



No injuries in fearful VLine bus crash at Foster

The 9.02am Southern Cross to Yarram VLine bus, carrying 12 passengers and a driver at the time of the crash, plunged off the Fish Creek Foster Road shortly before midday on Monday. See page 3.

Bail laws hit home

DURING the last sitting day of State Parliament, on Thursday, September 11, there was quite a to do about two 14-year-olds being released on bail at Mildura.

One was a 14-year-old girl accused of home invasion, who had already been cautioned 14 times by police and the second, a 14-year-old boy who stole a woman's car during a home invasion before hitting speeds of 140km/h while on bail.

Police and the magistrate acknowledged it was a "tragedy waiting to happen", but still bailed the alleged offender.

It promoted a series of questions to the Premier Jacinta Allan, including from the Member for Mildura Jade Benham.

"The Premier says her government has made changes so that 'community safety comes first in all bail-making decisions'. How was community safety put first in this case?" asked Ms Benham.

There have been such cases locally, involving young teenagers, released on bail multiple times, only to go out and reoffend time and time again. And a high-profile case last Friday in Melbourne, where a 15-year-old, charged with five armed robberies was released on bail so he could go on a European holiday with his family.

"In answering the Member for Mildura's question, I reiterate what I have said in previous answers, that this Parliament has passed tougher bail laws that have made it absolutely clear to all bail decision makers across the justice system that community safety must come first. Indeed, following that, I know that the Attorney has directly raised this requirement from the new legislation with the courts, and I will ask the Attorney to reiterate that position with the courts once again," said Premier Allan.

Whatever the Opposition and media might say, Korumburra Magistrate Stephen Lee, at least, got the memo.

In making his decision last Thursday to refuse an application for bail by a local man who has already spent 68 days in custody, waiting for his family violence charges to be heard, he even referenced the recent changes to the Bail Act.

Continued page 3

SWIFT EXIT FOR CRUGNALE

IN THE inimitable words of Taylor Swift, the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, but baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake it off!

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale didn't say that when she announced last week that she would not be contesting the November 2026 election after two stellar terms as our local MP.

But she alluded to the former Tay Tay Number 1 Hit, which we guessed was "Shake it off", when asked by the Sentinel-Times this week why she wasn't standing again and what she was doing next.

Her response included her plans, which might include a mature-age apprenticeship as an electrician, but also a reference to Taylor Swift which might say something about the public pressures that exist for an MP representing a highly marginal seat in the age of desk-top warriors and social media trolls.

"Thank you to everyone that has left such kind words on my Facebook page, called and sent emails. I have been really taken aback," said Ms Crugnale of the supportive feedback she received.

But in an electorate where the 49,000

voters are split equally into three camps, those who vote Labor, those who vote Liberal and those who vote for someone else, but in 2022, preferred Ms Crugnale by just 202 votes, you're bound to have a divergence of opinion.

"For those that are commenting that I am finishing up because I have read the room – well, what can I say? The odds last election were almost 5:1 against – I didn't do a runner, I threw everything into it with an amazing branch, members and supporters around me. There's a very apt Taylor Swift song one can insert here!"

So, "the haters gonna hate", but representing the most marginal seat in the state, as part of the government of the day, has paid off for Bass.

Among the positive sentiments on Ms Crugnale's own Facebook page was the following by former Bass Coast Mayor, council colleague and 2018 State Election opponent, Clare Le Serve:

• Clare Le Serve: Oh, that's sad news but what an amazing representative for our

community. Job well done, Jordan. I take my hat off to you for having the courage to stand and represent your community. We have never had the political attention in the Seat of Bass. Go in peace.

The negative comments may have been removed from Ms Crugnale's page, but a number still exist on the Sentinel-Times' Facebook page which reflect the sentiments Ms Crugnale was referring to, as follows:

- Andy Boldiston: She has seen the writing on the wall.
- Ben Hurst: Photo opportunities must have run out.
- Amber Lucas: Woohoo, best news ever. But positive messages too:
- Lindsay John: Hi Jordan, thank you. You have been a good friend of the Inverloch RSL.
- Amanda McMahon: Thank you, Jordan. Your tireless work has provided hospitals, school, kindergartens, and funded community organisations. You have always respectfully put community first.

Continued page 3

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Swift exit for Crugnale

- Baby, I'm just gonna shake it off

From page 1

Ms Crugnale's efforts, over the past seven years, as the local Member for Bass, and before that as Mayor of Bass Coast, also attracted high praise from the Premier Jacinta Allan.

While acknowledging the key role Ms Crugnale played in the redevelopment of the Wonthaggi Hospital, the establishment of a new junior secondary college at San Remo and the development of a new community hospital at Cowes, Ms Allan said "Jordan embodies Labor values in everything she does".

"The Member for Bass, has advised me she will not be seeking re-election in 2026," said the Premier.

"The daughter of Italian immigrants, she grew up with a strong sense of fairness, and has always cared about social justice.

"Her dad was a builder, who knew the importance of laying a solid foundation, and getting things right.

"As Jordan told the Parliament, it's both a lesson for life, and a Labor story: laying the foundations, doing the hard work, and building something together.

"Jordan was elected to the Parliament in 2018, having already served on the Bass Coast Shire Council, and as Mayor.

"Serving her community opened her eyes to the growing disadvantage many were facing.

"Jordan saw high rates of family violence, low rates of school completion, and older Victorians who were taking long bus trips to hospital with their X-rays under their arm.

"She saw that too many families were struggling to put food on the table, and suffering housing stress.



Bass MP Jordan Crugnale has called time on her political career, but not for the reason that some have suggested.

"And motivated by her sense of fairness, inclusion and opportunity, she put her hand up to fight for them.

"Jordan knew what her community needed – and what a Labor Government could deliver for them.

"As their Labor Member for Bass, she has delivered funding for programs or upgrades to more than 20 schools – including a new Bass Coast Junior Secondary College.

"A better bigger Wonthaggi hospital is now open, doubling the hospital's surgery capacity and giving locals the opportunity to get the care they need closer to home.

"A new community hospital is also on the way and a new ambulance station is already open.

"She's delivered dozens of community sport upgrades and equipment grants across Bass, making sure local kids can discover their passion for footy and cricket and netball and basketball in their own neighborhoods.

"Jordan loves the beautiful environment and coastline of Bass.

"She's delivered new jetties at Warneet South and North, as well as upgraded boat ramps in Lang Lang, Inverloch, and Tooradin.

"Every day, she has been guided by her values, and her strong sense of community.

"I hope she's incredibly proud of her contribution as the Member for Bass."

As for what comes next, maybe a little holiday with the family, too old to be a bricklayer like her dad, maybe a mature-age apprenticeship but "nothing lined up".

But, in the meantime, there's still work to be done.

"The electorate is rather big and long and there are projects right across it that deserve continued attention in terms of infrastructure both social and capital," said Ms Crugnale.

See her extended response to the Sentinel-Times questions online at sgst.com.au.

New bail laws kick in at Korumburra

From page 1

He said the changes, including that community safety must be a guiding principle of his decision, had "fundamentally rebalanced the responsibility of the magistrate" when assessing the merits of individual applications.

In the end, after a comprehensive assessment of the pros and cons, he said that while the applicant had provided compelling reasons why he should be released, pending the hearing of his case in February next year, Mr Lee could not lower the risks to an acceptable level, with bail conditions.

Therefore, he will not be released, he said, acknowledging that it would effectively mean the man would spend six months in jail, before his case was heard.

This was despite noting that the facts in the case were being hotly contested, the alleged victim didn't want the prosecution to proceed and there were "holes in the police case".

The shift to a community safety priority also removes the principle of remand as a "last resort" for youth offenders, allowing for more stringent measures against repeat youth offenders.

On the same day at Korumburra last Thursday, a local 14-year-old boy of slight build was led into the dock by police where he was remanded in custody for 11 days until a bail application can be heard, likely spending a difficult time in custody, according to police, in the Melbourne Youth Justice Centre (formerly known as 'Turana') in Parkville.

So, the new bail laws are starting to kick in.

"In answering those questions, I have gone to how the actions that we have taken as a government have strengthened and toughened the bail laws, which is making a difference. The number of people on remand has gone up by 26 per cent," said the Premier in Parliament last month.

Independent data supports the Premier's claims.

For the first time since March this year, when the government introduced tougher bail laws via its Bail

Amendment Act 2025 and in July when it strengthened them still further through its Bail Further Amendment Bill, the Crime Statistics Agency has released bail data for the financial year to June 30, 2025.

Despite only including a few months under the new tougher bail regime, but likely responding to publicity given to offences committed on bail and the "revolving door" for youth offenders, there has been a marked shift in bail numbers.

- 1.4 per cent reduction in bail granted down from 21,155 in 2023 and 17,961 in 2024 to 17,693 in 2025

- 32.3 per cent increase in bail refused from 8557 in 2024 to 11,319 in 2025.

- 85 per cent increase in bail revoked up from 3574 to 6612.

- 4.7 per cent reduction in bail granted to 10-14-year-olds.

- 20.9 per cent increase in bail refused (10-14-year-olds).

- 93.8 per cent increase in bail revoke (10-14-year-olds).

- Highest increase: Bail refused to males aged 35-44 years up 40.8 per cent.

Bail was refused last Thursday, by Korumburra Magistrate Stephen Lee, to a man accused of two incidents of extreme family violence, on one occasion allegedly punching his partner four times in the face while the pair were in the car, and on another occasion when he attacked the woman in her own home, while being subject to a full intervention order, bashing, strangling and kicking the woman to such an extent that she needed an MRI to rule out any back injury.

The man is a repeat offender, having been convicted of recklessly causing injury to a former partner in 2010, including threatening to kill her baby.

Magistrate Lee said the bail applicant was "fast becoming a recidivist family violence offender" and he couldn't be sure that whatever bail conditions he applied, including curfews, exclusion and reporting conditions that it would stop the man from breaching the intervention orders that were already in place.

No injuries in fearful VLine bus crash at Foster

TWELVE passengers and the driver of a VLine bus have escaped uninjured after the bus they were travelling in plunged down an embankment on Fish Creek Foster Road, Foster shortly before midday on Monday this week.

The bus was left balancing precariously over the edge of the road reserve between trees, needing an additional salvage truck to stabilise the vehicle so

that it could be safely recovered.

Speaking at the scene on Monday afternoon, Leading Senior Constable Adam Pagram said that while he couldn't comment on the cause of the accident, all 12 passengers, and the driver escaped uninjured.

"The concern is that if they were to drag it backwards, with it leaning to one side, it could tilt down further and fall, so they

are waiting for another truck to arrive," said LSC Pagram.

A Country Fire Authority spokesperson said two CFA units attended the scene, Foster and Fish Creek, along with Fire Rescue Victoria and Ambulance Victoria.

"Upon arrival, crews found a bus sitting on angle, approximately 2.5 metres down an embankment," the spokesperson said.

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TUE Oct 7	WED Oct 8	THUR Oct 9	FRI Oct 10	SAT Oct 11	SUN Oct 12
Cloudy	Shower or two	Shower or two	Showers	Showers	Showers
Wind AM: W-NW 15-25km/h Wind PM: Light	Wind AM: NW 15-25km/h Wind PM: W 15-20km/h	Wind AM: Light Wind PM: NW 25-35km/h	Wind AM: NW 25-40km/h Wind PM: NW 25-40km/h	Wind AM: NW 25-35km/h Wind PM: NW 25-35km/h	Wind AM: NW-SW 20-30km/h Wind PM: NW-SW 20-30km/h
8° 18°	10° 20°	10° 19°	11° 19°	10° 17°	10° 19°

IN BRIEF

Join a free CPR course;
bystander action
can save lives

PHILLIP Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) are offering a free CPR course on Friday, October 10am. Join Ambulance Victoria as they deliver free training in the lifesaving skills of CPR and AED use. Denise Dillon at PICAL said every day, 21 Victorians suffer cardiac arrest, and bystander action can save lives. To book a seat, visit socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=40943 or call PICAL on 03 5952 1131 and join in the free events at 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes.

Threw garden ornaments
through her windows

AN IRATE local man, who threw bricks and garden ornaments through the windows of the couple's former home with such force that they damaged furniture and fittings inside, was convicted, fined and placed on a good-behaviour undertaking in the Korumburra Court last week. The man also stole goods from the home. The court heard that the man's partner, who wasn't home at the time, was nonetheless so deeply impacted by the incident, during which 15 windows were smashed, that she initially installed security lights and surveillance equipment but ultimately sold the former family home and moved away.

Magistrate Stephen Lee said he would have preferred to award compensation to the victim had not the \$5900 in damage to the windows and \$2000 in building works not been covered by insurance.

But in the absence of a claim by the insurance company, he ordered the man to pay \$2500 into the court fund, imposed a conviction against him, placed him on a two-year good behaviour undertaking and ordered him to continue with psychological assessment and treatment.

Meeniyen welcomes
The Flying Bookworm to
celebrate Children's Week

FAMILIES are invited to celebrate Children's Week with a free, fun-filled event featuring outrageous fairytale stories performed by The Flying Bookworm.

This special event will take place on Wednesday, October 22, at the Meeniyen Town Hall.

The event celebrates the 2025 Children's Week theme, 'Everyone should know about children's rights'.

"Children's Week is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the youngest members of our community and highlight the importance of their rights and wellbeing," South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr John Schelling said.

"We are thrilled to host The Flying Bookworm for a day of stories and laughter. Events like these not only foster a love of reading from a young age but also bring families together.

"I encourage everyone to come along and join in the fun."

The Flying Bookworm will bring the fun and wonder of story time to life for local children.

To accommodate families, two sessions will be offered – 10am to 10.45am and 11.30am to 12.15pm. As this is a free event and numbers are limited, families are encouraged to register their attendance in advance.

For more information and to register for this event, visit southgippsland.vic.gov.au/childrens-week.

Sporting opportunities
for people living with a
disability

THE State Government is supporting more people to get involved in sport with grants for sports clubs and community organisations to strengthen and expand opportunities for people living with a disability in regional communities.

On October 1, the Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, announced that applications are

open for a second round of the Regional All Abilities Participation Grants.

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available in three categories: Equipment and Travel, Inclusion Workforce, and Programs and Disability-led Initiatives.

The grants can be used to purchase specialised or modified equipment and uniforms, such as sports wheelchairs, sensory balls, throwing frames, accessible starting systems, modified bats and racquets and other adaptive technologies enabling safe and inclusive participation.

For clubs that already have the right equipment and uniforms, funding can be used to subsidise wages or salaries towards creating a skilled workforce to help boost participation, such as disability sports coaches, support workers or volunteers who are keen to broaden their skillset.

The funding can also be used to cover travel to competitions and festivals, and for clubs to create their own all-abilities sports programs.

Organisations that support community participation in sport and active recreation, such as local clubs, state sporting associations, disability or self-advocacy groups, and health or disability providers, are encouraged to apply.

For more information and to apply, visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding.

Newhaven e-bike crashes

POLICE are investigating after an e-bike crashed on Saturday evening, October 4 around 11pm on Phillip Island Road bike path in Newhaven.

The 40-year-old male suffered head injuries and was transported to Dandenong Hospital.

It's unknown if he was wearing a helmet, though a helmet was found near the scene.

Any witnesses or those with CCTV and dashcam footage in the vicinity of the Newhaven bike path between 10.45pm and 11pm are urged to contact Crimestoppers or Cowes Police Station.

Have you seen the garden
supplies ute?

WONTHAGGI Garden Supplies ute was stolen overnight between Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4 from the business premises on Inverloch Road in Wonthaggi.

It's understood the business was broken into and at this stage, only the ute was stolen. The vehicle does have distinctive signwriting on the doors; however, the thieves left the tray-sides behind.

The ute was stolen between 5pm on Friday evening and 7.15am on Saturday morning.

Police are investigating.

Anyone with information, including sightings and CCTV or dashcam footage in the area, are urged to contact Bass Coast CIU at Wonthaggi Police Station. Anonymous reports can also be lodged through Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or at crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime. If you spot the vehicle on the road call 000.

VICSES urges you to
prepare for Spring storms

AS SPRING settles in and the risk of severe weather rises, the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) is urging communities across Gippsland to prepare now for what is expected to be a busy storm season.

The Leongatha Unit alone has responded to 1971 Requests for Assistance. The figures reflecting the growing impact of severe weather across the region, from flash flooding and fallen trees to property damage and power outages. According to VICSES, more storms are putting Gippsland communities at greater risk, which means it's important to prepare early and stay involved locally. With above-average rainfall forecast across eastern Victoria, the risk of damaging winds, flash flooding, and severe thunderstorms remains high. VICSES encourages residents to visit ses.vic.gov.au for practical advice and safety tips.

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Registering their concern about the alleged case of animal cruelty involving the death of nine wombats at Venus Bay in February this year are some of the wildlife carers who turned out at the Korumburra Magistrates Court last Thursday.

Protesters turn out to hear alleged wombat cruelty case

A POSSE of wildlife protesters, who turned out at the Korumburra Magistrates' Court last Thursday, hoping to see justice dispensed in the case of alleged cruelty to wombats at Venus Bay, left disappointed that the case was adjourned without coming to court.

The 19-year-old Fish Creek man, charged with 20 offences under the Wildlife Act 1975 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 for alleged conduct leading to the deaths of up to nine wombats in Venus Bay in February this year, answered his summons to appear but the case was adjourned at the court office.

He is now due to appear at Korumburra on Tuesday, December 9.

The charges follow an extensive investigation by the Conservation Regulator and Victoria Police into the deaths which occurred at Venus Bay on Tuesday, Febru-

ary 18, 2025, in what authorities allege represents "a senseless and deliberate act of animal cruelty".

All wildlife in Victoria is protected under the Wildlife Act 1975. It is illegal to hunt, take, destroy, injure, or interfere with wildlife without authorisation.

At the time the charges were laid, Chief Conservation Regulator Kate Gavens said wildlife cruelty was completely unacceptable.

"The Conservation Regulator will investigate and seek prosecution for serious cases of wildlife cruelty. The Conservation Regulator takes wildlife cruelty seriously, and I encourage the public to report any information about wildlife crime to Crime Stoppers."

Speaking outside the court afterwards, wildlife rescue volunteer, Mel Darer, said people had come from all parts of south-eastern Victoria to hear the outcome of

the case.

"We've come along here today because we want to hear what happened to the wombats at Venus Bay and to say, as a community, that we don't think it's OK what happened, and we just want to be a voice to allow people to know that," said Ms Darer.

"Wombats are in trouble. With the population, there's no accurate numbers. They suffer from mange, car strike and other threats."

Ms Darer said she was disappointed the matter was adjourned again and remained concerned that the issue was properly dealt with by the department.

The Conservation Regulator urges anyone with information about wildlife cruelty to report it to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000. Reports can be made anonymously.

South Gippsland roads among Victoria's most dangerous

GIPPSLAND South MP and Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien, says new road safety data confirms many Gippsland roads are unsafe after years of neglect by the State Government.

Mr O'Brien said the new Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) star ratings of Victorian roads, published recently, reveal several of Gippsland's local roads are among the lowest rated for safety in the state.

"The AusRAP system measures how safe a road is by looking at speed limits, traffic volumes, road surface, line-markings, lane and shoulder widths, and roadside hazards," Mr O'Brien said.

"A five-star road is the safest, while a one-star road carries the highest risk."

"Meenyan-Promontory Road, the gateway to Wilson's Promontory, received just 1.6 stars," said Mr O'Brien.

"Carrajung-Woodside Road (1.5 stars), Fish Creek-Foster Road (1.3 stars), The Grand Ridge Road (1 star) and Boolarra Road (1 star) also scored poorly."

"Even our highways fared badly, with Princes Highway East at 3.5 stars and South Gippsland Highway just 2.3 stars."

Both the Strzelecki Highway and Bass Highway also have significant sections rated at two or worse.

"Local drivers deal with potholes, narrow lanes and collapsing shoulders every day," claiming the government's only solution appeared to be lowering speed limits rather than fixing the roads.

"By lowering speed limits, a road can get a higher star rating even if nothing is done to fix dangerous sections."

He said the government could claim improved safety while the road itself



A number of sections of the Bass Highway are ranked among the worst roads in Victoria in the latest Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) star ratings and some of those serious risks are exposed on wet days between Inverloch and Leongatha when the heavily rutted road fills with water.

remains narrow, potholed and crumbling.

He also raised doubts about a recent announcement by the government that it was rolling out "a major road maintenance blitz to rebuild, repair, and resurface roads right across Victoria" to the tune of \$976 million, 70 per cent of which was allegedly going to regional roads.

"I don't think we can believe this year's 'road blitz', let alone the past 10 years," he said, referring to similar an-

nouncements in recent years.

Local transport operator Stuart Storr was also scathing about the condition of South Gippsland Highway, saying it continued to cause expensive damage to the company's trucks and costly downtime for repairs.

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

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Cr Rochelle Halstead



Streets for the people!

ONE of the things I'm sure we all say about living in regional Victoria – and in Bass Coast – is how good it feels to walk down the street and run into someone you know. I know it happens to me often, and those moments spark the best conversations with you, our community. Streets really are for the people; places where we connect, catch up, and share a smile. That's why it's so exciting to see the transformation happening in both Cowes and Wonthaggi. Our streets are being renewed not just as places to move through, but as destinations where people want to spend time: shady, welcoming, and vibrant.

There's been some chatter about the Cowes Foreshore Precinct works, with concerns that "it will take multiple years" or that "it couldn't have come at a worse time, right before the MotoGP." I want to reassure everyone: the party is still on! Works will pause before MotoGP, and you won't see hoarding, trucks or demolition during that time. You will, however, see visitors enjoying the Cowes MotoGP Entertainment Precinct: singing, dancing, and soaking up the atmosphere, probably belting out "The Horses" by Daryl Braithwaite at the top of their lungs!

The project has been carefully staged into 7 phases to ensure, wherever possible and weather dependent, that works pause and restart around our busiest times. That way, Cowes stays open for business and *Trading Through the Transformation*.

In Wonthaggi, our streetscape works are already bringing colour and character. Thirteen Crepe Myrtle trees will be planted along Graham Street, creating a greener, more welcoming town centre. This weekend, the first of 24 planter boxes began going in along McBride Avenue, painted in "Manor Red" as a nod to Wonthaggi's mining heritage and the iconic poppet head.

These improvements reflect years of advocacy and investment, and I want to take a moment to thank the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, who recently announced she won't contest the next state election. Jordan's support has helped deliver real outcomes for Wonthaggi and beyond, building on her legacy as a former Councillor and Mayor here in Bass Coast.

As the song goes: *"As I walk down the street, all my pals I will greet, on that same old corner where we used to meet. There's a part of my heart in Wonthaggi, and it's calling me, calling me home."*

Our streets belong to all of us – they are where life happens. These projects are about keeping them alive, welcoming, and full of heart for generations to come.

Rate cap still an issue

IT MIGHT not be popular with local government administrators, but the Fair Go Rates System, introduced by the State Labor Government in 2016, might just be its most popular initiative ever. Nonetheless, it hasn't stopped council's bellyaching about it.

In the Bass Coast Shire Council's Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2025, to be tabled at this Wednesday's council meeting, the shire is bemoaning the fact that "the rate cap is not keeping pace with inflationary pressures" causing a contraction in shire works and services.

But former Bass Coast Ratepayers Association representative, Kevin Griffin, wants council to put the matter to bed in a question to the October meeting of council: "In the decade before the introduction of the Labor Government's Fair Go Rates system in 2016, council rates were increasing by an average of six per cent each year. Since the introduction of the cap, the average rate cap between 2016-17 and 2024-25 is 2.3 per cent, limiting steep successive increases for Victorian rate payers. Rate capping was introduced in 2016 to stop excessive and uncontrolled annual rate hikes by Victorian Councils.

"Responding to public question 5.8 at its August meeting Council advised that it has not resolved an advocacy position on rate capping. "When will this Council resolve its position on rate capping?" asks Mr Griffin.

The time to address Phillip Island Road is now, they say

THE San Remo Structure Plan was adopted at the June 2025 Bass Coast Shire Council meeting, but what will be the next steps for the project? Will the poorly designed road network that gives access to the second most visited tourism destination in Victoria, Phillip Island, be a priority?

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Rochelle Halstead said she recognised the lack of future planning for the San Remo township in her first term with council and has advocated strongly for the Structure Plan.

"The plan was developed with a local community reference group and broader community engagement to identify the needs of the township," said Cr Halstead.

"It provides a strong foundation from which to apply for grants that will deliver on the ground outcomes that will improve the aesthetics of our town for locals, businesses and visitors. We can't keep putting this work off.

"Phillip Island Road needs to be addressed urgently. It is the number one regional road priority for the Gippsland Region and for Bass Coast."

Seen as a growth area, the San Remo Traffic Impact Assessment highlights that without road upgrades, average delays at the intersection of Potters Hill Road and Phillip Island Road would reach between 50 to 80 minutes, and delays at Back Beach Road and Bergin Grove would average between 20 to 40 minutes during peak times once the growth front develops.

Page 43 of the access and movement



The San Remo Structure Plan addresses future growth, but funding for traffic congestion is still in question.

study recognises that the student enrolment at the San Remo Campus of Bass Coast College will also increase alongside residential growth, already expecting attendance of 500 students in 2026. Therefore, putting pressure on the roads already.

The plan also recommends advocating to the State government for a series of actions aimed at improving public transport services in San Remo.

Cr Halstead said, as San Remo has been identified as a population

growth area through the Victorian Government's Distinctive Area and Landscape Policy, the community cannot wait any longer for this road to be addressed.

"High season is upon us once again; we will hear cries of frustration and witness risky manoeuvres as people attempt to navigate their way around.

"The time to address it is now, given that the state has committed funds to the bridge, the access roads to it should be part of the project!"

Rolling in reserves or drowning in debt?

- What's really happening with the shire's finances

IN AN overview of 2025 Bass Coast Shire Council's balance sheet, provided by the council itself ahead of its most important finance and planning meeting of the year this Wednesday, the council says the following:

"The shire's financial position remains strong with over \$1 billion in property, plant and infrastructure assets" and "relatively low levels of debt".

The council also notes in its draft annual financial report, to be tabled for adoption at this week's meeting, that it has continued to "invest in large intergenerational projects" such as the Wonthaggi-Inverloch Shared Pathway and various marine structures to meet the needs and aspirations of the community.

But the council also acknowledges significant headwinds, including that "the rate cap is not keeping pace with inflationary pressures" and "council's operating costs have increased, particularly those linked to CPI and depreciation".

Meanwhile community aspirations for several key projects, including a new Phillip Island Recreation Reserve, the new Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre at Wonthaggi and a similar project at Phillip Island are just pipe dreams, and not even that where the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre is concerned.

The only references to these project in the strategic planning documents to be presented for adoption at this week's council meeting, including the Community Vision 2045, Council Plan 2025- 2029 and Annual Action Plan 2025-2026 are as follows:

- Prepare a Functional Layout Plan for the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve (strategic objective Annual Action Plan 2025–2026), and
- Commence detailed design for the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre – Wonthaggi (Strategic Objective Annual Action Plan 2025–2026).

A previous strategic document, the shire's Long-term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2021-31 supported the development of two aquatics facilities, one at Wonthaggi and one at Phillip Island but after spending money on preliminary designs for both facilities, the Phillip Island project has been dropped from the latest LTFP 2025-35 except for reference to 'future years' beyond the next decade.

So, what is the overall financial health of the Bass Coast Shire Council?

The Sentinel-Times put that question to the Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead ahead of this Wednesday's council meeting. We are yet to receive a response.

The Council's adjusted underlying net result for the year ending June 30, 2025 (which excludes capital grants and contributions) is a \$6.8 million loss compared to a budgeted underlying loss of just \$100,000. Is this a fair indication of how council's financial position has deteriorated during the past 12 month?

In light of the headwinds referred to in the Annual Financial Report 2024-25, we also asked if the mayor was concerned that the Council is increasingly less able to meet customer expectations for works and services under the present funding arrangement.

Bass Coast Council watcher, Graham Jolly of Cape Woolamai, is particularly concerned about the management, effectiveness and fairness of the shire's capital works program.

"The ratepayers are being forced to contribute millions of dollars to a capital works program that the shire seems incapable of delivering," said Mr Jolly.

"In fact they have it as one of their strategic indicators in the new Council Plan 2025-29, going to council for adoption this week, that they only have to achieve 80 per cent of their program.

"I made a submission about this asking that they at least have an aspiration

to complete 100 per cent of the capital works, and that it be one of the measures by which they assess the performance of their managers. But that fell on deaf ears," said Mr Jolly.

He has also reviewed the shire's capital works program line by line.

"Take their budget of \$50,000 for public art. Their actual expenditure last financial year was \$140,323 which is \$90,323 more than they've listed carryovers of \$170,600 in other words they've actually allocated \$310,923 to public art. Where's it coming from?"

Mr Jolly also took issue with the lack of balance in funding for each ward and the fact that a significant amount of money, levied from ratepayers for specific projects was in fact being invested to fund operations and over-spending on other projects.

"At the start of the year, the capital works budget and carryovers for Westernport Ward were \$6,066,925 but the actual expenditure was \$3,521,165. For the Island Ward \$4,965,795 budget, actual \$4,734,469. Bunurong budget \$13,406,925, actual \$11,074,913."

Together with a shire-wide budget and carryovers of \$11,090,460, actual \$8,692,227 the shire planned to spend \$35M on projects, but actually spent \$28M with the rest going into reserves.

Mr Jolly asked why council was continuing to borrow money, \$3 million more last financial year, total \$29.3 million, when it had cash and financial assets of more than \$60 million.

He also expressed concern that more than \$9 million in rates remained to be collected, with almost \$6 million more owed by other debtors.

"It's impossible to get a clear picture about what's really happening with the shire's finances and why, but a full, independent financial review is long overdue," said Mr Jolly.

"And why the mayor and the deputy mayor, both of whom have completed Australian Institute of Company Directors' course at council expense put up with it is beyond me."



Stanley Road, a country lane, is set to become a haulage route for sand trucks.

Planning Minister calls in the wrong project

PLANNING Minister Sonya Kilkenny has called in an application by mining giant Heidelberg Materials to remove native vegetation to widen and seal Stanley Road in Grantville for sand trucks to service their proposed new quarry.

Heidelberg Materials wants to widen and seal Stanley Road to service a quarry approved in 1996, but never opened.

In February, Bass Coast councillors rejected the application, declaring the removal of native vegetation in a significant Western Port Woodlands biolink unacceptable under multiple council policies.

The company appealed to VCAT. Now the planning minister has referred it to a Priority Projects Standing Advisory Committee for resolution, declaring the sand is of “state significance” with an estimated resource value of about \$73 million.

“We have no doubt this application will be approved,” Save Western Port Woodlands spokeswoman Catherine Watson said.

“It’s set up to be approved regardless of local objections. That

doesn’t feel like democracy.”

Mixed messages

The Bass Coast Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) project recognised the Western Port Woodlands as an area of outstanding environmental significance that must be protected.

“This quiet country lane will become an industrial haul road, with around 80 truck movements every day transporting sand to Lang Lang for processing.

“Sand trucks will run past Adams Estate and through the Grantville and Lang Lang townships.

“That means more noise, dust, roadkill, road safety risks and congestion on already stressed highways and roundabouts.”

Ms Watson stressed that Save Western Port Woodlands was not against sand mining.

“We know sand is needed for Melbourne’s Big Build and housing.

“But we believe the Minister has called in the wrong project.

“The government itself has identified vast sand resources on cleared farmland in Cardinia and Baw

Baw through the new Strategic Extraction Resource Areas (SERA).

“The Stanley Road quarry is a marginal site and a stopgap measure while Heidelberg goes through the application process for its future flagship quarry on a much larger site next to its current quarry in McDonald’s Track, Lang Lang.

“That site is on degraded farmland, it has decades of sand supply, and it’s over 20 kilometres closer to Melbourne.

“That means far fewer trucks for residents of Lang Lang and Grantville, no destruction of wildlife corridors, and cheaper transport costs for Heidelberg.

“We appeal to Minister Kilkenny to fast-track that project, which would achieve the same planning outcomes with reduced economic, community and environmental costs.

“And we call on Heidelberg to live up to their mission statement: ‘Building a Sustainable Future’.

“Clearing a vital wildlife corridor is the opposite of sustainability. Walk away and leave the neighbourhood in peace, wildlife and humans.”

New mapping to identify flood risk

THE State Government is updating its flood risk information to help communities plan, manage risks, and build homes that are safe from flooding.

A new risk-based flood hazard rating system has been developed – modelled on the successful bushfire danger rating system – to provide better flood information for local communities.

While the early emphasis has been on updating flood-risk information for the Greater Melbourne Metro area, parts of Bass Coast and South Gippsland are being included in the project.

There are five maps being updated across parts of the Bass Coast Shire, which includes the towns of Cowes, San Remo, Grantville, Coronet Bay, Corinella, Pioneer Bay, Newhaven and Cape Woolamai.

There are also four maps being updated in the western part of South Gippsland, which include the towns of Loch, Nyora and Poowong.

The maps reflect the different sources of flooding, and provide information used to plan for infrastructure, housing and emergencies.

Mapping underway includes: Bass River, Lang Lang River, Phillip Island, Red Bluff Creek, and storm-water drains.

The announcement comes as OneGippsland, chaired by South Gippsland Councillor

Nathan Hersey, has been advocating to the government for state-wide co-ordinated mapping and planning. Recently calling for: ‘a state-wide interim flood and inundation overlay, modelled on the Bushfire Management Overlay, to ensure planning controls keep pace with climate risk and prevent new development on land vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise’.

The call for government action comes as a new national report shows climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of natural disasters, according to OneGippsland.

Cr Hersey said now was the time to implement further government policy change to support better disaster preparedness, smarter planning and investment in disaster resilience.

“Gippsland comprises a large portion of Victoria’s 2500 kilometres of coastline. The risk to our coastal communities from coastal hazards, such as inundation, is concerning. Gippsland would benefit from the State Government leading the way in coordinated mapping and planning,” Cr Hersey said.

“We need national reforms and long-term investment that build resilience into our roads, telecommunications and emergency systems, and planning frameworks that account for our changing climate.”

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Accommodation ☒

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DPP to appeal Erin Patterson's sentence

LEGAL counsel for Leongatha triple murderer, Erin Patterson, Richard Edney, told the Supreme Court in Melbourne last week that his client intends to appeal her conviction.

But even before Ms Patterson has been able to file her application for leave to appeal, the Director of Public Prosecutions has filed an appeal against the sentence handed down to Ms Patterson with the Court of Appeal.

News that the DPP would be appealing against Ms Patterson's sentence of three life terms, and one of 25 years, served concurrently with a minimum of 33 years to serve, broke at 5.24pm on Monday this week.

At the time of going to press neither the Notice of Appeal nor information about the grounds for appeal had been made public.

It follows a procedural hearing in the Supreme Court last Thursday, October 2, before the trial judge, Justice Christopher Beale, where the new legal counsel for Ms Patterson, applied for an extension of time to file their Leave to Appeal notice.

Justice Beale agreed to the application.

"What we have today is an application to vary [the orders] that Your Honour made in this matter on August 8, 2025," said Mr Edney.

"Your Honour has received from my instructors an amended proposed variation to that [order]... seeking leave to appeal her conviction within 56 days of being sentenced," he said.

Previously, the orders were due to expire on the 29th day after

sentencing on Monday, October 8 or extended if leave to appeal was granted.

"So, we seek that variation to the order and can indicate to Your Honour there will be an appeal against conviction," said Mr Edney.

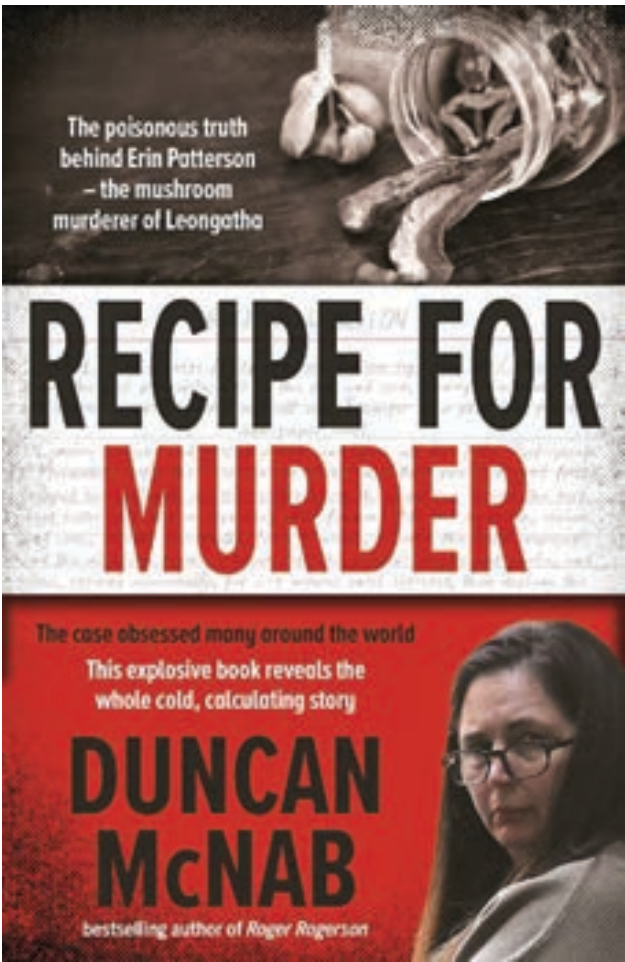
In response, Justice Beale acknowledged there was no objection from Crown Prosecutor Jane Warren SC and also that it was routine for such extensions of time to be granted.

"My understanding Mr Edney, is that for a trial period, applications for an extension of time to the Court of Appeal are routinely being granted if the application is for an extension of an additional 28 days. And given the length of this trial, the applicant is wanting to take advantage of that extension of time.

"All right, well I'll grant the application," said Justice Beale after hearing from opposing counsel.

Erin Patterson appeared in court by video link from the Dame Phyllis Frost Corrections Centre where she is serving three life sentences and one of 25 years for the murders of three of her in-laws; Don and Gail Patterson and Gail's sister Heather Wilkinson, as well as the attempted murder of Heather's husband, Ian Wilkinson, as a result of serving them a meal of Beef Wellington laced with death cap mushrooms at a family lunch on Saturday, July 29, 2023.

Ms Patterson, who turned 51 years of age on September 30, will be 82 years old before she is eligible for parole after serving a minimum sentence of 33 years.



The first of what is expected to be a veritable library of books on the subject of Leongatha's mushroom murders is set to hit the stands on October 14, titled **Recipe for Murder** by Duncan McNab, the best-selling author of 'Roger Rogerson'.

Tech trap for thieves a sign of the times

A BIZARRE case involving the theft of 14 signs from roadworks on Inverloch-Venus Bay Road between February 15 and March 15 this year was heard in the Korumburra Magistrates Court last week.

Having experienced several incidents of detour signs and other roadworks signs going missing, the contractor attached an Apple Airtag to one or more of the remaining signs only to have one of these signs stolen as well.

When the Airtag started "pinging" at an Inverloch address, the contractor reported the incidents and the alleged location of the missing signs, and police came a-knocking at 5.12am on March 16.

The occupant of the home, who insisted on police going away and getting a search warrant before they entered the shed on the property, was found with one of the signs in the rafters of the shed when police returned at 12.50pm that day, but by then no sign of the other 13 signs.

It was sometime later that they received an anonymous report that the signs could be recovered from a bus stop at Pound Creek, including a sign that was damaged when the Airtag was removed.

The Airtag was later located in a vacant block behind the alleged offender's home.

At court last week, the 56-year-old man finally admitted his guilt, after making denials to police, offered no reason to Magistrate Lee but did agree to write a letter of apology to the victim and pay \$850 compensation.

The magistrate told the man that he was unimpressed with his engagement with police but effectively placed him on a good-behaviour undertaking until October next year, provided he pay the contractor's costs, write an apology and continue with his psychology appointments.



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South Gippsland Shire Council News

Community Consultation for Pre-Prep is Now Open

Families are receiving greater access to early childhood education as part of the Victorian Government’s Best Start, Best Life initiative. Four-Year-Old-Kindergarten is becoming Pre-Prep, with families able to access up to 20 hours of Pre-Prep from 2027. Council is inviting parents, carers of young children, and people planning for a family to share their thoughts on the upcoming transition via an online survey and upcoming focus group sessions.

Your input will assist Council and Service Providers in preparing for the delivery of Pre-Prep in South Gippsland.

Have your say on how Council can help local families make the most of this new initiative.

FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS
Korumburra: Wednesday 8 October, 4.30pm to 5.30pm at Karmai Community Children’s Centre.
Loch: Tuesday 14 October, 10.30am to 11.30am at Loch Recreation Reserve.
Leongatha: Tuesday 14 October, 4.00pm to 5.00pm at Leongatha Early Learning Centre.
Toora: Tuesday 21 October, 11.00am to 12.00pm at Toora Primary School.

Feedback closes on Monday 3 November.

To find out more information and complete the survey, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/pre-prep

Eat Drink Play Gippsland



Inspired by the Eat Drink Gippsland Guide, this festival unites the best of our region’s food and drink producers along with excellent live music. Guests can purchase tickets for the Day - 11.00am to 5.00pm, Night - 6.00pm to 10.00pm, or both.

When: Saturday 18 October.
Where: Leongatha Railway Precinct.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:
www.visitgippsland.com.au/eatdrinkplay

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Details will be available on Council’s website:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Check out our current vacant positions here:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

Date: Thursday 16 October

Where: Council Chambers - Meeting Room 1 9 Smith Street, Leongatha

When: 2.00pm to 4.00pm

To find a session in October that suits you and to book, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation

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VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL

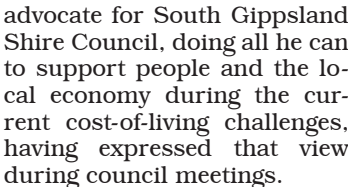
The Victorian Seniors Festival is a celebration of positive ageing spanning the entire month of October. With over 60 free and low-cost activities across South Gippsland covering sport, movement, arts, culture, learning and plenty of opportunities to simply gather and socialise, there is an option for every senior.

To find an event near you, visit the South Gippsland Seniors Festival Calendar, visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival

CONTACT US

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Cr Kennedy is a strong



"A tiler or carpenter or plumber, they'd want a small factory of 200-300 square metres, and some of these places would have living quarters above," Cr Kennedy said.

Around 70 per cent of traditional power sector workers in the Latrobe Valley and 90 per cent of maritime industry workers are said to have the core skills needed to switch to jobs

“Yallourn power station is leaving the electricity grid in

"The rest of Australia is watching closely as Gippsland leads the way."

On Friday 10 October, I will be attending the MAV October State Council Meeting, where South

Thank you to Mayor Schelling for the opportunity to share my message with our community this week.

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February start for Inverloch dune reconstruction

DUNE reconstruction at Inverloch Surf Beach will begin in February 2026, allowing locals and holiday-makers access to the beach during the peak summer tourism season.

The Victorian Government has engaged Hall Contracting to deliver dredging and dune reconstruction works.

- The works include:
- Dredging of sand from Anderson Inlet
 - Dune reconstruction and beach renourishment works near the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club
 - Dune revegetation works

To achieve the full scope of works, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) successfully sought additional State Government funding. A Coastal Estuarine and Risk Management grant from the Commonwealth has also supported project delivery.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale said this is a major first step forward.

“The additional \$2 million funding from our government towards this major engineering project, in addition to what we have already invested, is a testament to how much we all value this stretch of coastline and all who enjoy it.

“I encourage residents to take part in DEECA’s

upcoming online information and Q&A session about the dune reconstruction and beach nourishment project.”

The original aim was to begin work in Spring for completion prior to Christmas, but contractor availability and the summer peak tourism period required a rescheduled start date.

Bass Coast Shire Council is working to obtain permits and approvals for the \$700,000 extension and remediation of the geotextile sand-bag wall at the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, with procurement processes commencing shortly. State Government departments will continue to monitor and assess conditions at Wreck Creek to inform future interventions.

DEECA are holding an online information session about the upcoming dune reconstruction and beach nourishment on Thursday, October 16 from 4pm to 6pm online via Microsoft Teams. The contractor will present an overview of the works, followed by a Q&A.

To register for the event, go to eventbrite.com/e/online-community-info-session-inverloch-dune-reconstruction-works-tickets-1732847045159, and a link to join the session will be sent to you via email.

Renewed calls for Vietnam Veterans’ Museum funding as America jumps on board

VIETNAM Veterans in America have voiced their support for the new National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island as local MPs call for a start on the project.

Nationals’ Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath, has written to the Allan Government seeking urgent clarification on its 2022 commitment of \$10 million for the museum redevelopment.

Ms Bath’s advocacy follows a recent visit by the Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester, where plans were discussed for the new purpose-built facility on Churchill Road.

“Our veterans and the museum project deserve clarity and confidence,” said Ms Bath.

“The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is a vital institution that plays an important role in education, remembrance and community engagement.

“This development marks a new chapter in recognising and remembering all Australian veterans, a vision shaped over several years.

“It is concerning that the promised \$10 million funding commitment remains unresolved and absent from the state budget.

“Certainty is needed to secure the future of this important facility.”

Darren Chester recognised the value of the project not only for veterans but as a significant attraction for Phillip Island and the Bass Coast.

“This is the largest museum of its kind in Australia.

“It’s impressive collection holds worldwide significance,” Mr Chester said.

“Currently only 10 per cent of the collection can be displayed with treasured items that should be on display kept in storage.



Braxton Laine, general manager of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, has welcomed the support of American Vietnam Veterans. B11_4025

“The National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island is far more than a display of war memorabilia.”

According to Mr Chester, it is a special place to honour and remember the service of our veterans, encouraging learning and reflection, in a space where stories can be shared.

“The committee has worked tirelessly to resolve planning and site issues and requires this funding to secure federal and philanthropic funding.”

National Vietnam Veterans Museum secretary John Methven and president Bob Elsworthy, also state president of the Vietnam Veterans Association, said the recent support from American Vietnam Veterans was encouraging.

According to general manager Braxton Laine, the National Vietnam

Veterans Museum on Phillip Island is the largest collection of Vietnam-era memorabilia in the world.

The first stage of the new museum is estimated to cost \$40 million.

“This will include the main museum building, infrastructure and parking,” said Mr Laine.

When completed the 100-hectare museum precinct will have cost \$80 million.

“We’re waiting on parts for a Cessna Bird Dog, and the Americans say they have them.”

The finished museum will have boardwalks, lakes, interactive displays and sculptures.

Earthworks on the main construction site could start as early as 2026.

“The planning process has been rocky, which has delayed the project,” Mr Laine said.

“We would like the promised \$40 million in Federal Government funding over the next few years to give confidence to everyone that we no longer have any hurdles or stumbling blocks.”

The one thousand delegates that attended the recent National Convention of the Vietnam Veterans of America in New Orleans went back to their individual Chapters to see how they can support the Phillip Island museum project.

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is now working on a roadshow for America.

“Give us your shopping list,” the Americans said.

However, storage space at the museum has already reached capacity.

The broader picture is year-round tourism Mr Laine explained.

“This museum will be Phillip Island’s major tourist precinct as the new site develops.”

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Stewart Road bridge remains closed over the Bass River at Kernot as Bass Coast Council waits on funding. B32_212

Kernot Bridge awaits funding upgrade to 44-tonne load limit

COMMUNITY concerns over a major upgrade of the Stewart Road Bridge at Kernot have been steamrolled as Bass Coast Council seeks funding to build a replacement bridge with a 44-tonne load limit.

A petition earlier this year from local residents called for the urgent repair and reopening of the Kernot Bridge after it was closed due to structural issues.

Despite acknowledging the considerable inconvenience caused to local residents, farmers, and businesses, the bridge still remains closed as Bass Coast Shire Council waits on an application for funding to the Federal Government.

According to local residents, the detour has added unnecessary time, fuel costs, and disruption for those who rely on the bridge, particularly, for commuting to work, transporting goods and accessing essential services.

Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP said the delay in completing repairs and getting the bridge reopened was having an unacceptable impact on local residents.

“I’m particularly concerned to hear about emergency services being delayed in accessing local properties in an urgent situation.

“Recently I met with local farmers at the Kernot General Store to hear their concerns first-hand and have since written to the Federal Infrastructure Minister outlining the urgency of getting this fixed,” Ms Aldred said.

Bass Coast Council stated it remained strongly committed to securing a favourable funding outcome and was preparing to move forward as soon as possible.

“The CEO and Mayor recently met with the Office of Minister Catherine King in Canberra to discuss the (funding) application, reinforce the critical impacts of the bridge closure on the community, and to seek advice on when a funding response might be expected.”

Council said it had been working through necessary planning and approvals to ensure the project was ready to progress quickly as soon as funding was confirmed.

“We understand how important this project is for our community and emergency services, particularly after the extended bridge closure. Council is planning and preparing now so that we can move forward as soon as funding is secured.

“Our infrastructure team has advised that we are targeting early 2026 for commencing construction of the works, subject to funding confirmation and contractor availability.”

According to Bass Coast Council, recent activity at the bridge site was part of the design process and preparatory assessments, not the commencement of reconstruction.

A number of repair and upgrade options were considered, but council officers determined that only two were feasible. The first option was to repair the bridge to a five-tonne load rating with a 20+ year service life; the second option was to upgrade the bridge to a standard Victorian road load rating of 44-tonne with a 50+ year service life.

The second option was considered best for managing ongoing overloading issues and providing the least disruption to the community in the long term. Other options included repairing the bridge to a 12-tonne load rating with varying service lives or building a new dual lane bridge in an adjacent location.

The dual lane bridge option was dismissed due to its high cost, lack of strategic justification and the community’s desire to maintain the route as a local road.

The proposed design ensures no changes to the alignment or number of lanes and retains much of the existing structure to honour the historical nature of the bridge.

Kernot landholders agreed a five-tonne limit was not an option as the CFA 12-tonne fire truck stationed in Kernot was well over the five-tonne limit. With the bridge closed, the CFA is now forced to travel double the distance to fight a fire in The Gurdies Woodlands.

Residents fear this could lead to catastrophic consequences.



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First Home Guarantee: Help or Hype?

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELCapital

For many Australians, owning a home is still seen as the great dream. Yet with house prices rising faster than wages, it has become harder for younger generations to take their first step onto the property ladder.

To make things easier, the Federal Government offers a scheme called the First Home Guarantee. It allows eligible first-home buyers to purchase a property with as little as a 5% deposit, without having to pay lenders' mortgage insurance. The government effectively "guarantees" part of the loan, making it possible for banks to lend more easily to those with smaller deposits.

On the surface, this sounds like a real win. Saving for a 20% deposit can take years, especially in capital cities where property prices continue to climb. For younger Australians, the scheme can shave years off the time it takes to buy a home.

First Home Guarantee at a Glance

Feature	Details
Minimum deposit	5% (no mortgage insurance)
Price caps (Victoria)	Up to \$900,000 in Melbourne; \$700,000 in regional centres; \$600,000 elsewhere
Eligible buyers	First-home buyers earning up to \$125,000 (single) or \$200,000 (couple)
Availability	35,000 places per financial year

Who Benefits Most?

The First Home Guarantee is capped by price limits, which means it's more helpful in regional towns and outer suburbs than in inner-city areas where housing prices far exceed the thresholds. For families in country Victoria or along the coast, the scheme may genuinely make the difference between renting and owning.

It also helps reduce one of the biggest upfront costs of buying a home - mortgage

insurance - which otherwise adds thousands to an already heavy financial burden.

The Other Side of the Debate

But there's another side to the story. Critics argue that while the scheme helps individual buyers, it can also add fuel to the broader housing market. By increasing the number of people who can buy today - rather than waiting years to save a bigger deposit - the scheme boosts demand.

And when demand rises but the supply of houses stays the same, prices tend to go up. This is especially true at a time when housing construction is slowing, building costs are higher, and fewer new homes are coming onto the market.

Why Retirees Should Pay Attention

For semi-retired and retired Australians, the First Home Guarantee may feel like a policy aimed at someone else's generation. But it does have flow-on effects worth noting.

For parents and grandparents, the scheme might help adult children or grandchildren get into the market sooner.

For property owners, particularly those considering selling in the coming years, demand-side schemes like this can help keep prices buoyant in regional and suburban areas.

For the broader economy, housing affordability remains one of the biggest long-term challenges, and what happens in the housing market eventually affects everyone

The bottom line

The First Home Guarantee is not a silver bullet. It helps some buyers, particularly in regional and coastal communities, but it doesn't solve the bigger challenge of housing supply. Without more homes being built where people want to live, prices will remain high, no matter how many schemes are put in place.

For now, the scheme offers a leg-up to a select group of Australians. But the question remains: is it a stepping stone to greater affordability, or just another stimulus that keeps house prices climbing?

The information above does not constitute financial or other professional advice and is general in nature. It does not take into account your specific circumstances and should not be acted on without a full understanding of your current situation and future goals and objectives by a fully qualified financial advisor. Before you make any decision about whether to acquire a certain financial product, you should obtain and read the relevant product disclosure statement.



Artists Bruce Plant, Helen Tiernan and Tony Parisi (Art Connect South Gippsland) celebrate the launch of this year's Open Studio Trail. A11_4025

Open Studio Trail ready to visit

IT'S TIME to explore this year's Open Studio Trail, the popular Art Connect South Gippsland celebration of local creativity running each weekend until October 19.

Meeniyar Art Gallery hosted the official opening on Friday night, attended by members of the South Gippsland Shire art community whose works will feature on the Trail, and other guests.

Sentinel-Times caught up with steel sculptor Matt Williams and Regina Dudek, who produces sculptures using metal and wire, also making jewellery, both artists specialising in repurposing discarded materials into striking creations.

Matt and Regina's works are both featured on the Loch section of the Art Trail, his at the Gippsland Wine Co on the South Gippsland Highway and hers at the Mad Queen in Victoria Road.

Another Loch artist, Lucy Hersey, was also at the opening night, looking forward to welcoming locals and tourists to On Clarence Studios in Clarence Street, where the 'Endless Garden Exhibition' is currently running.

Painter Lucy handmakes naturally pigmented paint, using locally collected earth.

Her studio features both her work and that of artists from the region who don't have their own studios.

Marianne Ruff, who uses watercolour, oil, acrylic and textiles, and creates sculptures, chatted about her current art residency in the red Art Cube in Leongatha, hopeful that being featured on the Art Trail will boost visitor numbers to the Cubes.

All three Art Cubes are in the Woolworth's carpark, not far from the council office, one featuring a youth engagement project and exhibition and another an exhibition of acrylic paintings and mixed media collage by Rebecca Coulter that pays homage to William Blake.

Don't be discouraged by the orange plastic blocks around the Art Cubes that give the impression they are off limits, as everyone is welcome to come and explore.

Fish Creek artist Helen Tiernan spoke of the influence of her Indigenous heritage.

"I look at marginalisation and first contact; I basically repaint history; it's truth-telling really," she said, adding she's moved towards environmental issues.

That includes a current focus on the sea and pollution, including the impact of sound pollution on whales.

Ross Garner, president of the Meeniyar Art Gallery, which is community run and proudly promotes and sells the works of artists from across the region, spoke during the official opening, encouraging people to get involved.

As part of the Art Trail, the gallery is showing the works of mixed media artist Melinda Holt with a focus on abstracted landscapes and spaces, the acrylics and oils of abstract artist Bruce Plant and the photography of Keith Haggett.

Mayor John Schelling praised those at Art Connect for what they've achieved with the Art Trail, now into its third year, noting it keeps growing, adding to the appeal of towns and boosting tourism across South Gippsland Shire.

Member for Monash Mary Aldred described herself as "a passionate supporter of the local arts community," highlighting the fact that the Art Trail showcases the work of about 80 talented artists across 24 venues.

"The arts bring people together," she said, looking forward to taking home some South Gippsland Art to display in her Canberra office.

Head to artconnectsouthgippslandinc.com for more information, including the Open Studio brochure, with printed copies of the brochure available at various locations along the Art Trail.



Regina Dudek and Matt Williams are pleased to share their works on the Open Studio Trail, Regina wearing some of the jewellery she created. A19_4025



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Hagelthorn hooligans lose hideout

RESIDENTS of Hagelthorn Street say life is finally starting to return to normal after months of frustration with squatters and disturbances down the road.

Forty-six Hagelthorn Street, once a magnet for late-night noise, rubbish and vandalism, has been stripped back to its bare bones. The roof has been essentially pulled off and most of the walls removed, leaving little more than the frame and a fence around the block. This partial dismantling seems to have been done as an attempt to deter squatters, which had previously plagued the property.

One Hagelthorn resident, who asked not to be named, said the drastic action has made a clear difference.

"They've pulled the roof off, and it's really pretty much only the frame left now," she said.

"I haven't seen any squatters since the owner did this."

Back in April, the Sentinel-Times reported growing frustration from locals who felt abandoned as squatters moved in and chaos spread through the street. Neighbours complained of loud bangs at three in the morning, rubbish dumped across the nature strip and even a CFA call-out or two. One family's car was damaged, and the bill came to \$900. Residents at the time described feeling unsafe in their own homes.

Now, six months later, the street tells a different story.

"I'm just so happy they're gone," the resident said this week.

"I feel safer, but it's hard to



The stripped frame of 46 Hagelthorn Street, after the roof and walls were removed to deter squatters. W01_4025

describe, just more relieved than anything. At least there's no rubbish lying on the nature strip now. And if you want to go for a walk down that way, you're not stepping all over stuff."

She said the clean-up has lifted the mood of the neighbourhood.

"There is a shared relief, everybody is happy that they are gone," she said. "There's not much left of the property now. There's just the frame and a big fence, so if the squatters do go there, they will be trespassing."

Despite the relief, locals say the property itself has little

chance of recovery.

"I'm on board with a full demolition," the resident said.

"It was just a mess beforehand. All the walls inside the property had been punched in. It probably just has to go."

Her comments echo those made earlier this year when locals questioned whether the property could ever be repaired.

The latest clean-up did bring one final odd note.

"While they were cleaning up the property, they found a bike. One of the young guys had left it there and later came back to get it. The owner told

him he couldn't have it, so the bike got cut up for scraps," the resident recalled with a wry chuckle.

While the rubble and timber still stand somewhat as an eyesore, neighbours say the silence has been well worth it. For a street that had grown used to sirens, smashed windows and sleepless nights, peace seems to have returned.

The future of 46 Hagelthorn Street is uncertain, but residents seem to agree on one thing: anything is better than what came before.

"I'm just glad they're gone," the resident concluded.

Ideas explored for the Summerland Peninsula Master Plan

THE Nature Parks has been working with the local community and key stakeholders to explore fresh, new ideas to shape a precinct-wide vision for the Summerland Peninsula Master Plan.

The first phase of consultation has now been completed, and Nature Parks would like to thank all those who have participated.

There has been a fantastic response with insightful ideas and thoughts that will truly guide the development of the draft Master Plan.

Some of the key ideas heard throughout the consultation process were:

- The Summerland Peninsula is a very special place that is loved by many and is cherished for its wild coastal environment and conservation stories.
- Enhance the sense of arrival, provide better directional signage and wayfinding, and deliver more cohesive and engaging storytelling across the peninsula.
- Redesign traffic management across the peninsula to enable different users to access sites at different times depending on demand – surfers, residents, self-drive visitors and coaches.
- Activate the Summerland Farm.
- Centre the visitor arrival hub and visitor experiences through the Penguin Parade.
- Replace the current Nobbies building with one sensitively designed within the landscape.

Nature Parks is now conducting an iterative design development process where it will develop a draft vision, principles and scenarios, and test these with a community reference group.

Further consultation will then be conducted more broadly on Master Plan concepts, before a draft Master Plan is developed and released publicly for comment.

If you have any questions or thoughts, email community@penguins.org.au.

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Step inside Loch's 'Endless Garden' and discover a world where creativity takes root.

Endless Garden blooms in Loch

LUCY Hersey is showcasing the annual garden-themed art exhibition at On Clarence in Loch until October 19.

"This is the fourth year I have curated this special show, which is free for the artists, and returns all the revenue back to them," said Lucy.

"The purpose is to give emerging local artists an opportunity to show, have their stories told with warmth and enthusiasm and give them some exposure and experience."

It's always been a garden theme show – this year it's called 'Endless Garden'. The idea is that an artist's mind is like fertile, boundless soil where anything is possible, with artists nurturing ideas like gardeners. "Nurturing them from the invisible realms of their imagination and labouring to carry them into the physical world to share them with us."

'Endless Garden' runs from October 3 to October 19 at 1 Clarence Street, Loch. Open 10am-3 pm Thursday-Sunday or by appointment. Visit onclarence.com.au.

Roger and Janet Powell reflect on time in Korumburra

KORUMBURRA'S Roger and Janet Powell are pleased they made the decision to move to the town and are proud to have contributed through their strong involvement with Korumburra Lions Club and Friends of Coal Creek (FOCC), but are looking forward to a new chapter living closer to family.

They will shift to the Carrum Downs area in November to spend more time with their three children and eight grandkids and reduce the need for long drives to do so.

Roger and Janet were among an influx of members who joined their local Lions Club in 2021, the couple having settled in Korumburra after their 2018 move there and keen to contribute and meet more locals.

At the time, the club's membership had fallen so low it was in danger of folding, but 10 new people, including the Powells, came aboard after a spectacularly successful meeting at which they learned more about Lions and had the opportunity to express their views on the sort of projects they were interested in.

"Lions is a great way for people of our age to meet and become involved in a community, and it is hard to break into a community when you don't know anybody, so you're really looking for groups that are active and doing things which you feel you want to do," Roger said.

It wasn't long after the Powells joined that members determined the three key areas they wanted the club to focus on.

One of those was to assist the youth of Korumburra, another goal being to help those people in the area who are less fortunate through initiatives like the Foodbank and community dinners.

Contributing to better infrastructure for the town was another objective, such as improvements to the picnic shelter and its surrounds.

The club put in an anniversary garden near the shelter to commemorate 75 years



Janet and Roger are looking forward to being closer to family, after many years spent in Korumburra.

of Lions in Australia.

In line with one of the key aims, Janet has a strong focus on improving opportunities for young people locally and has found the club's involvement with schools in the area rewarding.

Roger highlighted the constructive relationships between Korumburra Lions Club and other community groups to get things done for the town, Lions members often providing catering to help boost the success of local events such as the Korumburra Show and the Swap Meet.

There are strong ties between Korumburra Lions Club and FOCC through events such as Halloween evenings and Easter egg hunts.

The Powells immediately took on committee roles when they joined Lions, Janet as secretary and Roger as vice president.

He went on to become president, a

position he also filled for FOCC, which the couple joined a little while after Lions when Coal Creek reopened after the pandemic.

While the Powells are pleased a Coal Creek Strategic Plan has been developed by South Gippsland Shire Council, they'll be keeping a keen eye on the tourist park's progress and hope it receives the funding it needs for both maintenance and to improve its appeal to visitors.

The couple feel some sadness leaving Korumburra, having made great friendships there, but will only be moving about an hour's drive away so will still be seen at some of the town's events.

"We've really enjoyed our time living in Korumburra; it's a wonderful community with some tremendous assets behind it, but we feel that we've made some form of contribution to the community," Roger said.

All the best for that next chapter.



Korumburra RSL's Tony Moon discusses an item from the Paterson collection with Norm and Merren Stockdale of the 39th Battalion Association. A21_4025

Korumburra RSL farewells remainder of Paterson collection

REPRESENTATIVES of the 39th Battalion Association were at Korumburra RSL on Saturday to gather remaining items from the military collection of Lt Col Alexander (Alex) Paterson DSO MC.

As previously reported in the Sentinel-Times, most of the vast collection went to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra earlier this year, the Korumburra RSL playing a central role in finding a suitable home for the hoard.

While the aim was to keep as many of the items together as possible, some were duplicates of ones already held by the AWM or were deemed by its representatives to be more suited to the 39th Battalion Association.

Alex spent his entire WWI service with the 39th Battalion, which he commanded.

Merren and Norm Stockdale of the 39th Battalion Association were delighted to learn about the overall Paterson collection and the objects going to the Association, of which Merren is secretary.

The Stockdales chatted to members of the Paterson family and were given a detailed insight into many of the remaining items by Korumburra RSL's Tony Moon.

Those included programs for farewell

and welcome home events for the 39th Battalion and an album of Alex's photos.

Merren explained that the 39th Battalion Association, based in Ballarat, was originally inspired by the WWII 39th Battalion, famous for its major role at Kokoda.

The Association later included the 39th Battalion of WWI and the current 39th Operational Support Battalion that was established in 2006.

Merren spoke of the importance of keeping the stories alive, her father having served with the 39th Battalion in WWII.

Many of the Paterson objects that have gone to the 39th Battalion Association are likely to be displayed at the home of the 39th Operational Support Battalion, Merren explaining that would keep them in the "39th family".

Alex's relatives long searched for a suitable home for his collection, with him having expressed the wish for it to be on display to honour those who didn't come home from the war.

Family member Margaret Scott said she's thrilled the collection will be catalogued and displayed, albeit there was some sadness for the family in handing it over.

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Doctor hangs up his surgical mask after 31 years at Leongatha Hospital

DR GRAHAM Toohill has hung up his surgical mask and boots after 31 years and thousands of successful procedures at Gippsland Southern Health Services' Leongatha Memorial Hospital.

While the community is thankful for his care and service, Dr Toohill is thankful for the opportunity.

"I've had an amazing career, and I thank God for such a wonderful opportunity to be able to help a lot of people over a very long time," he said.

"I had my last operating day this week and after I'd completed my five cases, they gave me a lovely send-off lunch, cake and a Citizen watch. I felt very much appreciated by the theatre team."

He will continue at the Leongatha Healthcare clinic until the end of the year and, after some locum work early in the new year, will be retiring at age 74.

"I've got lots of children and grandchildren spread around the country to visit and jobs I want to do at home, so there will be plenty for me to do," he said.

Dr Toohill completed his training and started his medical career in Melbourne before taking a far-flung placement in Nepal.

"When I was a medical student, I went to Nepal for a six-week medical elective and worked with some amazing and inspiring people, Christian medical missionaries doing a lot with very little in a poverty-stricken place. They inspired me to follow their contribution," he said.

Upon returning to Australia, he opted for a country practice.

"When it was time to come home from Nepal, my good friends Hugh and Lesley Chisholm were working



The staff at Gippsland Southern Health Service gave retiring GP surgeon Dr Graham Toohill a sendoff recently.

here in Leongatha and they invited me to join them, and I've been happy to work with them over all those years," he said.

His work as a GP surgeon has always been interesting and varied.

"It has changed over the years," Dr Toohill said.

"Hugh and I did obstetrics for more than 25 years, which meant we were on call day and night. I was on call for the Urgent Care Centre for many years until COVID hit, and I used to admit my patients and look after them."

"I still come up from time to time to look after patients."

As a GP surgeon, Dr Toohill said his speciality was very broad.

"In the beginning, I did a lot of tonsillectomies, appendicectomies and vasectomies, but more recently it has been carpal tunnel releases, vasectomies, skin lesions and ingrown toenails," he said.

Dr Toohill is leaving with fond memories of the work and the people.

"I've enjoyed my time at the hospital enormously. It has been a very satisfying and rewarding career in country practice. I'm happy to work anywhere but this has been a wonderful spot for me," he said.

Call for submissions into Victorian childcare inquiry

THE Select Committee conducting an inquiry into the recent child safety failures in the early childhood education and care sector in Victoria is calling for public submissions.

The Inquiry was successfully established by The Nationals and Liberals after allegations of child safety and abuse in the sector were revealed.

The Nationals' Melina Bath, who is serving on the Committee, is encouraging parents, carers, educators and training organisations to have their say and make a submission to the wide-ranging Inquiry.

Ms Bath said parents and families were devastated and disturbed by the failures in Victoria's child safety regulations and subsequent compliance failures.

"The Committee will investigate exactly what went wrong and by whom; and make recommendations for reform to better protect our youngest citizens and minimise the possibility of future repeats."

The Inquiry is examining the effectiveness of Working with Children Checks, as well as current quality and safety standards, and the training, qualifications, and professional development of educators in

Victoria's childcare sector.

It will also examine workforce conditions, staff-to-child ratio regulations, and whether there is sufficient oversight by the Department of Education.

Ms Bath said families had reported that they had lost faith in the childcare and early education sector, and the Inquiry is needed to restore confidence in the sector.

"Families deserve certainty when they drop their young children off, that they are kept safe from harm and receive quality care and education."

"People's views and experiences will help shape recommendations for meaningful improvements to the system and help our young children receive the care and protection they deserve."

A full copy of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference and the submissions portal can be found online at <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/earlyeducation/submissions>.

The Select Committee will table an interim report in early 2026, with a final report due to Parliament by July 31, 2026.

Submissions close on November 30, 2025.

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Sentinel-Times COMMENT

Can't afford four years in the wilderness

THE Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, has announced that she will not be contesting the next election in November 2026.

Post-politics, Ms Crugnale has said she plans to take a little holiday with the family but has "nothing lined up".

She has, however, rejected the idea she is dodging an unwinnable campaign, having stared down that prospect on two previous occasions.

However, after a 12-year stint in public life, including four years on the Bass Coast Shire Council where she served as Mayor, and two terms in one of the most marginal seats in State Parliament, who could blame her for taking a break... from public life.

There's no doubt, however, that by challenging for, winning and holding a marginal seat for the government of the day, Jordan has been able to attract significant interest and funding for programs and works, not only during her time in Parliament, but also in the lead up to the 2018 and 2022 polls.

For example, while former Liberal MPs, both in government and in Opposition, were unable to deliver much-needed funding for a new state secondary college in Wonthaggi, Premier Daniel Andrews made sure a funding promise for the school would be a feature of the 2018 election.

And the new Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale was there to see it opened at the start of the 2020 school year.

Funding for many major projects followed, including new hospitals at Wonthaggi and Cowes, tourist project funding, a new junior secondary campus at San Remo, other school projects and much more as Premier Andrews trod a well-worn path to Bass Coast.

One yet-to-be-resolved matter concerns the \$290 million election promise in 2022 for stages 2 and 3 of the Wonthaggi Hospital.

By having a local member as part of the government, in a marginal seat, this area has attracted more funding and more interest from government than it has seen in more than 100 years.

So, credit to Jordan Crugnale for her role in that... but what now?

Why should we leave it up to Melbourne-based parties to decide our fate?

If, as seems likely after the chaotic performance of the Liberal Party, Labor wins next year's election, but with a swing against it, the seat of Bass will be very much in play, potentially being won by a Liberal candidate who will have no say as part of the Opposition.

The growing electorate of Bass can't afford four years in the wilderness.

If local voters don't want a seat at the government table, perhaps a locally-based independent, of our choosing, would be the next-best option.

Vox Pop

Are you concerned about crime in your local area?



Brad Carr

Wonthaggi

"It's not too bad; it's more the illegal dumping of rubbish we cop out on the farm."



Robert Lavin

Wonthaggi

"I worry for other people, I hear about the horrific things kids are doing and they're let out on bail too early."



Helen Zuidema

Meeniyah

"A family member just got robbed, so yes we are concerned about it."



Les Humphrey

Foster

"There's crime everywhere; it's not the policeman's fault and could be put down politely to our politicians."

The writing on the walls

I COULD see this crime wave coming decades ago. Sadly, the police force I spent 32 years in is no longer focused on fighting hardened criminals nor catching repeat (or even one-off) offenders. A woke DEI-focused politically chosen command has seen to that. A socialist appointed judiciary that acts as a revolving door has been in operation for two decades. A political system that seems incapable of responding to social dysfunction or making the courts answerable to the victims.

A society that seems to be incapable of controlling their offspring. A laissez-faire approach by our education and childcare so-called experts towards disciplining young adolescents who no longer know the difference between right and wrong. In the U.S, they ram cars that are in pursuit. In Brazil, they have sharpshooters in helicopters that do the job even more efficiently.

Talk to politicians on both sides of politics, and they have no answers it would seem. Band-aid fixes and empty promises. We are witnessing crime in Western countries that seems to be out of hand and becoming the norm. Throw in excuses like mental issues or an awful upbringing, and the little toe rags walk away on bail simply to commit another crime.

Yet people keep voting for politicians who won't force the judicial system to deal with the criminals to the victims' satisfaction. Politicians won't back a Police Force that enforces a zero-tolerance approach to crime and primarily focuses on catching criminals, not PR waffle. Society won't accept that parents have to have physical control of their children if they can't mentally control or reason with them. They know no limits.

Society's crime will escalate, more of the public will be injured, killed or simply violated and criminals will run rampant knowing they can literally get away with murder these days if they have a highly paid lawyer. This is the society that supposedly is a vast improvement on how life was several decades back. Good luck!

Tony Griggs, Hallston

Healing the rift between Council and the Senior Citizens

COUNCIL recently decided to proceed with an independent external planning panel for the rezoning of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre. Notwithstanding an appointment in December in the Supreme Court to determine who actually owns the land and building, Council could resolve the matter simply by coming up with the legal dissolution documents for the Trust under which the Councillors hold the land in trust for the Senior Citizens group. Despite numerous requests, Council has

repeatedly failed for months to even acknowledge the very existence of the Trust until very recently and have not been able to release a dissolution of the Trust document. This would resolve the matter without wasteful expenses and more heartache among our senior citizens.

Leaving aside the immorality of in effect 'stealing' the land from the Senior Citizens of Korumburra and denying them the use of an accessible centre, a procedure for simple management risks would show that the matter should have been resolved through negotiations and not through expensive legal action. Councils, along with State and the Federal government are bound by the Model Litigant Policy that specifies that you should not use asymmetric legal warfare to deter legitimate complaints.

Not only is Councils integrity at risk through its flagrant breach of the Model Litigant Policy, but ratepayers will yet again potentially be up for a cost of \$800,000, along with the cost of planning amendments running into \$100,000 + of consultant and staff time.

In short, Council could be up for costs of \$0.8m (legal costs for both parties of \$150K +, repairs to building damage \$20k, foregone use of the building estimated at \$55k and potentially, if pursued, a legal liability for aggravated damages of their members who are not able to use the facility. Using gym memberships as proxy estimate 170 members by 2.3 years by \$1550 = \$606,000.

If Council cannot come up with the dissolution documentation for the Trust the Supreme Court legally should be bound to confirm the ownership of the Senior Citizens Centre Inc in conformity with the Trust's deed.

It appears that our Councillors are being led by staff who have not performed their proper job of providing frank and fearless advice, let alone briefings on the individual legal implications of not conforming to the Trust obligations for Councillors, or proper risk management advice and compliance with the agreed policy of being a Model Litigant.

When will our representatives have the willingness to actually represent us as is their duty and not be led by staff into a continuous spiral of defending the actions of, at times, an indefensible Council? At a time of record low performance, as measured by the State Government's Community Satisfaction Survey, one may ask why our Councillors agree to every proposal staff provide and ignore the possibility of healing the rift between Council and the Senior Citizens? It's time to set aside the proposed planning amendment and negotiate an amicable settlement and reopen the accessible Senior Citizens Centre.

Andrew McEwen, Co-convenor, Strzelecki Ward Citizens Assembly

Why wasn't it considered initially?

I AM a regular swimmer at the Wonthaggi Aqua Centre, earlier in the year Aligned Leisure took over the running of this facility. Fairly soon after this, refurbishment of the changing rooms started. They started with the men's changing room, and when it was finished, they immediately commenced work on the women's changing rooms. Whilst this was happening, the women were allotted the updated Men's changing rooms with men using a makeshift room at the back of the pool.

As soon as I started using this updated area, I became aware that the floor was slippery. This is not what you expect in a wet area of the pool. Many other women mentioned this to the staff, and our comments were recorded. In mid-September, Aligned Leisure sent us an email about the floor and said they were doing all they could to put things right, but meanwhile, they were putting down mats and grab rails. So after at least two months things had not altered. I would add that on four mornings a week there is a very busy aqua class with many elderly participants. All the women knew the state of the floors in the changing room and were just waiting for an accident to happen.

Last week, just such an accident occurred with a patron slipping and taking a heavy fall in the shower area and ending up in A&E with a concussion, a sprained ankle and severe bruising. There is absolutely no excuse for this.

Whether the flooring is the responsibility of Aligned Leisure or the Bass Coast Shire Council is immaterial; the health and safety of the women who use the pool clearly has not been thoroughly considered.

The refurbished changing rooms are now closed. So women using the pool have only two all-purpose rooms in which to change, obviously not enough for 40 aqua exercisers.

This matter cannot go on for longer and now requires a very speedy conclusion.

Gill Ryan, address supplied

Editors Note: The Sentinel-Times contacted Bass Coast Shire for comment regarding the incident and received the following response: "The refurbishments are a Bass Coast Shire Council project. Council is currently investigating the incident and is therefore unable to provide any further comment."

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.

Wonthaggi Toyota



SPRING SALE... OVER 75 VEHICLES READY TO GO



CAR OF THE WEEK
2022 Toyota RAV4 Cruiser
51,990 DRIVE AWAY
Just arrived 59,740kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV. SN: W102244



2015 Hyundai Tucson TL Active X
19,990 DRIVE AWAY
Perfect for Family, 146,872kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102195



2017 Nissan Qashqai J11 Series 2 ST-L
22,990 DRIVE AWAY
Practical and Stylish 79,380kms, X-tronic auto wagon SN: W102173



2024 Mitsubishi ASX LS XD
26,990 DRIVE AWAY
Compact SUV 34,360kms, CVT auto SUV SN: W102155



2018 Hyundai Tucson Active X
21,990 DRIVE AWAY
Impressive vehicle, 109,065kms, 6 speed auto SUV SN: W102231



2017 Toyota Corolla Ascent
16,990 DRIVE AWAY
Popular model, 155,420kms, 7 speed CVT auto hatch SN: W102151



2023 Kia Sportage S
34,990 DRIVE AWAY
Top value, 46,730kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102154



2021 Toyota Camry Ascent
34,990 DRIVE AWAY
Reliability plus, 71,089kms, 6 speed CVT auto sedan SN: W102235

Leongatha Toyota

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4X4 OF THE WEEK
2014 Toyota Landcruiser Prado VX
28,990 DRIVE AWAY
Ready to travel, 291,821kms, 5 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L101373



2008 Toyota Landcruiser VX
49,990 DRIVE AWAY
Go Touring, 210,810kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV. SN: L101396



2022 Volkswagen Tiguan 110TSI Life 5N
26,990 DRIVE AWAY
Family favourite, 44,851kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L101385



2021 Toyota Fortuner Crusade
53,990 DRIVE AWAY
Just arrived, 76,647kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV. SN: L101422



2023 Hyundai Staria Load
38,990 DRIVE AWAY
Ready to Move, 36,000kms, 8 speed CVT auto van. SN: L101420



2021 Suzuki Baleno GL
18,990 DRIVE AWAY
Economic driving, 28,793kms, 4 speed CVT auto hatch SN: L101436



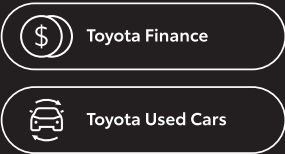
2018 Toyota C-HR Koba
25,990 DRIVE AWAY
4x4 On Demand, 81,347kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV, alloys SN: L101400



2025 Toyota Hilux SR
59,990 DRIVE AWAY
Built to work, 5,520kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 double cab SN: 12206835

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

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



OH WHAT A FEELING

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

Feast, sip and dance this October

Full festival lineup unveiled for inaugural Eat Drink Play Gippsland

EAT Drink Play Gippsland, a brand-new one-day festival bringing together the region's top producers, chefs, and artists, has unveiled its full lineup and culinary program, promising a vibrant celebration of Gippsland's very best food, wine, and music.

Taking over Leongatha's Railway Precinct on Saturday, October 18, the festival is set to be a true pad-dock-to-party experience, offering a full-sensory day and night out for locals and visitors alike.

A feast of local flavours

For food-lovers attending, they'll be welcomed to indulge in a sumptuous feast showcasing Gippsland's finest flavours, from smoky, spiced lamb buns to slow-cooked lamb over cherry wood from the region's top eateries.

Promising a full day of epicurean indulgence, the lineup includes:

- Messmates (Warragul) – A family-run favourite and 2025 Regional Restaurant of the Year by The Age Good Food Guide, Messmates will be serving BBQ-spiced lamb sausage buns bursting with smoky flavour, golden rarebit baked potatoes crowned with melting Maffra cheddar, and a delicate lemon curd shortbread to finish.

- Sodafish (Lakes Entrance) – The coastal gem led by local chef Nick Mahlook, Sodafish will bring the sea to the plate with catch-of-the-day souvlaki, BBQ chermoula scallops finished with a crisp seaweed crumb, and a bright, zesty Bass Strait ceviche with lime and burnt chilli.

- Hogget Kitchen (Warragul) – Helmed by Trevor Perkins, Hogget Kitchen will be tempting tastebuds with chargrilled venison pastrami skewers, South Gippsland goose spring rolls paired with house-made plum sauce, and a rich Watlebank Farm mushroom tart set in velvety Maffra cheese custard.

- Tinamba Hotel – The local institution will be celebrating the region's native bounty with tender kangaroo loin, premium Wandilla Wagyu bruschetta, and a decadent baked triple brie made with Maffra cheese.

- Mahob at Moos – Known for reimagining Cambodian and Southeast Asian flavours – this time, through a Gippsland lens – Mahob at Moos will serve up kreoung curry-marinated beef tucked into mini nom pang sach rolls, shaved grilled corn dressed in caramelised fish sauce and cheddar, and the satisfying crunch of traditional sticky rice.

- Trulli (Meenian) – Heritage Italian mainstay Trulli will bring soul to the festival with a trio of artisanal paninis – smoked Gippsland beef with aged Maffra cheddar, chargrilled vegetables, or mortadella with pistachio cream – alongside signature tiramisu and freshly piped cannoli. As night falls, Trulli will serve their twilight showstopper: Puglia-style lamb shoulder, slow-cooked over cherry wood and paired with Creamy Valley potato friarelli.

To complement the indulgent

food lineup, festivalgoers will also be able to sip and savour a curated selection of Gippsland's finest drinks. Leading winemakers Fleet, William Downie, Dirty Three, Patrick Sullivan, Xavier Wine, and Lightfoot Wines will pour their signature drops, while craft heroes Mates Gin Distillery, Gurneys Cider, Loch Distillery, and Sailors Grave Brewing will add a spirited twist.

Local dairy champions Gippsland Jersey, Prom Country Cheese, and Loch Cheese Merchant will complete the tasting journey, ensuring every bite and sip celebrates the very best of the region's producers.

Plates, Beats & Conversations

Beyond the feasting, the program features intimate producer talks, giving festivalgoers the chance to hear directly from the people behind the product. Food and wine writer and restaurant critic Kara Monssen will lead foodie conversations, quizzing the festival's chefs and producers, whilst acclaimed wine writer Max Allen will explore current top drops and drinks trends with winemakers from Bass Philip and The Wine Farm, as well as distillers and brewers.

Soundtracking the day, three distinctive local acts showcasing the region's diverse talent will take to the stage, including:

- Misty Harlowe: Hailing from regional Victoria, the Americana songstress brings her western-tinged storytelling, fearless fortitude and velvety vocals to the stage.

- Janie Gordon: The Leongatha singer-songwriter makes her indie-pop homecoming. Audiences might remember Gordon's acoustic dulcet tones from Season 9 of The Voice Australia, and more recently, as support artist for Boy & Bear at The Forum.

- Jungle Jim Smith: Delivers his signature one-man-blues-band experience, complete with cigar box guitar, foot drums and no shortage of rock'n'roll heart.

Then, from 6pm, the festival transforms into an electrifying evening under the stars with three powerhouse headliners featuring:

- Steph Strings: Phillip Island's rising star showcases fingerstyle brilliance that has earned her sold-out shows worldwide – a dynamic blend of blues, Celtic, folk and percussive flair.

- Emma Donovan: The soul powerhouse brings the house down with her acclaimed 'Take Me To The River' tribute, reimagining timeless classics from legends like Sam Cooke, Al Green, Aretha Franklin and Ann Peebles.

- Melbourne Ska Orchestra: The explosive 26-piece big band, conducted by Nicky Bomba, performs their infectious performances spanning the golden ska era through to modern classics.

Commenting on the festivities, Festival Director Dan Sims (formerly of Pinot Palooza and Mould Cheese Festival) said, "We

can't wait to bring Eat Drink Play Gippsland to life. This isn't just a festival – it's a celebration of the region's incredible producers and the amazing food, wine, and craft they create. From the Railway Precinct to the surrounding towns, every part of the festival shines a light on Gippsland's bounty, giving locals and visitors the chance to taste, explore, and fall in love with the region again and again."

Backed by the Victorian Government's Regional Events Fund, Eat Drink Play Gippsland champions the region's remarkable food, wine, and cultural talent through its innovative dual-format festival. The collaboration unites South Gippsland Shire Council, Destination Gippsland, and Wine Gippsland with Chair of Wine Victoria and seasoned festival producer Dan Sims (Pinot Palooza, Mould Cheese Festival), and local entertainment specialists The Hills Are Alive Group, founded by fellow Gippsland natives Aidan and Rhett McLaren.

Elsewhere across the weekend, Ella Hooper brings her acclaimed Linda Ronstadt tribute to Meenian Town Hall on Friday evening, presented by the Lyrebird Arts Council. Then on Sunday, the celebrations spill into neighbouring towns with bonus events including Porchetta & Pinot at Trulli, Banh Mi and beats at Fleet Wines, and Movida and cider festivities at Gurneys.

"Eat Drink Play Gippsland is more than a celebration of our region's incredible food, drink and music – it's a driver of economic opportunity for South Gippsland," South Gippsland Mayor John Schelling said.

"Events like this bring thousands of visitors into our towns, supporting local producers, hospitality businesses, accommodation providers and tourism operators. It's a showcase of what makes our region so special, and we're proud to be part of it. Please join us at the iconic Railway Precinct in Leongatha."

And, the fun doesn't stop when the festival gates close. Sunday, October 19, is your chance to slow down, savour and keep the vibes rolling with a series of extra events across South Gippsland.

Ditch the car at home and leave driving to the pros with a special bus transport schedule announced. Routes will run from Warragul, Traralgon, Yarram and San Remo.

Tickets are on sale now via visitgippsland.com.au/eatdrinkplay.

GET YOUR
TICKETS HERE!





Eat Drink Play Gippsland will bring together the region's finest food, wine and music when the festival takes over Leongatha's Railway Precinct on October 18.



Local cheeses will take centre stage alongside Gippsland's fine wines and brews, with platters showcasing the region's best.



Dirty Three Wines' Lisa Sartori and Marcus Satchell will pour signature Gippsland drops at the inaugural Eat Drink Play festival.



Phillip Island's rising star Steph Strings brings her acclaimed fingerstyle brilliance to the Eat Drink Play stage.

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PRECINCT

Eat Drink Play **GIPPSLAND** *18 October 2025*

FROM Paddock TO PARTY

A one-day feast of the region's finest

EAT + DRINK: FROM 11AM

EATS

Trulli Messmates Tinamba Hotel
Sodafish Hogget Prom Country Cheese Gippsland Jersey Holy Smokes Queen
Loch Cheese Merchant Waratah Bay Ice Cream Co Remi & Florence Bakehouse
Mahob at Moos **WINES** Fleet The Wine Farm Lithostylis Caledonia Australis
Dirty Three Gippsland Wine Co Corner Inlet Bass River Entropy Blackcoat
Patrick Sullivan Narkoojee Carrajung Blue Gables Krooked Row Glenmaggie
The Gurdies Silverwaters Triffids Bandicoot Run Cannibal Creek William Downie
Xavier Goodridge Lightfoot Nicholson River Blackcoat Wyanga Park

DRINKS

Gurneys Cider Loch Brewery & Distillery Sailors Grave Brewing
Mates Gin Distillery Maffco Brewery Infusa Distillery Natural Distilling Co

MUSIC

Jungle Jim Smith Janie Gordon Ozone Street Strezleki Stringbusters
Misty Harlowe Invy Horn Jam

KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

AND MUCH MORE!

PLAY: FROM 6PM

MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA

EMMA DONOVAN

performs 'TAKE ME TO THE RIVER'
a tribute to timeless soul classics

STEPH STRINGS

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Leongatha Railway
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TIMES

EAT DRINK 11am–5pm
PLAY 6pm–10pm

TICKETS

From \$35
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Kongwak Fire Brigade practice sinking a hydrant during Sunday's training day in Leongatha.



Strike Team Leader from Kongwak Fire Brigade, Ross Olden, provides instructions ahead of a running grass fire drill in what was rather a green paddock on Sunday.



Nerrena Fire Brigade put their running fire skills to the test on Sunday, using a tyre as their target off the back of the tanker.

Fire season preparations rev up in Leongatha

THIRTEEN Strzelecki Group fire brigades had a busy Sunday preparing for the upcoming fire season, participating in training exercises around Leongatha.

As well as sharpening skills, it was a great mentoring opportunity, giving some members the chance to try new roles.

Sentinel-Times visited District 9's Field Operations Vehicle (FOV), containing radios, computer equipment and a weather station that helps those manning the vehicle to predict fire behaviour and convey necessary information.

District 9 covers Baw Baw and South Gippsland Shires, Inverloch and Pound Creek.

Various scenarios were thrown at the participating brigades throughout the day, including 'red flag warnings' that indicated potentially dangerous changes in circumstances such as altering wind direction, and required decisive action to ensure the safety of crews.

Crews practised tackling a grass fire threatening an industrial area, those in the front fire truck having a moving target at which to aim, in this instance a towed tyre rather than flames, District 9 Commander Simon Bloink taking this scribe to see the action.

He stressed that just like the brigade volunteers



FOV operators for the day, Louise Black and Colin Lackman played an important part in the Strzelecki Group training exercise. A23_4025

getting ready for anticipated dangerous and dry conditions as summer approaches, members of the community should have up-to-date fire plans and tackle tasks such as clearing potential fuel loads from their properties.

Listening to Simon, it was clear the many considerations that go into fighting fires and the need for a thorough understanding of fire behaviour, giving a deeper appreciation of the commitment volunteers show.

He spoke of the elevated nature of the grass area in relation to nearby industrial facilities and a truck, pointing out the increased threat posed by radiant heat due to the proximity of the flames to the truck's

windows, threatening to ignite a fire in its cabin.

During the grassfire practice, Simon spoke about the varying ages of the fire trucks, between new and about 30 years old, and the changes in technology over time.

That included the ability to operate the pump from inside the cabin as opposed to the back of the truck and the differing ways in which crews monitor the quantity of water in their tankers, from old-style gauges to a modern approach using coloured lights.

Simon explained that truck crews never allow their water to run out completely, always retaining sufficient to operate their safety systems in case of incidents such as a burnover.

Unfortunately, weather didn't play its part on Sunday, strong winds forcing the cancellation of a drone demonstration planned to highlight how the technology can be used in firefighting.

Drones can provide video, photos and thermal imaging. After lunch at Leongatha Recreation Reserve, kindly served by members of the Narre Warren Fire Brigade, training participants heard about the many considerations for those in charge at fire scenes when it comes to managing support from heavy machinery operators.

A key message was that as an incident controller, you become responsible for that machinery.

That includes scenarios such as a farmer offering to operate his tractor to help brigades, with the incident controller needing to establish if the equipment is suitable for the purpose, and ensure it is not used otherwise.

The heavy machinery session took place next to a large excavator, and it was stressed that such machines have many blind spots and to never assume the operator has seen you.

The support of the community throughout the day, including those whose properties and streets the brigades visited, was much appreciated by those involved.

Getting ready for the fire season with CFA open days

THE first of a series of CFA Get Fire Ready Open Days were held across the region over the weekend ahead of what is expected to be a challenging fire season.

Open days were held at fire stations at French Island, Poowong, Toora, Meenyan, Stony Creek, Lang Lang, Inverloch, Pound Creek, Tarwin Lower, Yanakie and Dumbalk.

CFA Captain Shane Frogley said the Get Fire Ready Open Day at Inverloch had been very popular, particularly with children trying out the fire hoses.

Secretary of the Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade Andrew Mutton said up to 50 people visited the local fire station coming from Inverloch, Tarwin Lower and Leongatha.

Get Fire Ready events will continue through October with some great tips on protecting home and property against fire, understanding fire danger ratings, where to find emergency contact information and how to create your own bushfire survival plan.

Leongatha Fire Brigade will have a CFA Open Day on Thursday, October 9 from 11am to 2pm at the Leongatha Fire Station, 93 Bair Street, Leongatha.

Boolarra Fire Brigade will have a Get Fire Ready

event on Friday, October 10 from 5pm to 7.30pm at the Boolarra Memorial Hall, 10 Christian Street, Boolarra.

Phillip Island Fire Brigade will have a CFA Open Day on Saturday, October 11 from 10am to 4pm at the Phillip Island Fire Station, 110 Ventnor Road, Cowes.

On Sunday, October 12 Kongwak Fire Brigade will have a CFA Open Day from 10am to midday at the Kongwak Market; Nerrena will have an Open Day from 10am to 3pm at the Nerrena Fire Station, 80 Nerrena Hall Road, Nerrena; and Hallston-Mt Eccles will have a local activity from 2pm to 5pm with fire crews from Hallston-Mt Eccles, Allambee and Berrys Creek at the Hallston Hall, 2670 Grand Ridge Road, Hallston.

Mirboo North Fire Brigade will have a Get Fire Ready event on Saturday, October 25 from 9am to 2pm at Baromi Park, 36 Couper Street, Mirboo North.

Meet your local fire crews and learn more about planning and preparing your property for the fire season with tailored advice on fire risks and advice on using local maps.

Get Fire Ready events will also have fun and educational activities for the kids.



Cody and Otis use the fire hoses at Inverloch Fire Station with firefighters Allan Williamson and Cameron Mackay from Ferntree Gully. B19_4024



Former Pound Creek CFA Captain and firefighter for 53 years Neil Smith at the Pound Creek Fire Brigade Get Fire Ready Open Day. B23_4024



CFA Community Safety Officer Alan Archibald with Anne Johnston of Inverloch at the Get Fire Ready Open Day at Pound Creek Fire Station. B22_4025



National Medals and life memberships were presented to outstanding members of the Mirboo North CFA. Photo: Mirboo North CFA.

CFA volunteers honoured

SATURDAY, September 13, was an outstanding night for the Mirboo North CFA family with medals and awards piled up to the rafters.

The Leongatha RSL was jam-packed with CFA members, families and community representatives to help celebrate the brigades' efforts.

Captain Trent Venten thanked the members for their teamwork and dedication to protecting the community.

Deputy Chief Officer (DCO) Trevor Owen from CFA South East Region thanked the team for their unwavering commitment to protecting life and property before presenting the awards.

In recognition for years of service, Tony Ebeyer received a five-year certificate, Rob Smart a 10-year service medal, and Peter Ramsdale and Colin Murray received 15-year service medals.

Heather Barker received a medal for an outstanding 30 years of service to CFA.

One of the highest honours in CFA is the National Medal for Emergency Services. A big congratulations to Brayden Groen, Frances Wilson, Heather Barker and Jason Barnes for receiving their National Awards.

This acknowledges a high level of dedication to the service and other members, industrious efforts and carrying out duties with perseverance and painstaking effort.

Special Mirboo North CFA Brigade life memberships were bestowed to Craig Barker, Heather Barker, Aaron Wilson, Brayden Groen and Rhonda Barnes.

Each member has given more than 20 years of their life to the Mirboo North Fire Brigade.

That's a lot of hours extinguishing fires, attending road rescue events, helping in emergencies, training, servicing fire equipment, attending community events, doing welfare checks and assisting community members.

A surprise for the night was the inaugural Firefighter of the Year award.

This was presented to an operational member in recognition of their drive, attending emergency events and displaying great firefighting skills.

Congratulations to firefighter David Knowles for receiving this honour.



Heather Barker was thanked for her 30 years of service to the Mirboo North CFA. Photo: Mirboo North CFA.



Charlotte Pors received the Ian Moon Award for her enthusiasm to train and be a valued member of the Mirboo North CFA. Photo: Mirboo North CFA.



David Knowles received Mirboo North CFA's inaugural Firefighter of the Year Award. Photo: Mirboo North CFA.



Tim Bessell-Browne received the Steve Groen Award for his leadership within the Mirboo North CFA. Photo: Mirboo North CFA.

ing this honour.

The Lieutenants allocated the Steve Groen Award to firefighter Tim Bessell-Browne for his leadership skills, knowledge and support to other brigade members.

Captain Venten presented the Ian Moon Award to firefighter Charlotte Pors for her outstanding enthusiasm to train, learn and be a great brigade member.

Several brigade appreciation awards were presented to Grant Morrison, Callie Dunbar and Daniel Pors for their initiative and support.

Congratulations to all Mirboo North CFA Brigade members who selflessly give their time and energy to volunteer and protect the community from fire and emergencies during rain, hail and shine, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Special thanks to Loch CFA

Fire and Rescue for covering the area during the dinner.

Thank you to Gippsland South MLA Danny O'Brien and South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr John Schelling for attending the awards night and supporting the CFA volunteers.

A big thank you also goes to Trevor Brewster for loaning his bus to transport members to Leongatha and back.



Poowong Lieutenant Paul Hawker is urging those who have considered joining their local brigade to take the leap. C100_4025

Thinking of joining your local CFA, now's the time

KEEN to jump on the big red truck ahead of the fire season? Time is running out. Always open to new members, upcoming fire restrictions, and pre-summer training for new recruits will close in the coming weeks. This means that if you're keen to serve your community this fire season, it's best to register your interest sooner rather than later.

Captain Zeb Mitchell said at Poowong Fire Brigade's open day on Saturday that whilst they have welcomed a few new recruits in recent years, they are still actively seeking more.

"Our daytime crew is a concern for us," Captain Mitchell explained, noting that often the same few people are relied upon during the daytime work hours.

"We've had some good new members join over the last few years, but coming into summer, South Gippsland is very dry, which is of concern. This time last year, you couldn't mow without getting bogged.

"If we get the perfect weather combination, there will be a big influx of grass and long vegetation that will dry off very quickly. It's important residents begin their pre-summer clean-up now, and crucial that all burns are registered."

Paul Hawker is one such new member who joined Poowong three years ago and is now the third lieutenant in charge of maintenance.

"Before retiring, I knew I needed something to do," Lieutenant Hawker explained.

"I'd thought about it for quite a while and one day in November, three years ago, I saw the tanker at the Poowong Little Market and I met some of the guys.

"Seeing what nice blokes they were, I decided I wanted to become a part of that community. And there's no better way to help your community than becoming a firefighter."

For Lieutenant Hawker the initial and subsequent courses have been straightforward. There are a lot of steps to remember, but it's worth it.

"Everyone has their own idea of what a firefighter does, and I found it a little different to what I had thought. Sometimes you are fighting fires, other times assisting other brigades. Recently we attended a lightning strike where a tree caught fire in the middle of a paddock."

Lieutenant Hawker also counts strike teams under his belt, having attended two in his first year of joining.

"I went on two strike teams less than a year after joining and found those fascinating. When multiple brigades come together and it's such an urgent situation – when people's homes and lives are in jeopardy – that's when it becomes real.

The best way to sign up is by jumping on the CFA website and completing the volunteer application, which is then sent through to your closest CFA bridges.



Lifeline Gippsland expands mental health and crisis training opportunities

IS YOUR Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) certificate about to expire? Lifeline Gippsland is once again offering MHFA refresher training across Gippsland, giving participants the chance to extend their accreditation for a further three years.

The refresher course on October 20 from 9.30am to 2pm allows those who completed the Standard MHFA training within the past three years to update their knowledge with the latest research in the mental health field. Participants will also work through practical scenarios, refining their skills in responding to a range of mental health concerns and crisis situations.

At the conclusion of the online course, a short assessment enables participants to renew their certification. By choosing Lifeline Gippsland as a training provider, attendees are also directly supporting suicide prevention services in the region.

For more information or to register, call 5136 3500 and ask for the Crisis Services team, or email training@llg.org.au

Other Training Opportunities

Alongside MHFA, Lifeline Gippsland provides a wide range of programs designed to equip community members, volunteers, and frontline workers with vital crisis response skills.

DV-alert (Domestic and Family Violence Response Training): Funded by the Department of Social Services, DV-alert builds the capacity of frontline workers to recognise the signs of domestic and family violence, respond safely, and refer to

appropriate support services. Training streams include:

DV-aware (1 day) – Introductory program, open to anyone over 18.

DV-alert (2 days) – Nationally recognised training for frontline workers and volunteers.

Accidental Counsellor (5 hours): For those who find themselves supporting someone in crisis, this course teaches how to recognise distress, respond appropriately, and prioritise self-care.

Psychological First Aid (4 hours): A program designed to help participants support others in the aftermath of disasters or critical incidents.

Strong Minds During Difficult Times (5 hours): Developed during COVID-19, this training helps people manage stress, adapt to change, and support others during challenging times.

Mind Your Mates (2 hours): A practical program on starting conversations around mental health, particularly when someone may not be OK. It equips participants to ask about suicidal thoughts and provide support safely.

Mental Health First Aid (12 hours): A comprehensive two-day course covering the signs and symptoms of common mental health problems, and how to offer help until professional support is available.

Non-Suicidal Self-Injury (NSSI) Training (4 hours): Teaches recognition and response strategies for people experiencing self-injury.

Conversations About Suicide (4 hours): Focuses on how to safely approach and support someone experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviours.

backgrounds, to understand stress responses, develop self-care strategies, and build peer support networks.

Australia Post general manager, community and stakeholder engagement, Nicky Tracey said applications for this year's program showed an outstanding level of local initiatives, strengthening connection and resilience in communities across the country.

"In times of disaster, it's local organisations that are best placed to support the recovery process, as they understand their communities, know what's needed, and are there for the long haul. That's why we're especially proud that a record share of funding will support grassroots initiatives supporting wellbeing and building resilience in disaster-impacted communities" Ms Tracey said.

The full list of Australia Post's 2025 Community Grants program recipients, listed by state/territory and location, and more information about the program, is available at auspost.com.au/grants.

World Mental Health Day shines a light on hypnotherapy

WORLD Mental Health Day is fast approaching, and for Danielle Aitken, it is a reminder of the work still to be done to bring conversations about mental health into the open.

"Personally, I am really happy to see that there are days like that being promoted because to me, this is my world," she said.

"I deal with people and their mental health, and I am very aware of the negative impact of poor mental health. I've really tried to raise awareness about suicide and the fact that many more men take their lives than women and that is often because men find it hard to talk."

Danielle is the president of the Australian Hypnotherapists Association and has spent four decades working in health, from nursing and midwifery to infertility care. It was during her years in the IVF sector that she turned towards mind-body therapies. She wanted more tools to help patients survive what was often a long and difficult journey. That decision led her to hypnotherapy and a career that has since transformed not only her patients' lives but her own as well.

At its core, Danielle emphasises that hypnotherapy is not what people might have seen in films or stage shows.

"Hypnosis is different to what many people think," Danielle explained.

"It really is more of a very focused point of attention. In that state, there are changes in the brain that facilitate people to achieve things they may not achieve as easily in their conscious state. With hypnotherapy, we are therapists, and we use the trance state for therapeutic purposes."

She is quick to point out that hypnotherapy is not about surrendering control.

"You are not going to get stuck in trance, you are in control in trance, you are not going to give away your secrets or do anything you do not want to do. These are the myths. Hypnotherapy is a safe place and always goal-oriented."

The research backs her up. A 2019 meta-analysis found hypnosis significantly reduced anxiety compared with control groups, while a



Danielle Aitken has worked in health care for more than 40 years and now leads Australia's peak hypnotherapy body. W01_3925

2024 review of 261 trials confirmed hypnosis as effective for conditions including depression. When combined with other approaches such as mindfulness and cognitive therapy, the results are even stronger.

"Anxiety and depression are the big ones we see both globally and in Australia," Danielle said.

"These things are certainly issues that can be helped with hypnosis."

Recent statistics show just how urgent that need is. More than one in five Australians aged 16 to 85 experienced a mental health disorder in the past year, with anxiety disorders affecting 17.2 per cent of the population and mood disorders, including depression, affecting 7.5 per cent.

Danielle believes hypnotherapy can be part of the answer, not in isolation but alongside other forms of support.

"Even in mainstream, hypnosis is making appearances in lots of areas," she said.

"For example, we have been accepted as a complementary therapy for the Australian Cancer Council. Many doctors and psychologists now do hypnotherapy or refer to hypnotherapists. The research is providing growing evidence that it is effective."

She describes how trance can help people safely revisit and reframe past experiences that may have caused deep anxiety or phobias.

"Phobias cause a huge amount of

anxiety, and often these things begin as a child. In trance, people can look back at what happened through the eyes of their wiser adult self and reframe it. It is also possible with depression to get people to see things in a different light, and to shift their focus from what is troubling them to what is working."

For Danielle, the key message on World Mental Health Day is that mental health requires daily care.

"I wish people knew that it is a day-to-day practice," she said.

"So often people do things, start to feel better, and think all is well, but then they stop doing the things that made them feel better in the first place. Self-care is essential. Everyone of us needs to take time. The body needs to rest, both mentally and physically."

She hopes the future will bring a bigger role for hypnotherapy in mental health support.

"I know, and the research has shown, that it is so effective, and importantly, it is fast. We do not have to see people for years. We can see them for four to six sessions and get really good results."

As conversations about mental health become louder, Danielle wants hypnotherapy to be part of that discussion, not to replace existing supports, but to add another tool to help Australians live healthier and more balanced lives.

Wellness Warriors Australia Post successful grant recipients

AUSTRALIA Post last week announced a record-breaking amount of over \$700,000 in funding for 88 not-for-profit community groups nationwide through the 2025 Community Grants program.

Directly supporting grassroots projects that aim to enhance mental wellbeing, foster connection and build resilience, this year's program also saw a significant expansion – committing an additional \$250,000 towards initiatives in disaster-impacted communities, with individual grants of up to \$10,000 each.

Rescue Station Arts Inc, based at the State Coal Mine in Wonthaggi, was one of the lucky grant recipients, receiving \$9300.

Wellness Warriors is set to deliver therapeutic art-based workshops in the Bass Coast region to support emotional resilience, social connection, and mental wellbeing. Combining psychoeducation, mindfulness, and creative expression, the initiative empowers participants, particularly those from farming

Life4Life Gippsland crews connect at Allambee Camp

LIVE4LIFE participants from across South Gippsland got together recently for an exciting day out at Allambee Camp.

Youth mental health ambassadors (the Crew) from Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington Live4Life communities joined forces to celebrate teamwork and self-confidence at the outdoor adventure camp located near Yarragon.

It was a day of high adventure with participants making the most of the camp's giant swing, flying fox and vertical challenge high ropes course.

There was lots of fun to be had on the ground as well, with informal games and billy carts rounding out the day.

Live4Life is a fabulous initiative available to rural and regional communities to support and improve young people's mental health and wellbeing.

The program is designed to increase mental health knowledge among secondary school-aged students and their communities, reduce mental health stigma and reduce barriers that might prevent young people



Youth mental health ambassadors (the Crew) from the Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington Live4Life communities joined forces to celebrate teamwork and self-confidence at Allambee Camp.

from seeking help and support.

Cr Paul Pratt said Baw Baw Shire Council is proud to support the Live4Life initiative and he is pleased to see communities coming together this way.

"A day like this is a great opportunity for Live4Life Crews from across the region to learn from one another, build new connections and friendships, and just have fun," he said.

Participants took the opportunity to learn about the mental health awareness activities and events each

community had planned for their area and to share ideas.

This is the first time groups from across Gippsland have been brought together in this way and there are plans to run more events in the future, rotating across each of the four participating local government areas.

For more information on Live4Life, visit live4life.org.au.

If you or someone you know needs help, you can call Lifeline on 13 11 14, Beyond Blue on 1800 512 348, or Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Practical help for your teens these exams

With Jason Crestani, Psychologist

WITH Mental Health Month, local Bass Coast Psychologist Jason Crestani has taken the opportunity to explore how parents and young people can navigate the stress of exams and end of year pressures.

“While this time of year brings the happy anticipation of warmer weather and holidays,” Jason said, “it also brings competing priorities for young people at school or university and their families.”

Learn to recognise when your teen is stressed and how to prevent your own stress from affecting their behaviour. Exam stress tips for parents revolve around one central idea – the parent being the calming presence in a supportive home.

Teens are incredibly perceptive when it comes to picking up on their parents' emotions. Two stressed people in the same household will only increase tension and make exams more difficult. For this reason, make sure you take time for yourself too – relax and reset so you can be there to offer support whenever your young person needs it.

Create a quiet study space

Designate a quiet space in your home for study that is removed from the rest of the family, where they can shut the door and focus.

Assist them in setting up the space to minimise distractions. This may involve agreeing on a rule that their mobile phone is left outside the door, and social media notifications on devices are set to silent or off.

Ensure other family members, like younger siblings, know the space is off limits while your teen is studying.

Plan a study timetable

When your teen receives their exam timetable, sit with them and create an adjacent study timetable. Your teen will feel more prepared. Timetables ensure all are aware of what they have to do and when, so you can help manage stress ahead of time.

Continue a balanced life

Encourage your teen to continue with regular sporting commitments, hobbies, a ca-



Psychologist Jason Crestani offers helpful advice for teenagers preparing for their end of year exams. Specialising in children, adolescents, families and parenting strategies, Jason is available across Bass Coast and South Gippsland, as well as further afield. a200_4025

sual job, and to incorporate these into their timetable. It's important for them to step back and clear their head between revision, keeping the breaks time balanced. Consider making allowances on chores around the house and family events, within reason.

If study breaks are fun (rather than filled with loading the dishwasher), your teen will be more likely to take them regularly. Research shows that suitable breaks improve productivity.

Sleep is a priority

Encourage your teen to stick to their study timetable and go to bed at the same time each evening. Teenagers should be getting eight to 10 hours of sleep each night, to help them function to the best of their abilities.

To switch off at night, encourage them before bed to minimise screen time, drink herbal tea, read, listen to calming music, or do some light stretching.

Discuss expectations

Expectations of themselves and your

expectations of them may differ, so getting it out in the open earlier will benefit everyone in the long run. Some teens place big pressure on themselves for high results. Conversely, some teens may expect to do half an hour of revision every day, and continue socialising with their friends as normal, while you may be expecting a bigger study commitment.

Have discussions around behaviours and outcomes during and after exams. Map out all options and reassure them that there are many pathways to university, careers and post study options.

The important thing is for them to try their best and get through all their exams first.

Calm down before exams

Encourage your teen to avoid 'cramming' or panic revision right before an exam starts, as this will only increase their stress levels. Suggest practicing breathing exercises, listening to music or finding an outlet for their nervous energy, such as exercise.

Then on the day, all you can do is try your best!

15 minutes of movement can boost your mood

YOU don't need a passport, a plane ticket, or a pricey retreat to take your body and mind to a happier place, especially after a small proof-of-concept study revealed wellness holiday benefits faded quickly.

This World Mental Health Day, ASICS and its newest wellbeing ambassador, Natasha Rothwell, are inviting the world to take an Everyday Escape – a simple 15-minute movement break – that is proven to transport you to a happier place and deliver more lasting benefits than a week at a wellness retreat.

Demand for wellness holidays is surging in Australia, with bookings increasing by 228 per cent in 2024, according to an industry report by Big Red Group. Meanwhile, new research by ASICS, surveying people who recently took a wellness holiday, found that Australians travel an average of 2378 kilometres and spend an average of \$2161 on their wellness retreats. Yet, these holidays often fail to deliver lasting benefits.

Over two-thirds (71 per cent) said their wellness holiday failed to meet all expectations, and more than eight out of ten (81 per cent) reported that any wellness benefits faded as soon as they left the retreat or shortly after returning home. Aussies who went on a health retreat said it took close to three days (65 hours) on average to feel a mental uplift, and for some, the experience even added to their stress levels; 41 per cent said cost, and 22 per cent said long travel distances were stress-inducing.

In a new Everyday Escape trial, overseen by Dr Brendon Stubbs of King's College London, participants who took a simple daily 15-minute movement break reported a 21 per cent greater uplift in their overall mental state compared to their wellness holiday. In fact, 71 per cent said daily movement was more effective at reducing stress, 65 per cent found it more mood-enhancing and 73 per cent experienced longer-lasting mental wellbeing benefits than after their recent wellness holiday.

“I truly believe in the power of movement, not just for our bodies, but for our minds,” Natasha Rothwell, ASICS' Everyday Escape Concierge, said.

“Sure, you can spend thousands of dollars or fly halfway across the world to feel better, or you can just step outside and move your body. Your Everyday Escape could be a walk, a stretch, a dance in your kitchen. It's free, it's simple, and it's yours. Wellness shouldn't be a luxury. It should be something we can all access every day. When we move, we feel better. And that's the kind of escape everyone deserves.”

ASICS Oceania managing director Mark Brunton is urging Australians to join ASICS on World Mental Health Day and take an Everyday Escape, “because when you move your body, you move your mind.”

Line dancers raise \$20,000 for Lifeline Gippsland

SEPTEMBER 20 saw 180 dancers come together for the Lifeline Gippsland Depression and Suicide Awareness fundraiser event.

Inspired by Linda Pink from the L.V Country Line Dancers, the Yarragon Rebels Bootscoters and the Ringwood Ramblin' Rose joined forces to raise much-needed funds for Lifeline Gippsland. Since 2018, the three groups have danced, socialised, and raised funds through various member-led initiatives cumulating in \$142,505, inclusive of this year's total of \$20,000.

Linda shared that many of the members have direct and indirect impacts of suicide. “The benefit to our own sense of belong-

ing, friendships, and general camaraderie and support our members provide one another improves our own mental health. We watch out for one another, we check in, we share our stories. Helping Lifeline Gippsland, as our charity of choice, is giving to an organisation that is an extension of our family,” Linda said.

Cindy Pullar, CEO Lifeline Gippsland, added, “All the members are so inclusive and welcoming, they are a humble and energetic group, whose donations over the years have helped us answer 3653 calls from individuals, ensuring they were not alone during their darkest hours. The group not only raises money for our or-

ganisation, but they also take the opportunity to raise awareness about mental health and suicide, reducing the stigma of help seeking, and supporting people to reach out.”

Lifeline Gippsland employs 18 staff and engages 160 volunteers, operating across the region, supporting the 13 11 14 crisis line as well as the delivery of suicide prevention programs.

“Only a small percentage of our funding is from the State Government. The support and commitment from community groups such as the line dancing clubs allows us to continue our work in regional Victoria,” Cindy shared.

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Seniors Festival

Get up, get going: why the smallest steps make the biggest difference

YOU might have heard, "A body in motion stays in motion." It sounds a bit like a science lesson, but it's one of the most powerful truths about feeling good, especially as the years fly by.

Forget what you see on the TV commercials – you don't need fancy, expensive gym gear or to suddenly become a marathon runner. This isn't about fitness; it's about staying independent. It's about being able to reach the top shelf, play with the grandkids without getting puffed, and catching yourself if you stumble on the footpath.

The secret? It's not "exercise." It's just movement.

The Simple Wisdom of a GP

I was recently talking to one of my long-time colleagues, GP Dr Sheetal Karande, for a video we were producing. To wrap up, I asked for her top three health tips. Diet, sleep, and... she didn't say "exercise." She said, "Move."

It's just one word, but it paints such a different, easier picture. It's not a chore; it's life.

That was the Friday. By the Sunday, I was lacing up for one of my annual fun runs, Connor's Run – about nine kilometres from St Kilda to the Yarra River. I went for my usual Weetbix and banana breakfast, but sadly, it didn't give me an edge.

About seven kilometres in, my whole body seized up with

By Dr Floyd Gomes, Founder Mark & Sylvie's Home Care

a proper stitch. My friends ran ahead, and I hobbled across the finish line, clutching my guts and feeling horrible. But it was more than just the stitch.

I'd been running two or three times a week, but this year I started feeling genuinely ordinary. I was getting that awful acid reflux I don't usually get. I had fuzzy headaches. My bowels were up and down, and my stomach was constantly rumbling.

I remembered Dr Karande's simple word: "move."

The Laptop on the Spin Bike

This year, I started doing my Masters of Business Administration to try and become a better leader. Great in theory, but the downside was sitting down and reading for about four hours a day after work. My day job is mostly sitting, too. All that sitting was turning me into a statue.

Prompted by my always-winning wife, that very Sunday afternoon I dug out my old, dusty spin bike. I propped my laptop on the handlebars using a piece of cardboard (now upgraded to a proper plank of wood) and started reading while pedalling gently.

I thought I'd be too distracted to concentrate, but funnily

enough, pedalling gave me more focus. It kept me alert, and the rhythm stopped my mind from wandering off. I started doing three 30-minute blocks of this "pedal and read" routine every day.

One week later? My reflux, my headaches, and those rumbling guts had largely gone. All that change, so quickly, just from increasing my movement.

Move Baby Move!

You don't need a stitch in a fun run to feel this power. You just need to look for chances to move:

Walk: Take a slow, gentle stroll around the block after breakfast. Feel the sun on your face and watch the neighbours' gardens.

Stretch: Use the kitchen bench for support and stretch your arms up high like you're reaching for a delicious biscuit. Do a slow chair stretch while the kettle boils.

Play: Spend ten minutes bending and digging in the garden, or chase the dog (slowly!) around the backyard. This counts!

At Mark & Sylvie's Home Care, we believe a life of movement is a life of vitality, and it's our whole purpose to inspire and guide healthy and fulfilling lives, by partnering with individuals and communities like yours.

Call it exercise, call it gardening, call it cleaning – whatever you do, as long as you can: Move baby, move.



Dr Floyd Gomes (R), Dr Nathalie Gomes (L) and Dr Wynn Zaw (centre) participate in Connor's Run.



Floyd's exercise bike.

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Seniors Festival

Supporting people with Home Care Packages

MY DREAM from a young age was to become a nurse.

This intention guided me through school and consequently into hospital-based nursing studies, where I finally felt 'at home'. However, having successfully completed two years, I was faced with the despairing realisation that my lower back would not withstand a nursing career.

I was devastated.

Applying with my Enrolled Nurse qualifications, I was offered a position in a newly established drug and alcohol detoxification centre in Melbourne.

This proved to be the beginning of an interesting, diverse, and often challenging decade.

Through further studies, I weaved my way across various treatment programs within the not-for-profit organisation.

Over the years, as my journey took its twists and turns, I spontaneously ended up on a beef farm in beautiful South Gippsland, closing one significant life chapter to start a fresh one on the land.

I remember it felt daunting and invigorating at the same time.

Fast forward 20 years, and life suddenly took another unanticipated turn.

Amongst the chaos, my elderly mother fell ill and needed increasing assistance.

To my surprise, my brain instantly switched to nursing student days and my learnings and memories from decades ago came flooding back.

Consequently, I again started a new chapter, a somewhat hectic but gratifying one.

The more holistically I assisted my mother – not without its mother/daughter issues – the more I felt I had rekindled my niche.

I had come full circle only to return to my passion for the fundamentals of caregiving, sadly, due to my mother's detrimental circumstances.

Additionally, I gained a fresh, multifaceted perspective and sensitivity around caring for others in view of looking after a close blood relative.

I was edging towards retirement when my natural alignment to help people at ground level was reborn.

Simply put, it made my heart sing, and I decided caregiving would be a purposeful vocation to see out my working life.

I was fortunate to be granted the opportunity to become a Health Care Worker within a Home Care Package Program.

Assisting the elderly to remain in their familiar comforts of home is beyond rewarding.

I believe ageing can be the most complex challenge we endure in life, which seems

by a local health care worker

is generally not for the faint-hearted.

Often in my work, I observe a resistance to age-related issues and a massive fear of losing independence.

Understandably so.

The elderly before us have experienced many trials and tribulations, accomplishments and celebrations, which this roller coaster of life delivers.

Their wisdom and contribution to humanity is priceless and deserves our greatest respect.

As they begin to slow, needing assistance to safely manage their unique routines at home, it's unquestionable and imperative that we offer a helping hand.

Didn't they look after us once upon a time?

That's where myself and my trusty colleagues come in.

Referring to established, personalised care plans and with uplifting, approachable attitudes, we help manage the lifestyles of elderly folk while maintaining respect, dignity and confidentiality.

However, it is typically so much more than that. Trusting bonds organically form through consistency, engaging conversations and companionship.

Often health care workers are the only contact the elderly may experience in a single day.

The luxury of this employment position enables me to focus wholeheartedly on one person at a time; to monitor their physical and mental wellbeing, to empathise, to support, to actively listen and to nurture.

Birthdays are also remembered and celebrated with small gestures to acknowledge the special day they graced this world.

For these reasons, I never fail to experience beautiful, memorable, often amusing moments throughout my work.

Recently, an endearing, fragile, gentle soul in his late 80s, whom I regularly assist, was sitting in his recliner chair in front of a loud television screen when I arrived.

The mesmerised look on his face as he watched Andre Bocelli in concert and hung on his every note was priceless.

Completely absorbed in the moment, it seemed time stood still and nothing else around him mattered.

I watched the gentleman's relaxed profile for a few seconds wondering how I could possibly interrupt his bliss, especially for personal care on such a freezing morning.

Continued on page 29

Better balance for a healthier future

BALANCE is something most people take for granted – until it starts to fade. For older Australians, unsteadiness is one of the biggest risk factors for falls, which remain a leading cause of injury and hospitalisation nationwide.

Recognising the power of prevention, My Physio Clinic in Wonthaggi is combining evidence-based exercise programs with innovative technology to help people improve their balance, strength, and confidence.

One of the clinic's latest tools is the BTrackS™ Assess Balance System – a lightweight, portable device that allows physiotherapists to accurately measure balance using force plate technology. It records how much a person sways while standing still, compares their results against a database of more than 20,000 individuals, and classifies their fall risk as low, moderate, or high.

Unlike traditional, subjective assessments, BTrackS™ provides precise, trackable data. This means participants can clearly see their progress over time, and the My Physio team can tailor programs more effectively to meet each person's unique needs.

The device also plays a key role in rehabilitation. With simple, interactive exercises, users can practice shifting their weight or responding to visual cues – improving both postural control and cognitive reactions.

The need for fall prevention is significant. According to the Australian



It was all smiles for physiotherapist Nidhi's client as she demonstrated her balance skills on the assessment tracker. C07_4025

Institute of Health and Welfare, Australians aged 65 and over are 12 times more likely to be hospitalised after a fall than those aged 25 to 44. Prevention truly changes lives.

To tackle this issue, My Physio Clinic offers four dedicated group classes each week: two Falls Prevention sessions and two Strong and Stable sessions. Now running successfully for more than four years, these programs continue to grow in popularity.

"Our Strong and Stable program focuses on maintaining strength and



Physiotherapist Mike evaluates a client's balance through the BTrackS Assess Balance System. C06_4025

function – it's a great next step after Falls Prevention or a perfect standalone option," said physiotherapist Nidhi Choudhary.

The classes are open to people aged 50 and above, with the oldest participant an inspiring 93 years old. Thanks to Gippsland PHN, the first three months are funded for participants over 65. Sessions are often fully booked, but interested individuals can leave their details at reception as more classes are planned to meet growing demand.

"Falls Prevention aims to stop falls before they

happen, while Strong and Stable takes it a step further with more challenging balance and strength activities," explained physiotherapist Shweta Elava.

Beyond the physical benefits, participants often form meaningful friendships.

"Many of them head out for coffee after class – the social connection and confidence they gain are just as valuable," Shweta added.

So don't wait for a fall to happen. Take the first step toward better balance, stronger movement, and a healthier, safer future.

Social adventures for Seniors with BCH

IF YOU'RE feeling isolated, you're invited to join the Bass Coast Health Social Support Group.

The group brings people together for activities, outings and social events to help combat the negative impacts of loneliness.

BCH Interim CEO Simone Alexander said the group is ideal for people who do not have the support of family and friends, especially nearby.

"Through our Social Support Group, people get to meet new friends, often with similar backgrounds and interests, all while enjoying the excitement of new experiences and visiting new places," she said.

Regular outings include trips to artists' studios and galleries, eateries, walks and cultural discoveries, plus a monthly Big Day Out to locations further afield. Recent excursions have been



BCH Social Support Group members discover the world of aviation at the Moorabbin Air Museum.

to McClelland Sculpture Park at Langwarrin, an aviation museum at Moorabbin and a Christmas in July lunch at Sasfras.

Other activities include arts and crafts and indoor sports in local venues. There is also a group especially for men.

Activities are based on the interests of group attendees.

Social Support Group is funded under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). To be eligible, you must be aged 65 years or older (50 years or older for Aboriginal or Torres Strait

Islander people).

Staff support group members and transport is available to and from your home across Bass Coast.

To join or just enquire, phone Bass Coast Health on 5671 9225 or visit basscoasthealth.org.au/socialsupport-groups.



Seniors Festival

Supporting people with Home Care Packages

From page 28

My cold hands would be a rude awakening, pulling him back to reality.

His lovely wife eventually nudged him and pointed in my direction.

"Hello dear," he voiced, as he always sweetly did. "Is it that time again?"

A kind, friendly, somewhat confused gentleman with a strong accent taught me how olives are pitted in his country of birth. Together we completed the task before he showed me around his vast, picturesque garden, which he himself had sown many years ago. All the while, I learnt of his intriguing heritage that he so proudly shared. It didn't matter that he repeated himself often.

Seeing his lit-up face spoke volumes of how happy he was for someone to listen to his stories.

A delightful lady I regularly assist, who is a tad forgetful, has exceptional skills at her favourite board game, Scrabble.

She is encouraged to play and predominantly wins the rounds, occasionally sneaking in foreign words.

Her husband, with a magnificently trained singing voice, spasmodically breaks into song when I least expect it.

This inspiring couple also brews the best cup of tea I've ever tasted.

A down-to-earth, easy-going, content gentleman in his early 90s is an absolute joy to assist.

Although fiercely independent, he appreciates every little bit of help he receives. Communication can sometimes be an issue when he misplaces his hearing aids.

I need to shout my words until I hunt for and retrieve the aids from either under his pillow, in a kitchen drawer or often on a windowsill.

Some people that I visit have pets, which are just as aged as they are.

The loving bond and companionship between them is beautiful to witness.

It's obvious they are each other's worlds, especially when families are absent.

Many elderly people left with only memories of their four-legged friends ask me to scatter bird seed outside their windows or sliding doors to entice feathered visitors.

Watching lorikeets, rosellas and other birdlife dance in their domain is a significant, pleasurable part of their day.

I could go on and write endless accounts of my work experiences; of amusing idiosyncrasies, lifelong habits and at times, unexpected life stories of elders, which remind me never to judge a book by its cover.

I've learnt so much about myself in the process and I'm honoured people feel comfortable sharing their history with me.

However, it's not all sunshine and roses.

People sadly fall and/or experience severe medical episodes calling for quick emergency responses.

Not long ago, one Friday morning, I assisted a lady with personal care.

I had been assigned to her since I started my Health Care Worker position and religiously visited three times per week.

We shared a meaningful rapport, and I looked forward to helping her.

This lady adored flowers and each time on my way to her home, I would make a point of picking a single roadside bloom to greet her with.

Little did I know, as I left her sitting comfortably in her recliner that day, it would be the last time I would see her.

I have to admit that hit home.

I like to believe I remain professional, but, rightly or wrongly, I often tread a fine line.

Ageing is a natural, gradual, unavoidable physical and sometimes, but not always, mental decline over a lifetime.

I was informed by a lovely lady, who recently lost her husband of many decades, life 'narrows' with age.

I found that an interesting, thought-provoking perspective.

A gentleman in his late 70s I regularly see, sadly tells me he feels increasingly invisible with the passing years.

Another lady in her 90s shared she didn't ever feel old until I suddenly turned up at her doorstep offering my help.

Being a health care worker is a meaningful, satisfying role.

Each day I expect the unexpected, stay alert, mindful and aware.

While I complete my assigned supporting tasks, my aim is to bring some sunshine into people's homes.

My own maturing body often creaks and cracks at times, and my back complains often; however, with daily stretches and the joy and fulfilment I gain from my clientele, discomforts are kept at bay.

Besides, I am constantly, amusingly told by my elders I am but a mere spring chicken.

Council celebrates Victorian Seniors Festival this October

OCTOBER is officially Victorian Seniors Festival month, and this year's theme – 'Connect, Create, Celebrate' – is a joyful invitation for all Victorians aged 60 and over to come together, try something new, and enjoy the vibrant community spirit of South Gippsland.

With over 60 free and low-cost events across nine towns, there is something for every senior in South Gippsland to try during the month of October. All interests and abilities are catered to, with a wide range of events focusing on movement, sport, socialising, learning, arts, culture, and creativity.

Seniors make up over a third of South Gippsland's population and contribute greatly to our community. Council is proud to offer promotional support to the wonderful clubs and organisations who are opening their doors and putting on events for the Victorian Seniors Festival.

"The Victorian Seniors Festival is a fantastic opportunity for South Gippsland residents

aged 60 and over to get involved and try a new activity at one of the many clubs and organisations in the region," Cr John Schelling, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council, said.

"It's also a great reminder to acknowledge the important contribution older residents make to our community. Seniors in South Gippsland are responsible for providing countless volunteer hours in support of local groups and events, and we are extremely grateful for all of their work and wisdom."

South Gippsland Shire Council has also teamed up with Bass Coast Shire Council to offer a free bus service to Glenn Starr's 'Forever Classics – Hits of the 60s' concert in Morwell. The bus will stop at several towns between Cowes and Mirboo North to enable local residents to access this event supported by Latrobe City Council.

For more information and to view the full program of events, visit: southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival.



Victorian Seniors Festival 2025



The Victorian Seniors Festival is a celebration of positive ageing spanning the entire month of October. With over 60 free and low-cost activities across South Gippsland, there is an option for every senior. To find an event near you, visit the South Gippsland Seniors Festival Calendar by scanning the QR code or heading to: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival



South Gippsland
Shire Council





Wil Dawson and Tom Hanily took a moment for a photo with two very enthusiastic football supporters, Knox and Jobi. C52_4025



Oscar patiently has his face painted for the first time. Opting for Spider-Man. C53_4025



Wil leaps for Aussie's ball. C51_4025



Aussie practises his kicking skills with AFL's Wil Dawson of North Melbourne Football Club, and former local Leongatha player. C50_4025

AFL players join locals for family fun day

THE South Gippsland Family Fun Day at Meeniyah Recreation Reserve was a success, bringing together three AFL players, councillors, families, children and farmers.

Off the field, MDU had the sausages flowing, as well as many other treats from the canteen, whilst Sage Marie covered the tunes with her pop folk covers. The bubbles were flying out the front of the clubrooms, with Meeniyah-Stony Creek Fire Brigade's tanker on show and Leongatha AV demonstrating CPR with the manikin.

On the field, Tom Hanily (Sydney Swans), Wil Dawson (North Melbourne) and Jack Hutchinson (West Coast Eagles) joined MDU footballers running drills for the young, and young at heart.

"It's been good for the community, and the kids have had fun," Jack commented.

"A good chance to also raise some money for the footy club," Tom added.



Leongatha NAB sponsors Beck and Corinne joined AFL players Jack Hutchinson, Wil Dawson and Tom Hanily during Sunday's Family Fun event, also pictured is South Gippsland Mayor John Schelling, and kids Jobi and Knox.

"And show our support for the farmers, let them have a break from work and get away from the farm," Wil summarised.

The event was made possible thanks to the South Gippsland Shire Council, Meeniyah Dumbalk United Football Netball Club and sponsors.

"We really want to thank MDU for putting the event on, and for our sponsors Evans Petroleum, Victorian Livestock Exchange, Gardiner Foundation, AFL, National Bank of

Australia and NBN; and the staff have done a fantastic job organising today," South Gippsland Mayor John Schelling said on Sunday, having himself taken to the field for a kick.

"We've been asked to host one for all footy clubs in the pre-season, so we are looking into that. But the main focus was about mental health, and farmers coming down, having a chat, having a drink – water, Coke, and it's just terrific.

"It's really good to see so many kids here, and thank you also to the AFL boys, Tom, Jack and Wil for coming down. It's great to have our local young boys coming back to give back."

The South Gippsland Family Fun Day was supported by the Victorian Government's Look Over the Farm Gate Community Grant, alongside Meeniyah District United (MDU) Football Netball Club and NEX Farming Solutions who also helped to make the day possible.

Seniors Festival

Seniors' month racquet fun on the courts

THERE is much to be said about the benefits of being active as we age, whether it's as simple as walking the dogs or as adrenaline-fuelled as heli-skiing. And whilst the ladies at Phillip Island Tennis Club on a Thursday certainly have their talented and very skilled players taking to the courts, it's very much open to all. With a round-robin style, five-a-court format, everyone has the chance to learn from each other, mingle and, frankly, have a ball.

"It's a social gathering with exercise that is open to everyone," coordinator Betty Malloy explained, noting she has been picking up a racquet for decades.

"Mum and dad played, so I always played."

Even on a windy and slightly chilly Thursday, the regulars were out.

"We need the exercise," one laughed, adding, "The social side and mental health are just as important – fitness, fresh air and a friendly challenge."

According to one local, the atmosphere is all positive:

"We all care about each other. The club is the epitome of kindness. We play all year round, and the benefits are huge."

A recurring theme among the group was mental health.

"The brain is exercised and challenged, and that helps the mental side, which is a huge part of this club. The motivation to join like-minded people in an enjoyable environment," another added.

One of the club's oldest members is 82 and still plays competition.

For Sharon, who recently joined, it's been a great way to meet people.



Neither the weather nor the wind could dissuade the regulars from their Thursday hit at Phillip Island Tennis Club, and you are welcome to join in the fun as part of Seniors Week. C03_4025

"We moved down and I joined straight away. It's been very welcoming," Sharon said.

"It's very social, and a wonderful way to get to know people. The social aspect is so important when moving into a new area."

Jan agreed, having returned to find old friends still involved.

"Come on down, meet the ladies, and give it a go. If you're unsure, watch from the side and join in the chatter with a coffee afterwards. It's not stressful, just a friendly hit of tennis, and we don't criticise."

And whilst some of Thursday's ladies are back on the courts today (Tuesday) as the South Gippsland mid-week competition starts back up, they assured this scribe that Thursday is open for all levels and skills.

Down the road, Rhyll Tennis Club is hosting 'Come and Try' Pickleball events,

alongside regular Wednesday and Friday sessions, welcoming beginners.

"It's fun and social for everyone," Amanda Walker explained.

"We have visitors, locals and players from across the region. We even thought it would cease during the dead of winter, but six to eight continued right through, which reflects the enthusiasm for the sport."

"Anyone with experience in a racquet sport finds it straightforward to pick up. Just wear comfortable clothing and runners. We provide all the equipment."

Those interested can register with Rhyll Tennis Club directly.

A gold coin donation is encouraged at both Phillip Island and Rhyll Tennis Club events.

Seniors Festival Events:

Phillip Island Tennis Club

Every Thursday, 9.30am – 11.30am – Ladies/Mixed Social. 1pm – 4pm Men's intermediate.

Every Saturday, 1pm – 4pm Mixed Social

October 26, 9am to 12noon – Social Round Robin Tournament

Rhyll Tennis Club

Every Tuesday and Friday throughout October, 10.30am – 12ish (weather permitting) Come and Try Pickleball

October 9, 5.30pm – 7.30pm Evening Social Pickleball in recognition of World Mental Health Day and World Pickleball Day.

October 10, 10.30am – 12 noon Come and Try Pickleball, followed by "bring a plate" shared lunch

October 22, 10.30am to 12 noon Come and Try Pickleball for those with hearing impairment.



Katie Robinson from AgVic and Marilyn Martin of Wild Dog Valley attended the Winning the Blackberry Battle information session at Poowong Football Club. B16_4025



Jackie Checkley from Ruby and Phil Poulton of Meeniyan at the Bass Coast Landcare Network Winning the Blackberry Battle workshop in Poowong. B17_4025



George Manis of Art Connect South Gippsland and Member for Monash Mary Aldred celebrate the launch of this year's Open Studio Trail. A12_4025



Syd Whyte and Garry Stylianou enjoy the Friday night Meeniyan Art Gallery launch of the Open Studio Trail. A13_4025



Cr John Kennedy, Meeniyan Art Gallery president Ross Garner, Dr Pauline Hart and Andrew McEwen look forward to exploring the Open Studio Trail. A14_4025



Artists Marianne Ruff and Yo Robertson enjoy the celebration of the Open Studio Trail. A16_4025



Garry Stylianou and Atsuko Tanaka-Morrison celebrate the Open Studio Trail launch. A18_4025



Pie's supporter Georgia Maskell noted the family day was going really well at MDU. Beside Georgia Christian Stefani of Leongatha was slightly less impressed with her choice of flag. C30_4025



A 'young' Tom Hanily and Bubba Lindsay pause for the camera after a session kicking the balls with the kids. C33_4025

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Blackberry workshop, Open Studio Trail launch party at Meeniyan Art Gallery and South Gippsland Family Day at MDU.



Imogen, Amelia and Maley were practicing their CPR skills thanks to Leongatha AV at the family day. C32_4025



Artist Lucy Hersey and, husband and South Gippsland Shire councillor, Nathan are delighted this year's Open Studio Trail is up and running. A15_4025



Alex Beach with her mum and South Gippsland Shire Councillor Bron at the Meeniyan Art Gallery on Friday evening. A17_4025



Community safety officer Sean Carson and captain Malcolm Price of Meeniyan Stony Creek Fire Brigade joined paramedic Tayla Brain of Leongatha branch AV on Sunday at MDU, both showcasing displays. C29_4025



Pandu Jayasinghe of Leongatha caught up Sydney Swan Tom Hanily and North Melbourne's Wil Dawson, the three formerly playing cricket together. C31_4025



The kids were left to the jobs at the farm, whilst Danny and Susi Millton of Foster took a break from their duties for the South Gippsland Family Day, which was aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our farming communities. C36_4025



Tyler was having fun at the family day, having his face painted and a chance to kick the ball around. Pictured with Jackie. C34_4025



Beck, Rhiannon and Corinne of Leongatha NAB were one of Sunday's family day sponsors. C35_4025

Sentinel-Times

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Schubert and Beethoven to be performed at Fish Creek

PROM Recitals will close its 2025 season with a concert of extraordinary depth and beauty performed at the Fish Creek Memorial Hall on Sunday, October 26. The acclaimed Genesis Chamber Ensemble will present two masterpieces from their string quartet repertoire, Franz Schubert's String Quartet No.14 in D minor and D 810 Death and the Maiden, and Ludwig van Beethoven's String Quartet Op.18, No.1.

Led by Concertmaster Anna McMichael (violin) with Jennifer Kirsner (violin), Meg Cohen (viola), and Josephine Vains (cello), the Ensemble promises to bring these towering works to life with passion and precision.

Schubert's famed Death and the Maiden, composed in 1824 while he was battling severe illness and facing his own mortality, remains one of the great pillars of chamber music. The quartet trawls the depths of despair with unparalleled vibrancy and urgency.

In contrast, Beethoven's Op.18, No.1 offers a wonderfully rich palette. Its second movement is said to depict the vault scene from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, an evocative dialogue of tenderness, tragedy, and dramatic intensity.

The music will be performed at Fish Creek Memorial Hall on Sunday, October 26 at 2.30pm. Tickets available at trybooking.com/DDVKU.

Wonthaggi's biggest scare at the State Coal Mine

HALLOWEEN may never be the same again after a visit to the Halloween display at the State Coal Mine in Wonthaggi.

On the weekends of October 18 and 19, and October 25 and 26 from 10am to 1pm expect to see the unexpected as the grim reaper, vampire and a witch stand side by side in the old railway carriage.

There's something for everyone to enjoy and it's free, according to vampire Tracey.

Located in a restored railway carriage near the underground entrance to the State Coal Mine, the theme for the scary Halloween exhibition is mystery and adventure.

The exhibition will end with a family Halloween night from 4.30pm to 6.30pm on Friday, October 31, with a trick or

treat for the children to enjoy.

Activities will include a spooky train carriage open between 5pm and 7pm, a sausage sizzle, face painting and popcorn.

Children, family and friends are encouraged to dress up in their scariest costumes.

The Wonthaggi State Coal Mine Cafe is open daily from 9am to 4pm with the State Coal Mine itself open from 10am to 4pm daily. For more information on the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine or to make a booking for an underground tour go to parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/state-coal-mine-heritage-area/things-to-do/state-coal-mine

Friends of the State Coal Mine can be found on Facebook or Instagram.



Jill, Tracey and Geoff are helping create Wonthaggi's biggest scare at the State Coal Mine. B03_4025

Welshpool and District Horticultural Society gears up for Halloween-themed Spring Show

THE Welshpool and District Horticultural Society's upcoming Spring Show on Friday, October 31, and Saturday, November 1, will embrace the theme of Halloween.

The show will be held at the Welshpool Memorial Hall on Friday from 1.30pm to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

An official opening will be at 2pm on the Friday, led by club member Rob Gyles, who is currently compiling the club history.

The colour orange will be the featured colour, but be prepared for the odd cobweb and witches' hat to pop up too.

The club is pleased to announce an increase to the major section prizes this show.

Best in each class will be awarded \$50 and Best in Show will be awarded \$250.

There is no entry fee for exhibitors.

The show schedule/program clearly explains the various definitions to help entrants with their entries, and club members and section stewards will be readily available to answer queries from entrants and visitors.

The club welcomes entries from novices and 'first timers



Jan Gyles with her winning entries from a previous Welshpool Spring Show.

– come and have a go' – just bring your flowers and any tricks and treats to the hall before 10am on Show Day, and members will help you stage and display them.

Vases – and the odd cauldron – are available if needed.

First timers don't need to ring beforehand to lodge their entries, but all other entrants must notify the show secretary, Prue Fleming by

6pm on Wednesday, October 29.

Information and show schedules/programs – both printed and digital copies – are available from show secretaries Frances Grylls on 0481 385 122 and Prue Fleming on 0418 775 717.

Admission to the show is \$5 per adult and no charge for children.

Tickets for the club raffle



The Welshpool and District Horticultural Society's Spring Show will be held on October 31 and November 1.

can be purchased at the show entry table.

Come and enjoy the wonderful country-style afternoon tea and purchase some plants from the extensive and very reasonably priced plants in the club nursery at the rear of the hall.

The club is looking forward to seeing all the visitors and entrants at the 65th Spring Show – witches welcome.

What's On...

Coal Creek Farmers Market

Saturday, October 11, 8am to 12.30pm at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum

Biketoberfest

Saturday, October 11, 9am to 3pm at Leongatha

Pink Tribute Show

Saturday, October 11, 6pm at Leongatha RSL

Intro to Horticulture

Wednesday, November 12 & 19, 9am – 3.30pm. Free. Bass Coast Adult Learning

Intro to Hair

Wednesday, November 12 & 19, 9am – 3.30pm. Free. Bass Coast Adult Learning

NDIS Capacity Building classes, Art, Cooking, Fitness and Games

Throughout the week. Bass Coast Adult Learning

Eat Drink Play Gippsland

Saturday, October 18, from 11am. Leongatha Railway Precinct



WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★



Fred Smith Productions and the Inverloch RSL present

UNFORGOTTEN

Songs of Australians at War

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



ArtSpace presents Kate Muir and Tessa Hubble in Fleeting Moments

CAPTURING moments of our forever-changing surroundings and the things we encounter, Victorian artists Kate Muir and Tessa Hubble have brought together their contrasting styles and painting techniques as windows of perspective to express these 'Fleeting Moments' in a new exhibition that opens on October 14 at ArtSpace Gallery in Wonthaggi.

Vignettes of Rushing Time – Kate Muir

Over two years of travelling back and forth on the Bass Highway, Kate was inspired by the swiftly passing visions of which she took numerous photos. From these photos, she developed a series of unique and captivating paintings.

"I wanted to recreate vignettes of fields, cows, and buildings I could see from the road as one whizzes past. In most of the paintings, I tried to capture some of the blur that gives a sense of speeding by, as well as the hidden character of some of the scenery," said Kate.

"There is a significance that resonates in many of the images. The rush of time in our modern lives and a vulnerability that is often ignored by so many of us."

Kate's artistic talents developed from her passion for painting and drawing during her childhood.

Over the last 10 years, she has started to explore creating art again, particularly drawing and painting. In 2023, she completed a Diploma of Art and began to paint seriously.

"My main interest is in painting landscapes and people, not only to capture their likeness and character, but also an emotional resonance that can be so satisfying to successfully convey. At the same time, I'm also intent on experimenting with colour, texture and mark-making and see it as an ongoing exploration of style," said Kate

Kate also worked as a filmmaker and editor, from which photography, stories and characters portrayed in movies and documentaries became profound influences. The static moments in Kate's paintings are reminiscent of a stalled movie scene.

Bold Focus on the Immediate – Tessa Hubble

Developing from traditional methods of drawing and painting, Tessa formed a personal style of art by practising in a diverse range of mediums and subject matter.

The spontaneity and immediacy of watercolours have influenced her oil painting techniques into a broad and free style, with expression from a vivid palette, strong contrast and rich texture. Her art is a bold focus, capturing the essence of the moment.

Her inspiration for this series of paintings comes from the surrounding



Tessa Hubble in her studio.

environments and how the immediate can influence people's perceptions, conversations and actions.

"In 'Fleeting Moments', I have focused on the forever-changing environmental mood and fauna that inhabit Bass Coast," said Tessa.

"To embody these windows of captured moments, I have strengthened my palette with vibrant colours while focusing on light. I've used very quick, broad-brush strokes to suspend energy in time."

With a Fine Arts degree from RMIT and a scholarship for the Rome Art Program in 2012, Tessa gained further inspiration from immersion in visual and cultural experiences and meeting many international artists.

"This gave me incentive to do a self-guided painting trip around the UK in 2013, painting en plein air watercolours in each town I stayed. I have continued this practice since moving to the beautiful Bass Coast."

Involvement with a strong and diverse artist community, including Open Studios and YAVA Art Gallery, her artistic influences and development resulted in her first solo exhibition at Yering Station in 2018 and two open studios at Coldstream.

As a prolific artist and since moving to Wonthaggi, she has further fuelled her artistic expression by embracing the visually inspiring Bass Coast and surrounds.

Fleeting Moments Exhibition is on from October 14 to November 24, with an official opening on Sunday, October 19, from 1pm to 3pm – all welcome with free entry.

Artworks are for sale.

Open 7 days 11am – 3pm.

ArtSpace Gallery, 1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi.

5672 5767 | artspacewonthaggi.com.au

artspacewonthaggipresident@gmail.com

[f ArtSpaceWonthaggi](https://www.facebook.com/ArtSpaceWonthaggi)



The Warren Thompson Award 2024 Best Landscape winner 'Catching the Light, Half Moon Bay' by Leigh Rust. Don't miss this year's exhibition.

Calling all artists and collectors

GET ready for the Landcare Prize 2025 at the Kernot Community Hall! Join us for a Gala Champagne Opening on Friday, November 14 at 7pm, where we'll announce the winning artists. The art show will be open to the public on Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16 from 10am to 4pm. A gold coin donation will get you in over the weekend.

This event supports the Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund, a non-profit dedicated to conserving biodiversity within Bass Coast. Expect an incredible array of art from both experienced and emerging artists of all ages and delight in knowing your purchase will help the planet.

Entries are now open and close on October 31. Submit your entry online at trybooking.com/DEXCM.

Opening night tickets are \$20 and exhibiting artists are free. Secure your tickets at trybooking.com/DEXRN.

All subjects, mediums, and styles are welcome, including paintings, sculpture, and photography on any theme. For an entry form, email landcareartprize@gmail.com.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to compete for a total prize pool of \$2650. For enquiries, call the coordinator Janice Orchard at 0419 301 363.

This incredible event is sponsored by Bass Coast Shire Council and the Bendigo Community Bank.



The Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund

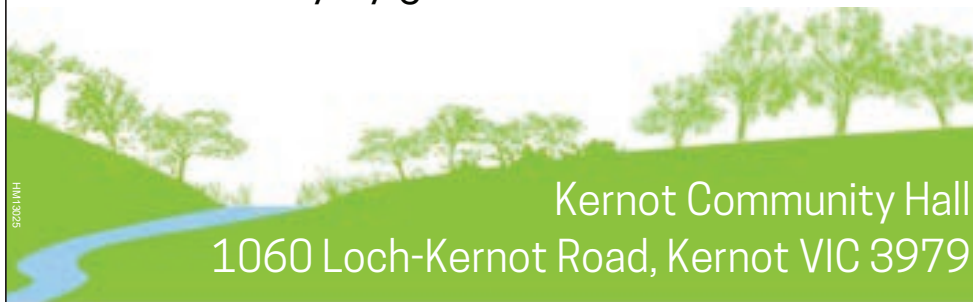
ART PRIZE 2025

Kernot Community Hall

Opening Night
Friday 14th November 7pm
\$20 pp

15 & 16 November 10 – 4

Entry by gold coin donation



Kernot Community Hall
1060 Loch-Kernot Road, Kernot VIC 3979

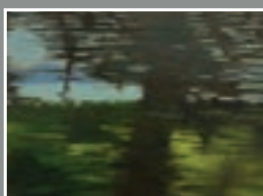
'Fleeting Moments' Exhibition

Vignettes of rushing time
Bold focus on the immediate

14 Oct – 23 Nov

Official Opening
Sunday 19 October 1-3pm

All Welcome Free Entry
Artworks are for sale



Kate Muir
- Glimpse of
Western Port Bay

Tessa Hubble
- Tranquil -
Powlett River



Visit us
The Centennial Centre,
1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi
www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au
5672 5767
artspacewonthaggipresident@gmail.com
Seven days a week 11am to 3 pm

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Chocolate Ricotta Tart

By Meg Viney

PASTRY. My rule of thumb for pastry is 100g butter to 200g flour plus enough liquid to bind into a firm but soft dough – all done in a food processor. The liquid can be orange juice, lemon juice, even water...

Roll out pastry to fit a 25 cm pie base. Hint – Roll between two pieces of cling wrap, and you do not need extra flour (which makes the pastry tough).

1 kg ricotta (drained o/night in the fridge in a colander

1/3 cup sugar

2 tbsp plain flour

1 tsp coffee dissolved in 2 tsp hot water

125m chocolate, chopped finely

3 eggs, beaten

Mix together ricotta, sugar, flour, and salt until smooth.

Add the coffee, then beat in the eggs and finally the chocolate.

Pour into the pastry base and cook in a 180-degree oven for an hour, until firm.

Cool in the oven, door open.

You can shave some more chocolate over the top if desired. Serve with berries and cream.

Don't miss the authors as they head to Myli

LOCAL readers will have the opportunity to hear from three distinct voices in the literary world this October, with a series of free author events hosted by Myli – My Community Library.

On Saturday, October 18, Korumburra Library will welcome Rose Capp, author of *Demystifying Dementia – Everything You Need to Know*. Rose brings a wealth of experience as a registered nurse, dementia-care educator, policy advisor and teacher at Flinders University. Her book helps families, carers, and communities better understand dementia, with practical guidance and uplifting stories about how people can continue to live meaningful lives.

Rose will share her insights, take part in a Q&A and sign copies of her book.

Award-winning Australian crime writer Chris Hammer will be in Foster on Friday, October 31, at the War Memorial Arts Centre Hall. Known for his best-selling novels set against vivid Australian landscapes, Chris will talk about his writing career and sign books, which will be available for purchase on the night.

Music journalist, broadcaster and author Stuart Coupe will join Myli audiences for a free online author talk on Tuesday, October 28. Stuart will discuss his latest book, *Saffron Incorporated*, in conversation with Claire Halliday. The book explores the links between showbusiness and the underworld, including nightclubs, drugs, dodgy accountants, gangland shootings and the life of Abraham Gilbert Saffron, the original “King of the Cross.”

Stuart has written, edited or collaborated on numerous books covering Australian music and culture over the decades. This online event means readers can join from the comfort of home.

Tickets and further details for all three events are available on Myli's Author Talks page: myli.au/autortalks.

Harp concert dedication with funds to BCH Oncology

IN A harpfelt tribute to the late Wendy Saphin, resident harpist and composer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Michael Johnson will host a harp concert fundraiser at the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine on October 18 at 4.30pm, with part of the proceeds donated to the Oncology Ward at Bass Coast Health.

“The Oncology Wing at Wonthaggi Hospital provides families with cuddle beds to comfort loved ones during difficult times,” said Michael.

“Wendy was on my mailing list for over 40 years and attended many concerts over the years. She wasn't just a fan but a dear friend.”

Known for her extensive involvement in the local arts, particularly with the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group, she helped craft sets and put together exhibitions to raise money for various charitable causes, including efforts to combat tiger poaching in Thailand.

Michael notes that this concert is not only personal but a community effort.

“It's open to the public, and we want to honour Wendy's legacy. She always rallied an audience at my shows and dedicated her life to enriching the community.”

The concert will primarily feature music from Michael's album, *A Moment's Peace*, which includes pieces that were Wendy's favourites, as well as other original compositions inspired by Michael's experiences at the Botanic Gardens.

“Many of these pieces tell stories, like a



Michael Johnson, resident harpist and composer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, is holding a Harp Concert fundraiser at the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine on October 18 at 4.30pm.

visit from a swan I befriended during my early mornings there,” he recounted fondly.

“Wendy was also well known in the community for her involvement in Pelican feeding in San Remo, making her a local treasure,” he said.

“Her passion and creativity will be remembered not just at this event, but

forward into the future.”

The concert promises a beautiful evening filled with music, stories, and a heartfelt connection to Wendy's memory, allowing attendees to support a meaningful cause while celebrating a life dedicated to community.

Tickets are available online. Visit trybooking.com/DETEF.

Celebrating the joy of singing together

MEMBERS of two local choirs will combine to provide the heartwarming choral climax of Leongatha Lyric Theatre's upcoming production of *The Heartbreak Choir*.

Representatives from South Gippsland Singers, Treble F Singers and Lyric performers will join the cast on stage for the play's stirring finale.

“Research has shown that singing in a choir promotes general wellbeing and social connection,” member of the Treble F Singers and director of The Heartbreak Choir Bernadette Grainger said.

“This is a major theme of the play, whose characters bond, commiserate and celebrate while rehearsing together in their small town's local CFA hall.”

There will be eight performances of *The Heartbreak Choir* in Leongatha Memorial Hall from October 24 until November 2.

Tickets are available online through Try Booking or by phone on 0490 525 482.



Members of the South Gippsland Singers, Treble F Singers and Lyric Theatre provide the uplifting finale to *The Heartbreak Choir*.

Elevate your writing at the fiction writing workshop with author Sandi Wallace

PHILLIP Island Library and Gippsland Writers Network present award-winning Australian crime writer, Sandi Wallace, for a fiction writing workshop on Saturday, October 11, from 10.30am until 1.30pm. A one-day masterclass for aspiring and emerging writers to partake in practical exercises to hone their craft and focus on plot, character and setting for short and long-form fiction.

“The workshop aims to provide practical exercises for participants,” said Sandi.

“Whilst I encourage everyone to share their ideas, there is no need to. The whole idea is to have fun and enjoy the journey – there is no better way to learn as a writer than to push your boundaries; keep striving, learning and growing.

“Whether your goal is publication or not, the workshop isn't about bringing your work with you but instead bringing your questions, because there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.”

In an interview with Sandi, she

explained that the good thing about writing is that there's no qualification other than your love for it. As a young girl, Sandi knew she wanted to be a crime writer and said that age is no barrier when it comes to writing.

Sandi published her debut novel, *Tell Me Why*, in 2014, the first novel of the Georgie Harvey and John Franklin series. She went on to win the Davitt Award Readers' Choice in 2015 and was shortlisted for the Davitt Award for Best Debut.

She has also earned several Scarlet Stiletto Awards and commendations and been a finalist in other contests for her short crime fiction. Sandi now has six published titles, and her latest work, a psychological suspense thriller inspired by her sea change to Milawul/Phillip Island, will be released later this year.

Tickets are available online, visit eventbrite.com.au/e/fiction-writing-workshop-phillip-island-library-tickets-1485211149529.



Award-winning Australian crime writer, Sandi Wallace, is holding a fiction writing workshop at the Phillip Island Library at Berninnet on Saturday, October 11, from 10.30am until 1.30pm.

Birds to enjoy Leongatha creativity

DREARY conditions outside did nothing to spoil the fun for the small but enthusiastic band of participants constructing popsicle bird feeders at Leongatha Library on Wednesday, part of a busy program of school holiday fun across the Myli Library network.

Library program officer Kearny Hull joined the fun, having found the creative bird feeder design online.

The construction involved creating a base from about 10 popsicle sticks, then building upwards with sticks running different ways, perches incorporated into the design.

One of the young participants, Poppy, was pleased to create extra bird feeding stations.

"We have a lot of birds and they fight over the bird feeder,"

she said, hopeful the avian visitors will get along more peacefully if given a less competitive feeding environment.

Library activity enthusiasts Ryder and Darcy Cholmondeley were busy again, mum Eliza saying they don't miss many of the sessions.

"Darcy is on to a boat now," she said, noting he'd already completed his bird feeder.

While the bird feeders were rather plain to look at, that was set to change once they dried out, their makers then at liberty to paint them in whatever colours take their fancy, Darcy already planning a vibrant mix of yellow, green, blue and red.

The finished feeding platforms will be suspended from trees by string, their weather resistance set to be put to the test.



Linda enjoys the popsicle bird feeder session with Myli Library Program Officer Kearny Hull. A02_4025

St Joseph's students donate Christmas gifts for kids

STUDENTS at St Joseph's Primary School, Korumburra, recently participated in a project by Samaritan's Purse called Operation Christmas Child.

Teacher Rachael Mullin, along with her 5/6 class, were inspirational in leading this initiative amongst the St Joseph's community.

Operation Christmas Child is a hands-on way for students and families to gift children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts that they will receive in time for Christmas.

To culminate their religious education inquiry for the term, students were able to take action by uniting as a community to bring hope to those in need, share God's love, and make a difference in the world.

Students wrote personal notes to the recipients, which they placed inside each box,



Local volunteer and collector for Operation Christmas Child, Doreen Western, with Korumburra's St Joseph Primary School students Mia Dawes, Elijah Watkins, Richie Cleveland, Beau Rendell and teacher Rachael Mullin with their donations.

and they will be able to track where in the world their boxes end up using the boxes' individual barcode.

Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts are collected each year from locations throughout the world,

including Austria, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, North America and the United Kingdom.

St Joseph's School extends a special thank you to Doreen Western, a local volunteer for

this project who was supportive in getting the project off the ground and for collecting the boxes for the next step in their journey.

For more information, go to the website: occ.samaritans-purse.org.au.

Corner Inlet shines in debut production of The Lorax 2.0

CORNER Inlet College made a memorable debut on the performing arts stage with its inaugural school production, The Lorax 2.0. Performed to enthusiastic audiences at both matinee and evening shows, the production was a resounding success, showcasing the creativity, collaboration, and courage of students from both Corner Inlet College and Foster Primary School.

An adaptation inspired by Dr Seuss's powerful environmental message, The Lorax 2.0 captured hearts with its vibrant dance, engaging dialogue, and strong sense of purpose. At its core was the poignant reminder: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Students dazzled on stage, supported by weeks of dedicated rehearsals and the

invaluable contributions of staff, parents, and volunteers.

Special thanks went to Dom Carella, the college's dance teacher, and student Milly, whose choreography brought dynamic energy to the performance. Brett Van Horn's sound design, along with lighting and video support from Will and Scott Gratton, elevated the production's technical brilliance. Photographer Hayley Anderson

beautifully captured the event, while parent volunteers ensured costumes, hair, and makeup were stage-ready.

Principal Jen Young praised the teamwork and passion shown by all involved.

"This production reminded us of the power of community and creativity," she said.

"We are so proud of what our students achieved, and they can't wait to do it all again next year."



Taliah Anderson as 'The Lorax' speaks with 'The Old Onceler' played by Solomon Stechwey.



Solomon Stechwey shared as 'The Old Onceler'

Built by community, serving community

SINCE its founding in 1979, Newhaven College has been shaped by a spirit of collaboration and inclusion, enriching students' lives and preparing them to contribute with empathy and respect within their community and beyond.

One of the most tangible ways this commitment is seen is in how the College's facilities are shared with its broader community. Newhaven College has become a vibrant hub, supporting clubs and organisations across sport, arts, culture and science.

Currently, the College is home to the Phillip Island Rips Basketball Club, while the Phillip Island Football Netball Club makes use of the grounds year-round for training. A wide variety of other groups also find a home at the College, including the Bass Coast Astronomy and Cosmology Club, Offshore Theatre, Arts Society Phillip Island, AFL Victoria's School Holiday Program, Hockey Victoria, Narre Warren Calisthenics Club, Gippsland United Big V Basketball, Westernport Steelers Basketball Club, Phillip Island Soccer Club, Oakleigh AFL and Koo Wee Rup Netball Club.

When the Cowes oval was undergoing renovations in 2024, Newhaven College stepped in and offered the Phillip Island Football Netball Club the use of its oval for training.

Club president Chris Ross said of the offer, "Without the assistance given to our club by Newhaven College, I am not sure what we would have done. They gave us access to both their oval and school gymnasium for player training sessions, while our ground was pretty much unusable. I want to thank Newhaven College sincerely."

The College's commitment to community is reflected not only in the way they share their facilities, but also in the way they nurture relationships. Active communication and collaboration between the College and its broader communities are central to the College's values.

At its heart, Newhaven College remains what it has always been – a place created by community, for community.

Input sought for pre-prep rollout

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is inviting parents, carers of young children, and people planning for a family to share their thoughts on the upcoming transition from four-year-old kindergarten to pre-prep.

This community engagement opportunity aims to ensure the new program effectively meets local needs as it is implemented across the region.

As part of a State Government initiative, four-year-old kindergarten will become pre-prep.

From 2027, families will be able to access up to 20 hours of pre-prep each week.

The feedback gathered from the community will be vital in shaping how the program is delivered locally and will help support service providers in preparing for a smooth rollout.

"The transition to pre-prep is a significant change for early childhood education in Victoria, and we want to ensure it is introduced effectively here in South Gippsland. This is a unique opportunity for our community to help shape the future of early learning in our shire," Mayor Cr John Schelling said.

"We're listening to parents, carers and future families to understand their needs, so we can support a program that gives our children the best possible start. I strongly encourage everyone to share their feedback."

Feedback can be provided via an online survey or by attending one of the in-person focus groups scheduled across South Gippsland.

The focus group sessions are:

Korumburra: Wednesday, October 8, from 4.30pm to 5.30pm at Karmai Community Children's Centre.

Loch: Tuesday, October 14, from 10.30am to 11.30am at Loch Recreation Reserve.

Leongatha: Tuesday, October 14, from 4pm to 5pm at Leongatha Early Learning Centre.

Toora: Tuesday, October 21, from 11am to 12pm at Toora Primary School.

Feedback closes on Monday, November 3.

To find out more information and complete the survey, visit southgippsland.vic.gov.au/pre-prep.

Natalie Res



Seaside sanctuary surrounded by nature

THIS modern multi-level beach house offers the perfect blend of coastal atmosphere with the tranquillity of a country setting. The open plan design is bathed in natural light, flowing seamlessly to decks on either side – perfect for entertaining with views over the treetops to the farmland and hinterland beyond. Set on approximately 779m2 with the emphasis on low maintenance, making this an ideal destination for relaxation and reflection.

Upstairs, the expansive living/dining room features a wall of north-facing windows that open out to the large deck. The gleaming ultra-modern kitchen is a true centrepiece with timeless white cabinetry, gas hob, under-bench oven, dishwasher, and exceptional storage.

The master bedroom is a private retreat with a stunning ensuite bathroom and fitted storage. A separate powder room caters for guests. Downstairs, there are two spacious fitted bedrooms, a family room or fourth bedroom, central bathroom and separate WC.

Under house parking and storage space, bore and tank water. Offered for sale, partly furnished. With the pristine coast only a short stroll away and the green open farmland behind, this is ideal for those seeking peace and privacy.

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801 to arrange an inspection or for more details.

3 2 2 779m²

41 Harbour View, **Sandy Point**
For Sale \$1,000,000
Agent SEJ Foster
Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

Your local
Real Estate &
Livestock Specialists
www.sej.com.au

ANDREA ADAMS
0429 822 801
aadams@sej.com.au

FOSTER
Ph 5682 2800

IRENE WALKER
0429 045 632
iwalker@sej.com.au

LEONGATHA
Ph 5662 4033

WARATAH BAY

COMING SOON

- 3 bed 1 bath
- Premier location
- Stylishly updated

\$850,000 - \$880,000
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

COMING SOON!!

- 276AC / 112HA - Central to Leongatha, Foster & Inverloch
- Highly productive breeding / fattening / fodder production grazing property
- Heavy duty stock yards all under cover with b-double access
- Flat to gently undulating topography with grey and sandy loam soils
- Excellent fencing throughout with (8) paddocks supported by electric
- Secure water supply via a combination of (6) dams and troughs

Price on application
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045632

YANAKIE

- 2128 m2 (approx) block
- Fully fenced
- Power available
- Walk to the shops

\$295,000
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

RANCBY

NEW PRICE

- 23ha/60 acres * grazing
- Ideal turnout block
- Close to town
- 5 paddocks, inc hay paddock
- Undulating hill country

\$595,000
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

NERRENA

- Rural living, just minutes from town with expansive views
- Charming north facing 4-bedroom, 2 bathroom B/V home
- Open plan living, with additional formal dining & living room
- Separate study, gorgeous sunroom overlooking the garden
- Heavy carrying grazing with 20ha/50acres, (5) paddocks, troughs & dams
- Good shedding, yards, established gardens in peaceful location

\$1,900,000
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045632

TOORA

- Approx. 5 acres
- Power, water to boundary
- Grazing for stock or horses

\$149,000
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



Location, location, location!

RARELY does this phrase ring so true. Set in a prime position with sweeping views across the bay, this home offers more than just an address – it's a lifestyle. Featuring two spacious bedrooms, each with their own ensuite and walk-in robe, the home is designed with comfort and privacy in mind. Both upstairs and downstairs living zones provide flexible spaces for family, guests, or quiet retreat. While the home would benefit from a face-lift, its solid structure provides the perfect canvas for renovation. Outside, the property shines: a fully fenced, multiple sheds, mature garden, plenty of room for a boat, and just moments from the Corinella boat ramp.

2 2 1188m²

22 The Esplanade, **Corinella**
For Sale \$995,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Wonthaggi 5672 1911
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783
Cal Nation 0439 334 163



California bungalow in the heart of town

LOCATION is a huge factor when it comes to buying a home, maybe your first home, maybe an investment. Queen Street is arguably one of the most sought-after streets in Korumburra, and you couldn't be in a better spot than at number 36. Opposite Coleman Park and the Korumburra indoor heated and outdoor Olympic-size swimming pools, you are only a short stroll to the main street and all town amenities. This appealing California bungalow could be yours. In simple terms, the property consists of a neat three-bedroom weatherboard home with polished floor boards, open kitchen/dining/lounge room, cosy open fire, reverse cycle heat/air conditioner on a large block of 952m2 with lock-up garage and front and rear lane access. The property is currently tenanted but is soon to be sold with vacant possession, 48 hours minimum notice is required for a private inspection.



3 1 1 952m²

36 Queen Street, **Korumburra**
For Sale \$520,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Korumburra 5655 1133
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898



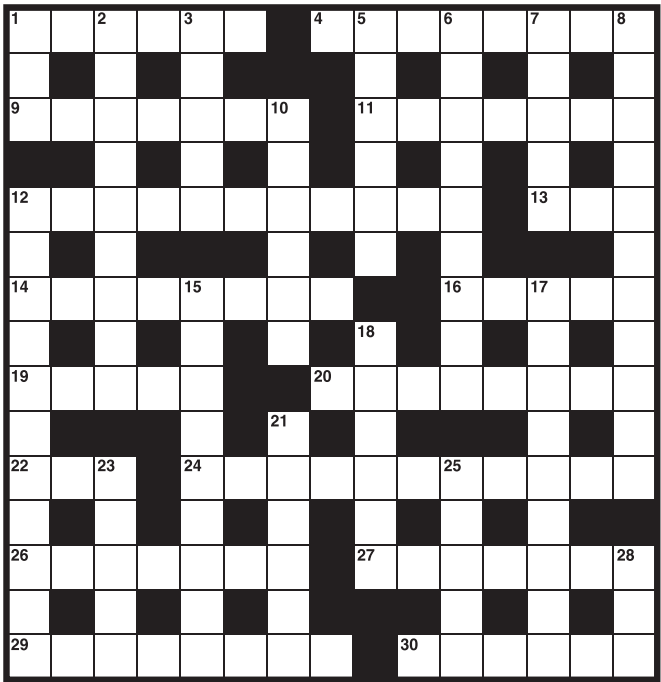
LEONGATHA SOUTH  268 Leongatha Sth – Outtrim Rd • 103.21 acres of grazing land • Machinery & hay sheds, yards, bore & power • Terms 10% dep Balance 30/45 days Auction Fri 31st Oct 25 – onsite 12 noon Contact: Leongatha Office	KORUMBURRA  29 Isabella Boulevard • 3 bedroom/2 bath brick family home • Double Garage / Garden Shed • Nothing to spend \$650,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	PIONEER BAY  34 Sonia Crescent • 3 bed, 1 bath • Neat home in growing area \$459,000 Contact: Grantville Office	WONTHAGGI  1/81 McKenzie St Wonthaggi • 2 bedroom renovated unit • Close to town centre • Front of 3 units \$395,000 - \$409,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
LEONGATHA  2/13 Hassett Street • 2 bed 1 bath unit in excellent condition • Open plan kitchen/living with natural light • Single lock up garage, private courtyard \$485,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	KORUMBURRA  36 Queen Street • 3 bedroom, 1 bath California Bungalow • Garage / Garden shed • Central location / Rear access \$520,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	GRANTVILLE  34A Portview Avenue • 3 bed, 2 bath • Double garage • Make this modern house your home \$575,00 - \$585,000 Contact: Grantville Office	NORTH WONTHAGGI  1 George Street • 2 bedroom brick home • On its own title • No body corp in place \$395,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
LEONGATHA  6 Willow Grove • As new, low maintenance 3 bed 2 bath 2 car • Undercover outdoor entertaining • Located next to parkland reserve \$630,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	KORUMBURRA  5/6 Ruddville Avenue • Modern 1 bedroom apartment • Fully furnished • Nothing to spend \$375,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	CORONET BAY  13 Bass Horizon Promenade • From house to home • Finish your dream home by the bay • 4 bed/2 bath \$420,000 - \$445,000 - Price drop Contact: Grantville Office	WONTHAGGI  2/5 Cameron Street • 2 bedroom unit • Close to hospital • Short walk to town centre \$395,000 to \$425,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office
LEONGATHA  42 Brumley Street • Spacious 3 bed 2 bath 2 living area home • Approx 1026 sqm block with studio & shed • Rear lane access, fruit trees/ veg garden \$820,000 Contact: Leongatha Office	KORUMBURRA  23 Bridge Street • Grand period home • Prime corner location • 3 bedroom, 3 living \$675,000 Contact: Korumburra Office	BASS  228 Lynche Road • Well set up 104 acres • Ready for stock • Dual road frontage \$1,725,000 Contact: Grantville Office	NORTH WONTHAGGI  3/1 Gordon Street • 2 bedroom unit • Close to schools • Open plan living \$320,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA 5662 0922 41 Bair Street Andrew Newton 0402 940 320 Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299 Tony Giles 0407 528 192 Dan Huther 0418 334 801	KORUMBURRA 5655 1133 36 Bridge Street Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	GRANTVILLE 5678 8433 1505 Bass Highway Angus Hall 0466 326 487	WONTHAGGI 5672 1911 Cnr Murray & Billson Streets Cal Nation 0439 334 163 Mick Chambers 0418 349 783 Phil Hanley 0417 140 508
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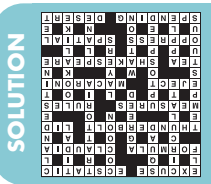
CROSSWORD

No. 301



- ACROSS**
- 1 Reason for doing or not doing something (6)
- 4 In very high spirits (8)
- 9 Recipe (7)
- 11 Former First Lady, – “Ladybird” Johnson (7)
- 12 Flash of lightning (11)
- 13 Cover (3)
- 14 Reasonable lengths (8)
- 16 Governs (5)
- 19 Expel (5)
- 20 A form of pasta (8)
- 22 Hot beverage (3)

- 24 Great playwright (11)
- 26 Persecute (7)
- 27 Having three dimensions (7)
- 29 Expenditure (8)
- 30 Abandon (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Pixie (3)
- 2 Move in a circuit (9)
- 3 Small military unit (5)
- 5 Swathe (6)
- 6 Restaurant in Italy (9)
- 7 Of the tide (5)
- 8 Secret (11)
- 10 Were of the same opinion (6)
- 12 Stormy (11)
- 15 Fully informed; performing at the right rate (2,2,5)
- 17 Doppelganger (4-5)
- 18 Strata (6)
- 21 Sherlock Holmes’ companion, Dr - (6)
- 23 Fruit (5)
- 25 Carpentry tool (5)
- 28 Tenanted (3)



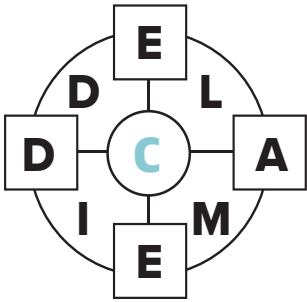
9-LETTER

No. 301

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

Today’s Aim:

- 17 words: **Good**
- 25 words: **Very good**
- 34 words: **Excellent**

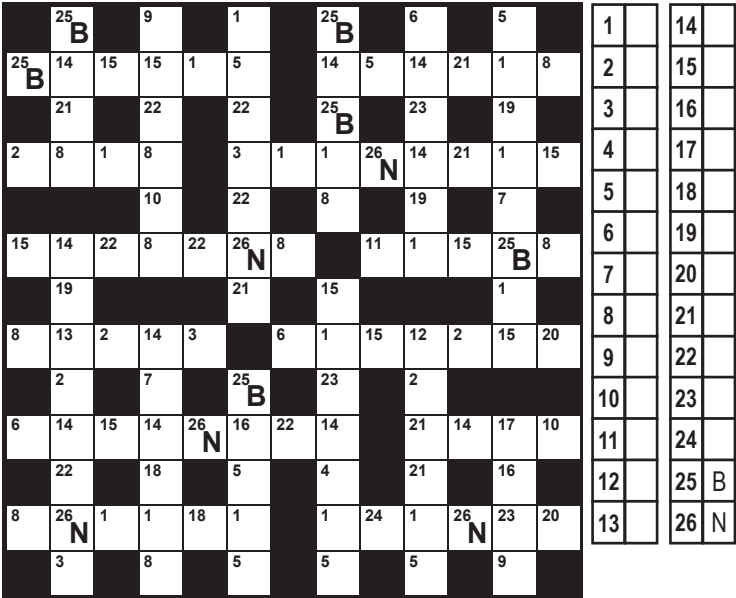


aced, acid, acme,
caddie, calm, calmed,
came, camel, cede,
ceded, clad, claim,
claimed, clam, clime,
dace, decade, decide,
decimal, declaim,
DECLAIMED, dice,
diced, iced, iliac, lace,
laced, laic, lace,
malice, medical, mica,
mice

CODEWORD

No. 291

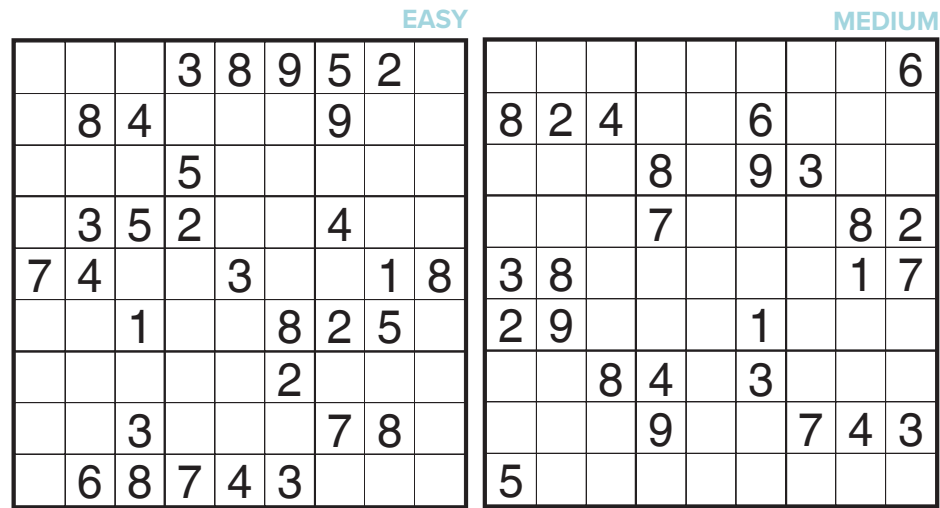
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

No. 300

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.



QUICK QUIZ

- Which extant lizard species is the largest in the world?
- Who painted the 1931 surrealist artwork *The Persistence of Memory*?
- In which continent is the historical drama series *SAS: Rogue Heroes* set?
- How many members does Australia’s House of Representatives have?
- In relation to perfume, what do the letters EDP stand for?
- Which classic dystopian novel features a calming drug called soma?
- True or false: tulip petals are edible?
- In which teen drama series did Dev Patel (pictured) make his screen debut as Anwar?
- What is the official language of San Marino?
- In the nursery rhyme, who did Simple Simon meet going to the fair?



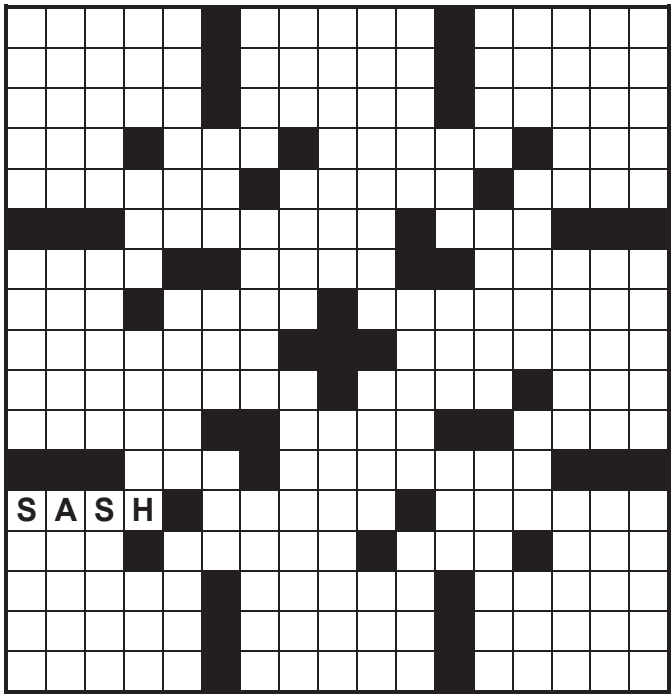
ANSWERS: 1. Komodo dragon 2. Salvador Dalí 3. Africa 4. 150 5. Eau de parfum 6. Brave New World 7. True 8. *Skins* 9. Italian 10. A pie man

WORDFIT

No. 210

- 3 LETTERS**
- ADO
APE
ARE
ASH
AWE
BUN
CIA
COP
DEN
EVE
HAS
LAP
LED
NEE
ODE
ORE
OVA
REV
SPA
SUE
TEE
URN
USE
VAT
- 5 LETTERS**
- ABOUT
ABOVE
ACRES
ADEPT
APART
ARENA
ARIAS
ARISE
ARSON
ASIDE
ATONE
AVERT
AWARE
CARPS
DEEPS
DIVED
DOSES
DOWNY
EASEL
EDGES
ENTER
EPICS
FLUSH
GEESE
GENRE
HOMED
IMAGE
JADES
JAMBS

- SASH
SLID
USER
USES
VANE



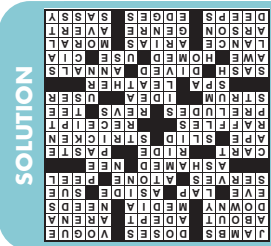
- LANCE
LIARS
MEDIA
MORAL
MOWER
NEEDS
PASTE
PEACE
REFER
SALAD
SALTY
SASSY
SENSE
SKITS

- SLUMP
STAIN
STRUM
TEPEE
TREAT
UNDUE
VOGUE

- 7 LETTERS**
- ASHAMED
DEEDING
LEATHER
RAFFLES
RECEIPT
SEDATED

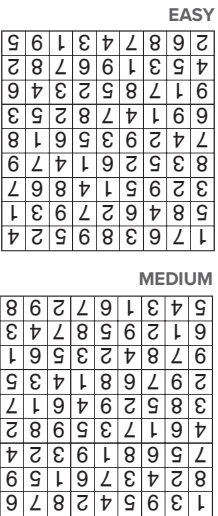
- 8 LETTERS**
- EPISODES
PRELUDES
SILVERED
STRICKEN

- 6 LETTERS**
- ANNALS
ENEMAS
SERVES
STYLES



0310 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © **pagemasters.**

SOLUTIONS



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

WORD SEARCH

No. 211

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



- ARCH
ARTERY
BEARD
BICEP
BRAIN
CALF
CHEEK
CHIN
DUCT
EARLOBE
EYEBROW
EYELID
FACE
FOREARM
- FOREHEAD
GUM
HAMSTRING
HEART
HEEL
HIP
INDEX
FINGER
JAW
KIDNEY
KNEE
LEG
LIP
LIVER
- NAIL
NECK
NERVE
PALM
SHIN
SIDEBURNS
SKELETAL
SKULL
STOMACH
THUMB
TRAPEZIUS
TRICEP
WAIST
WRIST

SECRET MESSAGE: A collection of harmonious parts



Enduring buying relationship continues to prosper at Leongatha Store Sale

ANDREW Harmon is pleased with the couple of pens of high-quality Angus steers bought for him by Carlo Taranto of Elders at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, planning to grow the cattle out for 10-12 months at his Kilcunda property in preparation for selling to a feedlot.

Carlo has been buying for Andrew for over 30 years.

"He's a good judge," Andrew said of the reason that the arrangement continues to prosper.

Each of the two pens contained 28 Angus steers from Combienbar Farm in East Gippsland, one lot weighing an average of 231 kilos and making \$1120 a head at \$4.84 per kilo, the other attracting \$1100 each.

"We prepare cattle for the feedlot; Andrew grows them out and gets them ready to onsell to feedlots," Carlo said, stressing the importance of buying well-bred Angus steers from one property



Carlo Taranto of Elders with Kilcunda farmer Andrew Harmon for whom he bought a couple of pens of cattle. A05_4025

with the same bloodline, explaining they'll then perform better in a feedlot setting among their friends.

Andrew explained his approach to growing out cattle.

"Put your hand in your pocket and grow grass," he said, his grass coming along well due to his habit of applying pasture booster, a combination of fertilisers.

While acknowledging the

grass could do with more sun, he said it's been growing for a couple of months.

"He spends the money and he wants a good farm," Carlo said of Andrew's method of kickstarting pasture growth.

While saying his latest cattle purchases were still costly, Andrew is pleased to have picked them up about \$150 a head cheaper than he expected.

"You wouldn't want to be doing it for a living," he remarked, treating farming as a hobby after coming from a farm in Ireland's County Wicklow, having been born in Dublin, but still ensuring the enterprise is profitable.

Although Andrew said he won't get attached to the cattle in the months they are with him, he believes in looking after them well, and is sure the latest additions to his herd will be well behaved.

He'll soon be doing silage and hopes for hay before Christmas.

Dam-filling rain needed to boost grazier confidence

"SOLID to a touch easier" was how Rohan McRae of Elders summed up Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, the agency having 1700 head available.

He observed that prices remained firm for well-bred, well-behaved cattle, but there may have been a slight reduction in prices for other animals, with that a sign of grazier competition easing a fraction.

"People are still a bit nervous; they want to see a big Spring rain, which really needs to come in October to give everyone the confidence they need," Rohan said.

Getting sufficient run-off to fill dams is the key, with enough rain lately to promote grass growth. Rohan highlighting the Bass Coast area as one that has bounced back from poor Summer and Autumn rain, now looking good with enough moisture to get feed on the ground.



Rohan McRae sells for Elders during Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A10_4025

Should substantial enough rain come to promote runoff and fill dams, grazier confidence is expected to rise accordingly.

"You look at the top profile of our soil, it's perfect for growing grass; we've had

a few warm days, so it's real Spring weather, but we just need a 50mm downpour or more to get that water running down gullies into waterways and dams," Rohan said.

While Elders has had an impressive run of feedlot

weighted cattle at previous Leongatha Store Sales, boosted by annual drafts, it had less on offer in that weight division on Thursday, making it tough to compare prices.

"That real quality run of those cattle wasn't there," Rohan said.

However, Elders sold impressive runs of Connamara Blood Angus steers and heifers from Meringo Pastoral in Swifts Creek.

A pen of 27 of those steers, weighing an average of 278 kilos, attracted \$1620 a head at \$5.82 per kilo, a pen of 28 slightly lighter cattle averaging 264 kilos, making \$1460 each, a return of \$5.53 a kilo.

On the heifer front, 25 Meringo Pastoral Angus cattle, averaging 268 kilos, sold for \$1260, a return of \$4.70 a kilo, while 23 Black Baldies made \$1120 each, equating to \$4.39 a kilo at an average weight of 255 kilos.

Support package lands for drought-affected farmers

ON WEDNESDAY, October 1, the Minister for Agriculture, Ros Spence, announced the rollout of the Duties and Fees Relief Package, which will waive fees for farmers over the next financial year and deliver more than \$10 million in relief to Victorian producers.

To relieve the financial pressure for farmers across the state, livestock duties will be waived in Victoria for the sale of cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs until September 30, 2026. This means that any producer who would normally be required to pay livestock duties is exempt.

Primary producers will no longer have to pay

standard order processing fees for NLIS tags until June 30, 2026 – the cost of the tags will still be required. All other livestock fees will be frozen at the same rate as last financial year.

Beekeepers won't have to pay their two-year registration fee for their hives until September 30, 2027.

Dairy farmers will receive a discount on their 2025/26 licence fees, which will be reflected in their milk payments from dairy manufacturers. Farmers don't have to apply; they will receive a refund in their next milk cheque. DFSV is working directly with manufacturers to apply this discount.

PrimeSafe, Victoria's regulator for commercial abattoirs and meat production, will provide drought-affected primary producers with a relief payment if they hold both a PrimeSafe Licence and a Property Identification Code (PIC).

Biosecurity Victoria is waiving fees for nursery and horticulture producers for this financial year, including the service fees for arrangement applications, arrangement audits, verification inspections, area and property freedom approvals, and related travel costs. Other plant biosecurity services fees for 2025/26 will remain at the same rate as 2024/25.

Food safety registration fees will be waived for horticulture and crop producers in the 12 south-west Local Government Areas (LGA) currently experiencing the worst drought conditions. For all other primary producers outside these 12 LGAs, the fees will be capped at the same rate as 2024/25.

The announcement is part of the Labor Government's \$144 million Drought Support Package.

For more information on the duties and fees covered by this package, and the full range of supports available to drought-affected farmers and communities, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or phone 136 186.

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Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025
Commencing at 1.30pm on property

Dawson Road, Heyfield
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Light Luncheon Available.

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John Sundermann - 0427 482 607

For further information contact selling agent:

Nutrien
Ag Solutions
GREENWOOD LIVESTOCK

Ian Baker – 0408 509 319

LARDNER PARK ELDERS AND ALEX SCOTT & STAFF DAIRY SALE

DAIRY SALE:
Friday, October 10
at 11am

A/c B & T Elliott – Nilma

Select Pick of 20 Aug-Sep calved A.I Bred 2nd & 3rd lactation Holstein cows. By Dylan, Calisto, Chief 1stGrade & Lambda. Outstanding line of high yield Holsteins with superb udders

A/c W & J Weller - Oanwayje Farms - Longwarry

20 - A.I Bred Freshly Calved Young Holstein cows (2nd - 4th lact) having calved from 2nd Sept to fresh. By A.I Alta Robert, JS Arsenal, Alta Lancaster, Alta Holladay etc. A superb line of cows that have been selected from later calved portion of herd. A closed herd with 50 yrs of astute A.I breeding. A great opportunity to buy cows of this calibre.

A/c W.B. M.L. H.B & T.M Armstrong – Bona Vista

30 - A.I Bred Young Holstein Cows. Aug/ Sep calved with a few close springing, by A.I Summerday, Uno, Mogul, Doorman etc. Current production avg 42ltrs low BMCC. Individual breeding & production details available at sale.

A/c T & J Weekes

8 - Jersey Heifers calved Aug/Sept
6 - Young Jersey cows 3-6 years calved Aug/ Sept

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



Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST



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Local landholders at the Poowong Football Club listened to Dr Robin Adair from the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce explain how to control noxious weeds such as blackberry. B13_4025

Winning the war against blackberries at Poowong

NOXIOUS weeds can be a prickly problem anywhere in South Gippsland, and the perennial blackberry pest *Rubus fruticosus* is one of the toughest to eradicate.

Dr Robin Adair from the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce told a recent workshop organised by the Bass Coast Landcare Network that blackberry is now a weed of national significance, ranking alongside rabbits and ragwort as our biggest pests.

“The crown of the blackberry is the plant’s storage part,” said Dr Adair.

“You need to effectively target the crown to effectively control blackberry.”

Weeds are a symptom of the way we manage our land, explained Dr Adair.

“We’re not going to get effective control until we solve our land management issues.”

The workshop at the Poowong Football Club heard that commercially available organic herbicides, such as pelargonium oil and acetic acid-based products, are effective in controlling soft tissue but not the crown of the blackberry.

“The crown is connected to a long root system,” Dr Adair said.

By Bruce Wardley

Inorganic herbicides penetrate the plant and get into the roots while allowing grass cover to remain intact helping to prevent blackberries from re-shooting.

“Coverage and time of application when the plant is active is important,” said Dr Adair.

A wetting agent and coloured dye can also make a difference.

“Do not spray on windy days, avoid water runoff and read the label.”

For smaller infestations such as home gardens, Dr Adair suggested using a sponge applicator or weeding wand, with secateurs to cut back the blackberries.

Bigger infestations could require heavy machinery such as a slasher or forest mulcher.

“Only do small areas at a time to prevent the cuts from sealing,” said Dr Adair.

Blackberries can be sprayed immediately before slashing to ensure there is enough leaf area to absorb the herbicide.

Wood-fired weed burners are effective, particularly against annual weeds.



Dr Robin Adair from the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce explaining how to control blackberries at a Bass Coast Landcare Network workshop in Poowong. B18_4025

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre **CLAAS**

Easier trend for stores

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded a larger offering of 3600 head at this week’s VLE Leongatha store sale, in another good offering with most of the regular feedlot and processor operators in attendance, along with a good crowd of local buyers.

There were less heavier heavier-weight cattle than the previous few months’ sales, with more lighter-weight weaners on offer and a more plainer xbred types.

The market was firm for the best of the mid-weight feeder steers and the tops of the Angus steer weaners and the odd pen of the quality bred heifers with coloured, secondary and smaller lines selling mostly 10 – 20 cents easier off the peaks of a month or so ago.

The Xbred offering was mixed with something for everyone on display, with prices similar for some and a bit easier for the plainer types.

Leongatha Store Sale On Thursday, October 2, 2025

Steers			
P Waite 15 Ang	591kg	\$4.77	\$2820
Harmers Pastoral 19 Ang	557kg	\$5.13	\$2860
P Waite 15 Ang	534kg	\$4.71	\$2520
PR Fraser 20 BB	476kg	\$5.42	\$2580
PR Fraser 19 Hfd	462kg	\$5.63	\$2600
PR Fraser 22 BB	446kg	\$5.42	\$2420
PR Fraser 20 Hfd	442kg	\$5.52	\$2440
GW & Mc Parker 10 Ang	418kg	\$5.02	\$2100
C Urie 17 Ang	405kg	\$4.81	\$1950
D Hurley 20 Ang	403kg	\$5.58	\$2250
Westburne P/L 14 Ang	397kg	\$4.86	\$1930
D Hurley 17 Ang	396kg	\$5.53	\$2190
D Hurley 18 Ang 376kg	\$5.77	\$2170	
S Langley 17 BB	370kg	\$5.18	\$1920
Black Range Angus 20 Ang	366kg	\$5.60	\$2050
DC & Je Boulton 13 Hfd	366kg	\$4.75	\$1740
NW Page 25 Ang	363kg	\$5.42	\$1970
D Hurley 15 Ang	360kg	\$5.97	\$2150
S Langley 20 Ang	356kg	\$5.44	\$1940
B Rinaldi 21 Ang	354kg	\$5.19	\$1840
Hurley-Steed 22 Ang	344kg	6.30	\$2170
B Hinson 18 Ang	341kg	\$5.63	\$1920
Northside Pastoral 25 Ang	338kg	\$5.47	\$1850
S Langley 18 Ang	337kg	\$5.22	\$1760
GT Cummaudo & Sons 16 Char	329kg	\$5.04	\$1660
CM Bye 20 Ang	324kg	\$5.18	\$1680
Black Range Angus 19 Ang	317kg	\$5.61	\$1780
S Langley 17 Ang	317kg	\$4.98	\$1580
Mirawah P/L 16 Ang	315kg	\$5.65	\$1780
G Low 13 Ang	314kg	\$4.58	\$1440
NW Page 25 Ang	303kg	\$6.00	\$1820
C Jeffrey 13 Hfd	302kg	\$4.03	\$1220
Rural Operation Group 14 Hfd	298kg	\$5.00	\$1490
GA & K Laing 10 Ang	297kg	\$4.04	\$1200
Northside Pastoral 20 Ang	296kg	\$5.94	\$1760
A & J Gordon 18 Ang	295kg	\$6.13	\$1810
Rural Operation Group 10 Ang	295kg	\$5.08	\$1500
AJ,BR,NB Moyle 16 Ang	295kg	\$5.83	\$1720
Mirawah P/L 15 Ang	293kg	\$5.35	\$1570
A & J Gordon 18 Ang	295kg	\$6.13	\$1810
GT Cummaudo & Sons 15 Char	286kg	\$5.03	\$1440
Meringo Pastoral 27 Ang	278kg	\$5.82	\$1620
P & M Hanratty 13 Hfd	270kg	\$3.55	\$960
Somers Electrical 12 Ang	267kg	\$6.74	\$1800
P & M Hanratty 17 Ang	267kg	\$6.36	\$1700
Northside Pastoral 23 Ang	267kg	\$5.35	\$1430

Heifers			
JM & R Hamilton 18 Ang	437kg	\$4.39	\$1920
Harris Farm 20 Ang	422kg	\$4.73	\$2000
Glenshiel Pastoral 23 Ang	403kg	\$4.59	\$1850
Harris Farm 15 Ang	372kg	\$4.70	\$1750
P Fleming 15 Ang	369kg	\$4.79	\$1770
Glenshiel Pastoral 23 Ang	346kg	\$4.62	\$1600
GT Cummaudo & Sons 19 Char	332kg	\$4.87	\$1620
B Hinson 16 Ang	331kg	\$4.53	\$1500
Hurley-Steed 10 Ang	325kg	\$4.92	\$1600
Wiltshaw Farming 10 Ang	324kg	\$3.39	\$1100
Northside Pastoral 28 Ang	311kg	\$4.85	\$1510
CA & JR Moore 18 Hfd	306kg	\$4.18	\$1280
K & J Mutke 14 Ang	303kg	\$3.56	\$1080
Kelmar Farm Pty Ltd 11 Ang	293kg	\$4.43	\$1300
Rural Operations Group			
13 Ang & BB	288kg	\$3.64	\$1050
Cobbah Downs 11 Ang	287kg	\$4.39	\$1260
A Gordon 18 Ang	280kg	\$5.14	\$1410
Somers Electrical 10 Ang	280kg	\$4.07	\$1140
Northside Pastoral 33 Ang	274kg	\$4.74	\$1300
Meringo Pastoral 25 Ang	268kg	\$4.70	\$1260
P & M Hanratty 10 Ang	263kg	\$3.87	\$1020
P & M Hanratty 16 Ang	256kg	\$4.02	\$1030
Meringo Pastoral 23 BB	255kg	\$4.39	\$1120

XBreds/Dairy			
AD Spencer 12 Ang X Strs	464kg	\$4.52	\$2100
M & B Gheller 12 Ang X Strs	387kg	\$4.34	\$1680
M & B Gheller 11 Ang X Hfirs	381kg	\$3.98	\$1520
GA & K Laing 13 Ang X Strs	316kg	4.08c	\$1290
GA & K Laing 14 Ang X Strs	285kg	4.03c	\$1150

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Livestock Sales

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		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

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

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World first beetle lure developed for almond crops

YES we do grow almonds in Gippsland and very good almonds they are too.

A major pest in almond orchards across all regions, including Gippsland, is the almond carpophilus beetle, which to date has proved a serious challenge for almond growers.

Almond carpophilus beetles cause significant damage when the hulls split and brown rot sets in. Agriculture Victoria research scientists have developed a new, pesticide-free way to help almond growers manage the almond beetles in their orchards.

A world-first lure that mimics the beetle’s natural odours has been developed to attract the beetle and draw it into a purpose-built trap. The lure makes it easier to detect carpophilus beetles and manage outbreaks earlier.

According to Agriculture Victoria Senior Research Scientist Dr Samantha Edlley, the lure uses a precise mix of synthetic pheromones and yeast odours that are highly attractive to almond beetles.

“The lure is designed to be very specific to this pest, which means it doesn’t attract

or affect beneficial insects. It’s a new and sustainable tool for growers that could reduce the need for broad chemical sprays.”

The lure has already been trialled in Victorian almond orchards with impressive results.

“When used as part of a mass trapping strategy, known as attract and kill, it can reduce damage by around 60 per cent,” said Dr Edlley.

“This breakthrough will help reduce pest-related losses, improving the long-term quality and profitability of Australian almond production.”

The lure is now being prepared for commercial release through Agriculture Victoria with the potential to support more productive and sustainable almond production.

The research is part of an almond integrated pest management project delivered in partnership with Agriculture Victoria, Hort Innovation, the Almond Board of Australia and Agriculture Victoria Services.

To learn more about the research project go to almondboard.org.au/topic/integrated-pest-management



New hope for almond growers in the fight against the carpophilus beetle.

VLE LEONGATHA STORE SALE
3500 CATTLE 3500

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Castello Farms, Thorpdale (Nutrien)
'Annual Draft' 112 Ang Sim X steers, Hicks Blood 13-15 months, weaned 1/6, drenched B12, 5 in 1, VB, GF, AF, NE Accred, VQ

A/c J & K Macaulay, Jack River (Nutrien)
65 Hereford steers, 16-18 months, VB

A/c Homebush Pastoral Co, Stony Creek (Nutrien)
50 Angus steers, 20 months

A/c Bona Vista Pastoral (Nutrien)
50 Angus steers, 14-16 months, Bowman & Leawood Blood

A/c Condoluci Produce (Nutrien)
40 Angus steers, 2 yo, NE Accred

A/c Mt Lavinia, Walkerville (SEJ)
40 Angus steers 16-18 Months, South East Dist Bred

A/c P Alicata, Driffield (Nutrien)
30 Angus steers, 20 months

A/c KW & AM Trewin, Orbost (Nutrien)
30 Angus steers, 18-24 months, Kunuma Blood

A/c High Voltage Consultancy (Nutrien)
30 Angus steers, 14-15 months

A/c P Bloomer, Poowong (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 18 months old, GF & AB Free

A/c Russell Jones, Foster (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 16-18 months

A/c N Haustorfer, Carrajung (Nutrien)
20 Angus steers, 14 months, VB

A/c G Lane, Willung Sth (Nutrien)
20 Angus steers, 15 months

A/c N Stavrou, Loch (Nutrien)
18 Angus steers, 18 months

A/C. Mardan Lodge, Mardan (SEJ)
18 Angus steers 16-18 months, South East District bred, very quiet

A/c B Stewart, Kernot (Nutrien)
16 Angus & BB Steers, 18 months

A/c G & M Tuckett, Berrys Creek (Nutrien)
16 Angus & SP steers, 18-20 months

A/c A Cannizzo, Mirboo Nth (Nutrien)
15 Angus steers, 15-16 months

A/c Wildwood Pastoral, Inverloch (SEJ)
15 Angus steers, 18 months, Yea District Bred, Alpine Blood.

A/c Richardson Farms (Nutrien)
15 Angus steers, 16 months, Black Spur Blood

A/c G & G Thompson, Stony Creek (Nutrien)
15 Angus steers, 16 months

A/c J Venn (Nutrien)
14 Angus steers, 2 yo

A/c G Martin, Clydebank (Nutrien)
14 Angus steers, 2 yo, Pinora Blood

A/c S O'Hara, Foster (SEJ)
10 Angus steers, 18 months

A/c. A Shultz, Nerrena (SEJ)
10 Angus steers 15-16 months

A/c Connisbee & Co (Nutrien)
8 Angus steers, 18 months

A/c Hopfields P/L, Dutson (Nutrien)
8 Shorthorn steers, 2 yo, Sprys Blood

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Summers Farms (Nutrien)
75 Angus & BB heifers, 18-20 months , Leawood Blood, full dispersal, no bull on farm

A/c Castello Farms, Thorpdale (Nutrien)
'Annual Draft' 46 Ang Sim X Hereford, Hicks Blood, 13-15 months, weaned 1/6, drenched B12, 5 in 1, VB, GF, AF, NE Accred, VQ

A/c Latrobe Park Angus (Nutrien)
40 Angus heifers, 16-17 months, Pure Latrobe Park Angus blood

A/c Bona Vista Pastoral (Nutrien)
35 Angus heifers, 14-16 months, Bowman & Leawood Blood

A/c R Davies, Jack River (Nutrien)
30 Angus heifers, 24 months VB

A/c Avondale Fields P/L, Traralgon (Nutrien)
20 Poll Hereford heifers, 22 months

A/c Stonewarra, Koonwarra (Nutrien)
20 Angus heifers, 14 months, Leawood Blood

A/c G & G Thompson, Stony Creek (Nutrien)
15 Angus heifers, 16 months

A/c AW & CM O'Mara, Glengarry (Nutrien)
12 Angus heifers, 14 months

A/c Strzelecki Red, Yinnar South (Sej)
7 Red Angus heifers, 17-18 months, 2 X 7 in 1, NE Accredited

WEANERS

A/c M & N Castello & Sons, Childers (Nutrien)
90 Angus steers, 70 Angus heifers, 11-13 months

A/c Connisbee & Co (Nutrien)
144 Angus steers, 60 Angus heifers, 13 months, Fernleigh Blood, VB, Gf, AF, NE Accred

A/c Von Pace Pastoral, Giffard (Nutrien)
120 Angus Mixed Sex, 12 months, NE Accred

A/c D & H Campbell, Mardan (Nutrien)
50 Angus steers, 60 Angus heifers, 12 months, NE Accred

A/c C & K Hole, Seaton (Nutrien)
65 Angus steers, 45 Angus heifers, 8-10 months, NE Accred, 2 x 5 in 1, Cydectin Platinum drenched, Pinora blood

A/c G & P Giardina, Mirboo Nth (Nutrien)
100 Angus mixed sex, 8-10 months , Leawood Blood, weaned, Gf, Vb & Af

A/c DS & A O'Brien (Nutrien)
"Gouranelar" Swifts Creek
75 Hereford steers, 10-12 months, 11 Hereford heifers, 7-8 months, Mawarra Blood

A/c Elm Valley P/L, Tarwin Lower (Nutrien)
10 BB steers, 10-12 months, Innesdale Blood
VB, NE Accred, GG & AF

A/c Merlewood Angus, Mirboo North (Nutrien)
17 Angus heifers, 10-12 months, weaned, NE Accred

A/c J Backman, Bunyip (Nutrien)
25 Angus mixed sex, 8-10 months, VB

A/c B & S Bates, Bundalaguah (Nutrien)
20 Angus Steers, 12 months, Millah Murrah Blood

A/c N & A Henderson, Gelantipy (Nutrien)
15 Angus steers, 5 Angus heifers

A/c S J Conway, Traralgon (Nutrien)
20 Angus heifers, 10 months

A/c B.M & G.H Missen, Woodside (SEJ)
10 Angus steers, 10 Angus heifers

A/c AC & RA Bowman, Winnindoo (Nutrien)
15 Angus steers, 20 Angus heifers

A/c AC & RA Bowman, Winnindoo (Nutrien)
13-14 months, Pinora blood

A/c Avondale Fields P/L, Traralgon (Nutrien)
33 Poll Hereford steers, 10-11 months

A/c L & S Marriott, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
10 Polled Hereford steers. 20 Polled Hereford heifers.

A/c J Backman, Bunyip (Nutrien)
12-13 months, EU, VB, GF, AB Free & NE Accred

A/c J Backman, Bunyip (Nutrien)
12 Angus steers, 10-12 months

A/c L & S Marriott, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
10 Polled Hereford steers. 20 Polled Hereford heifers.

A/c J Backman, Bunyip (Nutrien)
12-13 months, EU, VB, GF, AB Free & NE Accred

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America continues love affair with beef

By Bruce Wardley

WITH a lift in cattle prices for the first month of spring and above-average rainfall forecast across the region until December, local beef producers should be cock-a-hoop.

Not so according to food and agribusiness research analysts Rabobank who advise that cattle prices may have plateaued and could easily slip back over coming months.

The exception has been prices for processor cows, which continued to rise eight per cent month-on-month up to September, to reach a record \$3.84/kg, the highest price in history based on continued strong demand from the United States for grinding beef.

Rabobank has predicted that with a potential further reduction in the U.S.

cow herd and lower import volumes from Brazil due to high U.S. import tariffs, imported lean trim prices may continue to stay high.

Conditions and markets remain favourable for beef production, but as most farmers will tell you, trying to predict volatile supply and demand and guarantee a profit at the end of the production cycle is a little harder than it may seem.

Urea prices have shown some signs of relief, which is good news on the farm input side, with prices dropping by an average of 12 per cent month-on-month.

As local farmers consider making the most of the spring flush with urea boosted fertiliser, Rabobank has warned urea prices could jump again if demand from India recovers.

Lamb prices continue to hold at very

high levels according to Rabobank, contrary to the normal seasonal trend of lower prices as new season lamb hits the market.

Rabobank suspects prices and seasonal conditions are encouraging producers to hold lambs to heavier weights, reducing supply into the market and forcing retailers to lift prices to encourage farmers to sell.

The outlook for dairy farmers is likely to continue to be extremely volatile.

As milk flows start to peak across the eastern seaboard, all eyes are fixed on the strength of global dairy demand.

Rabobank is predicting a weak outlook for Chinese dairy imports into 2026.

Global milk supply continues to rise with the U.S. herd expanding to the largest milk herd since the mid-1990s

and the EU milk supply also edging upwards.

Australian milk supply seems to be diverging from the global trend with the second month in a row where milk supply has dropped three per cent year-on-year.

Ongoing sluggishness in demand is evident across the food services sector, particularly in sales to low and middle-income consumers. Drinking milk sales are down 1.8 per cent over the past 12 months across all formats.

The next phase of China's economic cycle will be telling, according to Rabobank with markets looking for a clear recovery in demand as China's import volumes remain flat.

Time perhaps not so much for another Big M campaign, but cheaper flat whites.

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LEAMON, Ted:
11.10.1930
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Have a great day, all our love,
Jill and Rob.
Jess, Josh, Bec and Adam.
Aria, Isabelle, Kai and Amelia.

DEATHS



McQUEEN, Robin:
3103899
2 Recovery Unit Army.

The President, Community and members of the Korumburra RSL respectfully acknowledge the passing of our esteemed member Robin and offer condolences to his family.

LEVEY, Judith:
Of Nyora, passed away on the 28.09.2025.

Loving wife of John (dec.) for 59 years.
Mother of Peter, Sharon, Clyde, Clint and Brett.

Mother-in-law of Andrea, Steve, Lynne and Vicki.

Nan to Stacey, Ben, Charlotte, Riley, Zac, Hannah, Emily and Hayley.

Old Nan to Oliver and Levi.

Forever Loved and Remembered.

It is Judith's wish to have a private funeral with family only.

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DEATHS

MACQUEEN, Wal:

Passed away Monday, September 29. Loved husband of Heather (Bub), loved Dad to Steven and Nicole, Barry and Melissa, Jodie and Darren. Special Pa to Brittney and Jesse, Alex and Daniel, Reide and Ellie, Lachie, Evie, Vienna and Addi.

Thanks for my three beautiful children and the special memories. Now at peace.

The Kardella Pub is now closed.

MACQUEEN, Wal:
See you when times are better Dad.

xxxx

Love Steven, Barry, Jodie and families.

McLACHLAN OAM (nee Beard), Gwladys Olive:
16.5.31 to 1.10.25.

Passed away peacefully at Uniting Agewell in Preston. Aged 94 years.

Loving wife of Colin (dec.). Cherished sister of Mavis, Tom, Harry and Gordon (all dec.).

Much loved mother of Steve, Jan (dec.), Pete, David and Helen, and mother-in-law of Rose, Elizabeth, Emma and Della. Gran to Katie, Stuart, Sarah, Sophie, Tasha, Daniel, Murphy, Bonnie, Stephanie, Emmalina, Isabelle and Olivia. Great Gran to Ada, Ruby, Zoe, Isla, Jett, Hazel, Violet, Leigh and Malakai. Selfless, generous and loving. Deeply missed and never forgotten.

DEATHS

ROE (Redpath), Margaret Joy:

Born on December 2, 1944. Passed away September 25, 2025.

Loving mum and mother-in-law of Cory, Sandra and Bud, Kathryn and Peter.

Treasured nanna to Danielle, Tameeka, Courtney, Hayley, Brodie and Sophie.

Loved daughter of Edgar and Esma Redpath (both dec.).

Adored sister/sister in-law to Lloyd and Rita, Ted and Frankie (dec.).

Cherished aunty to all of her nieces and nephews and their children.

Great grand-nanna to Lilly, Hamish, Willow and Bennett.

Forever in our hearts

SMITH, Marion Pearl:
29.12.1947 - 02.10.2025.

Loved eldest daughter of the late Thomas and Dorothy Goodwin. Loved sister of her seven brothers and three sisters.

Rest in Peace.

FUNERALS

MACQUEEN, Wal:

A celebration of life will be held at the Arawata Community Hall at 1pm on Saturday, October 11.

Light refreshments will follow immediately after the service. For those wanting to continue commemorating Wal's life, they are welcome to join the family at 'Wal's Shed.'

FUNERALS

McLACHLAN OAM:

A service to celebrate the life of Gwladys Olive McLachlan OAM will be held at Eden Oak, 20 Adams Court Geelong on Friday, October 10, at 2pm, followed by burial at Easter Cemetery, East Geelong (Boundary Road Gate 1 entrance).

For livestream details, or to leave a message of condolence, please visit Gwladys eTribute on our website.

KINGS FUNERALS

ROE:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the life of Mrs. Margaret Joy Roe (Redpath), will be held at the Meeniyon Dumbalk United Football Netball Club on Friday, October 10, at 2pm.

A Private Burial will proceed the above service.



To place an advertisement on this page please call our Wonthaggi office 5672 1888

IN MEMORIAM

BURGESS, Beth:
October 7, 2019.

McRAE, Barry:
October 8, 2015.
Some days we close our eyes because your memory is so clear.

Every day we spend in gratitude knowing you are together. Pa Mc was waiting to meet and love you always
Beth May Anne.

Barry three weeks to our Golden Wedding Anniversary and I love you even more if that is possible.

Kristine, Anthony, Belinda and Lauren, Janelle, Jordan, Thomas, David and William.

All the family have you as their Guardian Angels.



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Sentinel-Times Classifieds

SPORTS

Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis Association

Results: Section 1.

WESTERNPORT Red 4.35 defeated Koonwarra 4.33; Westernport White 8.49 defeated Korumburra 0.19; Leongatha 5.31 defeated Outtrim 3.26.
Ladder: Westernport White 10; Leongatha 7; Westernport Red 6; Koonwarra 4; Outtrim 3; Korumburra 0.

Results: Section 2.

Outtrim 6.42 defeated Korumburra 2.29; Leongatha 7.47 defeated Baromi 1.23.
Ladder: Leongatha 9; Outtrim 8; Korumburra 2; Baromi 1.
This week was the opening round, and the weather was right as well as the tennis.
Westernport Red and Koonwarra had the match of the round with only two games the difference.
Westernport White had a big win over Korumburra.
The young Korumburra team will

gain some experience by playing at this level.
Outtrim is the new entrant in Section 1 and had a great contest against Leongatha.
Michelle Krohn's experience helped the Outtrim side win the ladies' sets and a mixed.
Matt Pocklington was back again for Leongatha and helped his side to the win.
Section 2 is now playing the same format as Section 1, with four players per team.
This decision was made to make sure there were enough teams to fill the section.
Teams will have to make sure they remember they are only playing to six now rather than eight.
Outtrim and Leongatha were both winners this round.
Leongatha only lost a men's set and won a tiebreaker in a mixed set.

Leongatha Small Bore Rifle Club results

2025: 20m Bench Pennant - Section B.
Round two: Leongatha A 597.26 defeated Frankston B 595.17.
Peter Gallus 200.11; Christopher Sargent 199.07; Kenneth Hart 198.08; Bradley Hall 198.04.
Ladder: Leongatha A 8; Brunswick 4; Oakleigh A 4; BERC A 4; Hamilton A 4; Frankston B 0.
2025: 20m Bench Pennant - Section G.
Round two: Sale D 591.08 defeated Leongatha B 585.14.
Jack Sargent 195.05; Robert Spratt 195.03; Robert Clements 193.06; John Cafarella 192.03.
Ladder: Sale D 8; Leongatha B 4; Fairfield B 4; Frankston D 4; Sale C 4.

2025: 20m Prone Pennant - Section H.
Round two: Leongatha C 577.10 defeated Warburton C 575.08.
Allan Ross C 194.06; William Ross C 192.03; Cameron Davidson C 191.01; Mathew Eldridge C 180.01.
Leongatha D 582.18 (bye).
Leah Considine D 196.08; Brian Kelly D 196.05; Iesha Considine D 190.05; Hannah Hengstberger D 190.03; Agan Hengstberger D 194.03.
Ladder: Leongatha D 8; Shepparton 8; Leongatha C 4; Portland 4; Warburton C 0.
The club shoots on Friday nights at 8pm at the rifle club on the Leongatha Recreation Reserve.
Any inquiries, please call R. Spratt 5664 2358.



Matthew lands the prize

Land-based fishermen, Matthew Bell, took home the Cavity voucher of \$50 at the VBAC October Fishing Competition. The only one to weigh any fish in. The next competition will be Cup weekend, running from October 30 to November 3, and a trivia night on October 18 at the Tarwin Lower Hall.

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Sentinel-Times

SGB swimmers stretch out in the 50m pool

TRARALGON hosted the first Long Course GSI meet of the 25/26 season on Sunday, with 55 swimmers competing to see how much they have progressed since last summer.

There was a lot of excitement as a number of new swimmers competed in their first event in a 50 metre pool, with a great sense of relief as they finally touched the other end. With only 25-metre pools to train in, it takes a few weeks for the swimmers to adjust to the longer distance.

Some of the older swimmers were excited to swim qualifying times for the upcoming State Sprints and Age Championships.

It wasn't just the little kids swimming, with a number of parents joining in the fun and showing the kids that age is no barrier.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

REMEMBER the club's birthday party this Friday.

The club is 37 years old, if you can believe it.

Roll up at 11.15am for an 11.30 start – the players will break for lunch.

Please bring a plate of something delicious to share.

The club managed a game on Monday night, with just three tables, Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs leading with 60 per cent, Ann Marie Tytler and Fred Meiseloach 55.83 and Robyn Synan and Peter Campbell 50 per cent.

Tuesday in Wonthaggi saw Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston in the lead with 63.02 per cent, Ann Rinder and Neville Chapman 59.38, Deb Anglim and John French 57.81, Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 57.29, and Bron Sund and Michael Dooley with 53.12 per cent.

On Friday, with 9.5 tables, players in N/S were led by Alan Johnston and Clive Hope with 60.94 per cent, Deb Anglim and Marnie Myall 59.64, Lynda De'Laney and Pat West 58.8, Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs 56.25, and Philip and Neville Chapman 55.99 per cent.

Maureen Stiles and Marie Sands topped E/W with 64.12, Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh 62.73, Jenny Jacob and Kathy Dowd 55.32, Faye Rowlands and John Currier 54.63 per cent, tying with Moya Crowley and Michael Dooley.

Anyone wanting to learn the game and join the club would be welcome to ring the secretary Kathy Dowd on 0438 859 561.

Phillip Island Bridge Club

MONDAY'S Duplicate Bridge session featured a strong turnout, with five and a half tables in play.

The contest proved to be exceptionally close, as Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour clinched victory with a score of 64.58 per cent.

Hot on their heels were Neville Chapman and Lorrie Read, who finished a mere fraction behind on 64.35 per cent.

Wednesday brought a Nationwide event to the club, attracting six tables of eager players.

For the second consecutive week, Caroline Shaw and Janusz Wolnik dominated the field, securing first place with an impressive 66 per cent.

Janusz, a newcomer to the club this year, continues to impress, guided by the experienced hand of Caroline Shaw.

In celebration of Seniors Week, the Phillip Island Bridge Club is extending an open invitation for newcomers to discover the joys of bridge.

The event, scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, offers the perfect introduction to the game, with experienced players on hand to supervise and assist beginners.

Attendees can also look forward to the club's famed afternoon tea.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to contact Caroline on 0418 369 557 for further details.



Victoria Police officers joined Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club's youth leaders and senior crew for a hands-on training day, strengthening skills and partnerships ahead of the busy summer months.

Lifesavers and police join forces ahead of summer season

ON FRIDAY, October 3, the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club played host to a unique collaboration between Victoria Police and local lifesavers.

Acting Sergeant Zane Maligeorgos, alongside Acting Sergeant Kristina Clappison from the Water Police Squad and Senior Constable Megan Krause from the Pro-Active Policing Unit, led an interactive session designed to strengthen partnerships ahead of the busy summer season.

Through Inverloch SLSC's Leadership and Search & Rescue (ILSAR) Program, 16 emerging youth leaders, each qualified with a Bronze Medallion and more than 50 hours of beach patrol experience, joined nine senior training crew members for the event. The group took part in discussions and hands-on activities covering police capabilities, emergency scenarios, missing persons and rescue procedures, and first aid response.

Acting Sergeant Maligeorgos said the session was about more than just information sharing.

"This was a fantastic opportunity to build strong working relationships with our lifesaving community. Together, we're better prepared for the challenges summer can bring," he said.

Adding to the engagement, participants tested their knowledge through quizzes and had the rare chance to explore police equipment and vehicles up close.

"This collaboration gave our young leaders a real sense of how lifesavers and Victoria Police work side by side," ILSAR Lead Coordinator Xavier Korbel said.

"It's practical and relevant knowledge they can take straight back to the beach to keep our community safe on the Bass Coast."

The event is part of ongoing efforts by police and lifesaving clubs across Bass Coast to enhance safety on local beaches and ensure swift, coordinated responses in emergencies.

Inverloch SLSC trains for season patrol

INVERLOCH Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) lead coordinator Xavier Korbel led the Inverloch Leadership Search and Rescue (ILSAR) Program from October 1 to October 5, with Inverloch SLSC youth members; a program that won the Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) National Innovation of the Year Award in 2024.

As part of the five-day training program, the participants conducted Emergency Handover Scenarios with Ambulance Victoria (Wonthaggi) and completed interagency training with Inverloch VICSES and Victoria Police.

"This training provides already qualified SLSC members additional experience and knowledge that goes beyond the minimum requirements of their awards, including interagency training, to improve individual confidence and overall outcomes."

SLSA confirmed that innovation is crucial for emergency services, and 'Inverloch SLSC is setting new standards for excellence in search and rescue'.

President of Inverloch SLSC Glenn Arnold said the ILSAR camp focuses on advanced search and rescue training and is targeted to experienced lifesavers aged 16 and above.

"For those who are looking to start at Inverloch SLSC, we have our off-peak nippers' program now open for enrolments," said Glenn.

The mid-term nippers' program is designed to give children from five to 13 years a fun and engaging introduction to surf lifesaving outside of the busy peak period.

"It's a great program for the locals. We also need volunteers and water safety sign-ups. So that'd be great to get that underway," said Glenn.

"The program runs for eight weeks during term four, on Wednesdays from 4.30pm – 5.45pm, with each session finishing with a family BBQ.

"It's a great program to get the kids active and see what Nippers has to offer."

The Inverloch SLSC nippers program provides participants with water safety training and helps participants of all ages be vigilant around water. The off-peak program runs from October 15 to December 3 and the applications are open for Starfish Nippers – an all-abilities program with one-on-one support.

The 2025/2026 patrol season will begin on November 15 and continue through to April 19, 2026.

"Inverloch Surf Beach will be patrolled every weekend by volunteers during this period, so it's important to remember to swim between the flags."

To be a part of the Inverloch SLSC, sign up for nippers, or apply for SRC or Bronze Camp, visit islscl.org.au/life-saving/education/off-peak-nippers-program.



Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) participants with Inverloch VICSES for interagency training as part of the Inverloch Leadership Search and Rescue (ILSAR) Program.



Hayley Mitchell of Cape Paterson with son Lucas Edwards. A29_4025

Damp weather fails to discourage young fishers

YOUNGSTERS already hooked on fishing and others wanting to give it a go were in their element at the Venus Bay Angling Club's latest Kid's Fishing Day on Friday, braving the dreary and sometimes wet conditions.

The club offers an affordable hobby and relaxed social environment, family membership costing just \$50 a year or \$40 for a single adult, with monthly fishing competitions boosting the fun.

There is a Saturday night barbecue during each competition weekend and raffle prizes generously donated by local businesses.

Whether they caught anything at Friday's session, kids didn't leave empty-handed, each taking home a 'showbag' that included illustrations and size requirements for different species of fish and bag limits, and a guide on how to fasten fishing hooks to your line.

The aptly named Oscar Fisher was fishing for the first time, having wanted to try it for a while and setting out with ambitious plans to catch dinner.

Using squid for bait, he was in with a shot at catching flathead or Australian salmon, albeit the water was a little cold for many fish to bite.

Kyle Muir-Woodman of Korumburra came as an already keen fisherman, enjoying spending time with his family, Cape Paterson's Lucas Edwards another who loves catching fish and being outdoors, often enjoying fishing with his mum at Mahers Landing and Inverloch Jetty.

Lucas' biggest catch so far is a squid of 50-60 centimetres, but he was hoping for a flathead on Friday.

While bluebait was available, squid was a popular choice, being an ideal bait for the kids due to its tendency to stay on the hook.

There is expected to be another Kid's Fishing Day in January, with the Venus Bay Angling Club to advise details when available.

For those wanting to give the club's friendly competition a go, the next opportunity is over the Melbourne Cup weekend, with the four-day event starting on October 30 and finishing on November 3.

Phillip Island GromSearch shows high calibre of talent in Australia's next gen

CONDITIONS at Smiths Beach did a complete 180 for finals day of the 2025 Rip Curl GromSearch Phillip Island presented by Bass Coast Shire, with warm weather and light winds, setting the stage for an epic finish.

The U18 divisions took centre stage, with Mitchell Peterson (Noosa, QLD) and Ava Holland (Mornington Peninsula, VIC) claiming victory after a day of standout performances. Both surfers displayed confidence and composure under pressure, sealing their wins with smart wave selection and powerful, flowing surfing. Mitchell surfed a 7.57 and a 7.77 to win his final, on surfing against Darcy Dwyer.

"It was pretty special surfing my last event with a mate," Mitchell said, very happy with his week here in Phillip Island.



The U18 divisions took centre stage, with Mitchell Peterson (Noosa, QLD) claiming victory after a day of standout performances. Photo Credit: Jacques Kelly / Surfing Victoria

"I'm stoked to get the win... I love coming down here to Phillip Island."

In the U18 Girls Final, Ava Holland put on a standout performance, scoring a 7.50

and an 8.40 to secure the win.

"It was very fun," she said.

"I surf against Pickles (Sophie Wilkinson) so often, from boardriders to state rounds, so it was great to share

another final together. I'm very happy."

Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead said the shire is incredibly proud to have welcomed the Rip Curl GromSearch back to Phillip Island.

"A marquee event that not only showcases our spectacular coastline and surf culture but also plays a vital role in developing the next generation of Australian surfing talent. Events like this draw families from across the country, many staying on to explore everything Bass Coast has to offer, from our beaches and wildlife to our cafes, shops and attractions. That has a big flow-on effect for our local economy and helps create lifelong memories for young athletes and their supporters."

Phillip Island Boardriders Club claim victory at Australian Boardriders Battle Victorian Qualifier

PHILLIP Island Boardriders Club have claimed victory at event two of the Australian Boardriders Battle Series, taking top honours on home turf in a day packed with energy, competition, and plenty of waves.

A playful left-hand rip bowl provided the ideal bank for competitors throughout the day. Despite gusty winds, the warm conditions and lively crowd made for an electric atmosphere as nine clubs from across Victoria battled it out for a place in the Australian Boardriders Battle Grand Final.

After a series of highly contested early rounds, only Torquay Boardriders Club, Jan Juc Boardriders Club, Peninsula Surfriders, and Phillip Island Boardriders Club remained as the final got underway. With the swell easing, teams were forced to be selective with their wave choices while keeping a close eye on the clock to avoid time penalties for failing to return to the box.

As the final unfolded, Peninsula and Phillip Island pulled ahead thanks to some stand-out rides. Phillip Island's Carl Wright went huge on a backhand snap out the back to lock in a seven-point ride, putting the home team in prime position. Peninsula's Lucas Hickson kept the pressure on with a 6.33-point ride for a series of sharp backhand turns on a running left.

In the closing stages, consistency and timing proved key. Wright rounded out Phillip Island's campaign with a solid



PIBC dominate the Boardriders Battle at home. Phillip Island, Peninsula, and Jan Juc Boardriders Clubs all qualify for the Australian Boardriders Battle Grand Final presented by NRMA Insurance. Photo Credit: Noah Clifford / Surfing Victoria.

5.80-point ride, sealing the win for the locals in front of a roaring home crowd.

The celebrations continued on the sand, with Phillip Island's Lilian Bassed taking home the Boost Mobile Wave of the Day Award for her earlier performance, while Carl Wright was named Celsius Overall Performer. The Jim Beam Team Spirit Award went to 13th Beach Boardriders, who were praised for their energy and sportsmanship throughout the day.

Bassed shared her experience on the day, saying, "It was really fun today. I was a bit nervous but excited to be a part of the team and get a good wave."

Wright added, "The surf got

pretty tough in the afternoon, but it's always a good day to get club surfing up and going."

Reflecting on the win, Wright continued, "We finished fourth last year in the final, so we didn't get to go to the national final, which cut us deep. Personally, I had a bit of an average performance that day, so I was fired up to fly the flag today and happy with how it went."

Club President Jake Eisen praised the team's effort.

"We've been training, so that's why it's been so sick. We've actually put a bit of effort in this year and just gone back to basics - we haven't overcomplicated it."

Phillip Island, Peninsula, and Jan Juc Boardriders

secured their place at the Australian Boardriders Battle Grand Final presented by NRMA Insurance, to be held at Burleigh Heads on March 7-8, 2026.

Final Results:

- Phillip Island Boardriders – 28.70 pts
- Peninsula Surfriders – 26.10 pts
- Jan Juc Boardriders – 22.49 pts
- Torquay Boardriders – 10.84 pts
- The Jim Beam Club Spirit Award - 13th Beach Boardriders
- Celsius Overall Performer - Carl Wright (Phillip Island)
- Boost Wave of the Day - Lilian Bassed (Phillip Island)

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 7	
▲ 12.00am 1.35m	▼ 5.35am 0.64m
▲ 12.30pm 1.40m	▼ 6.12pm 0.54m

WEDNESDAY October 8	
▲ 1.08am 1.50m	▼ 6.47am 0.62m
▲ 1.19pm 1.46m	▼ 7.05pm 0.38m

THURSDAY October 9	
▲ 2.05am 1.65m	▼ 7.43am 0.60m
▲ 2.04pm 1.51m	▼ 7.53pm 0.24m

FRIDAY October 10	
▲ 2.56am 1.77m	▼ 8.30am 0.59m
▲ 2.46pm 1.56m	▼ 8.40pm 0.15m

SATURDAY October 11	
▲ 3.44am 1.82m	▼ 9.15am 0.59m
▲ 3.29pm 1.58m	▼ 9.27pm 0.11m

SUNDAY October 12	
▲ 4.30am 1.81m	▼ 9.58am 0.59m
▲ 4.10pm 1.58m	▼ 10.14pm 0.11m

MONDAY October 13	
▲ 5.16am 1.75m	▼ 10.41am 0.61m
▲ 4.53pm 1.55m	▼ 11.01pm 0.17m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au



Jan Murphy and Pat Novak were Monday's Breakaway Bowls winners with +19.



Mick Sheers (S), Cheryl Floyd (3) and John Kappler (L) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners.



Foster Bowls Club president Mark with Mick Morgan from Yarram Bowls Club, holding the shield following the weekend Pennant practice match.



Helen Rook, John Postlethwaite and Jean Wyld were the winning team at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Tuesday.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Trevor Teer with Turkey Triples winners Ray McGannon, Ron Symmons and Vito Serafino.



Carol Hughes (skip), Terry Seaward and Jenny Slater were Inverloch Bowling Club's Thursday social bowls winners.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

ANOTHER day of bowling was held at Cape Paterson on Monday. The club had a reasonably good turn out. The winners were Jan Murphy and Pat Novak. They creamed the opposition with +19. Well done ladies. Another fine day of bowling was had at Cape Paterson on Friday. The winners were Pat Novak, Marg Hender, Wilma Marshall and Margaret Morgan. They had a fine score of +19 – well done, ladies.

FISH CREEK

WELCOME to all members, sponsors, and the South Gippsland bowling fraternity to the Fish Creek bowls notes for the coming season. The club has lots happening at the moment, with new members, building extensions and a general excitement heading into the new season. The club has been very fortunate to receive a grant from the Bendigo Bank for a pergola roof over the outside deck. Scott Jennings has spent a lot of time on the project and Steve Vuillermin Builders have started work. The club has its Bendigo Bank Big Triples Day on November 9 and spots are filling fast. Welcome to new members in Peter Davis, John Fox and Alex Moon. The club is always looking for new bowlers and social members so don't hesitate to come and have some fun. This Saturday, October 11, the club has the annual practice match against Foster at the Fish Creek rink. See Graham Hoskin for a game. Each Friday afternoon is the regular day for a roll-up practice. The Midweek Pennant starts on Tuesday, October 14, whilst the Saturday Pennant starts on October 18. This year, the club has three Saturday teams and two midweek sides, which Hocko has done a great job to find an extra midweek team. The 100-up competition has started with the early rounds completed. Players that progress must organise their next match as soon as possible. Last Friday evening, the club was privileged to have Xavier and Laura from Prom Health Osteopaths do a presentation. It was very informative for old bodies and a visit to them is fully recommended. The trip to Moama this year is a couple of weeks later, starting on November 10. Anyone interested in having a fun-filled few days, please contact Ian Eddy. Good bowling to everyone.

FOSTER

FOSTER held its opening dinner and Opening Day on the green at the club recently. The dinner evening of roast lamb was enjoyed by all. It was great start to the fortnightly club dinners. President Mark welcomed the new season in, wishing everyone a great bowling season ahead. Opening Day saw ladies' Club Champion Judy start the season off rolling down jack, followed by men's Club Champion Ian delivering the first bowl. A great day was had by all, and a scrumptious afternoon tea followed. The club has since played two Pennant practice matches. A midweek game against Inverloch, where Foster had a comfortable win, and then a weekend game against Yarram, where they played for a shield. Foster is very pleased to announce that the shield is back at the club – great bowling, everyone. Pennant is just around the corner, beginning on October 14. The club is looking forward to the 2025/26 season ahead and wishes good bowling to all.

INVERLOCH

THURSDAY social bowls will now have a new start time of 10.30am. Names are to be in by 9am. Please bring your own lunch. Social bowls saw a large number of bowlers attend. The hard luck story was the team of Chris O'Donnell (skip), Joy Brown and George Scott with two wins and 30 points. The runners-up finished with two wins and 32 points. This team was made up of Jon Justin (skip), Rob Howard and Mark Whitehouse. The winners finished with two wins and 33 points. This team was led by Carol Hughes, Terry Seaward and Jenny Slater. Big day for the beginning of the Club Championships on Saturday, October 11. Breakfast of egg and bacon rolls will be available from 8am for \$5. Nine games will be played for the first round of the major singles. Games start at 9.30am. After matches it will be inside for the Pennant players traditional pie and pastie meal. Pennants will begin on Tuesday, October 14, and Saturday, October 18. The next Monthly Triples will be on Wednesday, October 15. The club is now planning a social lunch day on Friday, October 25. Lunch will be at the Woolli Tavern at Cape Woolamai at 12.30pm. If interested, please add your name to the list in the clubroom or contact Carol Thorn.

The Melbourne Cup Day lunch will be on Tuesday, November 4 –more details to follow.

SOUTH WEST GIPPSLAND MIDWEEK BOWLS GROUP

WHAT a day. Thirty of the family of bowlers turned up to Loch and District Bowls Club to once again fight it out for team of the week. The weather was a wonderful spring day with temperatures just slightly above zero, and winds making it feel somewhat colder. The cold temperature aside, the on-again and off-again rain made everyone all feel so happy. Everyone seemed to have a fantastic day with lots of laughter, lots of friendly banter and, most of all, lots of great bowls. A big thank you to all the Loch members who prepared everything for the members. Thank you to Sue, Trevor, Alex and everyone who assisted. Also, a big thank you again to Bev, Aggie and John who signed everyone in and prepared the teams. The winners on a score of 36 were Mick Sheers (S), Cheryl Floyd (3) and John Kappler (L).

Runners-up on a very close score of 35 were Peter Taylor (2), David Prosser (L), Trevor Loughridge (3) and Phil Nielsen (S). Best one game on a score of 18 was won by Tony Heppleston (3), Jaye A-D (S), Maggie Prosser (L) and Ron Felton (2). Thank you to Trevor in the bar, and to Sue and Alex in the kitchen. Next week, the bowlers will be meeting at Corinella to once again fight it out for team of the week. Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams. Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity, the club will have to be strict on a 10am cut-off time. Meanwhile till then, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another good week at the club. Wednesday saw the Turkey Triples played in fine but windy conditions that got cold by the end of the day. It was great sight to see both greens filled with different club uniform colours. Once again, it was hard to win all four games. A team from Leongatha was the only team to win all four games. They were Ray McGannon, Ron Symmons and Vito Serafino. The runners-up were a team from Phillip Island being Kevin Brown, John Newcombe and Guilio Marcolongo with a score of three wins, a draw and 29 shots up. Best game went to the

Aldo Sartori team with a score of 19 shots up. The NABA award, being a cap and a stubby holder from the Wonthaggi Club, was a tight battle with four teams looking to claim the prize. The winners were the Doug Archer team. Thursday was not a good day with the weather being wet, windy and cold. Friday night was a success with a very good number of people at the club to enjoy a good time with a break in the weather during the afternoon. The members draw didn't go off with Colin Ormerod's name being called out. Next week the members draw will be \$160. Steve Bruynen was a happy meat tray winner. Roger Lee was also happy to take home a chicken tray. Norm and Sylvia were brekky pack winners all supplied by Wonthaggi Meat Supply. Other winners were Teresa, Rod and Mary. Next week the members draw will be \$160. Also, a meat tray, a chicken tray plus two brekky packs plus lots of other prizes to win. Saturday saw a big improvement with the weather for the annual Bunurong Shield practice match against Inverloch at Inverloch. Wonthaggi was looking to retain the shield after the event was washed out last year at Wonthaggi. At the end of the day, Wonthaggi was able to retain the shield with a solid win to kick start the season. Bowls this week: Tuesday: Pennant practice match against Phillip Island at Wonthaggi. Roll up at 9.40 am. Wednesday: social bowls at 12.30 pm. Thursday: social bowls at 10am. Friday: coaching at 10am. Saturday: social bowls at 12.30 pm. Don't forget the Friday night members' draw. Doors open at 4pm and draws start at 6pm. Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THIS week, the club had a total of 50 players. It was an excellent turnout, considering the wet week. Tuesday's winners with a +8 (two games) were John Postlethwaite, Helen Rook and Jean Wyld. Runners up were Maggie Scapin, Thelma Kavanagh, Ray McCurry and Theo Scholey. On Friday, the winning team was Jan Milkins, Jos Kemper and Paul Holmes. They scored +16 (one game). The runners up were Elaine Grabham, Helen Rook, John Postlethwaite and Theo Scholey – well done to all.

FOSTER

ON THE last Saturday of September, 25 souls braved the elements for a round of Par.

With scoring proving difficult, Ryan Williams (7) and Robert Tracey (21) conquered the course to win both A and B Grade with a score of -3.

Throughout the day, carts were getting bogged, but that never stopped the hardy season professionals.

Tony Vanin (6) claimed the first of four balls down the line with -3.

Trent Price's (10) score of -4 earned him a ball down the line, as did Mitchell Dyke (26) and Jake Pilkington (17) both finishing on -5.

Nearest to pins went to Mitch Dyke on the fourth, Olly Ward on the sixth and Terry Jewson on the 17th.

Skipping forward a week, Chicken Run as held on the back nine.

With such few fine days, there were only eight entries for the week, including multiple entries from three different people, one such person was Graeme Watkins.

Graeme (6) ended up taking out the week with an impressive 18 points.

Not to be out done, what shall now be known as Graeme's twin brother, "Paddy" (6) would go on to win the one and only ball down the line with 17 points, well done Graeme, your consistency is very evident from your continued results.

With the changes to the handicapping system, the decision was made to push the October medal events back a week for both the men and women.

The replacement competition for Saturday was a two ball Ambrose.

Twenty players entered in the event under blue skies yet was damp under foot.

Ben Cooper and Graeme Watkins teamed up to form a formidable pairing, taking out the day with a brilliant 64 net.

Antonio Ditta and Ricky Benis visited the club and took out the first of three balls down the line with 65 net.

Terry Jewson and Tess Higgs finished in third with 67.25, closely followed by the father/son pairing of Logan and Leigh Roberts on 70.75.

All five nearest to pins went off, Neil Henry (fourth), Danny Jenkins (sixth), Paddy Watkins (13th) and Lucas Hatley (15th and 17th).

With some brighter days on the horizon, next time you get a chance, get out and enjoy our fabulous course.

The Caddy.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, September 30.

Stableford: 28 players.

Winner: A Grade Barry Kerr 39 points C/B.

Winner: B Grade John Kerr 40 points.

NTPs: first Greg Wilson, 10th Barry Kerr and 13th Ian Gibson.

Thursday, October 2:

Stableford: nine players.

Winner A Grade: Steve Duffield.

NTPs: first Greg Jones, seventh Barry Kerr 10th Don Olden and 13th Paul Hopkins.

Saturday, October 4:

Sponsor: Club.

Four Person Colonial Ambrose: 36 players.

Winners: Jason King, Mat Wrigley, Chris Muir and Ian Dixon.

NTPs: first John Solly, 10th Billie Wrigley and 13th Steve Duffield.

Ladies

THE sun came out for players to enjoy the women's two player Ambrose event last Saturday.

Well done to the winning pair Aliesha Wrigley and Gail Beer with a score of 75.25 net.

Runners up were Shelley Snooks and Karen Sorrell with 76.5 net.

NTP on the first green was Jennie Loughnan, the 10th Shelley Snooks and 13th Kerri Besley.

The club would like to extend its congratulations to the men's Country Week team on winning the Plate Division, and to the women's team on a stellar effort last week in Mil-dura.

This Wednesday is a three player Ambrose and the club is look forward to seeing you all.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, September 30: Stableford.

Tuesday's Stableford round had 44 members/guests entering the competition.

Overall winner: Michael West (7) with the high score of the day with 37 points.

A Grade winner: Michael West (7) with 37 points.

A Grade runner-up: Alan Starkey (10) with 34 points on a count-back.

B Grade winner: Peter Hodder (16) with 35 points.

B Grade runner up: Bernard Skerys (19) with 33 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Gordon Morrison (15) at .82m.

NTP 14th: Ken Smirk (14) at 2.27m.

NTP 16th: Nicholas Byrne (11) at 4.50m.

Thursday, October 2: Stableford.

Thursday was a Stableford event played in bleak wintery weather with 46 members/guests hitting off with a shotgun start.

Overall winner: Geoffrey McDonald (21) with a high score of the day with 37 points.

A Grade winner: Jeremy de Silva (8) with 34 points on a countback.

A Grade runner-up: David Richards (17) with 34 points.

B Grade winner: Geoffrey McDonald (21) with 37 points.

B Grade runner-up: Fred Debono (27) with 36 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Ken Smirk (15) at 3.10m.

NTP 14th: Ray Matthews (13) at 5.00m.

NTP 16th: Ken Smirk (15) at 1.08m.

Saturday, October 4: Monthly Medal Stroke Event.

Saturday was a Monthly Medal Stroke event off the black tees, with unbelievable spring weather enticing some very good results across the three grades.

Seventy-eight members/guests entered the competition.

Overall winner: Ian Blencowe (21) with the low score of the day with a net of 68.

A Grade winner: Russell Williams (8) with a net score of 70.

A Grade runner-up: Alan Starkey (11) with a net score of 71.

B Grade winner: John Feddersen (18) with a net score of 70.

B Grade runner up: Miles Wrigley (18) with a net score of 71 on a countback.

C Grade winner: Ian Blencowe (21) with a net score of 68.

C Grade runner-up: Timothy McCarthy (22) with a net score of 70.

NTP 5th 2nd shot: Phil Douglass (11) at 1.60m.

NTP 14th: Renato Monacella (15) at 1.34m.

NTP 16th: John Feddersen (18) at 3.00m.

Ladies

THE weather was a challenge for the women last week for the October Monthly Medal.

Just a small field opted for the Stableford event and 23 played a Stroke round.

Rebecca Wilson won the Stroke event with a net score of 79.

Janet Monk, the women's captain, was the runner-up after recording a net score of 80, on a countback from Colleen Touzel. The Monthly Medal winner will be confirmed following the completion of the Saturday round.

In the Stableford event, Jill Moor emerged as the winner with 29 points, followed by Leanne Costello as runner-up.

Paula Cross won the nine-hole competition, finishing with 14 points.

PHILLIP ISLAND

TUESDAY, September 30, Mens Comp Stableford 18H

Overall Winner: Collin Morris (24) 41. A Grade winners: A-1 Paul Ledwith (14) 38 c/b. A-2 Ian Smith (11) 38. B Grade winners: B-1 Mario Amato (16) 39. B-2 Robert Dean (19) 38 c/b. C Grade winners: C-1 Collin Morris (24) 41. C-2 Ugo Mascitelli (25) 37 c/b.

BDL to 36 c/b. NTP: fifth Ian Smith 7th Garry Skelton, 10th Brett Pascoe, 17th Peter Gray Great score Anthony Shannon eagle hole eight.

Mens Stableford 9H

Overall Winner: Robert Leak (33) 21 pts from Brian Carvell (30) 18 pts c/b

BDL to 18 pts c/b

Wednesday, October 6, Finals of Ladies Match play

A grade: Lesley Meadowcroft def Ada Anglin (3&1) B grade: Rhonda Boyd def Jo Disher (19th Hole) C grade: Marilyn Jamieson def Trish Jamieson (19th Hole) D grade: Joan Nicholson def Sara Gordon (20th hole)

Ladies Stableford:

Overall Winner: Stacey Meder 41 points, runner-up Jennifer Fitzgerald 39 Points

BDL 33 points. NTP: seventh Stacey Meder, 10th Jeanette Diss, 17th Lesley Meadowcroft

Womens Stableford 9H winners Marg Frith, Helen Pirouet, Roz Wells Gill Scrace with 17 points each

Thurdsay, October 2, Open Stableford 18H

Overall Winner: Warren Hahnel (17) 36 pts c/b

A Grade winners: A-1 Alf Micallef (13) 34 pts c/b. A-2 Tony Gay (13) 34 pts. B Grade winners: B-1 Warren Hahnel (17) 36 pts c/b. B-2 Fred Panozzo (15) 36 pts c/b. C Grade winners: C-1 Phil Nicholson (25) 36 pts. C-2 Don Stewart-Udon (30) 34 pts

BDL to 32 pts c/b

NTP: fifth Tim Duff, seventh Alf Micallef, 10th Alan Airey, 17th Alf Micallef

Mens Nine-Hole Stableford

Overall Winner: Graham Robinson (11) 16 pts from Basil Moloney (7) 15 pts

BDL to N/A pts

Friday, October 3, Womens Comp Mary Broadbent Bowl Stableford 18H

Overall Winners: Sarah Gordon, Jeanette Diss and Jo Disher with 98 points. A Grade winner: Helen Coghlan (16) 36 pts. B Grade winner: Jillian Chandler (33) 36 pts. C Grade winner: Sarah Gordon (42) 40 pts

BDL to 32 pts c/b

SATURDAY, 4 October Mens Comp Stroke Monthly Medal 18H

Overall Winner: James Bain (10) 64 nett



Wonthaggi Golf Club's President v Captain Day winners Bev Sloan, Merryn Dear, president Patsy Britt and Marg Ryan. Patsy is pictured with the Bragging Plate.

A Grade winners: A-1 James Bain (10) 64 nett. A-2 Paul Russo (10) 70 nett c/b. B Grade winners: B-1 Jett Dodge (18) 66 nett. B-2 Heath Grace (13) 69 nett c/b. C Grade winners: C-1 Carl Russo (27) 70 nett. C-2 Stewart Crawford (22) 71 nett

BDL to 74 c/b

NTP: fifth Brent Scott, seventh Gregory Stewart, 10th Gino Manfredi, 17th Mark Jamieson

Womens Comp Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Joanne Disher (23) 41 pts from Vicki Ramage (18) 39 pts

BDL to 34 pts c/b

NTP: seventh Vicki Ramage, 18th Karen Green

Open Comp 9H

Overall Winner: Basil Moloney (14) 15 c/b From Harold Jackson (36) 15 pts. BDL to 14 pts c/b

Sunday, October 5, Open Comp Stableford 18H

Overall Winner: Hugo Thompson (18) 38 pts from Andrew Walton (16) 34 pts c/b.

BDL: to 32 pts c/b

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: October 2, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Philip McCrimmon 37.

Runner-up: Ian McNish 36.

Ball sweep: Frank Huber 35, Ian Johnson 28 and Andrew Hooton-Shandley 27.

Results: October 4, SR. 72.

Competition: Monthly Medal Stroke and putting.

Monthly Medal: Daniel Crellin 65.

A Grade: Ian Baker 70.

B Grade: Jim Jordan 67.

C Grade: Peter Ali 66.

BDTL to 71.

Ball sweep: Rohan Todd 69, Joshua Kilgour 70, Graham Ryan 70, Rod McBride 70, Messy Chand 70, Jarvis Harvey 70, Dean Winning 71 and Ben Wilson 71.

NTPs: Daniel Crellin second, Michael Scott fourth, Dean Winning propin eighth, Kevin Jamieson 13th and Dean Winning money hole 17th.

Putting: Daniel Crellin 26 putts.

Coming events

November 4: Melbourne Cup Day Ambrose – 9am shotgun start.

November 9: Wonthaggi Hospital Charity Day.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was a four club only event to have a "fun" day due to the hiatus with the shut-down of Golfink.

Did the 22 players have fun?

Questionable, as it's now a winter course – wet everywhere and "hurricane winds".

It was also the President (Patsy) v Captain (Catherine) team event and thank you to both ladies for the prizes and goodies players received.

Bragging rights for 2025 was the President's team.

Grade winners were A Grade

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-ROSS



Korumburra's Saturday winning Ambrose pair Aliesha Wrigley and Gail Beer.

Bev Sloan (17)23 points, B Grade Merryn Dear (21)31 points and C Grade Marg Ryan (30)24 points.

BDL went to Patsy Britt 28, Layla Robertson 27, Robyn Wilkinson 24 and Karen Sheerin 24.

NTP on second was Anne Walker and eighth Jan Beaumont.

WONTHAGGI MIXED PAIRS

SUNDAY was a foursomes mixed event with a twist with the ladies teeing off the white markers, then get a second shot, while the men get a different view hitting from the red tees.

The field of 36 players were hoping for a calm day with the wind staying away, but this didn't happen.

A huge thank you to The Clubhouse and Golf Shop for the great prizes and goodies on the day.

Winners:

A Grade: Ian Baker and Catherine Bolding 71(7.125)63.875 net.

Runners-up: Rod McBride and Marg Johnson 74(8.25)65.75 net.

B Grade: Graham and Marg Ryan 92 (19.875)72.125 net.

Runners-up: Rohan and Jenny McRae 94(21.375)72.625.

NTP: second and eighth Marg Johnson, 13th Steven Kane, and 17th Rod McBride and Dawn Judkins.

BDL: Steven Kane and Kaylene Hodgetts 67.75, Patsy Britt and Simon O'Halloran 68.25, Mark Nicholson and Bev Sloan 71.25, John and Irene Walsh 72.25, Warwick and Dawn Judkins 72.75, and Michael Scott and Donna Brosnan 73.25.

WOORAYL

Ladies

THE Monthly Medal was not played on Wednesday due to the changes to Golf Link Australia.

In overcast and windy conditions, 10 ladies played in a 4BBB Stableford event sponsored by Sharyn Rayson.

The winners were Pauline Lancaster and Jean Hayes 39 points.

Runners up were Sherrill Winkler and Bev Bridge 36 points.

BDL: Sharyn Rayson and Janet Thompson 36 points, and Jenny Riseley and Inge Giliam 35 points.

NTP: eighth Inge Giliam, 11th Sharyn Rayson and 17th Janet Thompson.

Alby continues his reign at Phillip Island darts

WEEK four of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League Spring Competition had it all – a strong turnout, plenty of laughs, and some red-hot darts.

Team Dave (Dave, Alby and Shannon) was unstoppable, cruising to a six-to-one victory.

Their teamwork and accuracy proved too much for their opponents, with Alby continuing his remarkable run.

He's been part of every winning side so far this season – if consistency were a prize, he'd have it in the bag, along with a mountain of chocolate.

On the ladder, Bob Hee remains the man to catch on 31 points, but the pressure is mounting.

Dave Healey's fine form sees him move into equal second on 25 points alongside Paul, while Allan, Laurie, Brendon and Alby are all bunched together on 13 points.

With plenty of rounds still to go, the race for ladder positions is heating up.

Off the scoreboard, Brendon was the lucky winner of the San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle, walking away grinning from ear to ear.

A big thank you once again to Des and the team at San Remo Butchers for their generous support of the league.

Special thanks also go to Bevan Waite, who brought along a great range of darts supplies, and to Paul Gleeson for stepping in to organise teams while Prez Scott enjoyed a night off.

Another fantastic evening of darts, mateship and fun – and everyone will be back to do it all again next Monday night.

Butterfly causes an upset at Wonthaggi Table Tennis

AS WINTRY weather continues to shiver the penguins and shade the neighbourly netballers' legs into a blue hue unknown to any science, Wonthaggi Table Tennis' humble hall continues to provide a warm haven on Monday nights.

Butterfly defeated Donic three to two. Donic was rollicking along like a steam train with finals-bound momentum, but was derailed by bottom-placed Butterfly. Butterfly's David, with sniper shots and the ever-improving teammate Mick, got the win in the doubles to secure their second win for the season.

Bullet trains never run out of steam. Stiga defeated Radak three to two.

Second bottom team Radak was on the cusp of an underdog victory when Warren outplayed Stiga's Tim to take a three-to-one set lead.

However, Tim stayed poised like a tiger snake with customary flared hood and dangerous strikes, taking the last three sets to win the match.

His fangs glistened with improbable victory.

Double Fish defeated Andro three to two.

Andro's Luke recovered from his short slump to run rampant against top dogs Double Fish.

There are only two lavender bats in the whole world and Luke has been playing with the wrong one.

However, Double Fish took the bickies in a tense double stoush that brought the best out of a feisty Lee Lee.

Perhaps Luke could try rainbow patterns to ensure the right paddle every week.

Nittaku had the bye.

Ladder: Double Fish 32; Stiga 28; Nittaku 24; Donic 16; Andro 12; Radak 8; Butterfly 8.

Leading players: Braden, Tim and David 14; Brad 13.

PI Tenpin's All Ability Gala Day strikes the right pin

PHILLIP Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre proudly hosted its annual All Ability Gala Day recently, celebrating the conclusion of a seven-week Bowlopolis program that welcomed almost 100 participants from across Bass Coast and South Gippsland. Many bowlers travelled each week from towns such as Leongatha, showing the reach and importance of this much-loved community initiative.

Since its beginnings in 2012, the program has given people of all abilities the chance to learn, grow and shine on the lanes. Each participant carried their season averages into Gala Day, where teams went head-to-head, with scores averaged to keep the competition fair and fun.

In the closest finish in the Gala's history, Foxy House captured the perpetual trophy for the very first time, edging out Bass Coast Specialist School by just one pin – 188.83 to 188.73. Connecting2Australia, Interchange, South Gippsland Specialist School, Yooralla, and Scope also delivered fantastic results across the season, with Scope recognised for their continued involvement despite missing the Gala Day itself.

Every bowler received a medal, and each organisation celebrated a Top Bowler Award for their seven-week program – Rob (Scope), Dan (Yooralla), Mick (Connecting2Australia), Mark (Interchange), Chris (Foxy House), Jay (South Gippsland Specialist School) and Caleb (Bass Coast Specialist School).

The individual competition on Gala Day saw Quinn (226) crowned champion, followed closely by Scott (225) and Taylor (219).

Beyond the scores, the day was filled with smiles, laughter and camaraderie. Veteran bowler Ray summed it up best:



The winning Foxy House team.

"I just love it! It's great exercise and good fun."

PI Tenpin has long been recognised for its leadership in the All Abilities and Accessible Tourism space, holding Quality Tourism Accreditation and multiple community awards for inclusion. Delivered in partnership with GippSport and supported by the Victorian Government's Together More Active program, the league continues to grow stronger every year.

GippSport Program officer for inclusion Shiv Wheeler praised the atmosphere, saying: "Athletes lift their skills every season, but what stands out most is the sense of friendship and joy in the room."

The Gala was made possible thanks to generous local backing. Rotary Club of Wonthaggi contributed \$750, and the

Rotary Clubs of Phillip Island & San Remo served up a celebratory BBQ for athletes, carers and volunteers.

Looking ahead, organisers hope to secure further sponsorship and funding so that future programs can remain free for participants, easing the cost on families and ensuring that this unique event continues to thrive in Term 3 and beyond.

"This program is one of our proudest achievements. It proves that bowling is for everyone, no matter your ability. To see nearly 100 bowlers take part this year shows the strength of our community and the friendships formed here. The Gala is more than just a competition – it's a celebration of belonging. We can't wait to see how it continues to grow in the years ahead," said PI Tenpin Manager Jeremy Westaway.

Another parkrun success on the Grand Ridge Rail Trail

IT WAS a brilliant morning on the trail. Thirty-nine parkrunners ran, jogged, and walked their way through the event, supported by the fantastic crew of volunteers. The weather put on a show, and so did the participants.

Fast finishers: Robert David Pincini – 22:03; Kate Lew Ton – 22:20; Jack Stickney – 24:40. Personal nests (PBs): Marcus Busch – 26:25; Sarah De Man – 30:59; Steve Santilli – 31:32; Frank

Krausz – 36:51; Dave Kruse – 42:11; Ziggy Holland – 54:57.

Well done to all the personal best heroes – smashing times and dodging puddles like pros.

Welcome to first timers, Audrey Valentine, Rhali Holland and Miranda Kennedy.

The parkrunners hope you enjoyed your first Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun and look forward to seeing you back on the trail.

A huge thanks go to volunteers Verity

Keith, Dave Knowles, Greg Lawrence, Alan McKenzie, Carmel Quirk, Steve Quirk, Marissa Shields, Chris Waldron and Rongshang Zhang.

After the run, the parkrunners warmed up with great coffee and even better company at Lamezleighs Coffee House and Eatery – the perfect way to wrap up a Saturday morning.

See you all next week for more fun, fitness, and community on the trail.

Marcus Ryan will run in purple, in honour of his mum

LOCAL stand-up comedian, Marcus Ryan, isn't shy of a challenge, and this October 12, he is taking on the Melbourne half-marathon as a charity place runner for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, in honour of his mother, Marg, who lost her long battle with cancer last year.

Marcus just returned from an East African stand-up comedy tour, performing in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda and climbing the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (5895m) – the highest free-standing mountain in the world. He loves to hike, but he isn't a runner.

That was until he set his mind to it. "I wanted to challenge myself," said Marcus.

"My mum was a colourful person, and her favourite colour was purple, so you'd bet that I'll be all dressed in purple, and running for her, so keep an eye out!

"It hasn't been easy, but now I'm getting a bit obsessed with running. In preparation for the October run, I did the Puffing Billy Running Festival and Run the

Maine in Castlemaine."

Intending to raise \$4000, Marcus has successfully raised \$2600.

He started by running regularly at local Park Runs, his first being on Churchill Island, and he loves the community engagement and the supportive people at those events.

"It doesn't matter what level of fitness you are; it's good to get motivated and inspired by others to lead a healthy lifestyle, and it's great for your mental health, too," said Marcus.

Follow Marcus Ryan's journey on Instagram and Facebook, @itsmarcusryan, and visit online to donate at melbmar2025.grassrootz.com/peter-macallum-cancer-foundation/marcus-ryan.



RIGHT: Local comedian Marcus Ryan from Wonthaggi isn't shy of a challenge and has signed up to run the Melbourne half-marathon as a charity place runner for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation on October 12.

Gippsland United F.C. wins Grasshoppers Cup

GIPPSLAND United Football Club walked away with the U12 Karl Posselt Grasshoppers Cup over the weekend after a two-day tournament at the Berrambool Sports Complex in Merimbula.

In the pool matches the boys played Eurobodalla, Orcas and the Southern Tablelands with resounding 4-0 victories in each game.

In the final, the boys faced Far South Coast (FSC), who topped their group undefeated.

Gippsland United got off to a perfect start when Riley Nankervis scored within two minutes of the kick-off. GUFC piled on the pressure and spurned several gip-

edged chances.

As is often the case in football, the team was made to rue these missed chances when Far South Coast scored twice in the shadows of half-time, to lead 2-1 at the break.

In the second half, FSC defended brilliantly, but the ball did not bounce Gippsland's way.

With the match seemingly out of reach and four minutes on the clock, Billy Breheny pushed through to claim the equaliser with a clinical finish 2-2.

Gippsland had their tails up and pushed for the win. Two minutes later Riley claimed his brace and the winner with a classy 3-2 finish.



A sweet victory for the boys from Gippsland United in the U12 Karl Posselt Grasshoppers Cup played at Merimbula.



Former Collingwood and Port Melbourne player, Tristan Francis, has been appointed Wonthaggi Power senior coach in 2026.

Tristan Francis steps up at Wonthaggi Power

WONTHAGGI Power assistant coach Tristan Francis has been appointed to take over the mantle of Jarryd Blair as senior coach in 2026.

The former Gippsland Power, Collingwood and Port Melbourne product not only comes with all the up-to-date training methods and playing strategy from the big league, but he is also uniquely familiar with the Wonthaggi playing list after a very hands-on role with Blair.

The club announced the appointment on social media recently.

"We are thrilled to announce Tristan Francis as the newly appointed Senior Coach of the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club.

"Tristan grew up in Gippsland and brings an outstanding football journey with him – from playing with Gippsland Power, to Collingwood Football Club, and becoming a premiership player at Port Melbourne VFL.

"Over the past five years as an assistant coach with us, Tristan's competitive drive and empathetic nature have helped him build lifelong relationships with players, staff, and supporters. His ability to connect with people of all ages, coupled with his deep understanding of the game and what it takes to perform at the highest level, makes him the perfect fit to lead our club forward.

"He is hugely respected in the football world and throughout our community, and we're excited for the journey ahead.

"Together with his wife Kels and their four boys – Jude, Billy, Freddy and Archer – we welcome the Francis family to the next chapter of the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club."

Jarryd Blair had a challenging five years in charge of Wonthaggi Power with 2020 and 2021 abandoned due to COVID, finishing second in 2022 before bowing out in the prelim, and top in 2023, before losing to Leongatha in the grand final.

The seniors finished fourth in 2024 and only missed the finals once under Blair, in 2025, an injury-impacted year for Power.

The club already faces the significant challenge of replacing its best and fairest in 2025, and one of the Gippsland League's best players, Ryan Sparkes, who is headed to Inverloch-Kongwak in 2026.

Riverside Tennis Association

RESULTS – round one:

Section 1: Doubles.

Neerim District 8-52 defeated Warra-gul 1-19; Moe 7-49 defeated Drouin Gold 2-32; Drouin Maroon bye.

Ladder: Neerim District 10; Moe 9; Drouin Maroon 5.5; Drouin Gold 2; Warragul 1.

Section 1/2: Singles.

Trafalgar Red 0-0 drew Moe White 0-0; Drouin Maroon 4-45 defeated Drouin Gold 2-28; Warragul 3-35 defeated by Trafalgar White 3-36.

Ladder: Drouin Maroon 6; Trafalgar White 5; Moe White 4; Moe Blue 4; Trafalgar 4; Warragul 3; Drouin Gold 2.

Section 2: Doubles.

Poowong 0-0 forfeited to Neerim District 9-54; Trafalgar 0-28 defeated by Warragul 9-56; Hallora 7-47 defeated Drouin 2-27.

Ladder: Neerim District 11; Warragul 11; Hallora 9; Drouin 2; Trafalgar 0; Poowong 0.

Life Members honoured by appreciative Parrots



200 gamer and Parrots ruckman Ben Willis was bestowed the honour of a life membership with Leongatha.

Head trainer Margery Barter was also honoured with a life membership to the Parrots on Saturday. Photo: Skewesme Photography.

TWO new Life Members were celebrated at the Parrots' nest on Saturday night, with Leongatha Football Netball Club honouring head trainer Margery Barter and ruckman Ben Willis, who notched up his 200th Senior game for the club this season.

When Barter was presented with her Life Membership, her achievements were outlined by Pat Kuhne.

Those achievements include being a volunteer at the club for over 20 years having become a trainer in 2007.

Barter has been a committee member for more than a decade, associated with the running of the bar, sponsorship and membership and was at one stage the Parrots' number one ticket holder.

In 2012, she received the George Gould Award, given to Leongatha's Best Club Person. "It's a prestigious award," Kuhne said.

Barter also earned the Joe

Hutchinson Award from the Gippsland Football Netball League in recognition of service at League Level.

As for Willis, in addition to his onfield efforts, he has coached the Leongatha juniors and played a role wherever needed.

"He's one of those guys who tries to find ways to help and contribute around the club and is the ultimate team man on and off the field," Parrots football operations manager Trevor Walder said.

Coming from Thorpdale, Willis has been fortunate enough to play in all of Leongatha's nine-straight Senior Grand Finals.

"His tenure probably coincided with our run of success," Trevor said, quipping that it's uncertain whether he sparked that success or arrived at the right time.

There's no doubt that success couldn't have been achieved without players as committed to the cause as Willis.

Golf heroics put South Gippsland back on top

THERE it is! The South Gippsland Men's Country Week golf team have managed to win the Plate Division at this year's Country Teams Event held in Mildura at Mildura Golf Club, Red Cliffs Golf Club and Riverside Golf Club.

Winning their first three rounds 5 to 2, 5.5 to 1.5, and 4.5 to 2.5, but losing their final round 2-5 they finished on top of the ladder.

There were many great saves, shots and important wins, including three in a row by country week first timer, 17-year-old Levi Perkins of Nyora, the continued good play of Jack Jacobsen of Meeniyah, who won all four matches, and some heroics from Korumburra's Matt Wrigley.

A noted match-play exponent, Wrigley was unlucky to lose his first match on Day 2 when his opponent drained an 18-footer on the 18th but backed up on Tuesday afternoon in the gruelling 36-hole format to beat his opponent playing off plus-3, effectively giving him a five-shot start under match play conditions, 2up.



Pictured is the Country Week winning South Gippsland golf team, after bringing home the Plate Division. They are (L-R) Roy Fleming (team manager), Levi Perkins, Michael Thomas, Jack Jacobsen, Matt Wrigley, Steve Bromby (captain), Jye Kruyer, Isaac Batty, Chris Buckland, Aron Morris, Wayne Kennedy (assistant manager).

However, the job wasn't quite done.

The first three rounds put South Gippsland in a strong position with a bye to come

in the final round.

Golf Central was the only team who could catch South Gippsland, but with a halved result in their final round, it

was just enough against some really talented opposition.

South Gippsland qualifies to progress to the Division One Shield next year.



Women's – Lisse Bath (runner-up best and fairest) and Naomi Eaton (best and fairest), absent Fiona Christensen (coach's award).

Leongatha Knights presentation evening

ON FRIDAY, September 26, Leongatha Knights FC's U17 and Senior Teams joined together at the Dakers Centre to celebrate the 2025 season. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time together off the pitch, remember highlights and dance.

A massive thank you to event co-ordinator Mandy Bongers for putting together a marvellous evening.

Congratulations to the following award winners and milestone recipients:

U17s Blue Team:

- Most improved**
– Trent Beggs
- Coach's award**
– Daniel Prentice
- Runner up best and fairest**
– DJ Meadows
- Best and fairest**
– William Langley - Jones

U17s White Team:

- Most improved**
– Dylan Cowell
- Coach's award**
– Harris Hamilton
- Runner up best and fairest**
– Joshua Taylor
- Best and fairest**
– Cole Munday

Reserves Men:

- Coach's award**
– Malcolm Phillips
- Runner up best and fairest**
– Guthrie Alison
- Best and fairest**
– William Langley - Jones

- Best and fairest**
– Josh Ellen

Senior Women:

- Coach's award**
– Fiona Christensen
- Runner Up best and fairest**
– Melisse Bath
- Best and fairest**
– Naomi Eaton

Senior Men:

- Coach's award**
– Nick Bongers
- Runner up best and fairest**
– Luke Knights
- Best and fairest**
– Henry Mbuthia

Milestones:

50 Games – Senior Women's Competition:

- Mandy Bongers
- Naomi Eaton
- Valentine Langlet
- Bernadette Fitzgerald
- Jessica Burrowes

50 Games – Senior Men's Competition:

- Henry Mbuthia
- Sven Gebele

100 Games – Senior Men's Competition:

- Charlie Dougherty
- Ethan Bath

150 Games – Senior Women's Competition:

- Jordan Rintoule
- Bethany Milkins



U17s Blue – Nick Meadows (coach), Will Langley-Jones (best and fairest), Trent Beggs (most improved), Daniel Prentice (coach's award), DJ Meadows (runner-up best and fairest), and Stu McNaughton (coach).



U17s White – Mike Munday (coach), Harris Hamilton (coach's award), Cole Munday (best and fairest), Josh Taylor (runner-up best and fairest), and Dylan Cowell (most improved).



Senior Men – Luke Knights (runner-up best and fairest), Henry Mbuthia (best and fairest) and Nick Bongers (coach's award).



Reserves – Back, from left, Malcolm Phillips (coach's award), Guthrie Alison (runner-up best and fairest), Andy Shuttleworth (coach), Josh Ellen (equal best and fairest). Front, Will Langley-Jones (equal best and fairest), and Caelan Scott (coach).

Stony Creek sees out 2025 season

STONY Creek Football Netball Club hosted its senior vote count and presentation night.

With more than 100 people present, the club celebrated the 2025 season in style.

Two new life members were welcomed into the club.

Milestone game awards were handed out to Jessica Brown (100 club games), Angus Wright (100 club games), Samantha Dyke (100 club games), Sharna Cope (150 club games), Tony Dyke (150 club games) and Lucas Byrnes (300 club games).



C Grade Coach Rahni Mann with Stony Creek Football Netball Club's award winners Abbie Tapsell (most consistent), Taylor Mitchell (best and fairest) and Hannah Potter (runner-up best and fairest).



Pictured back from left, coach Troy Shepardson with Stony Creek Football Netball Club's 2025 Senior award winners Tully Bernaldo (equal runner-up best and fairest), Cam Stone (best and fairest - McCaughan Medal and Don Knight Memorial), Jai Bright (most consistent), Cody Loughridge (most consistent - Ian Eddy Memorial), front from left, Julian Stone (equal runner-up best and fairest) and Tom Stone (best team man). Absent: Tylah O'Connor Linke (coach's award).



Stony Creek's Reserves coach Ryan McKnight with the 2025 award winners. Back from second left, Rohan Baudinette (runner-up best and fairest), Will McDonald (most improved), Charlie Batten (best team man), front from left, Nick Svenson (most determined) and Rob Cope (accepting best and fairest on behalf of Andrew Logan). Absent: Tyson Davies (most consistent).



Stony Creek's A Grade coach Kayla Byrnes with shared best utility Rebekah Vagg, best and fairest Livinia Mandemaker, runner-up best and fairest Rahni Mann and shared best utility Ashley Snell.



Best and fairest Louise Strickland, runner-up best and fairest Lisa Whiteside and most consistent Georgie Snell with Stony Creek's D Grade coach Sophie Clarke.



The B Grade award recipients for the Stony Creek Football Netball Club were Emily Clarke (runner-up best and fairest), Jessica Brown (best and fairest) and Kaitlin Funnell (most determined). They are pictured with coach Kayla Byrnes.



Steve Sinclair presented a Stony Creek Football Netball Club life membership to Lyndell Cope. Absent: Lucas Byrnes.



Stony Creek Football Netball Club's Alan Sinclair Memorial Award for Best Club Person went to Yvette Richards, presented by Steve Sinclair.



The Robert and Margery Burge Memorial Award was presented to Jai Bright by Jenna Zuidema at the Stony Creek Football Netball Club.



Under 13s. Matilda Williams (coach's award), Hara McIndoe (runners-up best and fairest), and Marlee Dowel (best and fairest).



Under 15s. equal best and fairest Winners - Leo Winkler, Charlotte Lawler, and Holly Lawler.

Stony Creek FNC juniors' hard work reflected on the court

STONY Creek Football Netball Club (FNC) held its junior vote count and presentation day on Sunday, September 14.

The junior netball season has been successful with players showing fantastic growth, teamwork, and dedication. Week after week, they brought energy, enthusiasm and willingness to learn. This reflected in their skills and confidence on the court.

It's been a season of strong effort, supportive friendships and plenty of fun. An achievement everyone should be proud of.



Under 17s. Sharolette Hogan (coach's award), Madeline Cook (equal best and fairest), and Amber Charlton (equal best and fairest).



South Gippsland Volleyball had a lot to celebrate with both boys' and girls' U17 sides bringing home gold at the 2025 Volleyball Victoria Junior Country Championships.

Double gold for South Gippsland juniors at volleyball championship

SOUTH Gippsland Volleyball juniors brought home a glittering double at the 2025 Volleyball Victoria Junior Country Championships in Horsham, proving once again that Gippsland kids have serious grit and determination on the court.

It was a golden campaign for the U17 squads, with both the boys and girls standing tall on the podium and lifting the championship trophies.

The South Gippsland U17 girls arrived in Horsham with one mission – to defend the title they won in 2024.

From the opening whistle, they showed their intent with dominant wins over Geelong (3–0) and Warrnambool (3–2), before powering through day two with convincing victories against Warrnambool (3–0), Geelong (3–0) and Horsham (3–1).

That form carried them all the way to the grand final, where they faced a determined Geelong outfit.

The girls kept their cool in a thrilling four-set contest, sealing a back-to-back championship with a 3–1 victory (28–26, 25–20, 19–25, 25–12).

The team was guided by head coach Tamara Miller, assistant coach Jessica Sanders, manager Emmy-Lou Mills, and with nutrition and hydration expertly overseen by Anna Gloria, “strawberries for the win” became the rallying cry.

For the U17 boys, this year’s championship marked their first tournament together as a team, and they made it one to remember.

They opened strongly with a five-set battle against Sunraysia, clawing their

way to a 3–2 win.

From there, confidence grew as they notched up a string of victories against Horsham (3–1), Sunraysia (3–1) and Horsham again (3–1).

On finals day, the boys delivered their best volleyball yet, crushing Sunraysia in the gold medal match with a commanding straight-sets win: 3–0 (25–14, 25–14, 25–17).

The squad was coached by Mark de Guzman, with assistant coach Jeffrin Mathew, and managed by Jonamae Kindom. Special thanks also went to first referee, Dave Fuller, whose consistency on the whistle was appreciated by all – great job officiating for both the girls’ and boys’ duties.

South Gippsland also celebrated individual brilliance, with Natalie Churchill, Yasmin Gloria, Christian Ringer and Ethan Findlay, named in the All Star Sevens.

Special congratulations to Natalie Churchill, who capped off the tournament with a richly deserved MVP award.

Off the court, the famous South Gippsland cheer squad lived up to their reputation – bongo drums, air horns, shakers and tambourines in tow – ensuring no point went uncelebrated.

Parents and supporters were once again the heartbeat of the team’s success.

It was a wonderful weekend of celebrating and cheering on the juniors, from re-kindling annual friendships with other regional clubs to forming new ones.

Horsham’s hospitality was warmly received, and the memories made will carry long after the trophies are polished.



South Gippsland’s Ethan Findlay, Christian Ringer, Natalie Churchill and Yasmin Gloria were named in the All Star Sevens.



South Gippsland’s U17 boys’ team won gold on debut.



The U17 girls’ team represented South Gippsland Volleyball with pride as they claimed a back-to-back championship victory.



South Gippsland Volleyball’s U17 girls’ team sealed a back-to-back championship win in Horsham.



In their first time out as a team, the U17 boys’ volleyball side won the junior championship for South Gippsland.



Fans love the shoulder-to-shoulder racing that brings MotoGP alive in 25. Photo: Peter Cleeland.

Island MotoGP open slather!

THE 19th round of the MotoGP World Championship scheduled from October 17 to 19 at Phillip Island has taken on a completely different complexion with the injury to 2025 champion Marc Marquez. Marquez took a high-speed tumble and broke his right collarbone in the early stages of the Indonesian Grand Prix, ruling him out of any future races this season.

Throughout the season, the blistering speed of MotoGP rider Marquez has left the remaining competing riders in his wake in the 2025 MotoGP World Championship. Coming from Honda Racing to Ducati for the 2025 MotoGP World Championship, Ducati have put the world's best rider on the world's best GP bike. In both the 12-lap sprint races and the longer 20-plus lap events, Marquez has stood head and shoulders above all other riders.

With his injury, the door has been thrown well and truly open for other riders to take the top step on the winners' rostrum.

By Peter Cleeland

Dual world champion and Ducati team-mate, Francesco Bagnaia, has found some form in Motegi, Japan, but had a shocker in Indonesia, also hitting the tarmac, though he has good speed at the Island track. It will also be interesting to see if Lenovo Ducati bring in a replacement rider for Marquez for the remainder of the season. Marquez's brother, Alex, who also rides a Ducati for the Gresini Racing team, has been a consistent performer throughout the year and will definitely be a serious challenger.

Fans' allegiances will be with Pramac Yamaha rider Jack Miller, who has just re-signed a contract for 2026. For Miller, this year on the Yamaha has produced plenty of challenges, sorting out the bike and getting it up to speed to be competitive. Sitting back in 17th position on 52 points, Miller has found some recent competitive speed as Yamaha undergoes continued development. On his home

track, Jack will be looking to make a statement and could finish in the top five if he can stay upright!

The 2025 Moto2 championship has been a much closer affair, with 45 points covering the first five riders. Lone Australian rider Senna Aguis currently sits in ninth position with one win for the season, he is building his competitiveness on the Kalex. Spanish rider, Manuel Gonzalez, leads Aron Canet and Brazilian Diogo Moreira as the championship unfolds.

In Moto3, Australian Joel Kelso, who hails from Queensland, sits in sixth position, 127 points behind Spaniard Jose Rueda, who has had seven wins so far this season. In fact, the first five riders in this championship are all Spanish. While another Aussie rider, Jacob Roulstone, currently sits in 15th position in this highly competitive class.

With a whole lot of off-track activities and an exhilarating on-track racing program, Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit is the place to be come October 17!



From the organisers of the Phillip Island Toy Run, and the revival of the GP Run, head along and join in the run or pop outside and cheer on the lads and ladies as they pass by on Saturday, October 18.

Phillip Island Community GP run is back

ON SATURDAY, October 18, Dead4eva Designs, Trust No One SMC and Phillip Island Toy Run will host The Phillip Island Community GP Run beginning at Caldermeade Farm and Cafe. This ride is to replace the original Moto GP Ride that began in Cranbourne, which ceased prior to COVID.

Thanks to the generosity of Caldermeade Farm, the ride will leave from Caldermeade Farm, 4385 South Gippsland Highway, Caldermeade, with stands up at 11am. Gates open at 8am, and a special GP Breakfast can be purchased, or the café opens at 9am.

The ride will continue along the highway through to Phillip Island, with the option of heading off at the roundabout to the racetrack in time for the Moto3 qualifying.

Alternatively, make a day of it and head into town where retailers, cafe owners, restaurateurs and publicans alike have been allocated the lower half of Thompson Avenue in Cowes early on to ease your belly or quench your thirst after the ride.

Don't get caught out this MotoGP with traffic diversions in place

OVER 60 additional police resources will be tasked to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit over the MotoGP in what is shaping up to be a weekend of adrenaline-fueled speed, skill and fun.

In a thrilling weekend that keeps fans and locals alike on the edge of their seats, Bass Coast Police Service Area Acting Senior Sergeant Adrian Condrón is at the helm, organising the best way to keep patrons safe, whilst having an absolute blast.

Additional divisional officers will also be on board in the evenings, overseeing the safety and security of those attending the entertainment and activities in Cowes along Thompson Avenue and The Esplanade, but crooks be warned, our local officers will still be out in force around the rest of Bass Coast and South Gippsland attending to their usual duties.

"We are working closely with Bass Coast Shire Council to ensure patrons have a great experience," Acting Snr Sgt Condrón explained.

"The area between Chapel Street and The Esplanade will be closed as in previous years, with a line-up of interviews with riders, bands and plenty of entertainment on offer."

At the conclusion of the main race on Sunday, Back Beach Road will be restricted to one-way traffic travelling from the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit to Phillip Island Road, where the blue line will then come into operation.

The blue line allows for two lanes of traffic, both cars and motorcycles permitted in both, to exit the island.

Other roads in the Phillip Island vicinity may be turned into one-way streets to allow a fluid movement of traffic.

"There will be traffic diversions in place over the weekend," Acting Snr Sgt Condrón said.

"Victoria Police will be utilising real-time



Police will be out and about ensuring you have a safe MotoGP.

cameras to monitor the traffic situation and make decisions regarding roads depending on traffic volumes as and when applicable.

"We are expecting numbers to be similar to previous years with 90,000 people attending the track over the three days and potentially up to 40,000 on Sunday."

Cowes MotoGP Entertainment Precinct Line Up

Thursday, October 16

Get into the MotoGP spirit early with rider interviews, races and movies showing throughout the evening on the BMW Superscreen.

- 5pm – 11pm | BMW Superscreen

Friday, October 17

Kick back after a big day on track with some tunes from a local favourite followed by a big night of rock 'n' roll.

- 6pm – Midnight | BMW Superscreen
- 6pm | Mark Howard
- 9pm | Oz Rock Express

Saturday, October 18

Check out Cowes by day and settle in for a night of tunes featuring Western Port as the perfect backdrop.

- 10am – Midnight | BMW Superscreen
- 6pm | Imogen Price
- 9pm | Nashville's World On Tour

Sunday, October 19

Re-live the race and make the weekend last that little bit longer!

- 10am – 11pm | BMW Superscreen
- 6pm | Rehash Cover Band
- 7pm | 2025 MotoGP™ race replay
- 8pm | Rehash Cover Band

Road closures

Thursday, October 16, 7am to Monday, October 20, Midday – Motorcycle parking only long Thompson Avenue, which will be closed from Chapel Street to The Esplanade for cars.

The Esplanade will be closed from Warley Avenue to Bass Avenue.

All closures are subject to change depending on crowd numbers and traffic conditions.

All bikes must be legal, roadworthy, registered, and riders must have a valid licence.

The ride is free to enter, and organisers would love your company to go on a great ride. If people want to put various meeting points down before the actual one, please do not hesitate to do so and list them on the social media pages.

The ride will receive assistance from Victoria Police, Eastern Region, for traffic management, as well as DOME Traffic Management, with the left lane blocked as bikes leave Caldermeade farm.

Learner riders will be placed together within the pack for safety purposes, and there will be a tail car along with experienced riders just in front of the car to support slower riders.

It is imperative that riders attend and listen to the pre-brief by the Club President as well as the Victoria Police before the ride leaves.

For those in the community who are keen to come out and cheer on the riders, the following times are roughly scheduled. Please note these times may change due to weather, traffic, and unforeseen circumstances and should be used as a rough guide.

Grantville 11.17am/11.20am
San Remo 11.35/11.40am
Cowes 11.55am/12pm

Please note this is solely a community and rider-organised event and all riders ride at their own risk. Organisers, their partners, and heirs will not be held accountable or liable for any loss or injury incurred. The MOTO GP Corporation and its affiliates are in no way associated with this event.

For further information, please visit Phillip Island Community GP Run 2025 under the Events section of the Annual Phillip Island Toy Run on Facebook.



Hartley Wells

Betta

Leongatha
www.hartleywells.com
Phone: 5662 2930

LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Ethan Lamers (OMK) 60 ;

Rhys Newman (Inverloch) 3/12

A2: Matthew Grayson (Kilcunda-Bass) 82* ;

Tanuj Namalge (Koon L/RSL) 5/20

Choices
The floor you've been searching for

BEAUMONT TILES
Looking good!

8-10 Koonwarra Rd, Leongatha. 5662 5030
Cnr Carneys Road & Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi. 5672 2148

A GRADE

DIVISION 1

Nerrena 1/102 d Phillip Island 10/98

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS	
Conor Epifano b: T Wightman	30
Kurt Lane c: J Kelly b: A Gannon	18
Heath Womersley c: H Funnell b: T Wightmans	5
Daniel Mock (c) c: H Funnell b: Shem Murphy	0
Fill-in b: W Croatto	14
Thomas Niven run out	1
Timonhly Niven c: M Clark b: W Croatto	5
Archie Williams lbw: S Murphy	1
Jobe Williams not out	4*
Max Arceo run out	0
George McCausland run out	0
Extras (8w, 1nb, 3lb, 1b)	13
Total 10 / 98 (35.3 Overs)	
Bowling: J Trease 8-1-27-0, A Gannon 5.3-2-25-1, T Wightman 8-1-12-2, S Murphy 8-4-13-2, (1nb), W Croatto 4-1-14-2, M Clark 2-2-0-0	
Nerrena – 1st INNINGS	
Jack Curtis c: Fill in b: A Williams	52
Michell Clark not out	43*
James Kelly not out	2*
Total 1 / 102 (19.4 Overs)	
Bowling: G McCausland 4-0-17-0 (3w), Thomas Niven 3-0-23-0, Timothay Niven 5-0-19-0, H Womersley 3-0-12-0, K Lane 1-0-7-0, A Williams 2-0-7-1, J Williams 1.4-0-15-0	

OMK 9/187 d Club 10/186

Club – 1st INNINGS	
Mitch Thomas c: A Khaneja b: T Pickering	9
Alexander Geyer c: K Brann b: T Pickering	16
Sulakshan Mendisque c: E Lamers b: T Pickering	1
Ryan Thomas c: K Brann b: T McGeachin	55
Jakeb Thomas (vc) b: T Nicholas	13
Gavin Britt c: T Pickering b: Jacob Lamers	15
Joel Brann (c) st: K Brann b: J Lamers	3
Harry West run out: T McGeachin	20
Fraser West b: Private player	41
Heath Dobbie b: T McGeachin	3
Mark McCall not out	1*
Extras (8w, 1nb)	9
Total 10 / 186 (39.5 Overs)	
Bowling: T Pickering 6-1-20-3 (3w), Private player 6.5-0-23-1 (1w), T Nicholas 5-0-28-1 (1w, 1nb), A Khaneja 8-0-40-0 (1w), P Thind 1-0-1-0, J Lamers 7-0-38-2 (2w), T McGeachin 6-0-36-2	
OMK – 1st INNINGS	
Clayton Quaife c: R Thomas b: M Thomas	15
Ethan Lamers c: M Thoms b: H Dobbie	60
Paul Fermanis c: ? b M McCall	8
Koby Brann (c) c: J Brann b: H Dobbie	24
Pawan Thind c: S Mendisque b: R Thomas	4
Jacob Lamers not out	41*
Trevor McGeachin c: R Thomas b: H Dobbie	5
Toby Nicholas c: H West b: R Thomas	0
Abhi Khaneja c: S Mendisque b: R Thomas	5
Travis Pickering b: F West	0
Private player not out	7*
Extras (5w, 2nb, 11lb)	18
Total 9 / 187 (36.4 Overs)	
Bowling: J Brann (c) 6.4-0-40-0, F West 5-1-26-1, M Thomas 5-0-27-1, M McCall 5-0-35-1, H Dobbie 7-0-16-3, R Thomas 8-0-32-3 (2w, 2nb)	

Inverloch 5/89 d Imperials 8/88

Imperials – 1st INNINGS	
Campbell Reid b: T Debono	9
Rowen McLennan b: T Debono	20
Aydan Williams b: T Debono	8
Timothy Sauvarin c: R Harris b: R Newman	1
Jack Ginnane (c) b: R Newman	4
Samuel Vagg lbw: R Newman	0
Lachie Wright (vc) b: C Newman	8
Lucas Anderson c: J McNamara b: R Abeysinghe	5
Gary Sauvarin not out	15*
Noah McLennan not out	5*
Extras (9w, 1nb, 3lb)	13
Total 8 / 88 (40 Overs)	
Bowling: H Butcher 4-0-10-0, L Rankin 6-1-20-0 (4w), T Debono 8-3-17-3, R Newman 6-3-12-3, R Abeysinghe 8-2-9-1 (1w, 1nb) C Newman 8-0-17-1 (3w)	
Inverloch – 1st INNINGS	
Riley Harris b: L Wright	2
Ron Abeysinghe c: N McLennan b: A Williams	8
Rhys Newman b: C Bruce	15
Kit Roththier lbw: T Sauvarin	21
James McNamara not out	10*
Jacob Strickland c: A Williams b: T Sauvarin	11
Ty Debono not out	2*
Extras (14w, 4lb, 2b)	20
Total 5 / 89 (30.3 Overs)	
Bowling: L Wright (vc) 7.3-1-17-1 (2w), L Anderson 3-0-9-0 (2w), A Williams 5-1-18-1, J Ginnace (c) 5-2-9-0 (2w), T Sauvarin 7-1-15-2 (2w), C Bruce 3-0-15-1 (6w)	



South Gippsland's first stand-alone Overs 70s cricket team, the Kookaburras, enjoyed a win against the Australian Cricket Society on Sunday.

Inaugural cricket team start with a victory

THE inaugural South Gippsland stand-alone Over 70s cricket team played the Australian Cricket Society team at East Brighton on Sunday, October 5, batting first and scoring 221 runs off 40 overs.

Openers Warrick Hayes and Rob Francis were both not out, retiring at 34 and 40 respectively.

The platform thus created enabled the Kookaburras to reach 127 when their first wicked fell.

Six other batters made healthy scores in the teens or twenties.

Australian Cricket Society (ACS) replied with 173 after its 40 overs with Pieter Loos (1). Mike Newton (3) and Andrew Smith (2) taking wickets, ably supported by good fielding where two ACS batters were run out.

Mike received the opposing captain's award for his good all-around performance.

Brian Mitchell also had a busy day, batting (18), bowling eight overs for 31 runs, and wicket-keeping for half the ACS's innings.

Nerrena off to flying start at the Velodrome

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

IT was a comfortable round one victory for Nerrena at the Velodrome on Saturday, as last year's ladder leaders proved too strong for Phillip Island.

Having won the toss and sent the Island in to bat, Nerrena struck early when Shem Murphy removed danger man Daniel Mock for a duck.

"That really got the ball rolling for us," Nerrena's Zack Trease said.

"We got a few wickets and run outs towards the end."

Connor Epifano top-scored for Phillip Island with 30, while Kurt Lane briefly lifted the innings with two sixes in the opening stand. But Nerrena's attack, led by Murphy, kept the pressure on and ensured the Island never built momentum.

In reply, Nerrena's top order took charge from the outset.

"We had Jack Curtis and Mitchell Clark batting, and they were in control from ball one. Jack made 52 runs, and Mitchell steadied the ship to get the runs we needed in the 19th over. It was a cruisy win."

According to Trease, "it was good to get the win in round one."

Nerrena will take the bye this weekend, while Phillip Island hosts Town in Cowes.

Inverloch too strong for Imperials

Inverloch claimed the points against Imperials, with the bowlers dominating on both sides.

Imperials' president, Kristian Gray, said his team failed to capitalise after a solid start.

"We started well, but we had around five guys bowled out," Gray explained.

"We had made around 30 for the first wicket, but then we lost six wickets for about 20 runs. Noah McLennan and Gary Sauvarin got us to a respectable score, but it was still going to be hard to defend."

According to Gray, Ty Debono bowled well for Inverloch.

"Tim Sauvarin took two wickets, Lachie Wright bowled well early, and Jack Ginnane's back bowling was good."

A confident Inverloch were in control of the game, according to the club.

Inverloch praised their younger brigade, with Rhys Newman and Debono leading the attack, while debutants Ron Abeysinghe and James McNamara impressed, the club noting they "had the game under control for the day."

Heading into the season, the Imperials are looking forward to their Woolies Blast program, which will start on Thursday, October 16, with Gray noting there is still time to register and space for all.

As for Inverloch, they are looking forward to a competitive match-up against Wonthaggi Club this weekend, whilst behind the scenes, the club is "highly-focused" on fundraising for major infrastructure projects at the ground.

Leongatha Town – Bye

After sitting out last week with a bye and a washout, Leongatha Town will begin their campaign this weekend across all three grades.

"With a mix of youth and experience across the three teams, they will look forward to competing hard and hopefully coming away with the three wins," secretary Luke Ashton said.

LADDERS

RD 1

Team	Points	Q
A GRADE, Division 1		
Nerrena	12	10.408
Inverloch	12	1.618
OMK	12	1.117
Club	0	0.895
Imperials	0	0.617
Phillip Island	0	0.096
Town	0	0
A GRADE, Division 2		
Kilcunda-Bass	12	0.893
Nyora	12	0.0
MDU	0	1.119
Foster	0	0.0
Glen Alvie	0	0.0
Koonwarra L/RSL	0	0.0
Korumburra	9	0.0

A GRADE

DIVISION 2

K'warra L/RSL 4/131 d Glen Alvie 10/130
Glen Alvie - Highest Scores: D Hale 52, M Donohue 20.
Best Bowling: B McRae (c) 2/14, L McRae 1/20
Koonwarra L/RSL - Highest Scores: J Rushton 58*, T Namalge 44. Best Bowler: T Namalge 5/20, J Kennedy 2/14
Kilcunda-Bass 8/194 d MDU 7/190
MDU - Highest Scores: T Nuwan 54, M McGrath (c) 39.
Best Bowling: S Bright 2/27, A Casey 2/38.
Kilcunda Bass - Highest Scores: M Grayson (c) 82*, A Conron 34. Best Bowler: B Wright 3/19, C Davidson 2/27



It was a tight clash between Kilcunda Bass and MDU on Saturday. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography.

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

Kilcunda Bass edge out MDU in tight finish

MEENIYAN Dumbalk United (MDU) fell just short in their A Grade clash on Saturday, going down to Kilcunda Bass in the final over despite strong individual performances.

MDU captain Mitch praised the efforts of his side's new and emerging players, noting the positives to take from the opening round.

"Tharindu Nuwan made a really well-batted 54 off 48 balls and also picked up two wickets," he said.

"Archie Casey, in his first game for us, bowled really well opening the bowling and grabbed himself two wickets, while Max Murray also picked up a wicket in his first outing for the club.

Unfortunately, we couldn't quite get over the line, but we're looking forward to a great season ahead with some fresh faces."

Kilcunda Bass president Ash Larcombe said his team was pleased with the way they responded under pressure.

"The overall game was a highlight. MDU did well to make 190. We bowled well, but they had a few good partnerships," he said.

"Brad Wright took the first couple of wickets and slowed them down. Cameron Davidson bowled well to start; he was tight but without success. He came back on later and took a few wickets [to finish the innings]."

Chasing the total, Kilcunda Bass lost early wickets but steadied through a composed captain's knock.

"Our captain, Matt Grayson, really stood up and got us through. He had great partnerships with Todd Smith and then

Aaron Conron, which got us over the line. He was always in control," Larcombe said.

"The turning point was the partnership between Matt and Todd – it lifted our run rate. Todd was bowled in the 19th over before drinks, and after the break, it still could've gone either way, but Grayson and Conron got us the win."

Kilcunda Bass secured the win late, but both clubs will take confidence from the contest heading into round two.

Korumburra eyes first hit-out in round two

Korumburra will finally take to the field this weekend in round two of the LDCA season, with the club's A2 side set to face Meeniyana Dumbalk United at Meeniyana.

After sitting out the opening round, the side is eager to get

underway, though the weather forecast could still play a role.

"We'll be lucky to get one in by the looks of the weather forecast," club president Glen Barrett said.

Despite the uncertainty, Barrett said the team was focused on both performance and player development.

"We are looking forward to taking the field and implementing our strategy to develop our young talent and support them through Senior cricket," he said.

"We'll be concentrating on what we're doing out there, with our great mix of senior experience and young enthusiasm. Our priority this season is as much about getting our young players out there as it is about the wins and losses."

Foster forfeited their match against Nyora on Saturday.

Gippsland Goannas take a win after a no-show by The Barkly St Mob

ROUND one in the VCV Over-70 competition took place on Sunday, October 5 with 14 teams competing across Victoria up from 11 last year.

The Barkly St Mob from Maribyrnong were due to arrive at Duncan Cameron Oval in Traralgon for an 11am start but forfeited the win to Gippsland Goannas after a no-show.

The Barkly St Mob was unable to muster a team to travel to Traralgon, so the Gippsland Goannas game was the only match of the seven scheduled matches which did not go ahead. The Goannas' next game will be on Tuesday, October 14 at Glen Waverley.

The Over-60 season will get underway this coming Sunday with 30 teams registered to take part, playing between eight and 15 games each. The Gippsland Goannas Over-60 team has a bye this Sunday but will play the Baw Baw Over-60 Veterans on Sunday, October 16.

The Over-50 team competition will also get underway this coming Sunday.

There are six divisions in the Over-50 comp, with the Gippsland Goannas playing in the Saxon Shield division. There will be seven rounds of competition games followed by a semi-final and Grand Final. The first game will be a home game against the Ballarat Over-50 team, at a venue yet to be confirmed. Their second game will be two weeks later, an away game against the Eastern Hawks Over-50 team.



Club's Ryan Thomas celebrates catching OMK's Clayton Quaife out. C13_4025

Magical day as LDNA season bats off

from page 60

"Fell one wicket short against OMK," Club president Luke McGuirk said.

"OMK were cruising at 2-108 then Heath Dobbie bowled Club back into the game, taking the key wickets of Koby Brann and Ethan Lamers.

Ryan Thomas 50 was a highlight of the match for McGuirk, whilst "Fraser West's innings helped reach a defendable target."

"Looking to bounce back against Inverloch this week, which should be another close game," McGuirk said on Monday.

Down the road at Dalyston, A2 Glen Alvie captain Ben McRae was glad to be back.

"It's good to be back, and we got a good day," he exclaimed,

as he watched from the score desk in the first innings.

"The field is really good, if we'd been at other grounds we might not have got on, so really happy."

McRae adding that they were eager to notch up their first win.

"We've got everyone into match fitness, and it would be great to get the win whilst we are at it."

It was a sharp grab for Callum Buckland, who celebrated ending Matt Donohue's stay at the crease on 20. Darcy Hale top-scored for Glen Alvie with 52 runs from 46 deliveries with four 4s and three 6s, however, like many of his teammates was bowled by Tanuj Namalge, who was having a spectacular afternoon snaring five wickets.

Just after 4pm Glen Alvie had finished their innings 10/130,

with Koonwarra L/RSL at 3/79 in reply, James Rushton and Callum Buckland at the crease. But it didn't take long for last year's bottom-placed division one club to bring out the big guns with Namalge scoring 44, and James Rushton finishing 58 not out. Their contributions, combined with runs from the Scrimshaws, Buckland and Kennedy, took the side to 4/131 in 27.1 overs. Though the bowling of captain Ben McRae, Zack Scholz and Lucas McRae was a highlight for the Glens.

"Glen Alvie fought hard right up until the last ball but unfortunately did not take the win," Glen Alvie's secretary Andrew Brown said.

"Congratulations to Lucas McRae on taking his first A2 wicket for the club."

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 2
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

ONE DAY: ALL GRADES ALL GAMES
START AT 12 NOON

A GRADE, Division 1

Imperials v OMK
EAST CAMPUS
Ken Scrimshaw

Phillip Island v Town
COWES
Ashleigh Stride

Club v Inverloch
WONTHAGGI
John Schelling

Nerrena - BYE

A Grade, Division 2

Nyora v Glen Alvie
NYORA
Michael Thomas

MDU v Korumburra
MEENIYAN
Shane Moore

Koonwarra L/RSL v Foster
LEONGATHA TURF
Ian Salmon

Kilcunda-Bass - BYE

B GRADE, Division 1

Inverloch v Club
INVERLOCH TURF
Les White

Town v Phillip Island
SCORPION PARK 1
Geoffrey Parkinson

Korumburra v Nerrena
KORUMBURRA
Geoff Birnie

OMK - BYE

B GRADE, Division 2

Foster v Glen Alvie
Foster
Doug Pell

Kilcunda-Bass v Imperials
BASS
Warren Williams

Koonwarra L/RSL v Nyora
KOONWARRA
TBC

MDU - BYE

C GRADE, Division 1

Korumburra v Nerrena
Poowong
TBC

Kilcunda-Bass v Phillip Island
BASS 2
TBC

OMK v Club
Outrim
TBC

MDU - BYE

C GRADE, Division 2

Club v Inverloch
MCMAHON RESERVE
TBC

Koonwarra L/RSL v Glen Alvie
VELEDROME 2
TBC

Town v Nyora
SCORPION PARK 2
TBC

OMK - BYE

Subject to Confirmation.
Any prospective
umpires can contact
Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or
Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

Visit our website:
www.sgst.com.au



Glen Alvie's Harvey Smith was bowled out by Koonwarra Leongatha RSL's Tanuj Namalge in A2 Division. C12_4025

Magical day as LDNA season bats off

A BEAUTIFUL 21 degrees outside, and the Leongatha and District Cricket Association couldn't have asked for a better day weather-wise for the season opener. Although a dry week in the buildup would have certainly helped the grounds dry out across the region and allowed B and C grades to also play, in comparison to years past when the start of the season has been delayed, in Victoria, you take what you can get.

And the A grade teams were certainly making use of the sunshine.

At Wonthaggi on Saturday, OMK were set a chase of Club's 186

runs. Club won the toss at noon and elected to bat first with Ryan Thomas and Fraser West posting scores of 55 and 41, respectively.

OMK team manager Geoff Wyatt described the day as magical, whilst Trevor and Clayton were happily recording the scores in the sunshine. Quaife was out first on 15 after a catch from Club's Ryan Thomas.

For team captain Koby Brann, the focus for the afternoon was to chase down the target, noting the ground was "wet and slow" when they fielded earlier in the day.

"We've been really solid at training and had good numbers."

His prayers for OMK's to "get the runs in" were answered with last year's premiers recording 9/187 in 36.4 overs, sneaking past Club.

The Lamers duo were a force with the bat, Ethan top-scoring with 60 before being caught by Club's Mitch Thomas, and Jacob finishing unbeaten on 41.

There was a sharp intake early in the second innings when Heath Dobbie dived for the catch from an Ethan Lamers cut; however, it wasn't to be for Club with Lamers continuing his streak.

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Callum Buckland celebrates the catch, which saw an end to Matt Donohue's run. C10_4025

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