around the board I ride. I’m one of the only guys to ride polyurethane boards instead of epoxy boards. My board weighs twice as much as those do. Other surfers are able to do more aerials, whereas I do more carving manoeuvres.”

Bernard thanked Island Surfboards for its services over the years – particularly for shaping his skis.

He also thanked Phillip Island Leisure Centre for its support in helping him get competition ready.



Bernard Huigsloot on the podium after winning the Legends Title at the 2024 World Waveski Surfing Championships.



Phillip Island's Bernard Huigsloot was rapt with his performance at the World Waveski Surfing Championships.

Kids encouraged to give track cycling a go in Leongatha

LEONGATHA Cycling Club (LCC) offers a great opportunity for kids to learn track riding skills, with post-winter training sessions commencing on the evening of Monday, October 21 at the town’s velodrome.

Those in charge of the club are keen to boost numbers to ensure its survival while providing a sporting opportunity for locals that offers fun and fitness.

Participants will be under the watchful eye of coach Tony Smith or assistant coach Steve Wilson, both Life Members of LCC.

Skills learned include riding next to each other and swapping turns, Steve explaining the meaning of the latter.

“Generally, riders will sit at the front for half a lap and then they’ll swing up the track and the next rider will go through,” Steve said.

“We often have a slow race on the grass to give them the bike handling skills,” he said of those starting out.

Cyclists learn how to ride safely near others.

“You’ve got to keep fairly close together so you get a draft, so you need the skills to stay up with the rider in front of you,” Steve said, explaining that makes it easier for you.

Although a couple of parents ride, the focus is predominantly on the kids, with adult riders kept separate to maintain on-track safety for young participants.

LCC has some track bikes people can use during its Monday night training sessions.

“They’re a special bike; they’ve got no brakes,” Steve said, explaining you use the fixed wheel to stop yourself by backpedalling.

Membership of the club hasn’t bounced back to pre-COVID numbers, currently sitting at 34 compared to 65 then.

Some of those are social members only, not riding, and others belong but ride elsewhere.

“Our riding numbers are down considerably since COVID,” Steve said, keen to see more young people give track cycling a go.

Those keen to do so are encouraged to attend a Monday night training session, which runs between 5.45pm and 7pm from October 21, to learn more.

South Gippsland Bridge

SEPTEMBER 17 at RSL Wonthaggi:

First: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 57.16. Second: John French and Faye Rowlands 56.90. Third: Mike Dooley and Alan Johnston 55.47. Fourth: Deb Anglim and Denise Allitt 51.90.

September 20 at Inverloch Angling Club:

First: John French and Deb Anglim 67.19. Second: Maureen Stiles and Penny Loughran 62.50. Third: Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson 60.42. Fourth: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 57.81. Fifth: Bronwyn Sund and Marie Sands 50.52.

September 24 at Wonthaggi:

First: John Quayle and Matti Shub with a brilliant 70.57. Second: Mary Brewis and Alan Johnston 54.86. Third: John French and Deb Anglim 53.47.

September 27 at Inverloch:

North/South pairs:

First: Ruth Harvey and Sue Edwards 56.85. Second: Phillip and Nev Chapman 52.98. Third: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 51.77.

East West:

First: Marie Sands and Ken McKenzie 54.17. Second: Moya Crowley and Mike Dooley 53.57. Third: John Quayle and Matti Shub 52.38.



Monday's Breakaway Bowls winners were Marg Ford and John Stewart with +6.



The best one-game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group were Peter Thorley (L), Terry Floyd (3), Steve Edge (S) and Gwen Jeffery (2).



Marg Hender, Jan Clark and Helen Gladstone were the Breakaway Bowls winners on Friday.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Saturday winners were Frank Cimino, Sheila Ormerod and Bryan Donohue.



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's winners on Thursday were Laurie Bell (3), Jenny Smith (L), Mark Hanrahan (S) and Brad Tobin (2).



Wearing their favourite AFL colours, the Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls winners on Friday were Barb Culph, Allan Ireland and Thelma Kavanagh.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

MONDAY bowls was another fantastic day enjoyed by all.

The afternoon tea put on by the ladies was to die for.

The winners were Marg Ford and John Stewart with +6 – well done.

A great day was had at the Cape on Friday.

The sunshine brought everyone out to get together and enjoy each other's company.

The winners were Marg Hender, Jan Clark and Helen Gladstone with +9 – well-done ladies.

See you next Monday at 1pm at Cape Paterson Community Centre.

INVERLOCH

ON TUESDAY, September 24, the Wonthaggi Club visited to play a practice match under Midweek Pennant conditions and both clubs were treated to fine weather conditions that improved as the day progressed.

In Division 1, Inverloch came away with a close win by a mere six shots with rink scores of 19/15, 19/16 and 21/22.

In Division 2, the club scores were even closer with Inverloch taking the points with an overall score of five shots up with the rink scores being, 19/12, 23/19 and 12/18.

As the Wonthaggi Club could not field a Division 3 on the day, Inverloch played an intra-club match with Jenny Haydon's team winning their match 23/10 while Craig Selby's team won their match 27/13.

Today, Tuesday, October 1, Inverloch is hosting a combined Leongatha and Korumburra Midweek Pennant teams the results of which will be published in the next issue of this column.

The first round of official play starts on Tuesday, October 15.

In light of the AFL Grand Final being played at the MCG on the following Saturday, Thursday's social bowls day at Inverloch had a footy theme and each of the teams participating represented an AFL team.

The day was overcast with low temperatures combined with a westerly breeze that felt to be getting colder as the afternoon progressed.

On the bright side, of course, there was no rain to deal with.

With these conditions being present, 40 bowlers attended for competition over two games, each of 10 ends with scoring

based on games won, ends won and finally, if required, shots up.

The day produced three teams that won each of their two games and the scoring was pretty close with only five points separating the three teams.

The hard luck story, with two wins and representing the Fremantle Dockers, went to the team of Terry Seaward (skip), Joyce Arnold (third), Carol Waters (second) and Harry Dunn (lead) with a score of 30 points from wins of 10/5 and 10/9.

Taking second place on the podium and representing the Carlton Football Club was the team of Geoff Coleman (skip), Jon Justin (third), Joan McStravick (second) and Yvonne Key (lead), with 31 points from wins of 16/5 and 8/7.

Securing the top spot on the podium and representing the West Coast Eagles, was the team of Reg Varty (skip), Bruce Corrigan (third), Marg Griffin (second) and John Cook (lead) with two wins and 35 points from wins of 21/2 and 13/10.

Thanks are extended to the match committee representatives Carol Hughes and Jeff Curwood and to Jim Haydon for the preparation of the footy-themed hot lunch during the half-time break.

The next Saturday match is scheduled for October 5 when Inverloch will visit Wonthaggi for the annual contest for the Bunurong Shield which is currently held by Wonthaggi.

Friday, September 26, was the club's fortnightly dinner which on this occasion was roast chicken and vegetables with dessert being part of a birthday cake which was earlier presented to Mrs Jean Sartain who had reached the great age of 99 and may there be many more to come – congratulations Jean.

The next dinner is scheduled for Friday, October 11, and it is advisable to register your names on the board at the club.

The Club Championships are approaching rapidly so make sure that you have read and understand the conditions of play which have been posted around the club.

Melbourne Cup Day, Tuesday, November 5, is also approaching rapidly, and the club will be open that day so watch this space for further information on this event.

LEONGATHA

THE club lost one of its highly respected life members during the week when Graeme Washfold called time out.

Graeme, or Washer as he was affectionally called, was conspicuous by his presence in the clubhouse where he managed to stimulate discussion on whatever was topical at the time.

His bowling was restricted in his later years because of health problems but has left club members with memories of a positive contributor to the sport of lawn bowls.

On Wednesday, the Triples event that was scheduled to be played on that day was cancelled because of the weather, which was the deterrent for the cancellation.

The decision by the match committee was justified as the forecast for the day was for inclement conditions.

The weather forecast authorities have the technology to provide reliable information which clubs can use to make a decision on playing conditions.

On Friday, the club was blessed with amazing weather conditions and the bowlers were keen to perform after being in hibernation over the winter.

The event played was the John Richards Memorial Day and the match committee allowed three bowls each, to roll down the rink.

Another modification was that after five ends were bowled a rotation of players took place – for example, the skip moved down to the lead position and vice versa.

Bowlers accepted the modifications because of the social implications and a good time was had by all.

The Bland family sponsored the event, for which the club is appreciative, and prize money was made available at the end of play. Place getters were as follows:

Winners: Ron Symmons, John White and Bob Brown.

Second: Peter Spark, Bob Snooks and Anna Mark.

Third: Gary Van Sindarin, Sue Symmons and Lloyd Hemphill.

Encouragement Award: Bruce Fidler, Janice Sing and Bob Mark.

A barbecue followed play and being thirsty conditions a cold frothy was rewarding.

The Pennant season begins soon and bowlers who wish to participate should ensure that they have the appropriate uniform and hat, which may be effective at

providing shade but does not meet the Bowls Vic regulation.

A penalty is possible if a shabby hat is worn by a bowler.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

WHAT a glorious day it was at Loch on Thursday.

The clouds were few, the sky was blue, and the sun shone down.

A small amount of wind – direct from the South Pole – kept the day interesting.

The bowlers were signed in by Gillian and John, with the teams being prepared by Clair and Rob.

Trevor made everyone feel welcome as he looked after the kitchen – with help from a few of the lovely ladies.

He also looked after the bar for the thirsty bowlers.

Thank you also to Brad for clearing up outside after the game.

The green was in excellent condition, as were the players.

There were some complaints from the players about the wind chill factor making it feel so cold, but that did not detract from the fun on the green as well as the quality of the bowling.

The winners on 39 points were Laurie Bell (3), Jenny Smith (L), Mark Hanrahan (S) and Brad Tobin (2).

Runners up on a score of 36 were Phil Wright (3), Elaine Williams (L), Peter Gratton (S) and Bill Williams (2).

The best one-game winners on 22 points were Peter Thorley (L), Terry Floyd (3), Steve Edge (S) and Gwen Jeffery (2).

A big call out to Peter and Pauline. Peter is presently in hospital, and the bowlers would all like to pass on their best wishes to him.

The club looks forward to his speedy recovery and early return to bowls.

Next week, the club will be meeting up once more at Lang Lang and look forward to seeing all the usual bowlers there.

Please, can everyone make an effort and be on site by 10am to allow the lovely helpers enough time to prepare the teams.

So, till then, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another good week at the club.

Tuesday saw a Midweek Pennant practice match against Inverloch at Inverloch.

It was good to be back in

uniform and playing under Pennant conditions and to make the day better, the weather was perfect, with no wind.

Wednesday was a washout, with light rain most of the day.

Thursday saw a good turnout on a fine day with a cool breeze.

Friday was the Grand Final holiday, with a number of bowlers taking time to get some practice.

Saturday saw a smaller number of bowlers take to the greens due to the Grand Final.

With an early start, the bowlers were able to play two games and still be able to watch the footy.

There were two teams that were two game winners.

The winners on a countback were Frank Cimino, Sheila Ormerod and Bryan Donohue, with a score of two wins and 29 points and 169 per cent.

The runners-up were Steve Bruynen, Heather Blanch and Alan Bolding with a score of two wins 29 points and 166 per cent.

Bowls this week: Wednesday Turkey Triples at 9.30am, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am and on Saturday a practice match against Inverloch at Wonthaggi for the Bunurong Shield, starting at 1pm, under Pennant conditions and in uniform.

The member's draw went off last Friday night with Peter McBain winning \$80.

The raffles went off well, with Lex Milkins winning the meat tray.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

WHAT an amazing week of bowling with a total of 50 players competing over the week – 24 on Tuesday and 26 on Friday. Tuesday's winners with a plus 22 were Pat Smith, Helen Rook and Jim Rodhi.

Runners-up on plus 10 were Jean Wylde, Fred Demenech and Allan Ireland.

Friday was a day full of fun and laughter with members coming in their AFL club colours.

Winners on the day were with an incredible plus 29 were Barb Culph (Magpies), Allan Ireland (Doggies) and Thelma Kavanagh (Swans).

Runners-up on plus 13 were Jeannie Slocombe (Tigers), Robert McLaren (Blues) and Mario Toffolon (Kangaroos).

A great day was had by all.



Foster Golf Club's junior member Stuart Collins watches on as Kiwi Jones tees off on the par three, 17th.

FOSTER

THIS week on the course, Tuesday Stableford had 12 players.

David “Hutchy” Hutchinson (13) won the day on a count-back from Kevin Flett (11) with 34 pts, and Larry Giddy (17) claimed the second down-the-line ball with 33 pts.

The course was playing very heavy with the recent rain but that didn't stop the consistent scoring, as eight players were separated by just four pts.

Along his way to winning, David Hutchinson was nearest to pin on the sixth while Leigh Roberts was closest on the 13th.

Who loves school holidays? The Foster Golf Club does, and it was fantastic to see some juniors out on the course this week.

In particular, on Thursday the club had two juniors enter the Stableford event, as well as three others who went along with parents.

George Dwyer (25) was playing in his first competition and finished in second with 36 pts, just one point behind the winner, John Stone (21) 37 pts.

Justin Dubignon (17) lost his singles knockout playoff but won the second ball down the line with 35 pts.

As often happens, the winner of the day, John Stone, also took out a nearest to pin (17th) with “Kiwi” Jones winning on the fourth.

Kylie Collins let out a scream that could be heard around the course as she had an eagle on the 18th and emptied the eagle's nest that had been building up for five weeks.

The trend of juniors playing and doing really well continued in the chicken run with Logan Roberts (45) taking a ball down the line with 17 pts.

Winner for the week though was Robbie Lewis (45) who won with a very well-played 19 pts.

The win came on a count-back from John Pruyin (21) with Leigh Roberts (13) 18 pts and Bernie Esser (22) 17 pts taking the remainder of the down-the-line balls.

Jake Pilkington gained bragging rights for the week as he birdied the par three fourth and won himself the nearest-to-pin award.

On Saturday, 18 players got in early and got their rounds in before the start of the AFL grand final.

This week was the Chris Buckland Trophy with 18 players playing a round of Stableford.

Bernie Esser (21) won the day with an elite 39 pts.

Finishing with 37 pts each were the two Neils, Coates (21) as well Henry (22).

Justin Dubignon (17) took home the third down-the-line ball with 35 pts.

Ladies' Medal Day will be postponed for two weeks with Country Week and the Golf Australia spring tournament happening over the next fortnight.

Instead, there will be open Stableford on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as well as the week-long chicken run.

The men will be playing for their medal on Saturday with Neil Henry out to defend his title from last month and aim to win the Trent Price Trophy.

The club wishes its Country Week representatives Chris, Jye, Aaron, Kylie and Beth all the best this week as they head to Bellarine Peninsula to play on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

It was wonderful to see the clubrooms full this week with a long weekend bringing patrons from far and wide.

On Friday night, Chantelle and her team were kept busy as near 100 members and visitors were in attendance for dinner and the member's draw.

Again, the draw jackpotted as the unlucky member was not in attendance meaning that next week some lucky member could walk away \$1050 richer.

With the increase in popularity on Friday nights, the club urges everyone to book a table to avoid disappointment.

The club is also delighted to have the very talented Fiona Curram performing on Friday, October 25, as well as November 22.

She'll be playing live from 8pm until 10pm on both nights and it's sure to be a hit.

Until next week, stay out of the rough. The Caddy.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, September 24.

Stableford: 33 players.

A Grade: Greg Jones (17) 36 pts. B Grade: Tim Morgan (26) 39 pts.

NTPs: first Steve McNamara, 10th Billy Wrigley and 13th Simon Perks.

Thursday, September 26: Stableford: 11 players. Winner: Steve Duffield (16) 38. NTPs: first Neil Spargo.

Saturday, September 28: Stableford: 43 players. Sponsor: Rod Spokes.

A Grade: Roy Fleming (10) 39 C/B. B Grade: Ross Crawford (22) 37 pts.

NTPs: first Peter Johnson, 10th Paul Hopkins and 13th Peter Johnson.

Ladies

UNFORTUNATELY, no golf was played last Wednesday, so the Doris Chambers Foursomes qualifying round has been moved to this Wednesday, October 2.

Last Saturday, it was great to have 11 women play, and the

winner was Diarne Maskell (39) 32 pts.

Johanna van den Heiligenberg (14) was runner-up, 31 pts, and Trudy Olden (33) won a BDTL, 30 pts.

NTPs were Merrissa Cosson first, and Johanna on seventh and 13th.

Welcome back to the women's captain Merrissa, and also to many others who have been away on travels.

Thank you to Kerri Besley who stepped up to the captain's role these past months.

Good luck to Merrissa and the South Gippsland Country Team squad; wishing you all good golfing and an enjoyable time.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, September 24: Stableford.

Seventy-two members and guests played Tuesday's Stableford round.

A Grade winner: Chad Clasby (3) with 38 pts. Runner-up: John Feddersen (16) with 37 pts.

B Grade winner: Timothy McCarthy (19) with 34 pts. Runner-up: Malcolm Legge (18) with 34 pts on a countback.

C Grade winner: Phil Strike (21) with 34 pts. Runner-up: Frank Gill (21) with 32 pts.

NTP 14th: John McInnes. NTP 16th: Craig Hutchinson. NTP second shot fifth: Mackenzie Rod.

Thursday, September 26: 4BBB Stableford.

Sixty-six members and guests played in the 4BBB Stableford event.

Winners: Ryan Leys (Cowes Golf Club) and Nathan Pirouet with 43 pts. Runners up: Paul Luck and Peter Hartigan with 42 pts. Second runners-up: Trevor Steer and Malcolm Legge with 40 pts on a countback.

NTP 14th: Ken Lay. NTP 16th: Steve Foster. NTP second shot fifth: Malcolm Legge.

Friday, September 27: Grand Final Eve Stableford.

A small field of 29 members and guests played Friday's Grand Final Eve Stableford round.

A Grade winner: Stuart Harry (14) with 37 pts. Runner up: Bryan Sword (Future Golf Club) (13) with 35 pts.

NTP 14th: Mark Lafferty. NTP 16th: Mark Lafferty.

Saturday, September 28: Grand Final Day Open Stableford. With a beautiful sunny day and the course springing into life, a field of 75 members and guests played in the Grand Final shotgun start Open Stableford event.

Overall winner: Michelle Roberts (30) with 39 pts.

A Grade winner: Jason Dennerley (13) with 36 pts. Runner-up: Gordon Walling (14) with 34 pts.

B Grade winner: Paul Kennedy (16) with 38 pts. Runner-up:



Tim Morgan was Korumburra Golf Club's B Grade winner on Tuesday, September 24, with 39 points.

Doug Clemann (15) with 38 pts on a countback.

C Grade winner: Ken Wardle (20) with 36 pts. Runner-up: William Fuller (20) with 33 pts.

NTP 14th: Sean Munley at 155cm. NTP 16th: Simon Kaiserman at 190cm. NTP second shot fifth: Andrew Henley at 385cm.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, September 24: Stableford.

A Grade: N. Bickerton (11) 39 pts. B Grade: J. McFarlane (17) 41 pts. C Grade: C. James, (23) 37 pts.

DTL: S. Bickerton 39, N. Traill 38, C. Hogbin, D. Ellwood and G. Renwick 37.

NTP: fourth T. Bradshaw, sixth B. Flanigan, 13th G. Shandley and 16th M. Woodall.

Birdies: fourth W. Reynolds, sixth B. Flanigan, 16th L. Veenman, S. Duff and B. Skinner.

Saturday, September 28: 4BBB.

Day winner: N. Bracecamp and S. Woodall 45 pts.

Runner up: P Woodall and M. Woodall 44 pts.

DTL: R. Matthews and J. McFarlane, and P Draper and S. Hill-Smith 43 pts, N. Baker and T. Baker, and P. Richer and N. Duncan 42 pts.

NTP: fourth S. Duff, sixth N. Bickerton, 13th B. Bradshaw, and 16th M. Woodall.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: September 26, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Ball sweep to 32 C/B. Winner: Ian McNish 35.

Ball sweep: Sam Hovarth 35, Bruce Betts 33 and Chris Wilkinson 32 C/B.

Results: September 26, SR. 36.

Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18.

Ball sweep to 16. Winner: Peter Magnussen 18.

Ball sweep: Paul Cornelis 18, Norm Burne 16 and Andrew Hooton-Shandley 16.

Results: September 28, S.R 71.

Competition: Stableford.

A Grade: Simon O'Halloran 39. B Grade: Keith Ridout 38. C Grade: Paul Cornelis 36.

BDTL to 34 C/B.

Ball sweep: Allan McLean 38, Craig Harvey 36, Graham Ryan 35, Ian Baker 35, Kevin Jamieson 35, Joshua Kilgour 35, Steven Brann 34, Ron Pennefather 34, Glen Turner 34, Jim Jordan 34 C/B.

Eagle: Allan McLean seventh.

NTPs: Robert Geyer second, Allan McLean fourth, Simon O'Halloran propin eighth, Mark Tiziani 13th and Kevin Jamieson money hole 17th.

Wonthaggi Table Tennis

Brown def Blue 6 - 5

WHILST the expectant hall was drooling over the top dogs, boss croc Justin and David “Jolly” Kimmins locking horns, a greater story was about to unfold. Young Cameron “son of Jolly” Kimmins was making his competition debut against his own dad.

In a tense doubles battle, young Cam and skipper Justin took a set 11 nil. Now most sporting rituals include nudity, but this one had a tangent all of its own. Young Cam had won the right to down Dada's daks. The hall was in rapture at the prospect. Then it dawned upon them that the reality of seeing a crotchety farmer in his grassy, cow-stained Y fronts might spill hilarity into R rated horror, especially for the son of Jolly. Despite the trauma of losing a set to nil and nearly his pants to his precocious boy, David, alongside John, won the match in five frantic sets, dignity intact. And got Team Brown the win.

White d Green 6 - 5

This was a brilliant match. Green suffering their first loss in a night full of what ifs and nearlys. If White's Trish 11 to 6 in the fifth v Michael or White's Rocketballs Charley 13 to 11 in the fourth v Andy didn't get the juices flowing, then doubles extraordinaire Family Donohue's 13 to 11 in the fifth v Sven and Andy surely must. Green's Sven remains undefeated in singles for the season after another dramatic five setter v Mark. Nearly as many goosebumps as Jolly and his 11-nil predicament on the neighbouring table.

Black def Yellow 7 - 4

Team Black's Dirk brought along his seven-nation army, that is Jack Duff, to terrorise Team Yellow. What a gruesome twosome. Jack played duff free table tennis, putting Yellow to the sword in a bloodbath.

On Sunday, Wonthaggi rounded up a posse of paddle slingers and ventured down the road to visit our ping pong pals at Traralgon. After four hours of exhilarating play where nicks, edges and nets were acknowledged and forgiven from the first point to the last, Wonthaggi won by a whisker. Thanks aplenty to Traralgon for their grace, hospitality and shared passion for our game. Thank you, Trish, for arranging.

Ladder: Green 16, White 12, Yellow 8, Black 8, Blue 8 and Brown 8.

Leading Players: Sven 15, Justin 14 and David, Mark 12.

Cash splash for clubs

PASSIONATE about local sport? Apply for a sports funding grant says Nationals' MP Melina Bath.

Grants of up to five thousand dollars are available to support community sport and Melina Bath is encouraging local clubs to apply for the latest round of sporting club grants.

Applications for the current round of the Sporting Club Grants Program are open until October 11.

Ms Bath said local sporting clubs are grassroots organisations and receiving a grant can make a big difference.

“Our community clubs are most often run on a shoestring budget and grants can assist to provide the necessary equipment, support for volunteers, coaching, and player development,” said Ms Bath.

“They are a big part of our lives, bringing people together, keeping us active, and providing opportunities for people of all ages to get involved.

“A grant can go a long way in making things easier for clubs to run smoothly while helping to enhance community connection and belonging.”

Clubs seeking a letter of support for their grant application are encouraged to contact Melina Bath's office on 5174 7066 or melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au.

For further information and application guidelines visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding/sporting-club-grants-program.

Charlie gears up for Nationals

WONTHAGGI'S Charlie Moule is heading to the 2024 GWM BMX Racing National Championships after placing fourth at the state level recently.

Competing at Wyndham BMX from September 21 and 22, Charlie competed across two categories in the U12 age group.

In the U12 Challenge (20"), he was awarded his 4v plate for placing fourth in the state.

In the Cruiser class, Charlie placed eighth, earning his 8v plate.

Across the year, Charlie has also competed in the state series, which has taken him to places such as Mildura and Portland.

Over the series of eight events, riders are graded on a points system and Charlie finished second overall in his age group.

A presentation was held on Friday, September 20, just before Charlie was due to compete at the state level.

The Nationals will run from October 7 to October 13 in Perth.

This is set to be a tough competition, and Charlie is aiming for a finals appearance.

The top 20 will move through to the quarter-finals, the top 16 go on to the semi-finals and the top eight make it through to the finals.

As a benchmark, Charlie has also been competitive in the national series throughout the year, which has taken him to Adelaide and Sydney.

In this series, Charlie placed 12th overall.



Charlie Moule at last year's AusCycling BMX Racing National Championships.

Charlie is feeling confident in the lead-up to Nationals, having trained extensively with his dad Peter.

Peter will be competing in the 50-55 age group.

To prepare for these events, the Moule family makes the trip to the Knox BMX Club to train each Monday with a coach.

Charlie can also be seen doing sprints down his street in Wonthaggi.

Charlie first came into BMX racing when he was eligible for the U10s and has loved anything on two wheels ever since.

He was inspired by Australia's recent efforts at the Olympics, which saw 24-year-old Saya Sakakibara claim the country's first-ever gold medal in BMX racing.

Coasters ready for CBL season

WONTHAGGI Basketball Association is set to launch into the new Country Basketball League season.

The teams have been prepping for the season opener – scheduled for Saturday, October 12 – for the last month, with good numbers turning out to preseason training.

The men's Country Basketball League (CBL) side had a practice match against Melton on Sunday, which was a great hit out and an excellent taste of the competition to come.

Wonthaggi's women's side has not had a practice match but has still made a strong start to preseason with a mix of young and experienced players taking to the court.

Both sides are keen for the first match of the season, which will be played against Pakenham at home.

This season, Wonthaggi has a name sponsor in Nika Real Estate and will be playing under the name 'Nika Real Estate Wonthaggi Coasters'.

The association thanked Victoria Wolk and her team for their ongoing support and contribution to the Coasters.

As well as the open men and women's sides, the U18s are performing well.

"Our aim is to continue ensuring we have that pathway for kids to play competition

basketball at a higher level," women's CBL coach Cathy Garnham said.

Cathy has returned to coach for another season, as well as Andrew Mortimore, who is also returning to coach the men's side from last season.

Both sides are looking to go a step further this season, as the women's team lost last season's grand final and the men's side was knocked out in the semi-final.

"We hope to break into finals, but success can be measured in different ways. This season, our focus will be on that pathway to ensure our young talent always has somewhere to play. We want our players to feel like they belong to something and that they are connected to that club feeling. We want to see them enhance their basketball and hopefully celebrate some wins along the way," Cathy said.

Training and games for CBL will be held weekly.

Wonthaggi Basketball Association is also preparing for its domestic summer season.

This is forecasted to be a big season with plenty of teams showing interest in competing.

Registrations have closed, but late registrations can be emailed to registrations@wonthaggibasketball.org.



POOWONG FOOTBALL NETBALL PRESENTATIONS



Seniors: Back (from left): Coach – Dale Carroll, Most Consistent – Zac Gray, Best Utility – Mitch Molloy, runner-up Best & Fairest – Conor Cunningham. Front: Coach's Award – Mitch van't Hof, 100 Game Milestone – Josh Chiavaroli and Most Determined – Alex Henshall. Absent: Best & Fairest – Jack Hazendonk.



Club stalwart Keith Fort received an acknowledgment of his many years of service in many volunteer roles.



Seconds. From left, Coach – Jake Lewis, Best Utility – Jake Peacock, Best & Fairest – Bryce Townsend, Most Consistent – Connor King, Most Determined – Rhys Schulz, Most Improved – Caspian Jackman-Riches. Absent: Coach's Award – Tarkyn Taylor-Wilton and runner-up Best & Fairest – Tim Gallert.



C Grade (from left): Coach – Abbey Kelson, runner-up Best & Fairest – Jazmine Findlay, Best & Fairest – Maddi Wilcox, Most Improved – Tamika Fort, Players' Player – Emily Eenjes and Team Manager – Mackenzie Fort.



A Grade (from left): Best & Fairest – Heidi Burgess, Most Versatile – Mackenzie Fort, runner-up Best & Fairest – Georgia Chiavaroli, Coach – Prue Blackwood and Team Manager – Sally Wilson.



B Grade (from left): Coach – Georgia Chiavaroli, Best & Fairest – Bianca Monson, runner up Best & Fairest and 100 senior game milestone – Bonnie Hendrick, and Team Manager – Samantha Morcom. Absent: Most Versatile – Cayli Lane.



Noah Peacock Best Young Player Award: Rory Nettle. From left, Michelle Peacock, Rory Nettle and Jake Peacock.

DALYSTON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT



The Lal Brosnan Award for Best Club Person at the netball club went to Oona Shepherd.



The Kevin O'Halloran Memorial Trophy for Best Club Person was awarded to Jacquie Armstrong (accepted by her son Louis).



Dalyston Football Netball Club's U11s with coach Alyce Wylie.



Assistant coach Karin Loughran presented Dalyston's C Grade Coach's award to Ashlee Bendall, runner-up Best and Fairest to Emma Main (coach), and Best and Fairest to Brogan Tiziani.



Dalyston's Reserves Best and Fairest was Ben McRae, Most Improved went to Phil Waugh (accepted by his wife Harriet) and runner-up Best and Fairest was Dean Wylie. Absent: John Jones (most consistent) and Owen Luff (coach's award).



Dalyston's D Grade runner-up Best and Fairest Tamara Grieve, Best and Fairest Jessica Rowe and Coach's award recipient Emily Nicoll.



Dalyston's A Grade best in finals was Gemma Thomas (coach), runner-up Best and Fairest was Mataya Maloney, Best and Fairest was Jarney Thomas and the Coach's award went to Olivia Bramley.



Dalyston's U13s Coach's award recipient Brylee Shepherd, runner-up Best and Fairest Zali Loughran, and Best and Fairest Sophie Allan.



Best and Fairest Kathryn Scott, Coach's award recipient Sarah Blundell and runner-up Best and Fairest Oona Shepherd from Dalyston's B Grade.

Dalyston's U15s Coach's award recipient Olive Clifford, Best and Fairest Ruby Morris, and runner-up Best and Fairest Bridie Allan.



Dalyston's U18s award winners were, front from left, Most Valued Player Lincoln Harris, runner-up Best and Fairest Harry Howell, Leadership award Noah Shepherd, Most Improved Max Toler, front from left, Coach's award Angus Rosenow, Most Consistent Bailey Anderson, and Best and Fairest Ed Wines. Absent: MacKenzie Cameron (Coach's award).



Dalyston's U16s award winners, back from left, runner-up Best and Fairest Tom Humphris, Most Versatile Riley Pearson-Rutland, Most Improved Jarvis Hynes, front from left, Most Consistent Jack Howell, and Best and Fairest Malachi Ori. They are pictured with coach Dean Wylie (front far left) and assistant coach Brad Hender (front, far right). Absent: Zack Hughes (Fred Angarane MVP).

Dalyston's U17s Coach's award recipient Jorja Tiziani, runner-up Best and Fairest Millie Brosnan, and Best and Fairest - Khiara Maloney.



Equal third best and fairest Will Clarke and Curtis Murfett (absent), runner-up Best and Fairest Kyle Kirk, Best and Fairest Mitch Hallahan, Most Improved Ben Lewis and Coach's award recipient Joseph Alexander from Dalyston's Seniors.



A Dalyston Football Netball Club life membership was awarded to Geoff Robertson, pictured with President Dave Bell.

LEONGATHA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT



A Grade coach Lyndell Bruce congratulates Amber Walker and Kate Browne on their awards.



The Leongatha FNC Senior award winners included Cade Maskell, Tom Marriott, Jenson Garnham, and Travis Nash.



Winners of the B Grade netball awards included Alicia Marshman, Molly Heber and Kate Sperling.

Parrots award life membership to Marriott and Browne



Winners of the C Grade netball awards included Lauren Redpath (coach) with Elly Egan, Jude Reynolds and Elicia Garnham.



The Leongatha FNC Development Team award winners included Rhett Kelly, Xavier Bolge and Noah Fixter.



Winners of the Under 17 netball awards included McKenna Anderson, Tyla Peters, Lara Gill, Audrey McGannon, Sari Hickey and Kate Sperling (coach).



The Leongatha FNC Under 18 award winners included Isaac Bolge, Klayton McGrath, Ben Fort, Julian Callahan and Campbell Reid.



Winners of the Under 15 netball awards included Willow McGannon, Josslyn Winkler, Claudia Donohue, Stacey Gilliam (coach), Lacey Fennell and Ellison Bickerton.



The Leongatha FNC Under 16 award winners included Shem Hogarth, Alby Logan, Archie Gannon, Angus Livingston and Eamon Berryman.



Winners of the Under 13 netball awards included Alicia Marshman (coach), Georgia Rump, Oliver Bolge and Harley Storr.



Stalwarts of the Leongatha FNC Chris and Kasie Rump shared the Most Dedicated Club Person (netball) award while Chris shared the George Gould Award with Jareth Hume.



Tom Marriott who shared best and fairest honours was also award life membership congratulated by his wife Tess.



As well as the Most Improved and Most Valuable Player awards in the Reserves, Xavier Bolge received the Peter Dixon Award as the Club's Most Promising Senior Player with Joan Dixon and Jack and Karen Ginnane (Dixon).

THE Leongatha Football Netball Club wrapped up a successful season in style last Friday night with the highlight their annual presentation night being life membership for two of the Parrots' playing stalwarts Tom Marriott and Kate Browne.

Both played their 200th games at the top level during the year, earning them automatic elevation to the life members' honour board but for each of them, their long association with the club extends to coaching and other volunteer roles.

Other major awards were as follows: Most Dedicated Club Person (netball): Kasie and Chris Rump. George Gould, Best Club Person: Jareth Hume (absent) and Chris Rump. Peter Dixon, Most Promising Senior Player: Xavier Bolge. Jim Coyle, Club Champion: Alby Logan. Phil Riseley, Most Dedicated Club Person: Sam Forrester (absent). Netball Rising Star: Gemma Meadley.

The netball trophy winners included: U13 netball: Best and Fairest Harley Storr, runner-up Best and Fairest Mikayla Richards, Most Determined Oliver Bolge, Most Improved Georgia Rump. Under 15 netball: Best and Fairest Lacy Fennell, runner-up Best and Fairest Claudia Donohue and Ellison Bickerton, Coach's Award Josslyn Winkler, Most Improved Willow McGannon. U17 netball: Best and Fairest Gemma Meadley, runner-up Best and Fairest Lara Gill, Most Consistent

Audrey McGannon, Most Improved Sari Hickey. C Grade: Best and Fairest Jude Reynolds, runner-up Best and Fairest Elly Egan, Best Team Player Philippa Littlejohn. B Grade: Best and Fairest Alicia Marshman, runner-up Best and Fairest Kate Sperling, Most Determined Molly Heber. A Grade Best and Fairest Emma Allman, runner-up Best and Fairest Kate Browne. Coach's Award Amber Walker, Senior Most Improved Amber Walker.

The football award winners included: U16s Best and Fairest Alby Logan, runner-up Best and Fairest Eamon Berryman, Most Consistent Clayton Quaife, Most Improved Shem Hogarth, Most Determined Angus Livingston, Coach's Award Archie Gannon. U18s Best and Fairest Finn Donohue, runner-up Best and Fairest Nathan Skewes, Most Consistent Julian Callahan, Most Improved Isaac Bolge, Most Determined Klayton McGrath, Coach's Award Campbell Reid. Development (Reserves): Best and Fairest Noah Fixter, runner-up Best and Fairest Rhett Kelly, Most Consistent Ty Hall, Most Improved Xavier Bolge, Most Valuable Player Xavier Bolge, Coach's Award Nick Nagel. Seniors Best and Fairest Jenson Garnham and Tom Marriott, runner-up Best and Fairest Cade Maskell, Most Consistent Jackson Harry, Most Improved Darcy Hume, Coach's Award Travis Nash.



Football and netball is definitely a family affair for Kate and Hayden Browne, all congratulating Kate on her Leongatha life membership.

TARWIN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT



Seniors (from left): Fergus Warren (Best Team Man), Jason Kennedy (Runner-Up Best and Fairest), Ricky O'Loughlin (Most Consistent and Trainers Award), Ben Ellen (Best and Fairest and Thorson Medal), Travis Krause (Most Determined and Runner-Up Best and Fairest) and Harrison Cumming (Most Improved).



A Grade (from left): Bianca Phillips (Coach's Award), Amy Robertson (Best and Fairest), Kate McCracken (Runner-Up Best and Fairest) and Hannah Kelly (Most Improved and Ellen Family Award winner).



U16s Football: Evan Bruning (Most Consistent), Alec Francis (Runner-Up Best & Fairest), Indie Cameron (Best & Fairest), Lachie Cann (Most Determined) and Jacoa Cameron (Best Team Man).



15 & Under Netball: Charlie Hawkins (Runner-Up Best & Fairest), Holly McRae (Player MVP), Harper McRae (Best & Fairest) and Clara Western (Coach's Award).



U14s Football: Aidan McRae (Runner-Up Best & Fairest), Pippa Finlay (Most Improved), Hugh Chalmers (Coach's Award), Levi Orgill (Most Consistent) and Aedan Parker (Best & Fairest).



U12s Football: Archer McRae (Most Improved), Hamish Bright (Best Team Man), Aiden Launder (Most Consistent), Arkie Cameron (Most Determined) and Ned Fitzgerald (Most Reliable).



Best Club Person: Brain Launder.



Reserves (from left): Dave Leggo (Best and Fairest) and Pete Houston (Best Team Man). Not Pictured: Travis Bergmire (Runner-Up Best and Fairest) and George Bountris (Most Consistent).



B Grade (from left): Imogen Lockhart (Best and Fairest) and Jamielee Nye (Coach's Award). Not Pictured: Blaire Bunter (Runner Up Best and Fairest).



C Grade (from left): Tamara Crow (Most Consistent), Rachel Cameron (Best and Fairest), Jackie Kent (Runner Up Best and Fairest) and Katrina Houston (Coach's Award).



Life Member inductees: Tom Williamson, Nick McRae, Natasha McRae and Tom Giroud.



D Grade (from left): Deb Griffin (Runner-Up Best and Fairest), Sam O'Loughlin (Best and Fairest) and Celeste Robinson (Most Dauntless). Not Pictured: Melissa Orgill (Best in Finals).



13 & Under Netball: Scarlett Nye (Player MVP), Mya Gerretzen (Best & Fairest) and Taj Houston (Runner-Up Best & Fairest).

Women kicking goals since way back when

A TREASURED photograph has emerged of local girls in V-neck team guernseys playing Aussie rules football for Wonthaggi more than seventy years ago.

Young women first pulled on football boots for Wonthaggi in the late 1940s when it was no longer considered to be a novelty for women to play footy.

More than once the Wonthaggi women's team would have played against a young men's team as a curtain raiser to the main game.

Captain of the ladies' team, Margaret (Peg) Fletcher (née Keltie) was a tenacious player according to her grandchildren and continues to be a sprightly ninety-seven-year-old living in Mornington.

"Peg was seventeen at the time," explained her granddaughter, Helaine Stanley.

The team photograph was most likely taken in 1944.

"The girls would ride pushbikes over to the football ground, straight from the basketball game to watch the boys play footy."

The names of many of the women in the photograph may well have been lost in time but most worked at the White Manufacturing Company making dresses, remembers Peg.

Audrey Combridge is standing next to Peg (top left) with Betty Stewart.



Wonthaggi Women's Football Club circa 1950. Captain Margaret (Peg) Fletcher (top left).

Margaret's husband Ron Fletcher played twenty-one games for North Melbourne in the Victorian Football League as a six-foot-plus ruckman from 1950 to 1951.

Ron's uncle Les Kew Ming played for North Melbourne in the VFA, and once held the record for the world's longest drop punt, booting a massive sixty-seven-metre punt in front of judges at a kicking contest in 1928 followed by a staggering sixty-six-metre drop kick.

The Fletcher and Kew Ming families are remembered as two local families that were not only skilled but genuinely loved their footy.

Ron Fletcher's mother Florence was the chef at the Whalebone (Taberners) Hotel in Wonthaggi for forty years.

Ladies' football teams were popular until the end of 1953 when women's basketball or netball began to attract more players.

Women footballers owned their own jumpers, shorts, boots, and socks and followed the same draw as men's football.

Dressing sheds for women were not a problem, there simply were none.

A rudimentary pan toilet with a cold water tap that doubled for washing off the mud as well as providing water to cook saveloys for the boys would have been the order of the day.

Peg Fletcher thinks the young women playing football today, are pretty clever.

If you have a family photo and a story you would like to share send it to news@sgst.com.au.



Participants wore their favourite footy colours.

Flipping great fun at Outtrim

THE smell of pancakes and barista made coffee filled the air last Sunday morning at the Outtrim Hall as nearly 100 people came together for a Pan - Kick Breakfast. Dressed in their favourite footy colours, families from all over South Gippsland and Bass Coast including Outtrim, Leongatha, Leongatha South, Korumburra, Inverloch, Waragul, Wonthaggi and one family from Queensland enjoying the morning. Councillors Jenni Keerie and Nathan Hersey were welcome attendees as well as students from Kongwak Primary School.

Organised by the Outtrim Hall committee, guests were treated to pancakes fresh from the frypan. A gourmet selection of toppings was available including strawberries and cream, banana and Nutella and lemon curd made fresh that morning by a guest. Fleming Berries in Korumburra generously donated berries and a selection of jams for the event.

Sharon from 'Coffees Up' offered hot drinks, a perfect accompaniment for the spring morning.

Following the official welcome by hall committee member Ian Curry and organiser Ebony Knox, lucky door prizes were drawn. Outtrim local Brooke Elford took home the major prize, a \$50 voucher at The Middle Hotel in Korumburra. Other winners included Billy and Archie from Buffalo, Indie from Leongatha South, Evie from Berry's Creek and Hugo from Loch.

Over on the cricket ground, it was a scene reminiscent of half time at the 'G'. Children and grownups alike testing their skills using footy gear supplied by Leongatha Auskick. The thud of a football being kicked, the excitement of a youngster successfully hitting the handball target and happy squeals of excitement as dads ran to tackle their sons and daughters could be heard.



Hugo of Loch was a lucky door prize winner.

Perhaps more accurately it was a scene from the popular children's TV show Bluey, where it's the parents having more fun than the children! Some mums commented of the cathartic nature of kicking a ball in an open space, and thankful of the opportunity that the event provided.

Event organisers were pleased with the outcome of the morning, aimed at offering a friendly event suitable for all ages, a chance for the community to come together and an opportunity to showcase the facilities available at the reserve. With tennis courts, an oval, a playground, walking tracks through the bush reserve and hall available for hire, Outtrim is a place suitable for everyone including nature lovers, sporting enthusiasts, dog walkers and families with young children.

Outtrim Hall committee would like to thank local business operators who donated to the event and welcome the community to utilise the facilities available.



Committee members Kellie Walker and Stuart Olsen were kept busy serving pancakes to Harper and Charli and organiser Ebony Knox.

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If interested contact,
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COACHES, WE WANT YOU!
MDU SEASON 2025

MDUFNC is now seeking expressions of interest for coaching positions for the 2025 season for our wonderful family club.

If you are a great leader, passionate, love football/netball, and are driven and determined, we want you! We want to ensure that we have a very successful season in 2025 so if you are interested or know someone who is, we urge you to apply.

We are looking for Coaches for the following teams:

Reserves, Under 18's, 16's, 14's & 12's Football
B Grade, C Grade, D Grade and Under 13's, 15's & 17's netball

Expressions of interest / queries can be emailed to
mdufnc@dcsi.net.au. Applications close October 18 at 5pm

We look forward to hearing from you!

HM12015



Will the Sharks maintain their winning run?

Having won three consecutive A1 titles Phillip Island remain the team to beat once again as cricket returns for a new LDCA season.



2023/24 A1 Premiers, from left, Max Royal, Kohen Beaumont, Tom Niven, George McCausland, Zac Brown, Simon Kirton, front, Eli Richards, Lachlan Cleeland, Daniel Mock, Brodie Johnston, and Shiran Rathnayake. Photo: Peter Cleeland

Gaby leads by example in new cricket team

GABY Hynes is thrilled to be leading Glen Alvie Cricket Club's new women's team as captain/coach in the upcoming 2024/25 season.

The development of a women's side has been a long time coming for the 21-year-old, who started her playing career with the club more than a decade ago.

"I've been playing at the club for the past 12 years. Over the last couple of years, I've really been pushing for more women to be involved. Glen Alvie has never really had enough players for a team. There's always the struggle of being out of town, but recently we've had a lot of girls come through our junior program," she said.

From the junior program, five or six have expressed interest in fielding a women's side with a few mother/daughter combinations.

"The minimum age for the women's team is 14 years old. We have a lot of 10- to 12-year-olds who haven't played cricket with our boys' side, so we are pushing for them to play in our female side," Gaby said.

Gaby has also fostered interest from the Bass Coast Breakers.

"I said they had to come play cricket if they signed me up for the footy," she said.

"It was really good to be in the women's dynamic in sport. It's something I've missed.

"I did a lot of Gippsland Pride stuff and played representative cricket growing up and it was great. Every January, I'd have a group of mates I knew would be there and it was the most fun. It really drove my love for cricket.

"To then have that in footy, I knew it was something I wanted to bring into the summer season."

By Tayla Kershaw

Gaby's passion for cricket began with watching her dad David Hynes play on a Saturday.

She's had a number of highlights during her playing career, including receiving the John Nugent Award.

"It's the most valuable player award for the U18s. That was a real privilege and I felt quite proud of that," Gaby said.

Last season, the Gippsland Pride team came in second.

This felt particularly special to Gaby, as the teams comprised of girls who had been playing together for six years and David coached the team.

"Each year, we'd lose a few girls because of the age differences, but the team we ended up with was phenomenal. It was some of the best cricket I'd ever witnessed and some of the best cricket I'd ever played," she said.

Gaby has competed in a few finals for Glen Alvie, including captaining a men's C Grade side to the semi-finals in 2022/23.

"No one wanted to do it, and I was playing each week, and I wanted to make sure we had someone there. It was good exposure because I'd been coaching for a few years, and captaining was a whole different kettle of fish. I really enjoyed it," she said.

"It was good, especially for the young girls. It didn't quite click how important it was to have a female in the club until one training day they said 'Okay, we have to sit here so we can watch Gaby train and see what we have to do when we grow up'. It made me realise I'm not just the president's daughter or just Gaby, I'm actually a role model. Seeing

those girls run around and now their mum's coming in, it's created a whole new dynamic for the way I see cricket. It's not just there to have a hit, it's to form friendships."

Gaby has had coaching experience from overseeing the junior program for the last four years.

Two years ago, she also took on the coaching role for the U15s.

"They were at a tricky age where they are either going to love cricket or be done with it, so I was focused on creating an environment that made them feel comfortable," she said.

"The majority of those boys have stuck around, and they've invited more of their friends. I've stepped back from that, but I've always turned up for training and helped out where I can with the juniors. Depending on who's closer, I'll go watch one of my brothers in the U15s or U17s. I always try to be at the forefront of it all so the kids can see me.

"The women's team is something we've wanted to do, and I am now in a position where I'm comfortable with driving it and can commit to it. I'm slowly realising how much of a commitment it is, but it's one of those things that is worth committing to."

Gaby said she is excited to see how female involvement is changing the landscape of sport.

"I think this is a time where cricket is not going to die out. A lot of boys have been turning away from cricket because footy has become a full-year sport. I think having the progression we've got now is going to save the sport," she said.

"Women aren't just there to play – they're there for meals,



Gaby Hynes has taken on the role of captain/coach of Glen Alvie Cricket Club's new women's team – a feat that has been a long time coming. Tk01_3924

they'll help clean the rooms, they'll help with the social events, and they'll help make the club a nice, safe environment that they want to be in. That full level of involvement is what is going to save the clubs."

Gaby said her goal for the 2024/25 season is to ensure her team enjoys the challenge ahead and there's enough momentum for the team to continue next season.

"Seeing mums, siblings and friends all get involved – this is a club I want to be a part of," she said.

"I want to see the confidence continue to grow and I don't want anyone to feel like they aren't welcome. I want to drive this towards the way I wanted cricket to be when I started, and I want to see it become better and better."

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 1
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

ONE DAY: ALL GRADES ALL GAMES
START AT 12 NOON

A GRADE, Division 1

OMK v TOWN
OUTTRIM
Tony Flynn
Phillip Island v Korumburra
COWES
Glenn Plymin
Imperials v Club
EAST CAMPUS
Ian Salmon
Nerrena v Koonwarra L/RSL
LEONGATHA TURF
Ashley Stride

A Grade, Division 2

Nyora v Inverloch
NYORA
Shane Moore
Foster v MDU
FOSTER GC
Graham Wightman
Glen Alvie v Kilcunda-Bass
WONTHAGGI TURF
Brad Phillips

B GRADE, Division 1

Inverloch v Club
INVERLOCH TURF
Les White
Korumburra v Phillip Island
KORUMBURRA
Ozzie Williams
MDU v Nerrena
MEENIYAN
Michael Thomas
OMK - BYE

B GRADE, Division 2

Kilcunda-Bass v Foster
BASS 1
Steve Williamson
Glen Alvie v Imperials
GLEN ALVIE
Neil Grabham
Koonwarra L/RSL v Nyora
KOONWARRA
Geoff Parkinson
Town - BYE

C GRADE, Division 1

Town v Korumburra
SCORPION PARK 1
Doug Pell
Kilcunda-Bass v OMK
BASS 2
TBA
Club v Nerrena
McMAHON
Michael Heenan
Phillip Island - BYE

C GRADE, Division 2

Koonwarra L/RSL v Inverloch
LEONGATHA VEL
TBA
MDU v Phillip Island
DUMBALK
Geoff Wyatt
OMK v Nyora
INVERLOCH FG
TBA
Korumburra v Glen Alvie
POOWONG
Tyson Tootell

Subject to Confirmation.
Any prospective
umpires can contact
Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136
or Doug Pell 0404 301 333

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• GLEN ALVIE



Archie Donohue, captain/coach Ben McRae, Matthew Dakin, Jarvis Hynes, Will Simmons and Hugo Luff (front) gear up for the 2024/25 season.

Glen Alvie builds towards success

AFTER losing the A2 grand final, Glen Alvie Cricket Club is hungry to build on last season's momentum.

With the announcement of a new women's team and strong numbers at the few weeks of training at the Korumburra Indoor Centre, the club is looking forward to facing its competition.

Glen Alvie has garnered a reputation for supporting its youth and has continued its commitment with the appointment of 21-year-old Ben McRae as the Senior captain/coach.

Eighteen-year-old Matt Dakin has been appointed vice-captain.

President David Hynes firmly believes backing the younger members is the best way to safeguard the club.

"I think everyone would agree that it's really difficult to recruit," he said.

"We've only got a small pool of players in the entire competition as it is, so we're really conscious of not poaching those players.

"There's a chance we'll have some older players coming back to join us, but it's really up and down out where we are. We are always optimistic, but this year we may struggle for numbers at the higher end.

"However, what it does do is create that opportunity for our young players to have consistent playing time in A Grade."

This season, Glen Alvie will be fielding the full complement of juniors – U11s, U13s, U15s and U17s.

The U15s will be coached by Matthew Donohue and Steven Smith will coach the U13s.

Owen Luff has stepped into the role of junior coordinator, taking over from Hynes after many years.

A Woolies Blast program will take place in the new year.

At senior level, Glen Alvie will field an

- **A2 captain:** Ben McRae
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** None
- **2023/24 A2 finish:** Runners-up
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Stephen Kennedy
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Nathan Findlay

A2, B2 and C Grade side.

For the first time, Glen Alvie will be debuting a women's team, led by captain/coach Gaby Hynes.

Glen Alvie started its preseason at the Korumburra Indoor Centre, but its home ground in Glen Alvie is in good nick with improvements happening around the grounds.

A new pitch will be put down this year and there will be upgrades to the rooms.

"There's a bigger master plan that will be happening over the next few years for some redevelopment to the rooms, which is all looking positive. (Bass Coast Shire) Council have been great," Hynes said.

The club has made a few changes to its committee with a few long-serving members stepping down and new members coming on board.

Andrew Brown has taken over the role of secretary and his son Ned will be looking after the club's social media.

Luff, Darcy Hale and Glenn Moore have also joined the committee.

Off the field, the club is looking forward to its major social events, including its Christmas function, trivia night and family fun day.

Held during the Labour Day long weekend, the family fun day includes live music, yabby races and the ball drop.

• MDU



Captain and coach of MDU's A2 side Joel Sinclair with Mitch McGrath and Jake Palmer who hope to improve and make it to the finals this season.

MDU aiming to get back into finals

LAST season was the first in a few years that MDU didn't make the finals and their aim is to lift their performance and get back to having a go at the premiership.

"We didn't have a very good year last year, it was a bit disappointing," said coach and captain Joel Sinclair.

"We had a few people leave and no one performed as well as we would have liked. Hopefully this year we can bounce back and get back to winning and make it into the finals."

MDU have five teams in the mix this season with A2, B1 and C grade sides competing, as well as junior teams, under 13s and under 14s.

A few of the under 15s will play for another team to help make the numbers as there wasn't enough for a full MDU side.

While there have been a few departures in the junior teams, everyone who played with A2 last season will be back in the side again this season.

A significant returning recruit for A2 will be Tharindu Newa, a solid batsman who played with the side a couple of years ago and has returned to play this season.

The teams leading batsman Paul Le Page won the League batting last year and will be a crucial player for MDU again.

Sam White, a key bowler for the side who suffered a few injuries last year has recovered and should be in good form again for the upcoming season.

Joel said the team are still developing and they are looking forward to the weather improving so they can get some solid training sessions underway and prepare for the season ahead.

"We'll be bringing Tharindu back in which will be good and we'll build towards having a better season and let's just hope we can start on time, not like last season," said Joel.

- **A2 captain:** Joel Sinclair
- **Key recruits:** Tharindu Newa
- **Key departures:** None
- **2023/24 A2 finish:** fifth
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Paul Le Page
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Sam White



MDU's Paul Le Page topped the LDCA A2 batting averages in 2023-2024 and was a member of the team of the year.

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• IMPERIALS



Imperials A-grade batsman Campbell Reid with all-rounder Connor Richards. B10_4024

Hats off to Leongatha Imperials

WITH a hometown derby looming in the second round of Leongatha and District cricket, this weekend Leongatha Imperials are looking to chalk up a decent score at home against Wonthaggi Club before facing Leongatha Town.

“The hometown derby against Town is always a good match,” says A-grade captain Lachie Wright

Imperials were unlucky to miss out on a place in last season’s finals when the match umpire, in a game critical for the Imperials, succumbed to heat stroke in thirty-eight-degree heat and the match was declared a draw.

Imperials finished fifth on the ladder outside finals contention.

Hungry for an early win this time round, Lachie Wright has included a series of indoor training sessions for the Imperials over winter to prepare for the season opener.

Hats off to Imperials for their efforts in encouraging new young players at a junior level.

Juniors moving up the ranks with impressive stats into the senior competition will fill valued roles for both A-grade and B-grade Imperial teams.

- **A1 captain:** Lachie Wright
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** None
- **2023/24 A1 finish:** Fifth
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Mark Lafferty
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Lachie Wright



U15 Oliver Dunlop with Imperials co-captain and junior coach Jack Ginnane. B12_4024

“No new key players recruited this year,” said Lachie.

Imperials have managed to coax Kane Maskell back into the team and all-rounder Blake Van Rooy but will miss batsman Kyle Materi, who looks like being lost to basketball for the summer.

Despite the cold and constant threat of rain early, a

full squad of junior players regularly turn out for U15 training at the Leongatha Secondary College ground led by Imperials A-grade co-captain and junior coach Jack Ginnane.

Imperials B-grade led by captain-coach Sam Vagg are up against Glen Alvie in the first game of the season at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve.

• WONTHAGGI CLUB



Mark McCall, Mitch Thomas, Harold West and Jakeb Thomas at Wonthaggi Club's preseason cricket training at McMahon's Reserve.

Club setting up for a solid season

WONTHAGGI Club is ready to go one better in the 2024/25 season.

Club lost the A1 grand final to Phillip Island last season but is ready to build on its success.

A few players from the grand final team have departed – namely James Sheerin, Ben Walsh, Ryan Birkett and Emmett Dempsey – but the club is hopeful its team of young talent can bring home the flag.

Jakeb Thomas has returned to the side after playing premier cricket with Cranbourne and Dandenong.

He started his A Grade career with Club and has rejoined to play alongside his brothers.

“Our A Grade captain is 22-year-old Joel Brann. We’re looking forward to seeing some success under his leadership as one of the best all-rounders in the competition,” club president Luke McGuirk said.

“(Thomas) will bring a bit of professionalism to the team. We’ve also got young Stewart Beaumont who is building on his career and Alex Geyer, who will be pushing to have another great season.

“We’re also looking to have a good mix of youth and experience in the B and C sides.”

The seniors will be coached by Luke Sibley, now in his second year.

Club will be fielding A1, B1 and C2.

The juniors have also gone from strength to strength, and the club will be fielding U15s, U13s and U11s.

“We are still building our club as much as possible, particularly at junior level,” McGuirk said.

“We haven’t had U15s for three seasons, but in that time, we had two U13s sides. We’re happy to see those players continue

- **A1 captain:** Joel Brann
- **Key recruits:** Jakeb Thomas
- **Key departures:** James Sheerin, Ben Walsh, Ryan Birkett and Emmett Dempsey
- **2023/24 A1 finish:** Runners-up
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Joel Brann
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Mark McCall

on to form an U15s this season.”

The U15s team will be coached by McGuirk.

A Woolies Blast program will also run for young cricketers at the end of October to mid-December.

Club is working hard to add a women’s team to the mix.

“We hope to field a women’s side, it’s something we’ve been working on for some time,” McGuirk said.

“We now have some ladies who have put their hands up to run it and recruit. We’re doing our best to have a team in for this season.”

There have been recent upgrades to the changing rooms to accommodate the growing club.

Club’s social calendar is soon to be released.

“We will be running our Pink Stumps Day again. We had our first one last year and it was very successful,” McGuirk said.

“We’re also looking at having a past players day in recognition of everyone who has supported the club.”

With good numbers turning out to training, Club is set to get the season started.



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• INVERLOCH



Inverloch's Jack Rowe, Rhys Newman, Jay Mottram-Carter, coach Kit Rotthier, Elijah Asbury and Callum Asbury were out at the nets at Thompson Reserve on a Sunday morning in preparation for the upcoming cricket season.

Inverloch building towards success

WITH its sights set on building participation rates, Inverloch is aiming for success this season.

After a tough 2023/24, which saw Inverloch finish up on the bottom of the ladder in A1, the Stingrays were relegated back down to A2.

"That's where we are at this point, but we are pretty young – there's a lot of young players," coach Kit Rotthier said.

"Rhys Newman, Cooper Newman, Ty Debono, Jake Dennerley, Jack Butcher – they're going to be quite a young core in our senior side and hopefully they can have some success."

Rotthier will be coaching Inverloch's seniors alongside Dylan Clark.

Dave Newman, Brett Debono and Warren Stewart will captain A Grade, B Grade and C Grade respectively.

Newman will also be the team manager of the Stingettes, Inverloch's women's team.

"They've been going really well. They've won the last two grand finals," Rotthier said.

"It's been good having everyone come along to train together."

Inverloch had a couple of training sessions at the Korumburra Indoor Centre before starting training out at Thompson Reserve.

"We've got our new bowling machine, which we did some fundraising for, the new nets and we've done some refurbishments to the changerooms," Rotthier said.

"We're hoping to make the most of the resources we've got."

Inverloch is continuing to develop its junior program and will be fielding U11s through to U17s.

Will Rankin will coach the U11s and Newman will coach the U17s.

The club is also looking forward to another successful Woolworths Blast program, as well as a cocktail night on its social calendar.

- **A2 captain:** Dave Newman
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** Andrew Donohue
- **2023/24 A1 finish:** Eighth
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Walter Taberner
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Andrew Donohue



Inverloch's Dean Cashin bowling against Korumburra last November. Z16_4623

• LEONGATHA TOWN



Kate Oates, Davern Goss, club president Cameron Dowling, captain/coach Jesse Giardina, Dean Wilson, Kohen Gillatte and Luke Ashton at Leongatha Town's training session held at the Korumburra Indoor Centre.

Leongatha Town up for the challenge

LEONGATHA Town is in fine form ahead of the upcoming 2024/25 season.

With footy now over for the year, there are healthy numbers heading over to training, promising another successful season for the club.

Last season, Town's A1 side lost in the semi-final to Wonthaggi Club and will be looking to go a step further to a premiership appearance this time around.

Town will be fielding A1, B2 and C1 with Jesse Giardina returning as captain/coach.

The club has managed to retain its A Grade side with the exception of Amila Ratnaike, who has now retired.

Town will also be fielding U17s, U15s, U13s and its women's team.

The women's team is also looking strong with a few new girls looking to play, and will be coached by Natalie Challis, who has a wealth of experience.

Challis played junior cricket in Melbourne and went on to captain Victoria's U18 and U21 sides.

She will also be coaching the U15s and U17s, prepping them to step into the senior sides.

"We've combined our U15s with Koonwarra/LRSL, so they will be Leongatha Town RSL," president Cameron Dowling said.

"We will be looking to pull some of our juniors through A Grade and B Grade now. We want to see them getting up

- **A1 captain:** Jesse Giardina
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** Amila Ratnaike
- **2023/24 A1 finish:** Semi finalists
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Ron Abeysinghe
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Amila Ratnaike

into a higher level of cricket, so that's one of our big aims this season.

"We had a few play a bit of A Grade last year, but this year they will play a lot more. We want to see them get their confidence up and give them a taste of what A Grade is really like."

In another bid to back junior numbers, Town will be combining with Nerrena and the Imperials to run a Woolies Blast program over nine weeks, starting in October.

Off the ground, Town is looking forward to the events on its social calendar, including its Sri Lankan night in November.

Works have also taken place at Leongatha's Scorpion Park.

"We've upgraded the wicket on the second ground, so that will be out of action for another month," Dowling said.

"Other than that, we are looking to extend our club rooms to include female change rooms. We're hoping to get that started in the next couple of months."

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KILCUNDA-BASS



Kilcunda Bass B Grade Captain Raymond Gardiner, Coach Cam Davidson and A Grade Captain Matt Grayson look forward to the 2024 season. Z01_4024

Kilcunda-Bass begins season with strong leadership and new talent

THIS season, the Kilcunda-Bass Cricket Club A Grade team will be led by Matt Grayson, who not only captains the side but also was the leading run scorer last year. His leadership will be crucial as the team looks to improve on their sixth-place finish in Division 2.

The club welcomes exciting new talent, with key recruits Robert Wallace and Shawn Lucas, a former junior player returning to the fold. These additions are expected to bring fresh energy and skill to the team. Unfortunately, the club will miss Riley Duff, who has decided to focus on his family commitments, leaving a gap that the team will need to fill.

Under the guidance of Men's Coach Cam Davidson, the team aims to develop their strengths and improve their game strategy. Meanwhile, the ladies will be led by Aaron Conroy, who is focused on building a competitive team as the club continues to grow its women's program with two ladies' teams. The B Grade will be captained by Ray Gardiner, providing additional support across the senior teams.

This season marks an exciting time for youth cricket at the club, with the introduction of juniors under 11 and 13, and an under 15 team for the first time in years. This focus on junior development will help cultivate the next generation of players, ensuring the club's long-term success.

With a strong foundation, experienced leadership, and promising new recruits, the club is poised for an exciting season ahead. The aim is clear: to improve their standing in the league and foster a supportive, competitive environment across all teams. The club are looking forward to competitive matches as the teams begin training for the season.

- **A2 captain:** Matt Grayson
- **Key recruits:** Robert Wallace and Shawn Lucas.
- **Key departures:** Riley Duff
- **2023/24 A2 finish:** Sixth
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Matt Grayson
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Todd Smith



A Grade player Aaron Conron of Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club during 2024 season training. Z02_4024

KOONWARRA L/RSL



Billy Andrews, Will Cashin, club president Nick Arnup, Kayden Scrimshaw, Adam Drury, Josh Thomas and Alvis Picksons turned out for Koonwarra L/RSL's last training session in the Korumburra Indoor Centre recently.

Ambitious Cougars to storm into A1

KOONWARRA L/RSL is aiming to hold its ground right through the 2024/25 season.

The A2 side claimed a premiership win over Glen Alvie and has moved into A1.

"We started off very slow to the season. We won two games before Christmas and didn't lose a game from there. We went all the way through and won it," club president Nick Arnup said.

"We're back in A1. We haven't been there for a couple of seasons, so it will be good for them to hold on to it, and try to get off the bottom and stay in there for a couple of years.

"We all want to try and get our Bs back into B1."

Koonwarra L/RSL will be fielding A1, B2 and C1 this year and James Rushton is once again the A Grade captain/coach.

The women's side is also looking strong with most of last season's side returning to play again.

"They got into the grand final last year and lost by a run. It was good to see them play a good competitive match against Inverloch and it's great that we will have pretty much the same side again this season," Arnup said.

In the junior program, the club will be fielding U15s, U13s and U11s.

The club will also run a Woolies Blast program, which has been running for a few years now and usually attracts around 16 participants.

The committee has remained the same with Will Cashin the only new addition, and the committee will organise the club's social events for the year based on the fixture.

Around the grounds, the club is refurbishing its cricket nets and has received a South Gippsland Shire Council grant for irrigation works.

There are plans in the pipeline for the new clubrooms and the club hopes to see these plans come to fruition in the next three years.

- **A1 captain:** James Rushton
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** Azhar Mehmood
- **2023/24 A2 finish:** Premiers
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** James Rushton
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Jason Kennedy



Koonwarra L/RSL's Jimmy Rushton was 70 not out off 94 balls and Isuru Darshana 86 not out off 114 balls in the A2 grand final last season. Photo credit: Jodie Arnup.

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• KORUMBURRA



Korumburra Cricket Club's Ben Spicer, president Glen Barrett, Zach Barrett, Shaun McKinnon, A Grade vice captain Tom Crocker and James Dunn are ready for the challenge of the 2024/25 season.

Cobras ready to take on the competition

BACKED by a new leadership team, Korumburra Cricket Club is pumped for the new season.

"We are really looking forward to this year. We have a new captain/coach in Ben Spicer, who has come over from Drouin this year and Steve Hamill is back as vice-captain in the side," club president Glen Barrett said.

"There are a couple of other player options that we are still looking at and working with, so we certainly think we can take a step forward through to competing in the A1 finals.

Spicer will be an asset to the team as an opening batsman and spin bowler, and Hamill is an opening bowler.

Also stepping into a leadership development role is Tom Crocker, who will also be vice-captain.

The club is looking to field sides in A1, B1, C1 and C2.

"We certainly want to be at the top end, but we're all about continuing to drive the development of our junior program. We want to have fun along the way and create a great place for young Korumburra locals to come play cricket," Barrett said.

"We played finals in B Grade last season with a core group of young kids, we're focused on their development moving forward. With four sides, we had 15 or 16 juniors playing in the seniors. We're keen to give them the opportunity to develop their cricket."

Korumburra has good junior numbers and will be fielding a U17s, a U15s and a U13s. A U11s team will be formed if there is interest. The club will also run a Woolies Blast program.

The program will start in November, take a break over Christmas, and finish during the new year.

"We've had more than 25 young kids interested. (Last season) we had a day at St Joseph's Primary School with the Melbourne Stars and more than 80 kids participated," Barrett said.

The club is also looking forward to activities off the field with a jam-packed social calendar.

- **A1 captain:** Ben Spicer
- **Key recruits:** Ben Spicer and Andy Miller
- **Key departures:** Thilakaratna Dilshan and Hemal Ratnayake
- **2023/24 A1 finish:** seventh
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Thilakaratna Dilshan
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Thilakaratna Dilshan

After the last game before Christmas, the club will hold its Chopper Lotto, where a helicopter will drop golf balls and the nearest the pin wins. A golf day will also be held in the new year.

More functions will be organised by the committee, now headed by Barrett after Tim Morrison stepped down.

Linda Jefferis is the secretary and Hayley McKinnon is the treasurer, and they will be joined by new committee members.

"We're looking at what we can do for our new life members. Last year, we announced our first Cobra Legends, so we'll see if we will induct another legend this year," Barrett said.

There is more excitement in the form of the new nets project, which the club is optimistic will be completed soon.

"We're looking forward to building the new nets. There's \$300,000 that the State Government has committed to in the nets project, so we're waiting for that process to work through," Barrett said.

"That'll be a brand-new training facility. It'll be a multi-purpose facility, and the soccer club has provided funding towards it, so we'll be keen to see that come to fruition. We're hopeful, but we like to think that if we can't get it this season it'll be ready for us next season.

"For us as a club and where we are going with our junior program, we want to see the Korumburra Recreation Reserve built with a premier turf wicket and become a premier cricket facility in South Gippsland."

• OMK



Clayton Quaife, Ethan Lamers, Blair Maguire and Ben Maguire at OMK's training at the Korumburra Indoor Centre.

OMK aims high in upcoming season

OMK has its sights firmly set on an A Grade premiership at the end of the 2024/25 season.

The Diggers had a successful run last season, culminating in premiership wins for B1 and B2.

However, the A1 side lost to Phillip Island in the semi-final, and OMK is eager for a grand final appearance.

The club is hoping to field four teams this season – A1, B1 and across the C Grade division.

The seniors will be led by captain/coach Koby Brann, who has been with the club for three years and is taking on the coaching role for the first time.

OMK will be welcoming back a number of players to its senior side.

Ryan Williams will return to the team following a knee injury, and Jesse Van Rooye will be coming back to the club after three years with Mirboo North.

OMK is also looking to showcase its young local talent.

"We've got the young Lamers boys Jacob and Ethan, and also the youngest in the third generation Xav Lamers, in his first year out of juniors. He will be a keen bowler in A Grade and it will be great to see three local lads play in our senior side. It's good to see the local families coming through the club," president Russ White said.

"Jaxon Hayes is another one of our young players who has come out of our juniors. The junior program has been going well. We're a club with no town, so that doesn't always help with the juniors, but we've got the two sides this season so that will keep the club going."

OMK will be fielding an U11s and an U13s team.

A Woolies Blast program will also take place in early November.

OMK's only departure from its senior team is Mudassar Riaz, who has gone to Casey this season.

OMK has been busy preparing for a



Ryan Williams was focused on the ball at OMK's preseason training.

- **A1 captain:** Koby Brann
- **Key recruits:** Ryan Williams, Jesse Van Rooye
- **Key departures:** Mudassar Riaz
- **2023/24 A1 finish:** fourth
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Ethan Lamers
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Mudassar Riaz

successful season.

At the end of last season, the club received a grant from the South Gippsland Shire Council and the State Government to upgrade its training facility and the project is almost completed.

The club is also looking forward to its major functions including the annual Christmas party, the reverse draw and the highly regarded Pink Stumps Day.

With strong numbers at training and a drive for success, OMK is looking forward to launching into the new season.



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2024/25 LDCA CRICKET PREVIEW



• NERRENA



Nerrena has had promising numbers at training in the lead up to the new season. Pictured back from left, Clancy Salmon, James Kelly, Caine Salmon, Josh Trease, Jarrod Hoy, Darcy Berryman, Ben Croatto, Charlie Dougherty, front from left, Tim Wightman, Lachie Roberts, Tom Cameron, Kade Berryman, Mitch Croatto and Eamon Berryman.

Nerrena preps for new season

NERRENA is taking a strong team into the 2024/25 season.

After missing out on finals last season, the league has restructured and Nerrena will be fielding A1, B1 and C1 sides.

These teams will be led by training coordinators Jarrod Hoy, Darcy Berryman and Hayden Funnell, as well as new A Grade captain Tom Cameron.

The club had an A1, A2 and B2 side last season.

A1 finished sixth, A2 came in seventh and B2 lost to Phillip Island in the semi-final.

Nerrena will be aiming for a few more finals appearances at the end of this season.

The club is still working on developing its junior numbers and will be fielding a U15s and U13s side.

"We're not sure about U17s yet. We do have a Woolies Blast program that gets great numbers, which is quite good for the future," Hoy said.

The club's committee has had a bit of a shake-up with three members stepping down, making way for some new, younger faces to help guide the club into the new season.

At this point, the club is still working on its social calendar, focusing on getting a few trainings under its belt to bring a formidable team into round one.

For now, Cameron, Jack Curtis and Ben Stein are Nerrena's only new recruits, with discussions still going on at the time of printing.

"With a few more players, our team should be looking pretty healthy this season," Hoy said.

- **A1 captain:** Tom Cameron
- **Key recruits:** Tom Cameron, Jack Curtis and Ben Stein
- **Key departures:** None
- **2023/24 A1 finish:** sixth
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Mitch Clark
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Tim Wightman



Roy Checkley showed great batting technique last season for the Red Caps.

• FOSTER



Foster players look forward to the season ahead. Back row: Jake Best, Brandon Busuttill, Brad Coates and Josh Toner. Front row: Gurinder Singh, Greg Smith and Jake Pilkington. A07_4024

Tigers look to build on semi final finish

JOSH Toner will captain Foster's A2 side again this season as it strives to build on last year's impressive campaign in which it reached a Semi Final, and he will run training with Jake Best.

With no key departures and a few arrivals, the Tigers should again be a contender.

"We'll just be looking to have another solid season, keep as many of the boys together as we can and hopefully we can get to the finals again and put in another good effort there," club president Mitch Allott said.

Top order batsman and part time medium pace bowler Ollie Rook, who is in his late teens, is venturing from England, finding his way to the club through a contact of Best.

Michael Cooke is returning to cricket after a break, having at one stage played for OMK, and is set to bat in the Tigers' middle order.

Ex-AFL player and Foster boy Brett Eddy who was a junior cricketer at the club and went on to play Premier Cricket is set to play a big role this season after one game for the Tigers last campaign.

Left handed middle order batsman Nathan Nicholls has also joined Foster having played for Bingenwarri.

The Tigers will also field a side in B2 competition, with quick right arm bowler Tom Littore boosting the ranks as he arrives from Nambrok, near Rosedale.

- **A2 captain:** Josh Toner
- **Key recruits:** Ollie Rook, Michael Cooke, Nathan Nicholls
- **Key departures:** None
- **2023/24 A2 finish:** Semi finalists
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Josh Toner
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Jack Weston



Jake Pilkington practises his batting. A08_4024



Top order batsman Ollie Rook recently arrived from England to play for Foster.



Foster captain Josh Toner in action at training. A10_4024

• VETERANS

Goannas dust off their bats for new season

AS THE new cricket season approaches rapidly, the Gippsland Goannas Veterans are dusting off their equipment.

The club will again field three teams in the Veterans Cricket Victoria competitions, with a team in each of the Over-50, Over-60 and Over-70 sections.

As a prelude the Goannas recently held their AGM, with Neil Meredith again elected as President,

Ray Floyd as Vice-president, Ian Gibson as Secretary and Ray Smith as Treasurer. Peter Anton has been elected to the committee, with a rep from the Over-50 team to also be appointed.

One of the first tasks of the new committee will be to appoint captains for each of these teams.

All players will have to re-register with PlayHQ before the season starts.

The first game for the season will be on Sunday October 6, with the Over-70 team due to travel to Geelong.

The Over-60 competition will start the following Sunday with an away game against the new Baw Baw team.

The Over-50 draw has yet to be finalised, but we hope to have some information to pass on soon for this team.



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• PHILLIP ISLAND



Phillip Island Cricket Clubs George McCausland, Heath Womersley, Jobe Williams, Connor Epifano, Justin Tran and Max Arceo training for the 2024 season. Z03_3924

A Grade Premiers gear up for 2024/25

AS the A Grade Premiers gear up for the 2024 season, there's a palpable sense of excitement mixed with the challenges of key player departures. Under the leadership of Captain Daniel Mock, the team aims to build on their successful campaign from last year, where they clinched the championship.

The team will have to adjust to the loss of some pivotal players:

- Shiran Rathnayake (Koo Wee Rup): The standout bowler with 32 wickets last season, his absence will be felt in the bowling lineup.
 - Eli Richards (Catani): A solid performer who contributed to the team's depth.
 - Simon Kirton (Retired): A veteran presence whose experience will be missed both on and off the field.
- Despite these losses, the team retains some crucial assets:
- Daniel Mock: Not only is he the captain, but he also led the batting charts last season with an impressive 933 runs. His form will be essential for the team's batting stability.

In the lead-up to the new season, the focus during

- **A1 captain:** Daniel Mock
- **Key recruits:** None
- **Key departures:** Shiran Rathnayake, Eli Richards, Simon Kirton
- **2023/24 A1 finish:** Premiers
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Daniel Mock
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Shiran Rathnayake



A Grade Captain and previous season leading batsman with 933 runs, Daniel Mock.

training will be on:

- **Bowling Reinforcements:** Filling the gap left by Rathnayake will be crucial.
- **Batting Depth:** While Mock leads the charge, building a robust batting lineup to support him will be vital.
- **Team Cohesion:** With changes in personnel, fostering strong team dynamics will be a priority.

As the season approaches, the A Grade Premiers

will aim to leverage their experience while integrating fresh talent and leading the way for the juniors. The ambition remains clear to defend their title and continue their winning tradition. With strategic planning and effective training, they are poised to make a strong start to the 2024 season.

Shark fans will be keen to see if they can maintain their championship momentum. Exciting times lie ahead!

• NYORA



Aidan Simmons, captain Jake Henry, Jy Hull, coach Aaron Kaddatz and Krystin Wurzbacher are among those enjoying Nyora Cricket Club's strong start to the new season

Nyora in top shape for this Summer

IN THE lead up to the 2024/25 cricket season, Nyora Cricket Club is in the strongest position it has ever been.

With more than 20 people turning out to train each week and plenty of new recruits, Nyora is looking for field three sides – A2, B2 and C Grade.

Nyora's new recruits include Jy Hull, Reece Cordeux, Bailey Henderson, Viraj Madusanka, Nathan Thatcher, Tully Bernaldo, Kevin Maclean, Jaylen Waixel, Ryan Nestoriwsky and Sam Henry.

The Hackett brothers Gavin and Jake are Nyora's only departures.

Training has taken place outdoors for the last two weeks despite the weather, and the ground is holding up well ahead of the new season.

Nyora's A2 side finished the previous season on top of the ladder but was knocked out of the semi-final by Glen Alvie.

This season's senior side will be coached by Aaron Kaddatz and captained by Jake Henry.

This will be Henry's first season as A Grade captain.

Across the rest of the club, the junior program is going well and Nyora will be entering U11s, U13s and U15s.

A Woolies Blast program will also be run by the club to generate more junior numbers.

The women's team is also making a positive start to the season with 12 players ready to launch into the new competition.

The committee has remained unchanged, with the exception of Gus MacDonald stepping into the role of vice-captain.

The committee has a few events in the works for Nyora, but most notably the club is looking forward to its Halloween night.

This event will be hosted by the club on October 26.

The club has had no upgrades to its grounds during the offseason but hopes

- **A2 captain:** Jake Henry
- **Key recruits:** Jy Hull, Reece Cordeux, Bailey Henderson, Viraj Madusanka, Nathan Thatcher, Tully Bernaldo, Kevin Maclean, Jaylen Waixel, Ryan Nestoriwsky and Sam Henry
- **Key departures:** Gavin and Jake Hackett
- **2023/24 A2 finish:** Semi finalists
- **2023/24 leading batsman:** Henry Dolphin
- **2023/24 leading bowler:** Aaron Kaddatz



Nyora's Aaron Thompson at training.

to refurbish the nets in the near future.

Membership is going well, and the club is excited to see what all the new faces bring to the upcoming season.

"At this stage, we are just hoping to field three teams across A, B and C Grade – that would be ideal," Kaddatz said.

"Other than that, we just hope to be in a good position at the pointy end of the season."



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A GRADE

DIVISION 1

Round 1 - October 5

OMK v Town	Outtrim
P-Island v Korumburra	Cowes
Imperials v Club	E. Campus
Nerrena v Koon L/RSL	Leon. Turf

Round 2 - October 12

Koon L/RSL v P-Island	Leon.Turf
Club v OMK	Won.Turf
Town v Imperials	Scorpion 1
Korumburra v Nerrena	K'burra

Round 3 - October 19

Imperials v P-Island	Leon. Turf
Korumburra v Club	K'burra
Nerrena v OMK	Nerrena
Town v Koon L/RSL	Scorpion 1

Round 4 - October 26

P-Island v Town	Cowes
OMK v Korumburra	Outtrim
Koon L/RSL v Imperials	Leon.Turf
Club v Nerrena	Won.Turf

Round 5 - Nov. 9 & 16

Town v Korumburra	Scorpion 1
Koon L/RSL v Club	Koonwarra
Imperials v OMK	Leon. Turf
P-Island v Nerrena	Cowes

Round 6 - Nov. 23 & 30

Nerrena v Town	Leon. Turf
Club v P-Island	Won.Turf
Korumburra v Imperials	K'burra
OMK v Koon L/RSL	Outtrim

Round 7 - Dec. 7 & 14

Koon L/RSL v K'Burra	Koonwarra
Town v Club	Scorpion 1
P-Island v OMK	Cowes
Imperials v Nerrena	Leon. Turf

SEMI FINALS: Saturday & Sunday, March 22 & 23
GRAND FINAL: Saturday & Sunday, March 29 & 30

Round 8 - Dec. 21

Korumburra v Town	K'burra
Club v Koon L/RSL	Won. Turf
OMK v Imperials	Outtrim
Nerrena v P-Island	Leon. Turf

Round 9 - January 11

Town v Nerrena	Scorpion 1
P-Island v Club	Cowes
Imperials v K'Burra	E. Campus
Koon L/RSL v OMK	Leon.Turf

Round 10 - January 18

K'Burra v Koon L/RSL	K'burra
Club v Town	Won.Turf
OMK v Phillip Island	Outtrim
Nerrena v Imperials	Leon. Turf

Round 11 - Jan. 25 & Feb. 1

Town v OMK	Scorpion 1
K'Burra v P-Island	K'burra
Club v Imperials	Won.Turf
Koon L/RSL v Nerrena	Leon.Turf

Round 12 - Feb. 8 & 15

P-Island v Koon L/RSL	Cowes
OMK v Club	Outtrim
Imperials v Town	E. Campus
Nerrena v K'Burra	Leon. Turf

Round 13 - Feb. 22 & Mar. 1

P-Island v Imperials	Cowes
Club v Korumburra	Won. Turf
OMK v Nerrena	Outtrim
Koon L/RSL v Town	Leon.Turf

Round 14 - March 8 & 15

Town v P-Island	Scorpion 1
Korumburra v OMK	K'burra
Imperials v Koon L/RSL	Leon. Turf
Nerrena v Club	Nerrena

A GRADE

DIVISION 2

Round 1 - October 5

Nyora v Inverloch	Nyora
Foster v MDU	Foster GC
Glen Alvie v K-Bass	Won. Turf

Round 2 - October 12

MDU v Glen Alvie	Meeniyen
K-Bass v Nyora	Bass
Inverloch v Foster	Inv. Turf

Round 3 - October 19

MDU v Nyora	Meeniyen
K-Bass v Inverloch	Bass
Glen Alvie v Foster	Won.Turf

Round 4 - October 26

Inverloch v MDU	Inv. Turf
Nyora v Glen Alvie	Nyora
Foster v K-Bass	Foster GC

Round 5 - Nov. 9 & 16

MDU v K-Bass	Meeniyen
Foster v Nyora	Foster GC
Glen Alvie v Inverloch	Won.Turf

Round 6 - Nov. 23 & 30

Inverloch v Foster	Inv.Turf
MDU v Glen Alvie	Meeniyen
K-Bass v Nyora	Bass

Round 7 - Dec. 7 & 14

Nyora v Inverloch	Nyora
Foster v MDU	Foster GC
Glen Alvie v K-Bass	Won. Turf

SEMI FINALS: Saturday & Sunday, March 22 & 23
GRAND FINAL: Saturday & Sunday, March 29 & 30

Round 8 - Dec. 21

K-Bass v MDU	Bass
Nyora v Foster	Nyora
Inverloch v Glen Alvie	Inv. Turf

Round 9 - January 11

MDU v Nyora	Meeniyen
K-Bass v Inverloch	Bass
Glen Alvie v Foster	Glen Alvie

Round 10 - January 18

Inverloch v MDU	Inv. Turf
Nyora v Glen Alvie	Nyora
Foster v K-Bass	Foster GC

Round 11 - Jan. 25 & Feb. 1

Inverloch v Nyora	Inv. Turf
MDU v Foster	Meeniyen
K-Bass v Glen Alvie	Bass

Round 12 - Feb. 8 & 15

Glen Alvie v MDU	Won. Turf
Nyora v K-Bass	Nyora
Foster v Inverloch	Foster GC

Round 13 - Feb. 22 & Mar. 1

Nyora v MDU	Nyora
Inverloch v K-Bass	Inv. Turf
Foster v Glen Alvie	Foster GC

Round 14 - March 8 & 15

K-Bass v Foster	Bass
Glen Alvie v Nyora	Won. Turf
MDU v Inverloch	Meeniyen

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

Round 1 - October 5

Inverloch v Club	Inv. Turf
K'Burra v P-Island	K'burra
MDU v Nerrena	Meeniyen
OMK - BYE	

Round 2 - October 12

Nerrena v Korumburra	Nerrena
OMK v Inverloch	Outtrim
P-Island v MDU	Cowes
Club - BYE	

Round 3 - October 19

Inverloch v Korumburra	Inv. Turf
OMK v Nerrena	Outtrim
P-Island v Club	Cowes
MDU - BYE	

Round 4 - October 26

Korumburra v OMK	K'burra
Club v MDU	McMahon
Nerrena v Inverloch	Nerrena
Phillip Island - BYE	

Round 5 - Nov. 9 & 16

Korumburra v MDU	K'burra
OMK v P-Island	Outtrim
Nerrena v Club	Nerrena
Inverloch - BYE	

Round 6 - Nov. 23 & 30

Club v Korumburra	McMahon
P-Island v Inverloch	Cowes
MDU v OMK	Dumbalk
Nerrena - BYE	

Round 7 - Dec. 7 & 14

Nerrena v P-Island	Nerrena
Inverloch v MDU	Inv. Turf
OMK v Club	Outtrim
Korumburra - BYE	

SEMI FINALS: Saturday & Sunday, March 22 & 23
GRAND FINAL: Saturday & Sunday, March 29 & 30

Round 8 - Dec. 21

MDU v Korumburra	Meeniyen
P-Island v OMK	Cowes
Club v Nerrena	McMahon
Inverloch - BYE	

Round 9 - January 11

OMK v MDU	Outtrim
Korumburra v Club	K'burra
Inverloch v P-Island	Inv. Turf
Nerrena - BYE	

Round 10 - January 18

Club v OMK	McMahon
MDU v Inverloch	Meeniyen
P-Island v Nerrena	Cowes
Korumburra - BYE	

Round 11 - Jan. 25 & Feb. 1

P-Island V Korumburra	Cowes
Nerrena v MDU	Nerrena
Club v Inverloch	McMahon
OMK - BYE	

Round 12 - Feb. 8 & 15

Inverloch v OMK	Inv. Turf
MDU v P-Island	Meeniyen
Korumburra v Nerrena	K'burra
Club - BYE	

Round 13 - Feb. 22 & Mar. 1

K'Burra v Inverloch	K'burra
Nerrena v OMK	Nerrena
Club v P-Island	McMahon
MDU - BYE	

Round 14 - March 8 & 15

OMK v Korumburra	Outtrim
Inverloch v Nerrena	Inv. Turf
MDU v Club	E. Campus
Phillip Island - BYE	

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

Round 1 - October 5

K-Bass v Foster	Bass
Glen Alvie v Imperials	Glen Alvie
Koon L/RSL v Nyora	Koonwarra
Town - BYE	

Round 2 - October 12

Imperials v Town	E. Campus
Foster v Koon L/RSL	Foster GC
Nyora v K-Bass	Nyora
Glen Alvie - BYE	

Round 3 - October 19

Glen Alvie v K-Bass	Glen Alvie
Koon L/RSL v Town	Koonwarra
Foster v Imperials	Foster GC
Nyora - BYE	

Round 4 - October 26

Glen Alvie v Nyora	Glen Alvie
Town v Foster	Scorpion 1
Imperials v Koon L/RSL	E.Campus
K-Bass - BYE	

Round 5 - Nov. 9 & 16

K-Bass v Koon L/RSL	Bass
Nyora v Imperials	Nyora
Glen Alvie v Town	Glen Alvie
Foster - BYE	

Round 6 - Nov. 23 & 30

Town v Nyora	Scorpion 1
Imperials v K-Bass	E. Campus
Foster v Glen Alvie	Foster GC
Koonwarra L/RSL - BYE	

Round 7 - Dec. 7 & 14

Nyora v Foster	Poowong
K-Bass v Town	Bass
Glen Alvie v Koon L/RSL	G-Alvie
Imperials - BYE	

SEMI FINALS: Saturday & Sunday, March 22 & 23
GRAND FINAL: Saturday & Sunday, March 29 & 30

Round 8 - Dec. 21

Koon L/RSL v K-Bass	Koonwarra
Imperials v Nyora	E. Campus
Town v Glen Alvie	Scorpion 1
Foster - BYE	

Round 9 - January 11

Nyora v Town	Nyora
Glen Alvie v Foster	Dalyston
K-Bass v Imperials	Bass 2
Koonwarra L/RSL - BYE	

Round 10 - January 18

Town v K-Bass	Scorpion 1
Foster v Nyora	E. Campus
Koon L/RSL v Glen Alvie	K'warra
Imperials - BYE	

Round 11 - Jan. 25 & Feb. 1

Nyora v Koon L/RSL	Nyora
Imperials v Glen Alvie	E. Campus
Foster v K-Bass	Foster GC
Town - BYE	

Round 12 - Feb. 8 & 15

K-Bass v Nyora	Bass
Town v Imperials	Scorpion 1
Koon L/RSL v Foster	Koonwarra
Glen Alvie - BYE	

Round 13 - Feb. 22 & Mar. 1

K-Bass v Glen Alvie	Bass
Imperials v Foster	E. Campus
Town v Koon L/RSL	Scorpion 1
Nyora - BYE	

Round 14 - March 8 & 15

Foster v Town	Foster GC
Nyora v Glen Alvie	Nyora
Koon L/RSL v Imperials	K'warra
K-Bass - BYE	

C GRADE

DIVISION 1

Round 1 - October 5

Town v Korumburra	Scorpion 1
K-Bass v OMK	Bass 2
Club v Nerrena	McMahon
Phillip Island - BYE	

Round 2 - October 12

OMK v Club	Digger Pk
Korumburra v K-Bass	Poowong
P-Island v Town	Rhyll
Nerrena - BYE	

Round 3 - October 19

K-Bass v P-Island	Bass 2
Club v Korumburra	McMahon
Nerrena v OMK	Leon.Vel
Town - BYE	

Round 4 - October 26

Korumburra v Nerrena	Poowong
P-Island v Club	Rhyll
Town v K-Bass	TBA
OMK - BYE	

Round 5 - November 9

Club v Town	McMahon
Nerrena v P-Island	Leon.Vel
OMK v Korumburra	Digger Pk
Kilcunda-Bass - BYE	

Round 6 - November 16

Nerrena v K-Bass	Leon.Vel
OMK v Town	Digger Pk
Korumburra v P-Island	Poowong
Club - BYE	

Round 7 - November 23

P-Island v OMK	Rhyll
Town v Nerrena	Scorpion 2
K-Bass v Club	Bass 2
Korumburra - BYE	

Round 8 - November 30

Korumburra v Town	Poowong
OMK v K-Bass	Digger Pk
Nerrena v Club	Nerrena
Phillip Island - BYE	

Round 9 - December 7

Club v OMK	McMahon
K-Bass v Korumburra	Bass 2
Town v P-Island	Scorpion 2
Nerrena - BYE	

Round 10 - December 14

P-Island v K-Bass	Rhyll
Korumburra v Club	Korumburra
OMK v Nerrena	Digger Pk
Town - BYE	

Round 11 - December 21

Club v P-Island	McMahon
Nerrena v Korumburra	Nerrena
K-Bass v Town	Bass 2
OMK - BYE	

Round 12 - January 11

Town v Club	Scorpion 2
P-Island v Nerrena	Rhyll
Korumburra v OMK	Poowong
Kilcunda-Bass - BYE	

Round 13 - January 18

K-Bass v Nerrena	Bass 2
Town v OMK	Scorpion 2
P-Island v Korumburra	Rhyll
Club - BYE	

Round 14 - January 25

OMK v P-Island	Digger Pk
Nerrena v Town	Leon.Vel
Club v K-Bass	TBA
Korumburra - BYE	

Round 15 - February 1

Town v Korumburra	Scorpion 2
K-Bass v OMK	Bass 2
Club v Nerrena	TBA
Phillip Island - BYE	

Round 16 - February 8

OMK v Club	Digger Pk
Korumburra v K-Bass	Poowong
P-Island v Town	Rhyll
Nerrena - BYE	



Phillip Island's Bernard Huigsloot was part of an Australian team competing at the 2024 World Waveski Surfing Championships in East London, South Africa.

Bernard secures Legends Title

PHILLIP Island's Bernard Huigsloot was on top of the podium at the 2024 World Waveski Surfing Championships held in East London, South Africa.

Branded as "Reef Royalty", Bernard competed in the Legends category for men over 60 and secured the title.

"It was held at a place called Nahoon Reef and I went because I like surfing windbreaks," he said.

"It was a 10-day competition,

By Tayla Kershaw

which included a whole lot of different age groups, including an adaptive category, which was really good to see."

Bernard first competed in the open section, but was knocked out early.

"I got through two heats and then bang, I was out. It was small on the day, and I don't surf smaller waves well," he said.

"In my category – which was

the over 60s category called the Legends – I only had to surf once. They put us all in one big, long heat."

Bernard came out on top and won the Legends title and was nicknamed 'the Comeback Kid'.

"I haven't gone in a contest for a lot of years. I went in the World Titles in 1987 – that was the last time I competed in a World Title," he said.

The allure of 'Reef Royalty' motivated Bernard to compete in South

Africa this time around.

"It was a fantastic experience. For us, Tania (Bernard's wife) and I did a bit of sightseeing in Cape Town initially, then we drove down towards East London," he said.

"East London has a reputation of being a major reef break and significant waves were promised. I just turned 60 last year and I thought 'Let's give it a crack'. I thought I had a good shot at it.

"It was a pretty big thing. Prior

to the contest, they had a massive display where they got all the contestants – around 120 all up – and they had a massive flag parade that went down the beach and through town."

South Africa has been a competition location on Bernard's list for quite some time.

Eight years ago, he had tickets booked for a competition but suffered arm dislocations in the lead-up.

Continued page 47





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