



ACTION TO CUT WILDLIFE LOSS

Peter Sheers and Maria Vogt are playing a role in creating driver awareness of wildlife in Venus Bay after a spike in local wildlife killed on the roads. See page 33 for full story. A20_4124

Party influence not welcome

IT'S election time in the South Gippsland and Bass Coast shires with the Victorian Electoral Commission advising local residents to check their letterboxes this week for the arrival of their ballot packs.

The council elections at both shires are being conducted on a purely postal basis with voting papers arriving from Monday, October 7 this week and needing to be back in the mail or delivered to the election offices at Wonthaggi or Leongatha by 6pm on Friday,

October 25.

While the pre-election period has been largely uneventful, featuring respectful exchanges between voters and would-be councillors at several 'Meet the Candidates' events in both shires, an eleventh-hour bid by the Labor Party to direct its members how to vote in Bass Coast, while also influencing friends and neighbours to do likewise, has not gone down well.

The letter, under the signature of Tully Fletcher, the

Secretary of the Bass/Wonthaggi branch of the Labor Party, identifies which candidates not to vote for, while endorsing others.

"Encourage friends and neighbours to support our very own Cr Leticia Laing (Bunurong Ward), Labor-aligned Inverloch local Caitlyn Robertson (Bunurong Ward), conservationist John Temby (Western Port Ward) and serial Greens candidate Mat Morgan (Bunurong Ward)," the letter reads in part.

"Warn friends and neighbours not to support former Liberal Cr Rochelle Halstead (Western Port Ward), former Liberal Meg Edwards (Bunurong Ward) and Alan Brown-backed Liberal proxy Prudence Scholtes (Bunurong Ward)."

The how-to-vote letter has raised the hackles of several candidates and also, members of the community, including Linda Marston Secretary of Island Voice.

Continued page 3

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Heartbreak and justice of sorts for Noah Peacock

THE 27-year-old Hampton Park man who had drugs and alcohol in his system when he killed Poowong teenager Noah Peacock in a car crash on the South Gippsland Highway at Jeetho on August 11, 2022, is set to be spared the harshest penalty such actions might incur.

Instead of the much more serious charge of culpable driving causing death, with a maximum penalty in Victoria of 20 years, Jayden Tyler Colverd pleaded guilty in the Melbourne County Court last Friday to the lesser but still serious charges of:

1. Dangerous driving causing death, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment; and

2. Failing to render assistance, which also carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment.

A key factor in the decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions not to pursue a culpable driving charge was that while the collision happened at about 4.20pm on Thursday, August 11, it wasn't until 7.07pm that night, in hospital in Melbourne, that a blood sample was finally taken for analysis.

By then Colverd's blood alcohol concentration was 0.01 per 100ml, estimated to have been between 0.037 and 0.064 at the time of the collision, with 9ng/mL of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (also known as THC) also in his system, estimated to have been higher at the time of the crash by an expert witness, Dr Jason Schreiber of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

During his summary of the incident for the court last Friday, Prosecution Counsel Ben Kerlin said it was "due to his injuries" that Colverd wasn't subjected to a preliminary breath test at the scene.

This was despite the fact that he'd run away from the collision, down an embankment, through blackberry bushes and out of sight and wasn't located by police until 4.50pm, upwards of 20 minutes later, walking along the shoulder of Jeetho Road.

Continued page 3

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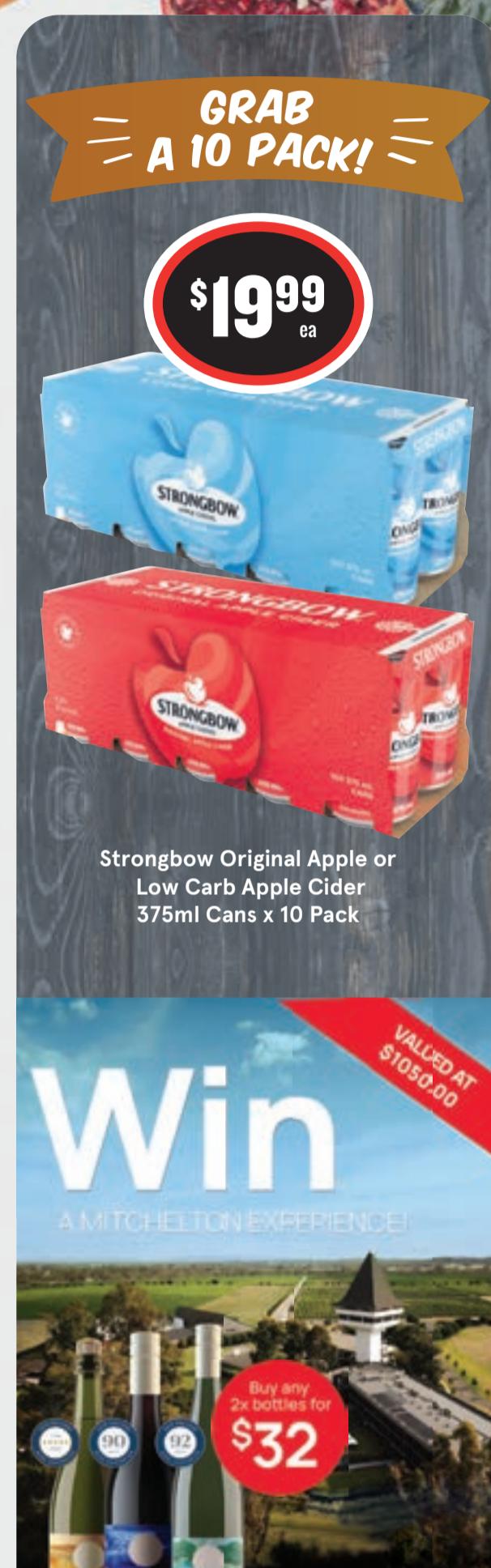
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Heartbreak and justice of sorts for Noah Peacock

From page 1

It hasn't been clearly established why Colverd ran, beyond his own claims after the crash that "he needed some air" and his defence counsel's submission that his client, a disqualified driver with priors for leaving the scene of an accident, had likely panicked.

Colverd was returned to the scene by police, subsequently placed on a stretcher and flown to the Royal Melbourne Hospital for treatment.

While defence counsel for Colverd, John Moore, said it wasn't disputed that his client had consumed alcohol on the day of the offence, it was disputed that he had taken drugs on that day.

In order to prove the offender was driving 'culpably' prosecutors would have had to establish beyond reasonable doubt that the offender was so affected by THC that he was incapable of properly controlling a motor vehicle.

While the prosecution and the defence agreed that the circumstances supported the charge of 'dangerous driving causing death', the case lacked the evidence to support the more serious charge, that the collision was due to THC intoxication, as opposed to a decision to engage in risk-taking behaviour.

The court adjourned, following the reading of victim impact statements by Noah Peacock's mother Michelle, his brother Jake, aunt Lisa Jenkin, a work colleague and a friend. Noah's father Jason also submitted a victim's statement to the court.

Judge Nola Karapanagiotidis will deliver her finding and hand down a sentence in the County Court of Victoria (Melbourne) on Wednesday, October 23 at 9.30am.

Colverd was remanded in custody, having already served 778 days of an expected future sentence.

Mother confronts son's killer

A harrowing feature of last Friday's hearing, in the Melbourne County Court, was the reading of her victim's impact statement, by Noah's mother, Michelle Peacock, before Judge Karapanagiotidis, and in front of her family and friends, the accused man seated in the dock immediately behind the public gallery, and his family.

"To anyone who has lost a loved one to try and put it into words is heartbreaking, to relive the pain of going on without your loved one



Noah Peacock has been remembered as a caring, compassionate, loyal and considerate son, brother and friend, a talented sportsman and emerging tradesman with the world at his feet.

who has now gone forever is horrific and the pain is like nothing else.

"It's a constant ache that is always there, a broken heart is real and will never go away, how and why did this happen to us? It hurts to listen to the judicial process and it makes me feel no one is placing a high enough importance on Noah and the fact he is gone. I feel empty and I can't find words or possibly describe to anyone the dull ache I live daily.

"I will always think of the night of August 11, 2022 as the night that changed my life forever. It hurts like it was yesterday to remember and relive the events of that evening and to relive, in order to write this statement, has been extremely hard and emotional.

"Remembering my life before that night and comparing it to my life today and going forward has especially been painful. One of my children, my world is missing, and my heart will forever be broken and my life and the lives of my family will never ever be the same again.

"All I ever wanted was to have children, to have them young enough so that I could enjoy them and grow old with them."

Michelle went on to say that the birth of her oldest, Jake in 2000, was followed by Noah on February 25, 2003, and Bailey on February 23, 2006, on either side of her own birthday on February 24 – three cakes, three celebrations in-a-row, now gone forever.

"We clearly didn't plan too well. It wasn't until Noah and Bailey got

older that we realised, Bailey will turn 18 and two days later Noah will turn 21, what a huge weekend that was going to be."

A caring, compassionate, loyal and considerate boy, Michelle said Noah had the world at his feet at 19 years of age, in his second year as an apprentice glazier, having just made his senior football debut for the Poowong Magpies and with an extremely close group of mates who did everything together.

Michelle recalled her last phone call from Noah, and the call she received from a friend of Noah's saying there had been a terrible accident on the highway and knowing before she left home and arrived at the scene that her beautiful boy was gone.

The incident has affected everything from her own health, to anxiety levels when other family members are away and her place in the local community.

"I could write forever about our beautiful boy Noah, but nothing can do him justice or take away our life sentence of pain and loss."

Summary of the incident

The incident occurred at about 4.20pm on Thursday August 11, 2022 when a vehicle driven by the offender failed to negotiate a left turn on the South Gippsland Highway at Jeetho, between Loch and Bena, and crossed onto the wrong side of the highway, hitting with a vehicle being driven by Noah Peacock. The defendant was 25 years of age at the time and lived with his mother. He was unlicensed, having had his license

cancelled and disqualified from driving on February 18, 2022 for a period of two years. The victim Noah Peacock was 19 years old at the time of the collision. The South Gippsland Highway, at the location is a two-way, single-lane rural road separated by double white lines. Both sides of the road are grassed, the road was wet, but the sun was out and visibility was good. The road was in good condition.

Noah was driving a silver 2005 Ford Falcon sedan, travelling in a northwest redirection, a talented Junior footballer, he was on his way to football training. He was driving on the correct side of road. The defendant was driving a 2004 Falcon station wagon in a south-easterly direction, the car registered in his mother's name.

A witness to the incident, Eleanor Biro, was also driving in a south-easterly direction at about 4.20pm, just past the town of Loch, at 100km/h, when her car approached an overtaking lane at a rise in the road. She looked in her rear-vision mirror and saw the offender's car approaching her quickly from behind. The car was travelling much faster than she was. She explained it as going "like a rocket", causing her to slow her speed and pull over but concerned by how fast the offender was travelling because they were both approaching the overtaking lane. The offender overtook her closely by the overtaking lane and was gone in a flash.

She indicated she believed it was going too fast for the road conditions. Ms Biro continued driving and followed the road around a left bend, lost sight of the car for a brief moment and then came upon the accident scene.

The white station wagon driven by the defendant had crossed over double lines and hit the silver car being driven by Noah head-on. The station wagon had come to rest on the opposite side of the road and was blocking traffic travelling in both directions. The silver car had been pushed by the force to the side and was fully alight by the time Ms Biro and other witnesses stopped at the scene.

In the summary read for the court, the defendant exited his car and ran from the scene. It was also suggested that the man's dog had jumped into his lap, distracting him just before the collision, although this was not used by the defence as mitigation for the crash.

Party influence not welcome

From page 1

"We've just become aware that the State Labor Party is trying to influence who will be elected in Bass Coast Shire. The party has emailed its members telling them not to vote for (as described in the email) Rochelle Halstead, Meg Edwards and Pru Scholtes," said Ms Marston in a letter to the editor this week.

"Now, we have no issue with anyone belonging to a political party and voting accordingly at State and Federal elections. After all, that's what democracy is about, but for a political party to try to take over local government and influence the decisions Councillors make, is completely inappropriate. Local government should deal with local issues," she said.

"Councillors are the community's elected representatives, whose sole responsibility is listening to their constituents and achieving the outcomes the community wants, not obeying their masters in Spring Street who have no idea what local people want or need."

Skirmishes about misinformation, published online and in printed election material, have also broken out in both shires but generally, it has been about the issues when candidates and electors have met face-to-face.

At a candidates' event in Inverloch last Sunday, the question of what to do about the town's beach erosion problem was the hot topic, but poor town planning outcomes, lack of transparency, council's focus on ideology rather than local projects and services, money wasted on the Cowes cultural centre, local public transport, aged care, childcare and even the prospect of a nuclear plant alongside the desalination plant in Wonthaggi were others raised.

At forums in South Gippsland, concern was raised about the location of renewable energy infrastructure, better communication between the council and ratepayers, the plight of the Korumburra senior citizens, the lack of progress on the Korumburra railway station site and the lack of facilities for the expanding town of Nyora were among those canvassed.

Elections are being held in each of the three wards in Bass Coast and South Gippsland. Check the VEC website to see if you are enrolled to vote or you can also visit the VEC office in the Old Post Office building in Wonthaggi or the former Carino's building in Smith Street Leongatha.

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CONTACT

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

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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

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

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND



TUE | Oct 8

Cloudy.
Wind AM: SW 15-20km/h
Wind PM: Light

7° 14°



WED | Oct 9

Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

5° 17°



THUR | Oct 10

Shower or two.
Wind AM: N-NW 25-35km/h
Wind PM: W-SW 25-40km/h

8° 21°



FRI | Oct 11

Shower or two.
Wind AM: W-SW 20-30km/h
Wind PM: W-SW 20-30km/h

9° 16°



SAT | Oct 12

Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: W 15-20km/h
Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h

9° 16°



SUN | Oct 13

Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

7° 19°

IN BRIEF

All things health and safety

STAYING safe on the tools and tips on how to create a mentally safer work site are on the agenda when WorkSafe's tradies breakfast in Warragul for Health and Safety Month.

WorkSafe will be at Dahlsens Warragul on Thursday, October 10 as part of its tour around the state promoting safe and healthy workplaces.

In the 2023-24 financial year, there were 248 injury claims accepted by WorkSafe in the South Gippsland area, including 37 mental injury claims, and one workplace fatality.

The top claims by industry were: Health Care and Social Assistance (55), Construction (40) and Manufacturing (28).

For more information or to register visit worksafe.vic.gov.au/events/hs-month-2024-warragul-trade-breakfast.

Wilsons Promontory bush walk

THE NINETIETH anniversary of club bushwalking in Victoria will be celebrated at Wilsons Promontory this weekend when three hundred and thirty bushwalkers take part in a program of walks and talks at Tidal River.

Sixty affiliated bushwalking clubs will join the Bayside Bushwalking Club and Parks Victoria for two days of friendly walking from October 11 to 13 through the Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Twenty different walks have been chosen, graded from easy to difficult.

Walkers will be welcomed by Robyn Shingles from Bushwalking Victoria the peak body for bushwalkers and bushwalking clubs in Victoria since 1934.

Professor David Lindenmayer from the Australian National University in Canberra will be the guest speaker.

An advocate for expanding

national parks, Professor Lindenmayer will highlight the importance of good ecological and economic management of national parks.

Parks Victoria's Chief Ranger for Wilsons Promontory, Brett Mitchell will provide an update on walking tracks in the park, maintenance schedules and progress on the predator exclusion fence.

Sixty walks will be conducted across Victoria in November.

Bushwalking Victoria recommends joining a bushwalking club to celebrate bushwalking within our community and to share our national parks with other Victorians.

'Try Bushwalking Month' will be launched by Richelle Olsen, Executive Officer of Bushwalking Victoria. For more information go to bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

It's a question of transparency

LAST week we put three questions to the Bass Coast Shire Council, as follows:

• Question: When will the Bass Coast Shire Council finally open these fast-charging EV stations in the Cowes Transit Centre after months sitting idle following their construction? (Photo October 2, 2024). It opened the next day.

• Response: "Evie Networks have confirmed the sites are now operational."

• Question: When will the shire acknowledge that no one uses their 'Olive Justice Place' park in Cowes and restore it to parking or some other use?

• Response: "Olive Justice Place in Cowes holds significant local history, reflecting Olive's vision for the space as a peaceful garden for rest and reflection. Council currently has no plans to revert the site to a carpark, with long-term plans identified in the Cowes Streetscape Masterplan that celebrate Olive's legacy while addressing parking needs in

other locations throughout the Cowes activity area."

• Question: When will the Bass Coast Shire Council carry out a review of the operation, policies and charges at its \$32 million Berniniette centre in Cowes, one year on from its opening? While the rest of the Cowes' main street was busy with a school-holiday crowd on Wednesday, October 2, there was no sign of such vibrancy outside the \$32 million Berniniette centre.

• Response: No response.

Send you council questions to the Sentinel-Times email address news@sgst.com.au if you aren't getting an answer and we'll publicise the issue for you.

Delburn wind farm community grants

DELBURN wind farm is again inviting applications for community pre-development grants for not-for-profit groups located around the wind farm site in the Strzelecki Ranges.

Applications open on Monday, October 14 to help local groups make a difference.

Ten thousand dollars is available to be shared across local projects and initiatives that strengthen and enhance communities.

Executive Director Development of OSMI Australia Peter Marriott says Delburn wind farm has awarded forty thousand dollars in pre-development Grants since 2020.

The grants help boost local connections, health and the environment.

"The Delburn Wind Farm Pre-Development Grants are one way of showing support for our neighbours and to help community groups achieve their goals," said Mr Marriott.

Applications will be viewed favourably if they build sustainable communities, enhance community safety, health and wellbeing, support community education and enhance the natural environment.

Applications for the pre-development grants close on Sunday, November 24 and successful applicants will be announced in December.

Guidelines and application forms are available at delburnwindfarm.au/community-benefitscheme

Questions regarding applications can be directed to 1800 676 428 or emailed to contactus@delburnwindfarm.com.au

Do you have any information relating to car thefts?

BASS Coast Crime Investigation Unit have recovered one stolen vehicle and are investigating a second stolen vehicle, which is yet to be recovered after two aggravated burglaries overnight between September 31 – October 1.

It's unknown whether the aggravated burglaries are linked and the number of offenders is unknown, however, police are appealing to witnesses and residents in Korumburra and Leongatha with CCTV and dashcam footage.

The first vehicle a 2019 white Toyota Corolla stolen during a home invasion in Leongatha was recovered burnt out on the rail trail at 4am on October 1.

The second vehicle a white Hyundai i30, stolen during an aggravated burglary in Korumburra, was recovered on October 2 in Korumburra.

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

There are also reports of a series of criminal damage incidents in Korumburra and Leongatha with broken vehicle windows and other vehicle damage.

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

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Five nos and one yes to a rock wall

WHETHER or not the council should advocate for the building of a rock wall on the surf beach at Inverloch, to save the surf lifesaving club and at-risk homes along Surf Parade, is potentially the most divisive issue for Inverloch residents in the upcoming Bass Coast Shire Council election.

And it was the key question put to six of the nine Bunurong candidates who turned out at a Meet the Candidates' event in the town's football club rooms on Sunday night.

For those who believe a rock wall will destroy the beach and are prepared to put their faith in due renourishment and reconstruction work alone, there'll be no shortage of choices when the ballot packs start to arrive in the post from Monday, October 7.

With varying degrees of commitment, five candidates including Leticia Laing, Mat Morgan, Pru Scholtes, Brett Tessari and Brian Robinson all said 'no' to a rock wall. Meg Edwards was the only one of the six to give an emphatic 'yes' with the caveat being that the construction of a rock wall need only be temporary, saving the surf club and protecting houses, until a more permanent solution can be found.

"Just a yes or no to 'hard' engineering please, that means rocks to protect what we have until we see what is needed?" asked local resident Paul Cross, querying whether they would be prepared to support a motion to council along those lines.

They all had their say:

Leticia Laing: As soon as you put rocks there you will lose your beach, and protecting the beach has been the priority of the community, it's the backbone of the economy. You've seen what's happened on either end of the wall on Bunurong Road.

Mat Morgan: Popularism and a rock wall is not going to save Inverloch but the Cape-to-Cape plan doesn't say we aren't going to get hard engineering, which could include groynes to limit the movement of sand. But a rock wall, no.

Pru Scholtes: No, I want to listen to the experts. I'm not an engineer and we've got to hear from the experts on the best solution long term. We need to get this right.

Brian Robinson: We need a permanent solution. There are



The Bunurong candidates including Brian Robinson, Pru Scholtes, Meg Edwards, Mat Morgan, Leticia Laing and (not pictured) Brett Tessari were asked a range of questions at a meet the candidates event in Inverloch.

a lot of meetings going on at the moment, but putting a motion to council is not going to make a difference. So, probably no. We need solutions that are going to preserve the beach as it is."

Brett Tessari: I haven't heard the motion or how it will be funded but no, it's just a cheap grab for votes. The bags don't look great, but they've done their job so far. We need a permanent solution."

Only Meg Edwards came out strongly in favour of a rock wall.

Meg Edwards: The rocks don't need to be permanent, but they could be put in place while a permanent solution is sought. Rocks would save the surf club and Surf Parade while we see what's needed permanently, and that could be combined with the shared pathway.

The event had something of a shaky start, but, after that issue was dealt with, moderator Kim White, a local resident and member of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club, set the scene with a few comments of his own and an information video about proportional voting and the importance of getting your preferences right for who will best serve the interests of the Inverloch community on the council.

"This is not a popularity contest. We want to sort out the people who can best represent the interests of Inverloch and be true in representing what we as a community want and be vigorous in doing so," said Mr White.

Having introduced six of the nine Bunurong candidates present, Mr White said the three that would not be attending had all extended their apologies including Les Larke (no reason given),

Caitlyn Robertson (child's illness) and Eddie Halajian (family holiday). Candidates were then given a two-minute opening address.

- Leticia Laing acknowledged the traditional owners and several challenges in the brief time available including the need to review the activity centre plan, revitalise the streetscape and get action on coastal erosion.

- Mat Morgan acknowledged the traditional owners of the 'stolen Bunurong country' while also raising accessibility for aged residents as a key problem, and proper town planning which provided affordable housing, green spaces, dog parks and other needed amenities.

- Meg Edwards said council had spent double its budget on a building in Cowes, declared a position on the federal referendum, deemed art should be bought on the basis of gender, put council's time and money into the establishment of an external 'Environment Fund' and penalised the tourism sector with a tax on short-term rentals while neglecting Inverloch and taking action on the old Wonthaggi High School site. She said the urgent issue was beach erosion and her first order of business, if elected as a councillor, would be to move a motion to immediately protect what we have. Resolving the shared pathway impasse and providing a hydro spa pool in Wonthaggi for the aged and disabled were other priorities.

- Pru Scholtes said she moved to Inverloch a few years ago to look after her grandchild but three years on, there were still no places available. She bought

a house in Wonthaggi only to become embroiled in the Environmental Audit Overlay fiasco, noting that she didn't receive a single response from councillors.

- Brian Robinson was critical of the present council for pursuing its own agenda rather than addressing the basic needs of the community something he was determined to set right if he was given the opportunity to represent the community. Addressing the erosion problem was a first-order task.

- Brett Tessari said he was proud of what the council had achieved in the past four years, noting that Phillip Island needed some attention, and they'd got it with the cultural centre and other projects. It was now Inverloch and Wonthaggi's turn, he said.

More than a dozen questions were put to council on issues including service to the aged, whether council should have backed a 'Yes' vote at the referendum, whether or not candidates back Bass Coast's controversial 'Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy' and how the council could attract more events for Inverloch to even out visitor peaks.

Others asked whether Wonthaggi's desalination plant would attract a nuclear project, why Cowes attracted more council investment than Inverloch, why Inverloch couldn't be protected from high-rise residential developments and the loss of native vegetation. One local resident wanted to get away from roads, rates, rubbish, reactors and rocks as topics of discussion and asked how council planned to demonstrate its support for the local LGBTIQA+ community.

Kitchen gardens to help older Victorians bloom

THE Allan Labor Government is brightening the lives of Victorians living in Public Sector Residential Aged Care Services (PSRACS) – with \$1.68 million in grants funded to improve or construct kitchen gardens.

More than 70 aged care services have received funding through the second round of the Public Sector Residential Aged Care Services (PSRACS) and Community Kitchen Garden Initiative.

Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service received \$27,000 to repair old planters and expand the number of raised beds at Killara Hostel. It means even more opportunities for residents to get involved in gardening, adding: pots, quality soil, and new plants to enrich the variety of produce they grow.

Bass Coast Health Kirrak House and Griffiths Point Lodge received \$5000 each to install shade so residents can further enjoy gardening, relaxing and participating in communal events in a solar protected space. Opportunities also open up for new activities, like outdoor art classes, gardening workshops, even informal gatherings where residents can share stories and experiences.

"Gardening brings so many health and social benefits, and these grants are helping older members of our community to stay active, and connected with each other, doing the activities they love and enjoy whilst getting the care support they need," Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said.

The grants program was established in 2021 following a recommendation from the Royal Commission into Aged

Care Quality and Safety, that called for aged care services to place a greater emphasis on improving community engagement, reducing social isolation, and enhancing resident wellbeing.

The goals and design of the gardens are decided by the residents of the aged care service giving them the autonomy to prepare and enjoy the food they have grown, with the social aspect of maintaining these gardens also playing an important role in strengthening the connections of residents.

The Allan Labor Government is Australia's largest provider of public aged care, investing more than \$700 million since 2016 to deliver new and upgraded facilities across the state, including more than \$160 million in the Victorian Budget 2023/24 to improve aged care facilities in regional Victoria.

Westernport Ward

6 TEMBY, Jon

1 HALSTEAD, Rochelle

5 MINTY, Glenda

4 O'FARRELL, Brian

3 SCHELLEKENS, Nikole

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Candidate keeping it local

BESIEGED by special interest groups one candidate for Bass Coast Shire Council has drawn the line on local issues.

'Free Palestine' is one issue Island Ward candidate Darrell Silva says is clearly a foreign policy issue for the Federal Government.

Mr Silva wonders how major political parties influence local council agendas.

"I am aware it is not just lobby groups but political parties that instruct their members how to vote," said Darrell Silva.

"This is done with direct communication to members, and as a result council becomes divided and ends up focusing on state and federal issues rather than the needs of the local community."

Mr Silva says many letters he has received are clearly foreign policy issues.

"They are from single-issue lobby groups."

"The Local Government Act describes the roles and powers of a council and includes items around community consultation in the best interests of the community," said Mr Silva.

If elected to council Darrell Silva undertakes to prioritise local issues.

"How transparent are candidates about their allegiance to particular groups," asked Mr Silva.

"Foreign policy sits with the Federal Government. Climate change is a State and Federal issue although council should be mindful of the risks of climate change."

Mr Silva says he has declined to respond to these groups but if you don't respond you get a follow-up email.

"If it was a local issue I would respond," said Mr Silva.

"I'm impartial on a lot of topics."

Representing ratepayers and the community rather than special interest groups remains Mr Silva's first priority.

Lawn mower battery to blame for fire, they say

IF YOU are in the practice of putting equipment batteries on the charge after using your drill, battery-powered lawn mower, leaf blower or whipper snipper and leaving them unattended for hours – don't. According to the Grampian Boulevard residents, a house in their Cowes' neighbourhood, all but destroyed by fire last week, was likely the result of unattended batteries in the garage.

"We were the first on the scene," said a nearby neighbour.

"We saw the batteries on the bench on fire," he said.

By that time the garage was fully alight, and their attention turned to the occupants of the house.

A man and a woman were at home at the time the fire started and while the woman escaped without injury, the man was affected by smoke inhalation and burns after returning inside several times to retrieve items and also to look for the couple's two dogs.

The dogs were safe out the back while the male occupant received treatment for burns. Moral of the story? Lithium-ion batteries used in a range of equipment can overheat and start fires.

Western Port famers call for permit relief

FARMERS in the Western Port Ward of Bass Coast Shire hammered candidates at a local government election forum at Grantville on the rising cost of planning permits.

With every seat taken at the Grantville Community Hall, lightning flashing over Western Port Bay and heavy rain drumming on the roof speakers struggled to be heard.

"Planning permits are required for everything," said one audience member.

Bass Coast is one of only four shires in Victoria to have exceptional permit restrictions the meeting was told.

"The cost of planning permits is very expensive," the audience member continued.

"We want a commitment to lower costs for poor farmers."

Four candidates attended the forum, retired accountant Brian O'Farrell, beef farmer, teacher and social worker Nikole Schellekens, third generation Korumburra-born teacher and social worker Glenda Minty,



Grantville CFA asked candidates to commit to attending fundraising events. B39_4124

and community leader-consultant Jon Temby with an apology and prepared statement from Jan Thompson.

Brian O'Farrell told the audience cutting permit costs for farmers would come at a price.

"If you drop the cost to farmers, you increase the cost to other parts of the community."

John Temby criticised inconvenient public transport timetables between Grantville and Wonthaggi, inaction over the former Wonthaggi High School site, which he believes would make a good library space or business incubator, and poor access for local residents to the main highway at San Remo during peak

periods.

"You can't get onto the highway," said John Temby.

The ongoing cost of running the Berninnett cultural centre in Cowes was raised as a burden on local ratepayers.

Volunteerism was also raised as a matter of concern with candidates called on to provide support and encouragement for volunteers.

"Volunteerism is on the decline."

"It's an insurance problem."

"Younger people are busy."

Sitting in the audience was retiring Western Port councillor and Bass Coast Mayor Clare Le Serve who was commended several times during the meeting for her work supporting farmers and members of the local community.

"Farmers now have a differential rate, and we can thank Clare."

"We need to make it easy to engage with Council," said Brian O'Farrell. "Be seen and talk to people who want to talk to you."

'Historic debt' crushes PICAL learning centre

THE Phillip Island Community and Learning (PICAL), which has delivered a range of community programs since its establishment in 1980, has declared itself "technically insolvent" as a result of underpaying staff hundreds of thousands of dollars.

According to a statement by PICAL President Graeme Turner the "historic debt originated over 10 years ago due to the incorrect classification of certain roles, which led to some individuals being paid on an incorrect pay scale".

Presumably, however, the scale of the debt, variously reported at between \$250,000 and \$500,000 only came to light recently with PICAL only moving into new offices provided by the Bass Coast Shire Council in January 2023.

PICAL has declared that "all existing services will continue to support our community" including the PICAL Pantry which supplies up to 300 meals weekly and the Community Garden in Settlement Road.

Mr Turner issued the following statement on Friday, October 4, 2024:

"It is with profound regret that the Committee of Management of Phillip Island Community and Learning Inc (PICAL)

announces its current financial position. Unfortunately, estimated historic debts far exceed PICAL's financial reserves or its ability to raise the necessary funds within a reasonable timeframe, rendering PICAL technically insolvent.

"We are fully aware of the impact this will have on PICAL's dedicated staff, clients, volunteers, and the many community members who rely on our services. PICAL, as an Incorporated Association, is required to call a Special General Meeting to move a motion to wind up the organisation on 14th November 2024.

"During this time, the Committee of Management will work diligently with PICAL's funding agencies (DFFH and Services Australia), Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland, Jordan Crugnale MP State Member for Bass and the Bass Coast Shire Council to explore every avenue to preserve as many of PICAL's vital services as possible for our community.

"PICAL would like to emphasise it is both illegal and against the responsibilities of the Committee of Management to continue trading when we cannot meet, or demonstrate the ability to meet, our debts. Despite our best efforts to

resolve this historic issue, we are compelled by law to make this incredibly difficult decision.

"This historic debt originated over 10 years ago due to the incorrect classification of certain roles, which led to some individuals being paid on an incorrect pay scale. At the time, Enterprise Agreements were quite generic and open to interpretation, which contributed to the error that persisted, undetected, over the years.

"This has led to a significant debt that PICAL is unable to pay. It is important to note that this was an administrative inaccuracy and not the result of management, misappropriation or fraudulent behaviour by anyone involved with PICAL. While there are no current demands for payment, these historic debts are so significant that they far exceed PICAL's financial reserves or capacity to repay, thus making PICAL technically insolvent.

"After careful consideration and comprehensive legal and financial consultations, the Committee of Management has concluded that the only responsible course of action will be to make the decision to wind up. This will result in PICAL ceasing to exist as a legal entity if the resolution on November 14

to wind up is approved.

"Notice of a Special General Meeting for Phillip Island Community and Learning Inc will be issued to members on 4th October. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss this issue, possible options and any resolutions that need to be tabled.

"While this is a challenging time for PICAL, all existing services will continue to support our community as they have done in the past for now and for as long as we are permitted, with a focus of supporting continuity moving forward. We will provide more information to all concerned as soon as we are able. Graeme Turner President PICAL Committee of Management."

The Bass Coast Shire Council's CEO Greg Box also issued a statement on Friday to the effect that it had been notified of the situation, and that "finding a solution to this issue is a priority for Council".

The community-based organisation, which lists the Bass Coast Shire Council as a major donor, has Bass Coast Shire Councillor and a candidate in the upcoming Island Ward election, David Rooks as its Centre Manager.

He was appointed as the centre manager in July 2023.

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Newhaven Jetty closed permanently, Bath says

THE SHOCK closure of the Newhaven Jetty has now been classified as permanent which has been slammed by locals.

Documents requested under Freedom of Information (FOI) by Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Public Land Use and Nationals' MP Melina Bath, have revealed the popular fishing jetty will not be re-opened.

Ms Bath said Bass Coast residents should be outraged by the FOI documents which have exposed the State Government's appalling decision to do nothing when the jetty could have been kept open.

The documents show the jetty's closure was labelled not negotiable after the Government failed to fund and perform corrective and preventative maintenance, after the southern arm of the Newhaven jetty was closed six years earlier.

"Labor's refusal to divulge specifics of the engineering assessment that led to the jetty's closure is clearly a strategy to avoid scrutiny," said Ms Bath.

"Public communications approved at the time were more about managing political fallout and not about creating a pathway to reopening the jetty."

The Nationals' MP said deteriorating decking had become a tripping hazard on the northern arm and a small area on the approach, both easily repairable.

Ben Dennis from Saltwater Phillip Island restaurant said



Ben Dennis from Saltwater, Fishing Nanna Amanda Keilar and Melina Bath MP fight to re-open Newhaven jetty.

the jetty was incredibly important to their 20-year lease, which they invested in after it was sold to them as the 'Newhaven Jetty Shed'.

"I personally feel the government have let us down and misled us, with no support at all," he said.

"This is one of the most heavily utilised assets in the region for locals and tourists, which could be put back into operation for minimal costs."

Fishing Nanna, Amanda Keilar, highlighted the community felt 'abandoned, disappointed and let down'.

"The whole time we were out collecting signatures on our petition to the government to have the jetty repaired and reopened it had already been classified as

permanently closed and not negotiable. That information was hidden from us by the State Government even after letters had been written, why couldn't they have just been upfront with us?" she said.

"We also feel angry that the FOI questions revealed the jetty was repairable! It was deemed a tripping hazard due to deterioration of the decking and cross beams. It could have been fixed to serve the community for another 10 years before it needed full replacing."

Ms Bath said contrary to Parks Victoria's objective to repair the jetty, 'Labor's focus was on cost-cutting and closure'.

"Three options were put forward by Parks Victoria," according to Ms Bath.

The first option was to do

nothing.

The second option, according to Ms Bath, was corrective maintenance to replace failed beams and decking boards, and the third option was preventative maintenance which would have seen a temporary or partial closure of the jetty while it was upgraded over 18 months.

"It is clear from the FOI documents that maintenance would have allowed the jetty to remain open for a further ten years before being replaced," claimed Ms Bath.

"Labor did nothing and has turned its back on the Bass Coast community."

"The local community has for over one hundred years valued the Newhaven jetty as an important accessible land-based recreational fishing platform."

"It must be repaired and reopened."

"Too often regional Victorians are having their public assets neglected and closed due to the State Government's inner-city big build that's been shrouded in corruption, financial mismanagement and waste."

Contacted for comment local MP, Jordan Crugnale, said: "We understand that Newhaven Jetty plays an important role in the local community for recreation, including fishing and walking."

"The jetty will continue to be prioritised under the Sustainable Local Ports Framework for future investment."

Candidate hits back at 'abusive comments'

BASS Coast Shire Council candidate Mat Morgan has hit back at comments which he described as being made by 'conservative keyboard warriors'.

In a social media post, Mr Morgan poked fun at 'mean comments' including calls for him to be 'dozed into landfill' and a suggestion that he 'lives at home with his mum', to which he responded with "I would stay with my mum but the groundskeeper at the cemetery said there's no camping", making light of his mother's passing.

"I'm not going to allow angry, conservative keyboard warriors to abuse and spread misinformation about me. I can and will correct them and make sure everyone has a good laugh while we're at it," Mr Morgan told the Sentinel-Times.

"The man claiming that I live with my mother is fully aware that my mum is dead. It's just beyond the pale."

"I'm running a positive campaign, knocking on thousands of doors to speak directly with community members, and I'm being portrayed as a child who doesn't know what I'm doing."

Mr Morgan has worked as an adviser to the ACT Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Seniors and Mental Health.

He is the youngest candidate running for Bass Coast Shire Council.

"I know how government works, I know how to get things done, and I know my way around a budget."

Voting ballots for local government elections are arriving in mailboxes this week.

Voters have until October 25 to return their ballots.

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If you are travelling overseas or need a public health vaccine, pharmacists participating in the Pilot can administer a range of travel vaccinations as well as hepatitis A, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, typhoid vaccines (for people aged 5 years and older).



For more information and to find a local pharmacy providing these services visit: go.vic.gov.au/49C6sFc

These treatments are part of the Community Pharmacist Pilot, funded by the Victorian Government.

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Strzelecki election signs removed

STRZELECKI Ward of the South Gippsland Shire, Nathan Hersey, has posted on social media that several of his election signs, and those of his colleague Jenni Keerie, erected on his own farm fence line, have been removed in recent days.

With only five candidates in the running for three seats in Strzelecki, no one is suggesting that it was one of the other three who removed those signs but for whatever reason, the signs have gone.

"While it will be clear where my support lies, I am still a firm believer in the democratic process and equal opportunity in elections; and that people who put their hands up to serve others in public office should be treated with respect and gratitude," Cr Hersey said online in response.

"Since someone has removed Nathan Hersey and Jenni Keerie's election signs from our farm fence line along the South Gippsland highway overnight I am going to post here (election pamphlet) for you," he said.

Repairs underway for Mirboo North pool

REPAIR works on the Mirboo North Pool have commenced to address damage sustained during the February 2024 storm event.

Damage to the much-loved community asset was significant, particularly to the plant room which contains the heat pumps, and dosing and filtration systems. These items are critical to the safe functioning of the pool and require specialist parts. Without this equipment operational, water quality and public safety cannot be assured.

Repairs are also required to the change rooms, splash park, plant shed, fencing, shelters, pavilion building and equipment.

Due to complexities with the equipment and securing safe access to the plant room, the insurance assessment proved difficult and took longer to complete than originally anticipated. The completed assessment revealed that there is approximately \$1.2 million worth of damage at the pool, which will be progressively repaired over the coming months.

The repairs will be fully covered under Council's insurance policy, and the insurer has engaged a specialist contractor to complete the works. The contractor has been advised of the importance of the pool to the local community and will work to progress repairs as quickly as possible, however, external factors – such as weather and attaining the necessary parts – can impact timelines.

Council remains hopeful that the pool repairs will be completed prior to the end of the summer season, but is unable to commit to an exact timeframe at this stage. Once repaired, the pool will remain open until the end of March.

Phillip Island is springing to life

Welcome new life on the island at the **Penguin Parade**, **Koala Conservation Reserve** and all the farm excitement on **Churchill Island**.



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Work starts at the Inverloch boat ramp

CONSTRUCTION work has started at the Inverloch boat ramp and jetty with the arrival of weighty floating pontoons and new jetty lighting.

The L-shape jetty will provide temporary berthing and more efficient launching and retrieval for a greater number of boats at any one time.

A generation ago, when the boat ramp was located on the west side of the jetty older residents and visitors may remember watching boat after boat caught by the tide at the end of a long drop, concrete ramp.

Located on the western side of the ramp the upgraded jetty will be thirty metres long with a fifteen-metre offset.

The jetty will feature a low-level landing area to provide additional mooring space and more protection for boaters as well as a lower casting point for young fishermen.

A wave screen will be installed to improve stability and provide protection from wind and wave action.

The jetty will also feature landings at two different heights to provide access during low and high tides.

Site fencing is in place to restrict access to the busy work site.

Pedestrian access to the jetty



Pre-cast concrete ramps and energy-efficient lighting craned into place at the Inverloch boat ramp and jetty. B22_4124

is still available on the east side of the construction area and from the west side beach.

The carpark will be partially closed until late December with limited public parking remaining on the north and northwest sides of the construction area.

The overflow carpark will

not be affected.

Local residents have been warned the project will result in noise and vibration from heavy plant and machinery used during construction, including offshore pile driving,

rock placing and the use of trucks and cranes for removal and delivery of materials.

Variable message signs will be in place to advise of closures.

Alternative boat launching facilities are located at Mahers Landing, Venus Bay, Corinella, Ryall and Newhaven.

For more information on local boat ramps go to boating.vic.gov.au

Free camping initiative threatens caravan park operators

WHILE the prospect of the Victorian Government introducing free camping at sites under its control over summer has caused concern for caravan park operators, Noel Sheard of Prom Central Caravan Park in Foster is unsure what impact the initiative would have on the business but sees it as a potential serious threat.

"We're on the fringe of where all this stuff is because we're close to the (Wilson's Promontory) National Park," he said.

While the business usually takes the overflow of those unable to secure camping spots within the park during peak times, its proximity to the Great Southern Rail Trail means it also attracts riders.

While not yet able to quantify what impact it would have if

the State Government proceeds with its free camping proposal, Noel considers the ramifications could be significant.

"I can understand there would be a lot of people that would be worried about this, and I have concerns myself," he said.

He is particularly worried about the possibility of losing business during non-peak times.

With Tidal River Campground offering 484 camping and caravan sites that can be booked through Parks Victoria, the appeal of free camping there would likely win over some who might otherwise stay in a privately operated caravan park.

With Prom Central Caravan Park generally attracting more mature travellers rather than families with young children,

that could represent a loss of business when the school holiday period has ended but summer weather continues.

Noel stressed that a reduction in income would be keenly felt.

"This business makes little money to start with because we're usually the last caravan park to fill up," he said.

"We're half an hour away from Wilsons Prom and about an hour away from the Tarra Valley, and that's why we're Prom Central; you can access all these places from us."

Operator of the Orbost Caravan Park and the Marlo Ocean Views Caravan Park, Les Heyne lashed out on Mim Hook's ABC Gippsland program recently.

"It's going to affect us badly," he said, expressing the view the impact will be felt most acutely

in terms of bookings for unpowered sites.

He suggested caravan park operators will have to consider installing more cabins and turning their backs on tent and caravan campers, unable to compete with the proliferation of free camping for those markets.

With the State Government justifying its consideration of free camping on the grounds of cost of living pressures on families, Les considers it would be better for it to focus on ways of reducing day-to-day living expenses.

While not opposed to measures to save people money on camping, he feels a government-run voucher system is fairer, enabling private business operators to benefit.

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NATIONALS for Regional Victoria



Candidates show up for Korumburra

STRZELECKI Ward's five council candidates made themselves available for Thursday afternoon's meet-the-candidate session at Korumburra Scout Hall, sharing their reasons for running and what they hope to achieve if successful.

Representatives of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Club, including its president Janne Grenon attended, with the session organised by the group's passionate advocate Angie Bowen and chaired by regular council critic and past candidate David Amor.

The two-hour gathering, the first of two for the day, began smoothly.

However, issues such as council's decision to sell the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre and the unsuitability of the Korumburra Community Hub's location started to dominate proceedings.

That took much of the focus away from the future, with candidates increasingly bogged down in discussions about the past.

Janne felt the session went well overall, offering people the chance to get to know the prospective councillors and stressing it wasn't intended to be all about the senior citizens.

She was true to that philosophy during the session, asking a question on a different issue, as to how the new traffic arrangements in Commercial Street will function once Korumburra's replacement IGA opens.

Contrastingly, organiser Angie unleashed a withering attack on council over its decisions concerning the Senior Citizens Club.

While David did a solid job chairing the meeting, he couldn't resist taking to his soapbox to share some of his gripes with council, his lengthy speeches cutting into the time available for candidates.

During the event Strzelecki Ward council candidates introduced themselves to voters, speaking about their reasons for standing for election, a bit about their backgrounds and what they hope to achieve.

All five gave a brief speech during the afternoon meet the candidate session, with the potential councillors also taking questions from attendees.

The candidates in speaking order were:

Nathan Hersey -

Nathan expressed pride in what he's achieved as a councillor over the last three years, including being part of restoring trust in South Gippsland Shire Council following its period under administrators.

He spoke of his previous experience working for Federal members of parliament and ministers in government.

"I have a history of strong advocacy, of working to secure funding, of working to represent people, and that was the reason I put myself forward at the last election and why I'm putting myself forward again," the Loch-based Highland Cattle breeder said.

"I know I have what it takes to achieve for our area."

Nathan added that he has a strong record of making himself available to community members throughout his term on council and is confident he has the necessary understanding and expertise to help make positive decisions for the future.

Jenni Keerie -

Jenni has been a Strzelecki Ward councillor for the last three years, motivated to run by the previous period of council dysfunction.

"I wanted to be able to use my skills, my knowledge and capacity, my working with community and in collaboration with others to effect real change in the long run," she said.

She noted her skills include governance and strategic planning.

While originally a Queenslander, Jenni outlined her strong connection to the community in South Gippsland Shire, having lived in Korumburra since 2012 and working at Milpara Community House from the following year.

She recently retired from her long-term role as manager of Milpara.

"That's 11 years at the grassroots of the community in Korumburra," Jenni said.

Previously, she had over 20 years experience working with community in both advocacy for people with disability, and protecting the lives of vulnerable people in human service settings.

Jenni spoke of her past experience as a primary carer for her husband while raising two young children.

"I understand living in

difficult times on limited budgets," she said.

Jim Forbes -

Poowong beef farmer and former dairy farmer Jim is looking to make a return to council, having served as a Shire of Korumburra councillor from 1990, and also having been elected in 1997 following council amalgamation, serving a couple of terms.

He expressed confidence he remains in touch with council proceedings.

"My passion is to make sure we get the best opportunities and we seize them and deliver on them for this part of the shire," Jim said of the Strzelecki Ward, acknowledging that as a councillor he would also represent the whole shire.

In his part of the shire, he is keen to see a stronger focus on Poowong and Nyora, noting the need for a Nyora kindergarten and development of the town to support the increasing population.

Jim wants to see council go back to its core responsibilities.

"I don't believe councillors should be expending time, energy or cost on State Government or Federal Government issues," he said.

However, Jim noted the importance of working with higher levels of government and establishing relationships that put South Gippsland Shire communities in a position to benefit from grant funding.

He highlighted provision of good recreation facilities, roads and access for everybody, including footpaths particularly in smaller towns, as the kind of core council responsibilities he wants to help see delivered, along with protecting the right to farm.

Jim outlined his strong community connections and history of volunteering with local organisations.

"The fundamental role of a councillor is to be deeply connected with the community and to be accessible at all times," he declared.

John Kennedy -

John started his Korumburra bike shop eight years ago, saying the town has been good to him since he arrived from Melbourne.

While he didn't initially intend to run for council, he felt a responsibility to step forward.

John spoke of the struggles

people are having with the current cost of living, identifying council rates as an excessive burden.

"We've got to immediately freeze the rates," he said, adding that it may be necessary to decrease them.

He spoke of the need to streamline council and look at what is happening with costings, and wants to see council rates distributed proportionately among South Gippsland Shire towns as much as possible.

John is adamant council needs to work for the community and said he is available to speak to groups or individuals about what they want to see happen in South Gippsland Shire.

The former professional cyclist ran a bike shop in the Melbourne suburb of Black Rock, having previously worked in the building industry where he employed up to 20 people.

Bron Beach -

Bron said being part of a kindergarten committee when her children were small enabled her to become engaged in community development, having studied a Bachelor of Social Welfare.

"In that process I found my voice," she said, adding she "was raised by a sole parent who did it hard."

"That gave me lots of resilience and I knew what it was like to be at the other end of the spectrum, and I didn't have a voice, my mum didn't really have a voice either, so I wanted to be a voice for people who didn't typically stand up here like this," Bron said.

"I'm a good listener and I'm happy to represent the community."

She had a strong involvement with Karmai Community Children's Centre, having been its president, a position she now holds with Leongatha Lyric Theatre.

Bron stressed she has extensive experience in governance and skills that are transferable to the role of a councillor, and is keen to be a part of looking at broader issues in South Gippsland and the Strzelecki Ward, contributing to positive decisions.

Professionally, Bron works at the Gippsland Southern Health Service as an addiction counsellor, having previously worked for GippsTAFE and the Latrobe Community Health Service.



Candidate Nathan Hersey speaks. A09_4124



Jenni Keerie is striving for another term as a councillor. A10_4124



Candidate Jim Forbes at Thursday afternoon's meet the candidate session in Korumburra. A11_4124



John Kennedy is pursuing his first term as a councillor. A12_4124



Bron Beach is keen to represent the community as a new councillor. A13_4124

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South Gippsland
Shire Council

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Garage Sale Trail

Are you ready to embark on a region wide treasure hunt?

The Garage Sale Trail is a two-weekend long adventure you won't want to miss. It is a unique opportunity bringing our community together to buy, sell and share pre-loved items, all while supporting sustainability and reducing waste.

But why should you participate?

It encourages people, businesses, schools and community groups to give their unused goods another life instead of sending them to the tip. It's a fun way to turn household clutter into cash and a great way to meet people in the community.

With huge sustainability impacts, the Garage Sale Trail is making big waves in reducing over three million kilograms of 'waste' from landfill.

For garage sale organisers:

The Garage Sale Trail is a great initiative for those who would like to organise their own sale. All you have to do is sign up for free

through the website, create an identity for your sale (make it fun and give your sale name some character), and list a sneak peek of some items you will be selling to promote your event. There are some great resources to help you promote your sale and attract shoppers.

For shoppers:

The Garage Sale Trail website will allow you to search for garage sales in your area and help you decide which ones to visit over the weekend. You can map out your trail of sales and meet people in the Shire whilst you find your new treasures.

The Garage Sale Trail will run:

- Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November
- Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 November

So, what are you waiting for? Check out the Garage Sale Trail website to sign up or find your perfect sale at:

www.garagesaletrail.com.au/South-Gippsland

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 16 October 2.00pm
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

Dates are also listed on Council's website at:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting-dates

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

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

OCTOBER IS SENIORS MONTH!

South Gippsland Shire Council is pleased to be supporting plenty of great activities happening around our region for our seniors.

Throughout the month, Milpara Community House will be hosting a suite of events at the Korumburra Community Hub and number of other events will be taking place in Mirboo North, Leongatha and Foster including:

- Seniors Lunch at the Mirboo North Hotel: Saturday 28 October from 12.00pm
- Seniors Week Entertainment at the Leongatha Senior Citizens Centre: Friday 11 October from 1.00pm
- Seniors U3A Prom Coast Performing Arts Concert Singalong at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre: Wednesday 23 October from 10.00am

Be sure to keep your calendar handy and pencil in these exciting events - you won't want to miss out!

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

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha
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03 5662 9200

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

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

Council performance over past Financial Year outlined

AS THIS month's council elections loom, South Gippsland Shire Council's Performance Statement and Financial Statements for the past financial year were certified at Wednesday's council meeting, the documents detailing how council acquitted itself across a range of services, and its financial position.

While deciding planning applications within the relevant required time remains a challenge, the allocation of extra resources to tackle the backlog of planning applications has driven improvement compared to the previous financial year, the Performance Statement shows.

The success rate for meeting planning application timeframes rose to 32.24 per cent for the Financial Year that ended this June, compared to the 2022/23 figure of just 25.27 per cent.

Council is upbeat about its maintenance of local sealed roads, with 99.83 per cent not requiring renewal, council attributing that to its funding levels for the renewal of sealed roads.

A sharp rise in the number of successful animal management prosecutions is another feather in council's cap, that figure jumping from 66.67 per cent to 100 per cent from the 2022/23 Financial Year to that for 2023/24.

"Council plays a proactive role directly resolving animal-related issues with the involved parties," it is stated.

On the negative side, there is acknowledgement of a slight decrease in council's Community Satisfaction Result in relation to its consultation and engagement efforts compared to the previous Financial Year.

The figure was at 50 out of 100, falling to 47 for 2023/24, one point lower than the average score for similarly sized large rural councils.

There has also been a drop in following up critical and major non-compliance notifications to local food premises in the shire, from 98.51 per cent for Financial Year 2022/23 to 78.26 per cent for the 2023/24 Financial Year.

"This result is within the expected range, although



South Gippsland Shire councillors Adrian Darakai, Sarah Gilligan, Mohya Davies, Clare Williams (Mayor), council CEO Kerryn Ellis, and councillors Mick Felton, Nathan Hersey (Deputy Mayor), Scott Rae, John Schelling and Jenni Keerie. A06_3824

slightly lower due to a temporary decrease in food premises follow-ups due to staff shortages," the Performance Statement explains.

There were 54 critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises followed up over the most recent financial year, with council stressing that any high risk issues are identified during an assessment and are attended to immediately.

While council has seen a slight decrease in kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill during the 2023/24 Financial Year, with a nine per cent decrease in the weight of recyclables collected, it is noted the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme throughout Victoria last November is a contributing factor.

Library membership is a newly introduced measure for 2023/24, with that figure put at 34.63 per cent of the South Gippsland Shire population.

Standing in for Mayor Clare Williams at Wednesday's council meeting, Deputy Mayor Nathan Hersey highlighted some of the above items discussed in the

Performance Statement and spoke about key figures in the Financial Statements.

He noted council's working capital ratio, which is a measurement of current assets compared to current liabilities, explaining the applicable figure of 1.88 indicates a sound financial position.

"This indicator conveys that for every dollar of current liability, council has \$1.88 in current assets," Cr Hersey said.

He also addressed council's adjusted underlying results that show a deficit, explaining that is partly attributable to council receiving 100 per cent of the 2023/24 Financial Assistance Grant from the Victorian Grants Commission during the previous Financial Year.

A significant increase in natural disaster costs related to the February 2024 storm that devastated Mirboo North and impacted much of South Gippsland Shire was a further factor driving the deficit, Cr Hersey said.

Council budgeted for a surplus of \$8,666,000 but finished with a deficit of \$9,834,000, a variance of \$18,500,000 or 213 per cent.

Notes to the Financial

Statements detail the reasons for the substantial variance.

It is explained that the full \$12.1 million allocation for the 2023/24 Financial Assistance Grant was provided in advance in the previous Financial Year.

Furthermore, higher materials and services expenses are attributed primarily to unbudgeted costs of \$7 million relating to storm events, including the significant storm on February 13.

"Additionally, there was a \$2.5 million adjustment to the landfill provision in recognition of the present value of the expected cost of works to restore the Koonwarra landfill site," it is noted.

Council's Performance Statement and Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2024, will now be sent to the Victorian Auditor General's Office for certification.

Once the Independent Auditor's Report is received, it will be included with the Performance Statement and Financial Statements, with these documents combined with the Report of Operations to be endorsed by council on October 16, forming the full 2023/24 Annual Report.

CEO Message



South Gippsland Shire Council

Kerryn Ellis

WELCOME to October South Gippsland.

Now our calendars have ticked over for October, it isn't long now until our local Council Election is held. Over the next few weeks, you should receive your ballot pack from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC). Please ensure you complete your vote and pop it back in the mail (or drop off at the VEC office in Leongatha).

While we are in the Election Period, Council is keeping a close eye on the information circulating during this time. To correct any inaccuracies that are found in the public forum, Council has a page on our website to help set the record straight. So, if you read or hear something that you think isn't quite right, please check the website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/election and click 'Correcting Inaccuracies'. If you are concerned, you can also contact Council via phone (5662 9200), email (council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au) or private message us on Facebook your question. We will do our best to answer it.

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

School is Back

School holidays are over, and schools are full of students once again. This means school zones are operating again, so please take care around our schools. All students, parents and school crossing supervisors deserve to get home safely to their families.

Upcoming Events at Coal Creek

As the weather improves, Coal Creek is ready to host some amazing events for all to enjoy.

On Sunday, October 13, enjoy the beloved Americana festival Out on the Weekend. Country and western lovers will enjoy the artists on offer such as Hurray for the Riff Raff, Nick Shoulders and Uncle Lucius.

Spooky season is here, and families are rejoicing that Halloween at Coal Creek is back again this year. This event is circled on many locals' calendars and is a fabulous event for the entire family. Dress in your ghoulish best and celebrate all things that bump in the night.

For tickets on either of these events, and to browse other events happening in South Gippsland, please visit: www.visit-southgippsland.com.au/events

Advertisement

Vote 1 Scott Rae

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Brutus the Hereford Bull backs his mate Scott. If you're wanting a strong Voice on council, that champions the future of Agriculture the right to Farm and promoting opportunities for Local Jobs & Business including a traditional focus on Roads, Rubbish & Rates.

Brutus Says
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Written and Authorised by Scott Rae
PO Box 286 Foster Vic 3960.
Ph. 0402 298 574
Scott.Rae.candidate@gmail.com

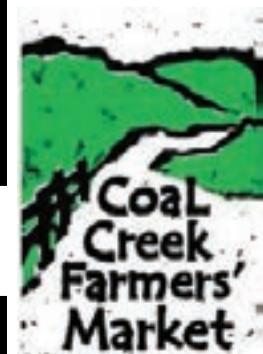


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ExxonMobil

Community Consultation-decommissioning of oil & gas infrastructure in Bass Strait

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

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

Community Information Sessions

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

• Tuesday 22 October 2024 - Yarram

Yarram Hub
156 Grant Street, Yarram - 5.00pm - 7.00pm

• Wednesday, 23 October 2024 - Foster

Manna Gum Community House
33 Station Street, Foster - 5.00pm - 7.00pm

• Thursday, 24 October 2024 - Leongatha

South Gippsland Trade Skills Alliance (SGBLLEN)
71 Ogilvy Street, Leongatha - 5.00pm - 7.00pm

A presentation about decommissioning activities will be provided at **5.30pm** for the above locations.

Please **register your attendance** by emailing: consultation@exxonmobil.com

We encourage you to come along and ask questions or to raise any concerns you may have.

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

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

- Jack-Up-Rig Well Plug and Abandonment
- Gippsland Basin Geophysical and Geotechnical Investigations
- Kipper - Sub-Sea Drilling
- Turrum Phase 3 Drilling
- South East Australia Carbon Capture & Storage (SEA CCS) Project



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Like to be consulted about these activities?

Esso is working to identify and consult with relevant persons [stakeholders] whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by one or more of Esso's proposed activities.

Please fill in the Esso Consultation Questionnaire (sli.do) in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted or have any questions or feedback.

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

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

Please connect us with other interested people

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

To find out more information

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



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



Paramedic Immogen Nolan and MICA paramedic Duncan Roney were guiding locals on how to perform CPR effectively. Ns16_4124

Saving one heart at a time

ONE of the most dire medical episodes someone can experience is cardiac arrest but thanks to the efforts of local paramedics an automated external defibrillator (AED) is now located outside the Wooli Express.

Cowes paramedics held a community session to not only inform locals about the AED, but showcase how to use it and how to help save a life during a cardiac emergency by performing CPR.

High praise was also given to the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi, who donated the AED and supported the initiative.

Speaking at the Wooli Tavern on Saturday, October 6, senior MICA team manager, Duncan Roney said an AED was invaluable as the earlier someone can shock the heart the better chances it has of recovering.

Paramedic Immogen Nolan also highlighted that every minute CPR is delayed, the survival rate is decreased by 10 per cent.

"So if 10 minutes goes by without CPR being initiated, you don't have much chance of surviving," she said.

"It's really important we get a bystander performing CPR, particularly in areas that are quiet or very isolated."



MICA paramedic Duncan Roney was presented with a Paul Harris Fellow award from the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi. He is pictured with past District Governor Linda Humphries. Ns19_4124

"We rely on communities to do CPR effectively."

She noted when performing CPR, aim for a five-centimetre depth compression, or a third of the chest, and it should be hard enough to potentially crack ribs.

"You want to be able to get a full recoil as well, when you're pressing down, you want to come up to allow the blood to fill up again and pump it around."

It is also important to check for a pulse or if the patient is breathing.

"We just want bystanders to get onto the chest compressions straight away and make sure you're prioritising CPR over the AED," she said.

"If you're by yourself and

someone has gone into cardiac arrest, we'd rather you call for help and start compressions, don't worry about the AED, get someone else onto that."

And much to Duncan's surprise, Wonthaggi Rotary presented him with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow award in recognition of his contributions to the community for the activities and programs he's led.

Paramedics also urged locals to sign up to become a GoodSAM responder by downloading the app, where you will be alerted if someone is in cardiac arrest nearby.

For more information, visit ambulance.vic.gov.au/call-push-shock.



Paramedic Immogen showcases how to use an AED. Ns18_4124

State seeks 'right balance' on sand extraction

THE good people of the 'Save the Western Port Woodlands' group are ecstatic.

The residents of Lang Lang, not so much.

It's all about the release last week, by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) of a draft set of planning controls for the mining and transport of sand for the state's construction sector from Lang Lang (Shire of Cardinia), Oaklands Junction (City of Hume) and Trafalgar (Shire of Baw Baw).

But, what the Western Port Woodlands people are so pleased about is not so much what's in the consultation reports but what's not in them!

Speaking about the opening of the public consultation period (from October 2 to November 8) on the rules applying to new 'Strategic Extractive Resource Areas' a spokesperson for the Woodlands group, Catherine Watson, said it reflected what the group had been saying all along, that there are other options for sand extraction without impacting the important coastal woodland corridor between Lang Lang and Bass.

"They're going to keep digging where they are. It's highly unlikely that we were ever going to be able to stop that but it's becoming too difficult to clear woodlands areas for new mines," Ms Watson said.

She said the group would continue to monitor the operations of sand miners in the area from Lang Lang to Bass, and to highlight the value of natural bushland in the area, but she said the group was confident that no new sand mines would be opened up in the area.

Ms Watson went on to encourage the Lang Lang community to take the opportunity to respond to the community consultation process on the Engage Vic website about the draft land use planning controls for the Strategic Extractive Resource Areas around



The impact of sand mining locally extends beyond clearing native bush, to the number of sand trucks rumbling through our towns and along the Bass and South Gippsland highways.

Lang Lang (Cardinia). Consultation opportunities include:

The Department of Transport and Planning together with Resources Victoria is hosting a public information session on Tuesday, October 22 at the Lang Lang Memorial Hall, 135 McDonalds Track, Lang Lang. Drop in between between 4pm and 7pm.

You can also provide feedback by completing a survey and/or uploading a submission online.

In a statement from the State Government, local MP Jordan Crugnale is pleased the environmentally significant areas are not included.

"Our community cares deeply about biodiversity and I am pleased that this draft SERA does not include environmentally significant areas, and I encourage everyone to also feed back their priorities around infrastructure needs that will address safety and livability in their local area," said the Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale.

The Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio said it was about striking a balance between the impact on local communities and the need to keep the state's building sector supplied with the raw materials it needed.

The Labor Government is proposing to designate new Strategic Extractive Resource Areas, to protect the significant quarry resources from other development – ensuring the construction sector can continue to access to the sand, rock and gravel it needs to build new homes and infrastructure. Importantly, they also consider local environmental and cultural heritage values, existing land uses and access to transport networks when identifying these areas, to ensure any potential land use conflicts can be avoided. This gives both communities and industry important clarity about where resources may be developed in the future.

Reflecting on the important environmental values of the area, the draft Lang Lang

SERA does not include areas of significant biodiversity, such as the Holden Proving Ground, Grantville Conservation Reserve, Gurdies Conservation Reserve which make up the Westernport Woodlands area in the Bass Coast Shire.

Local MP Jordan Crugnale acknowledged the strong community advocacy from many, including local groups like the Save Westernport Woodlands Group and thanked their committee, members and partner organisations for their grit and determination and for working productively alongside and with her over these last few years.

"I know our local community cares deeply about and values biodiversity and I'm pleased that this draft SERA does not include areas of environmental significance" she said.

To make a submission or complete the feedback form visit, engage.vic.gov.au/sera-langlang-oaklandsjunction-trafalgar.

Read in full at sgst.com.au.

Residents of Toora stumped by vegetation mess

TOORA residents have been left dumbfounded by the state of their Avenue of Honour in the wake of the removal of dangerous trees.

For the residents, this has been a four-year ordeal, as South Gippsland Shire Council first identified 15 dangerous trees in 2020.

According to an arborist report, 15 critical trees and 16 moderate-risk trees were identified and included as part of the planning permit.

However, 39 trees were removed, and the debris has not yet been cleaned up.

"It wasn't disclosed to us why these trees were an immediate risk, though we do appreciate there have been storms and they might've come down," resident Jason Tay said.

"However, stumps and debris still remain and the people of Toora are frustrated that it hasn't been managed properly. It's a disgrace."

The tree removal work officially started on Tuesday, June 18, and took approximately a week to complete.

Council CEO Kerryn Ellis said the additional eight trees were removed based on advice from three arborists this year.

"The initial arborists report was conducted in 2020, however, removal did not occur at this time as discussions were still occurring with the local community," she said.

"When work recommenced this year, we sought updated advice from three additional arborists, who suggested all 39 trees were in poor health and of concern."

Ms Ellis said the stumps on the eastern side of Grip Road – the residential property side – had been removed.

"Piles of stump grinding/soil remain because, over time and after some rain, the earth often settles and subsides where the stump grinding occurred. Council will monitor these mounds over the coming months and remove excess soil if required," she said.

"There is no plan to remove the stumps on the western side of Grip Road as we only remove stumps if they are likely to pose

a tripping risk to people.

"Additional debris and fallen branches will be removed as necessary to clear roadways as part of our shire-wide, ongoing tree and road maintenance work. Following the recent storm events, we have had to prioritise clearing debris/fallen branches that present a more immediate risk to public safety.

"However, it should be noted that in line with standard operating practice, not all debris will be removed to protect natural habitat and biodiversity.

"Some logs were saved by the (Toora Community Action Team) for future use."

Residents fear the leftover debris could be a fire hazard as summer approaches.

"There's farmland on the other side, but it's all part of the Avenue of Honour," Mr Tay said.

"Fire could rip through those paddocks. We always get notices to mow our grass and avoid fire hazards, so we want something done about this."

Ms Ellis said the mounds of soil/stump grinding are not a

fire hazard, and the reduced vegetation would limit the risk of fire danger.

Ideally, Toora's action committee wants to see the trees carved to represent Anzac soldiers.

However, in the four years since the process began, the residents have not been made aware of any plans to replace the trees.

"It has been greatly mismanaged and shows great disregard for Toora. We wanted the stumps out, but we were told it can't happen yet because the plan is still under review," Mr Tay said.

"It's the Avenue of Honour. People left our town to fight for our country and it's a slap in the face to those who never came home."

Ms Ellis said the Avenue would be replanted and council will work with the RSL and the Toora Community Action Team to decide on an appropriate species to replant.

Council aims for the replanting to take place in autumn/winter next year.



The World Community for Christian Meditation, Australia, Victoria, is holding a day of meditation and gospel reflection at:

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church,
Scarborough St, Inverloch on
Saturday October 12
from 10am to 2.30pm

No bookings required.
Gold coin donation.
Bring lunch to share.

This is a day for experienced meditators and those who would like to explore Christian meditation.

Christian Meditation is an ecumenical community and welcomes people of all faith traditions and those of no formal religion.

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VALLEY
WARD**



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RECREATION ROADS
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**South Gippsland Shire Council
October 2024 Election**

AUTHORISED BY: JOHN SCHELLING
6 DOUGLAS COURT, LEONGATHA

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Interest Rates in Australia Post-COVID

- Navigating the Rising Tide

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELIcapital

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia, like many nations, has navigated a turbulent economic landscape marked by unprecedented fiscal measures, fluctuating inflation rates, and shifting unemployment figures. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has played a pivotal role in trying to help steer the economy through these choppy waters, by manipulating interest rates in response to both local and global economic conditions.

At the onset of the pandemic in early 2020, the RBA slashed the cash rate to a historic low of 0.25% to stimulate spending and investment during a period of uncertainty. This aggressive monetary policy aimed to cushion the blow from lockdowns and economic slowdown. Homeowners were quick to benefit from these low rates, with many refinancing mortgages and enjoying cheaper repayments. Business investments, although initially stunted, also found a lifeline in this favorable borrowing environment.

However, as the economy began to rebound in late 2021 and early 2022, inflation emerged as a significant concern. The combination of supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, and increased demand for goods and services led to rising prices. By mid-2022, inflation rates in Australia had surged to levels not seen in decades, prompting the RBA to act decisively. The central bank began a series of rate hikes, culminating in a cash rate increase to 4.35% by end-2023 and has remained there since. This rapid escalation was intended to rein in inflation at the time of 7.8%, which had soared beyond the RBA's target range of 2-3%.

The rise in interest rates has had a direct impact on the Australian economy. Borrowers are now grappling with increased mortgage repayments, which has damped consumer spending and led to a cooling of the housing market. Meanwhile, businesses are feeling the pinch of higher borrowing costs, which could lead to reduced investments and potential layoffs.

The unemployment rate, which had seen a post-pandemic low of 3.5%, now hovers around 4% as the economy adjusts to the tightening of monetary policy.

Looking ahead to the next 6 to 12 months, economists and analysts from the big four banks offer mixed forecasts. Some predict that the RBA may hold rates steady or consider slight adjustments depending on inflation trends and economic indicators. Others caution that if inflation persists above target levels, further hikes could be necessary, particularly if the global economic environment, particularly in the United States, remains volatile.

Comparatively, the U.S. Federal Reserve has also raised interest rates aggressively, with the current federal funds rate hovering around 5.00%. This tightening cycle is reflective of similar inflationary pressures faced by both nations. Although Australia's interest rates remain somewhat lower than those of the U.S., the U.S. Federal Reserve recently cut their federal funds rate by 0.50% which will potentially impact the RBA's decisions going forward.

There is a complex and intricate interplay in the relationship between interest rates, inflation, and unemployment. While higher interest rates are a tool to combat inflation, they can also stifle economic growth and lead to higher unemployment if businesses reduce hiring or lay off workers in response to increased costs. This delicate balance is one that the RBA must navigate carefully in the coming months.

In conclusion, the trajectory of interest rates in Australia since the COVID-19 pandemic has been one of rapid adjustments in response to evolving economic realities. As we move into 2025, the outlook remains uncertain, influenced by both domestic conditions and global economic trends. It is essential for policymakers to remain vigilant, monitoring inflation and employment metrics while providing a supportive environment for growth. The path ahead will require careful calibration of monetary policy to foster stability without inhibiting recovery, ensuring that Australians can weather any economic storm in the future with resilience and optimism.

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.



A typical lifespan of an offshore wind farm is 30 years, creating a wide variety of long-term jobs in the sector.

Careers in offshore wind farms

AS THE renewable energy sector develops and grows across the region more jobs will be opening up for people locally and students have recently been hearing about these opportunities.

Star of the South Project attended the Inspiring Young People Luncheon for year 10 and 11 students from South Gippsland and the Bass Coast in Leongatha recently to talk about careers in the offshore wind sector.

The typical life cycle of an offshore wind farm is about 30 years, not including the construction period of three to five years, which would start at the end of this decade.

Following 30 years of operation and maintenance, the turbines would potentially be decommissioned or refurbished.

It is anticipated that around 200 long-term jobs will open up in the sector for a variety of skill levels including entry-level positions to trades and university graduate roles.

"Some of those jobs would be on land, and some would be based out in Bass Strait, and some of the roles would be during the construction of the project," said Paul Johnson Senior Manager, Regional Engagement.

This could include building the wind farm and the electrical system that underpins it, other roles would be the operations and maintenance of the farm and servicing the wind turbines.

"That's the really exciting opportunity for Gippsland because, with regards to



Paul Johnson from Star of the South Project said South Gippsland is very well placed to make the most of the career opportunities that offshore wind farms will bring to the region.

Barry Beach Marine Terminal and Port Albert, they're both good options for us to host our Gippsland operations base, where workers would be managing the day-to-day wind farm construction operations activities."

There are jobs that cater to those who enjoy being outside and marine-based roles, typically riggers, crane operators, deckhands, mechanical hydraulics, technicians and blade repair technicians.

While others are office- or community-based where engagement and consultation are always important factors during the project.

Paul found an interesting mix of responses from students about careers in the industry, but it resonated positively with many.

"Some students know a lot about offshore wind and have heard about it, and some have no idea, but they are really interested because it actually aligns with

the values of a lot of young people who want to be a part of decarbonising the economy, and that's really exciting for us," explained Paul.

"They also see that there are other traditional energy industries that are starting to wind down. So, for example, we've got Yallourn (Power Station) closing in 2028, and the decommissioning of oil and gas platforms over the next few years. So, this represents a really exciting opportunity for young people to have an energy role here in Gippsland."

In July this year, the South Gippsland Shire Council adopted the Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study which will examine the readiness of key towns that may be able to service and support renewable energy projects, including the offshore wind farm to be established off the Gippsland coast in the coming years.

This study will look specifically at the business and employment opportunities, skills development, supply chain requirements, housing and accommodation, infrastructure (including ports), and community readiness for these projects which Paul believes is a very constructive and positive step.

"That demonstrates the work that South Gippsland Shire have done to prepare and maximise the opportunities to accommodate this growth."

"South Gippsland is really, really well placed to make the most of this opportunity."



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Leongatha RSL member Rob Wood created this poignant tribute to those who have served. A18_4124

Leongatha tribute to service personnel

THE MILITARY service and sacrifice of locals is recognised in a stunning new mural adorning the outside of the Leongatha RSL building.

Local artist and Leongatha RSL member Rob Wood was commissioned to complete the work.

"The setting sun and red poppies which are prominent in the mural are poignant reminders of the sacrifice that has been made by our service

men and women over time," the club's general manager Greg Nugent said.

He is delighted Rob's mural has captured the respect and reverence associated with remembering those who served.

The addition of nearby purple poppies, alongside the RSL entrance, recognises the sacrifice that many animals made in assisting our armed forces during conflict.

Rob's work completes stage 1 of Leongatha RSL's project to present murals that ensure the sacrifice of Leongatha service personnel during conflicts is remembered.

Stage 2 of the project will see the clubhouse wall facing the carpark transformed into another educational canvas.

The mural presentation forms part of Leongatha RSL's 'Community Connection' plan.

Great deals at South Gippsland Caravans

LOCALLY owned and operated Leongatha business South Gippsland Caravans offers a great range of caravans, including hybrids, full size Australian built models, and a choice between ones suited to on-road, semi off-road and full off-road use.

Ceramic coating of caravans is available on site to protect people's investment, as well as installation and servicing of caravan diesel heaters.

While the business has been operating for around four years, it was previously at a different Leongatha location, with owners Kristy and Anthony Walls celebrating the official opening of its new Anderson Street premises on Saturday, October 12.

There will be specials on the day on all caravans.

South Gippsland Caravans stocks a full range of



The range at South Gippsland Caravans includes full size Aussie made models.

caravan and camping accessories and people can grab a bargain with 20 per cent off that range on the day.

The same Grand Opening day-long discount applies to Ringers Western wear and Ariat clothing.

In addition to its range of caravans, South Gippsland

Caravans also sells caravans on consignment for people who want to avoid the risks of selling from home.

The business is located at 15 Anderson Street (South Gippsland Highway) between the garden supplies business and SG Hire.

Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit ready to roar

THE Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit will once again roar to life for the Qatar Airways Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix 2024 on October 18-20.

Works are ramping up at the track with many of the iconic stands and stages under construction.

In addition to the huge

line-up of international and local categories set to race, off-track offerings will keep fans of all ages entertained.

Lukey's Lawn, located by Turn 9, will be home to monster trucks, which thrill-seeking fans can ride along in for a gravity-defying experience.

An all-new Games Zone,

located near Turn 1, will feature axe throwing, reaction testers, motorbike arcade games, and classic carnival games like King of the Hammer.

Alongside Gardner Straight, outside the expo, fans can test their skills on the Moto Trainer Official MotoGP Licensed Simulators.

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Size: 160 x 28 mm Weight: 220g

Battery: 1 x 18650 Li-ion

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New life for heirlooms at WMS Fixit Café

By Hilary Stuchbery

JUST when you think you've seen it all, into the Wonthaggi Men's Shed Fixit Café comes Jessica with her vintage sewing machine which belonged to her grandmother, and which was successfully fixed so that Jess can continue using it.

It was a 'vintage' session for September because two treasured clocks were brought in for Graeme to check out and Amanda's old violin case was successfully glued by Trevor. The aim of WMS Fixit Café is to save as much as possible from going to landfill, while providing a good environment for making community connections. Tea, coffee and cakes are provided and while there is no set charge for fixing, a small donation is appreciated if this is possible.

Apart from varied goods fixed by the members of the Men's Shed, electrical goods can be checked out and clothes mended. Goods must be small enough to be carried and it is best to book a time with a Fixer by calling in or telephoning the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre at Mitchell House on 5672 3731 between 9.30 and 4pm. Booking in your item helps us try to have someone with the right expertise. New volunteers and fixers are always welcome.

The next session will be Sunday, October 20 between 10am and 12 noon at the Wonthaggi Men's Shed, found either by walking through Apex Park past the play area, or by entering the Big W carpark near Dan Murphy's, taking the left hand turning past the Goods Shed and walking through the Harvest Centre Garden.



Senator Bridget McKenzie and candidate for the seat of Monash Mary Aldred (centre of photo) with attendees at Leongatha's Monday gathering. A01_4124

Mary Aldred and Senator Bridget McKenzie hear local needs

CANDIDATE for the Federal seat of Monash Mary Aldred, and Senator Bridget McKenzie met with representatives of the Leongatha Business Association, the Committee for Gippsland and other organisations in Leongatha on Monday.

The Nationals politician and Liberal political aspirant were both keen to hear local views on what people would like to see happen in the area.

Infrastructure, including the need for road improvements and increased energy resilience, and potential education initiatives were among the topics broached during the hour-long session.

"I know Bridget is going to

fight hard for Monash making sure we get the investment that we need in roads, infrastructure and freight connectivity," Ms Aldred said of her long-term friend, and Leader of the Nationals in the Senate.

"Infrastructure is a primary enabler of productivity," the candidate for Monash said.

Senator McKenzie, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, comes from Leongatha and raised her family there.

"Mary is going to be an absolute fighter for this community in Canberra," the Senator said of Ms Aldred, should voters provide her with the opportunity.

Leongatha Business Association vice president and local real estate agency owner Christie Nelson raised a couple of issues she hears about often.

"Healthcare is the biggest thing with clients," she said, with public transport another subject that arises.

The Business Association's president Marty Reidy of Yellow Brick Road Leongatha, highlighted the major deficiencies in terms of the reliability of electricity supply and mobile phone connectivity in the South Gippsland region.

"We keep getting power outages here where we don't have power for two days straight," he said, adding that leads to a

loss of telecommunications.

Mr Reidy noted the lengthier period without power caused by February's storm that devastated Mirboo North, the impact of which was felt more widely.

Committee for Gippsland CEO Tony Cantwell and members of the organisation's board attended Monday's session.

Mr Cantwell explained the organisation's focus is on ways to attract regional investment to enable infrastructure development.

He made it clear the aim is to ensure improvement across a range of community needs, such as road infrastructure, port access, and education.



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GIPPSLAND SOUTHERN HEALTH SERVICE

INVITATION TO ATTEND COMMUNITY MEETING

The Gippsland Southern Health Service invites members of the community to connect with our Executive and Board at a community meeting on 24 October 2024

The meeting will provide members of the South Gippsland community with an opportunity to understand more about the Victorian Health Services Reform and how it shapes your Health Service into the future.

All South Gippsland community is welcome to attend.

Please feel free to submit any questions you may have prior to the meeting to the details below.



Thursday 24 October from 4.30-6 pm

Space 47, 47 McCartin Street, Leongatha

Light refreshments will be provided.

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OH WHAT A FEELING

Another challenging grass pollen season

VICTORIA is gearing up for another challenging grass pollen season, with predictions indicating that 2024 will be similar to last year's high pollen levels, posing significant risks for people with hay fever and asthma.

AirHealth, the organisation responsible for the Melbourne Pollen monitoring program, in partnership with the University of Melbourne, is advising Victorians to prepare for a season characterised by fluctuating conditions that could impact both the timing and severity of pollen levels.

The dry winter and below-average soil moisture, particularly in western Victoria, may delay the start of the season, but if predicted rainfall arrives between October and December, a rapid increase in grass growth could lead to frequent high and extreme pollen days later in the season.

Dr Edwin Lampugnani, Chief Operating and Scientific Officer of AirHealth, commented: "At this stage we are expecting a bigger than average grass pollen season, one which is similar to last year.

"Our team is closely monitoring environmental conditions to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information. The Melbourne Pollen App is an essential tool that empowers all Victorians to manage their exposure to pollen and make informed decisions about their health," he said.

National Asthma Council Australia Director and respiratory physician Professor Peter Wark said the best defence that Melburnians with allergies and asthma can have as they head into thunderstorm asthma season is good day to day control of their asthma.

"Most people with asthma over the age of six years should be using a preventer to keep their asthma under control. A blue reliever inhaler (puffer) does not stop the inflammation that causes asthma and will not prevent an asthma attack.

"Now is the time to check in with your GP and make sure you are on the best treatment to control your asthma and know what to do during a spring thunderstorm or asthma emergency.

"Even people with hay fever, who have never had asthma, should see their GP if they experience worsening asthma symptoms like breathlessness, wheezing and tightness in the chest," he said.

For those who suffer from hay fever or asthma, it's important to prepare for the upcoming season:

- Stay Informed: Keep an eye on daily pollen forecasts via the Melbourne Pollen App and enable notifications to manage exposure.

Users of the Melbourne Pollen App, available on both the Apple and Google Play Store, can receive notifications about high grass pollen forecast days. You can also follow the Melbourne Pollen team on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook for updates.

- See your GP: The National Asthma Council Australia recommends taking your inhaled corticosteroid 'preventer' medicine as prescribed and make an appointment for an asthma review to ensure your written asthma action plan is up to date.

- Adjust Plans: Be aware of the potential for high pollen days and thunderstorm asthma warnings.

Integrated services for elderly in Korumburra

HAVING recently taken charge of the Korumburra Medical Centre as its sole director, Dr Floyd Gomes is determined to help elderly people remain in their homes, where possible, through integration of their healthcare and social care.

He explained that approach is becoming increasingly popular in a number of countries and is supported by the World Health Organisation.

Dr Gomes stressed the aim is to bring as many services as possible to the home.

Telehealth is one way to connect with elderly medical clinic patients and what happens in their home, helping form a link with carers and other service providers.

While many elderly people would be unable to use telehealth services on their own, the assistance of carers allows that to happen.

Making that connection between social and medical care services is a key ingredient in helping older people remain at home, accessing medical services through the GP clinic and staying out of hospital unless necessary.

"The government's supporting home care but that needs

to link with their healthcare," Dr Gomes said.

He detailed how involving carers in medical discussions is beneficial.

"If that person who comes to your home as a carer is linked in to those conversations, with your consent, that's very helpful and at that point they become a patient advocate."

If a carer is aware of an elderly person's chronic disease care plan, that carer is well positioned to help when needed, knowing what to do.

The connection between those providing in-home services and GPs also increases the chances of elderly people receiving prompt treatment when required without being hospitalised unnecessarily.

Dr Gomes said the relationship gives carers "a point of escalation" when an urgent situation arises, encouraging carers to take the elderly person to the medical clinic if an ambulance is not needed.

That contrasts with alternatives such as simply reporting the situation or the patient having to go to hospital for issues that can be addressed by a GP.

Dr Gomes gave the example of a patient in Hastings, where

he still practises as a GP, having a fall at home, with her carer bringing her to the clinic that morning, enabling her to get prompt medical attention.

The doctor then discussed the patient's needs with the carer, such as the requirement for a higher commode chair, with the carer also taking her for an X-ray and blood tests.

Another carer brought her in the next day for a follow-up appointment.

With the patient having no injuries requiring hospitalisation, the connection between social carers and medical clinic practitioners allowed the elderly person to remain in her home.

That approach reduces anxiety for the elderly person and prevents a hospital bed being occupied unnecessarily.

Building trust in a person's life around a service is the key to success.

"If you fail that, in the heat of the moment in the middle of the night when someone falls over or whatever it may be, you lose everything at that moment," Dr Gomes said.

He explained that without the patient's trust in available support services, an ambulance

would be called.

The paramedics being unaware of those support services would likely take the person to hospital when their condition wouldn't otherwise warrant that.

Dr Gomes said close association with carers, physios and other in-home service providers also enables GPs to learn more about patients and their needs.

Mark & Sylvie's Home Care has been brought to Korumburra Medical Centre and is an approved provider of government home care packages.

Dr Gomes explained that whereas he used to do in-home visits as a GP, the system in Australia is not designed to support that, requiring GPs to make such visits in their own time, such as when they are on their way home.

With many older patients unable to get to a medical clinic on their own, that boosts the importance of medical practitioners being integrated with other service providers.

There will be a public talk about the integrated health approach on October 22 at the Korumburra Community Hub.

Nixon's service celebrated in Korumburra with singers



Retiring guide dog Nixon and owner Nina Smith celebrate Nixon's career with other members of the Milpara Singers. A01_4024

MILPARA Singers held a special party recently for retiring guide dog Nixon at Korumburra Library.

Owner Nina Smith, a member of the group, said Nixon is turning eight in January, having worked as her guide dog for six years, explaining he has had a few health issues and is tired.

"He's hanging up his harness and I'm going to keep him as a pet for the rest of his life," she said.

Nina will get a new guide dog when the matching process is complete and doesn't expect Nixon to have any difficulty adjusting to a more leisurely lifestyle and a new working dog in the home, looking forward to the pair playing together.

Nixon, an ambassador for 'TravelPaws', a travel support network for people with assistance dogs, finished his working days last Tuesday with a

flight to Sydney.

He is no stranger to aircraft cabins, his adventures including a couple of overseas trips to Japan and New Zealand.

Asked how Nixon is received by other passengers, Nina said the reaction is generally one of excitement.

Nixon is featured online at travelpaws.org and the website offers handy advice for those keen to travel with an assistance dog.

The Milpara Singers got into the party spirit for the canine of honour, wearing impressive pointy hats made by group member Belinda Nelson.

"We're an elite group of singers," Nina joked.

In reality, the singing sessions are laid back and everyone is welcome, with people encouraged to join the fun. Drop into Korumburra Library at 1.30pm on Wednesdays.

Ladies Night

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Broadening the horizons of Gippsland's youth

AN Innovative learning partnership is set to give secondary school students across Bass Coast Shire and South Gippsland Shire Council new insights into local industry, jobs and career opportunities, igniting aspirations and helping to prepare tomorrow's workforce.

Originating in 2013, Broadening Horizons was created to address the unique challenges faced by students in Gippsland compared to their peers in metro Melbourne, including lower school completion rates, and higher youth unemployment.

More than 10 years on, the program has been reimagined through consultation with industry, education and community leaders. Building on its success in offering real-life work-based learning opportunities for Gippsland's youth, the program has been adapted to include formal work experience opportunities for Year 9 and 10 students.

"Broadening Horizons engages students in career conversations early, providing students in Years 7 through to 10 with exposure to career options and industries in Gippsland," said Wendy Taylor, Broadening Horizons Coordinator, South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN.

"The program has been proven to increase student engagement in their learning, through bridging the gap between the classroom and the workplace.

"During the program delivery, students learn about 21st century skills and the design thinking framework, then apply their learning to solve a real-world challenge presented by their industry partner."

The benefits flow both ways, with local industry having a great platform to engage with young people on a range of important issues, attracting young people to their industry and providing mentoring opportunities for their own staff.

A program launch will be held on Thursday, October 17 in Leongatha, where interested schools, industry and community members can learn more about Broadening Horizons, and how to become involved.

To join, register your attendance [eventbrite.com.au/e/broadening-horizons-program-launch-tickets-1021382551707](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/broadening-horizons-program-launch-tickets-1021382551707).

SAFEPL8's and #9pmroutine



JOIN Police, SES and your local Wonthaggi Bunnings team as they change screws on your registration plates to prevent number plate crime, and provide valuable educational information regarding locking up your valuables, homes and vehicles.

In light of recent crime, Bass Coast Police are urging residents to ensure their items are out of sight and safely secured.

There will be activities for the kids, a sausage sizzle and informative fun for all.

Head to Bunnings Wonthaggi between 10am and 1pm on November 9.

And remember, #9pmroutine.

CUC and Wonthaggi Rotary Club working together

FOR the second year running Country Universities Centre (CUC) Bass Coast is partnering with the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi to deliver the Annual Primary School Public Speaking Competition.

The free community event will be held on Thursday, October 17 from 6-8 pm at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre. The competition gives students an opportunity to express their ideas for the future whilst developing firsthand their public speaking and communication skills.

Eleven Bass Coast primary

schools have nominated one student from Grade 5 or 6 to participate. Community members are all invited to attend and see the calibre of the talented students as they captivate audiences with their skills, confidence, and bright ideas.

CUC Education Program Coordinator, Amanda McMahon said, "Engaging local schools and supporting teachers to build the skills and capacity of students was a strength of the program this year. The students shared their ideas and thoughts in a mature and well-structured way. I look forward to hearing the

finalists on October 17 and welcome any community members to hear these inspiring students speak."

Wonthaggi Rotary Club Immediate Past President Nicky Chung, commended CUC for the development of resources and targeted sessions across local primary schools to build students' confidence and support teaching staff to help build confidence in public speaking.

"The Rotary Club of Wonthaggi is thrilled to collaborate with the Country University Centre (CUC) in Wonthaggi. Their involvement has significantly enhanced our

public speaking competition by mentoring over 700 primary school students and providing opportunities for CUC student ambassadors to mentor and serve on the judging panel."

CUC Bass Coast is open for access to registered students seven days a week, providing high-speed technology, academic mentoring and support. The study space allows students to network with others to create a community learning environment and reduce isolation while studying remotely. For more information, please give the team a call on 0472 741 451 or visit cucbasscoast.edu.au

Greenhills Community Benevolent Society scholarships awarded



Alex Hendhall



Bailey Peacock



Camryn Olsen



Charlie Hall



Joshua McNally



Keeley Johnson



Lara Standish



Megan LeServe



Shaelyn Connell-Rohde



Taj Vass

THE Greenhills Benevolent Society Incorporated held a Morning Tea for the successful recipients of the 2024 tertiary and apprenticeship scholarships.

Seven recipients and their families attended the Poowong Public Hall Supper Room for a presentation. Organisers would like to thank all those who participated.

Recipients also included Ebony Beecroft, Zac Gray, Eydie Johnson, Danielle Lorkin, Yahnika Mandemaker, Jarrah Standish, but no photos were supplied.

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BACK TO BASICS

Authorised by Jim Forbes PO Box 117 Poowong

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The saga of McBride

I SHARE with many residents of Wonthaggi, the frustration with the ongoing Saga of McBride Campus, Bass Coast College. Or should that be non-saga as sagas usually have plenty of action while this particular issue seems to be notable for its distinct lack of action.

Let's imagine what could fit on this large site.

A part could be affordable and public housing suitable for the elderly to the very young. Units of easy access for the less able, HMOs (House of multiple occupation – separate ensuite rooms with shared kitchen/living) and larger units for families, with some emergency accommodation and even units for some of the 50+ homeless teens currently in Wonthaggi. Long/short term accommodation to help with the housing shortage for essential workers including seasonal and new workers on job probation to help boost our economy. Add shared open space, a community garden, thoughtful architecture and as most residents will not need a car, being so close to the CBD; there could be shared EV transport.

Ok now let's think bigger!

Wonthaggi needs a cultural hub to fit its status as the regional centre.

Here we could have a gallery, with an easily accessible, small office facilities, a drop-in youth hub, a café to provide training for vulnerable youth, with a centre for activities to foster new social connections between residents. There could be a craft hub to sell craft items and produce from local gardens.

Other towns have done many of these but what could make this site unique would be the bringing together in one interconnected place all the activities as well as provide much needed homes in a specific, low energy, sustainable designed site. It could be a community

project drawing on expertise from our whole community. It would mean when you said you were from Wonthaggi they didn't say "Where?" but "Oh there, how lucky you are!"

Glenda Minty, Candidate for Western Port Ward

Still no Phillip Island Aquatic Centre

THE Bass Coast Shire Council continues to disappoint the Phillip Island community by removing Aquatics from the Ten-Year Financial Plan, and removing Aquatics from the Advocacy Strategy, which is the means by which Council advocates for grants from State and Federal governments.

Recently Yarra Leisure, the Council-managed Leisure Centres in the City of Yarra, commissioned a consulting group ActiveXchange to examine the Social Value of operating their three Aquatic and Leisure Centres – Fitzroy Swimming Pool, Richmond Recreation Centre and Collingwood Leisure Centre.

Their modelling estimates that across the three centres, the average Social Value in the last Financial Year was \$5.07 million. Benefits examined included Mental Health, Chronic or Dementia programs and Learn To Swim.

So, if you consider these Social Value benefits per year, multiplied over the life of the facility, it seems clear that it is cheaper to build and operate these facilities, than to say 'Nothing To See Here'.

It is unfortunate that while our Shire reported in last year's Annual Report it cost ratepayers \$1.845 million to operate our recreation and aquatics, they are currently tendering for a future

organisation to operate them. Why can't our Shire look at other alternatives, just like the City of Yarra?

Have you seen the Cowes Recreation Reserve Football/Cricket ground recently? It looks like a mangy dog. If it was my dog, I'd have it put down. In the past year or so Council spent hundreds of thousands of our rates improving the playing surface. It came up a treat. Now, because of the success of the Football/Netball club in recruiting new members, across all ages and with both male and female teams, the grass is worn out. Solution – develop a new oval at the land allocated – CA79. It's a no brainer.

Don Turner, San Remo

Don't vote for more of the same

I AM informed that this (attached Labor 'how to vote' letter) is how the local Labor movement is suggesting voters should be voting. They want it to be a political competition, not based on the ability of the candidate or the needs of the community.

Labour directive: "Encourage friends and neighbours to support: Our very own Cr Leticia Laing (Bunurong Ward), Labor-aligned Inverloch local Caitlyn Robertson (Bunurong Ward), Conservationist John Temby (Westernport Ward), Serial Greens candidate Mat Morgan (Bunurong Ward)".

"Warn friends and neighbours not to support: Former Liberal Cr Rochelle Halstead (Westernport Ward), former Liberal Meg Edwards (Bunurong Ward), Alan Brown-backed Liberal proxy Prudence Scholtes (Bunurong Ward)".

So, if you want the same old equity, diversity, inclusivity, reconciliation, LG-BTQIA and Climate Change that we have had shoved down our throats over the

last four years, then vote as above.

If you want a change of direction to roads, rates, rubbish, recreation, footpaths, drains, parking, beach reconstruction and transparency, vote 1 Rochelle Halstead, 2 Jan Thompson, 3 Nikole Shellekens (Western Port). 1 Meg Edwards, 2 Les Larke, 3 Prudence Scholtes (Bunurong). 1 John Trigt, 2 Darrell Silver 3 Ron Bauer. (Island).

Rob Parsons, The Gurdies

Copy of Labor Party letter

HEADED 'Victorian Labor, and signed by branch secretary Tully Fletcher the letter starts "Dear Friends, a quick update on local government elections in Bass.

Here's the best information we have right now about candidates in Bass Coast. The VEC has published the full list of candidates and their statements here.

Encourage friends and neighbours to support:

* Our very own Cr Leticia Laing (Bunurong Ward)

* Labor-aligned Inverloch local Caitlyn Robertson (Bunurong Ward)

* Conservationist John Temby (Westernport Ward)

* Serial Greens candidate Mat Morgan (Bunurong Ward)

Warn friends and neighbours not to support:

* Former Liberal Cr Rochelle Halstead (Westernport Ward)

* Former Liberal Meg Edwards (Bunurong Ward)

* Alan Brown-backed Liberal proxy Prudence Scholtes (Bunurong Ward)

If you have further information to share about local government candidates across Bass please let me know ASAP and I'll circulate an update to members.

In solidarity, Tully Fletcher, Secretary

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Blood on their hands if road funding cut

THE number of lives lost on Victorian roads so far this year stands at 213, down 2.3 per cent for the same period last year when there had been 218 deaths, but 2023 finished with the highest road toll in 15 years, at 296.

Regrettably, we're still in sight of that awful number.

Rural roads have accounted for 108 of those deaths so far, down 13 per cent on the same time last year but still above the five-year average of 102 for this time of the year.

Rural roads tend to be the location for more road accidents than cities, despite the lower population, for a number of reasons, including:

- Lack of safety infrastructure such as barriers, adequate lighting, or warning signs.
- Limited emergency services.
- Weather conditions causing road quality to deteriorate more quickly.
- Sharp curves, poor visibility and less predictable conditions including wildlife on roads.
- Rural areas often require longer travel distances, leading to driver fatigue.
- Lack of alternative transport.

Drink driving, drug driving and distractions including mobile phones are also a factor.

Where any of these factors can be controlled, whether it's by adjusting your own driver behaviour, police presence and enforcement, public education, improvement to road conditions and the introduction of preventative measures including traffic lights, roundabouts and side-road activation signs; attention to these measures must be taken very seriously.

Because one life saved, means avoiding the unimaginable grief and loss that fatal collisions create.

Which is why it is so alarming to hear that the State Government has been skimming off Federal funds meant to fix black spots across the state to feed the \$41 billion in blowouts on mega-projects in the city.

According to Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien, the Member for Gippsland South, a Ministerial brief has confirmed the government has skinned 8.5 per cent off a Federal Black Spots Funding Program that was meant to improve safety on regional roads.

It follows a government survey last year which found that 91 per cent of roads were in a "poor" or "very poor" state.

"The roads maintenance budget is 16 per cent less than it was in 2020 and the amount of resurfacing works this year will drop by two-thirds, condemning our roads to a worse state in the future," said Mr O'Brien.

As much as we are warned to "drive to the conditions", poorly maintained roads lead directly to deaths on our roads which is why government departments can't simply spend like drunken sailors without counting the cost.

If there's one more death on rural roads this year as a result of cuts to funding, it's too high a price to pay for government waste and mismanagement.

Vox Pop

What's most important to you in a candidate at this month's council elections?



Pat Russell
Leongatha

"Someone who can look after the roads and rubbish; the roads are probably the most important thing."



Geoff Ferrier
Nyora

"He's got to talk to his constituents and follow what the majority want, not what he wants."



David Russell
Leongatha

"Just looking after the local community, spending time in it and asking what people want, and making promises they are going to keep."



Tony Heys
Leongatha

"Honesty and integrity with a genuine commitment to the interests of the local community, whose primary focus is pursuing those things rather than a personal agenda."

Who writes the articles?

IT IS concerning that the Sentinel-Times does not include bylines (author names) on its articles. The Australian Press Council's 'Statements of Principles' emphasise the need to avoid or disclose conflicts of interest to ensure they don't influence published content. Without knowing the authors, how can we discern whether we're reading biased opinion pieces or well-researched journalism?

Many community members, including myself, have submitted articles that were published verbatim without any attribution or little change, if any. One article I did ask for my name to be attributed as it was clearly an opinion. In an age of widespread 'disinformation' (deliberate manipulation or misleading information), trust in the information we receive is crucial.

We need transparent and accurate journalism to keep us informed socially and politically. To achieve this, it's essential to know who is behind the content. Please provide transparency and instil trust by naming your authors and including bylines on all your articles.

Cait McMahon, Inverloch

Editor: Cait McMahon makes a good point in her letter about bylines, and we have reviewed our practices as a result. But we won't be attaching bylines to contributed articles or articles that are simply a report of an event, unless attribution is necessary.

What's with the Leongatha footbridge?

ANYONE wandering in the vicinity of the Leongatha railyards redevelopment will see a pile of dirt, approximately 10 metres high, with a new concrete path zigzagging to the top, apparently going to nowhere.

Further examination suggests it will lead to where a future footbridge will join a walkway between the shops into Bair Street. Seems this will be in place of the large steel footbridge which was pulled down some years ago.

This zigzag path may be a novelty once or twice, but I can't imagine many using it in preference to the footpath to the north or the quiet roadway to the south.

I'm guessing council will say it's to do with the required gradient and compliance etc, etc. Maybe we could ask council about this, the cost involved and what other options there were, but council doesn't really like to answer questions and it is usually hard to get a straight answer.

So, I'm hoping whoever gets elected to council will bring back questions from

the gallery at council meetings, public presentations and do away with council's confidential meetings so everybody can know what is going on.

Steve Finlay, Candidate Coastal Promontory Ward, South Gippsland Shire Council

Councillor integrity

IN RECENT months I was fortunate in having an article printed in this paper by the editor. One reader took the time to respond to my concerns about the integrity of some Councillors, and I now thank that person.

Last year I moved from the Inverloch area to North Wonthaggi and have found myself to be in another Ward. Upon advice from the editor of this paper and the above reader, I contacted a current sitting councillor who is standing for re-election in November. I sent a very long email to this Councillor and the response I received was extremely prompt, with honest and detailed answers to all my questions. This paper advised readers with concerns on who to vote for in the coming November election, to contact sitting members who are standing for re-election, ask them what they have done and will do if re-elected.

I am now able to understand why very little was mentioned by councillors regarding the recent EOA, and that our mayor, had the authority to make public statements, but chose not to do so and other councillors were under a gag by Council Governance rules. I will offer my apologies to the few Councillors who I may have wrongly offended.

I strongly advise all rate payers who have concerns of who to vote for to follow the path I undertook and to follow the advice given by other readers and this paper. Initially this person was not included on my list of who to vote for. Now they will be Number 1 on my list, and I will follow the printed preferences on the voting pamphlet.

Geoff Moore, North Wonthaggi

Correcting misinformation in Bunurong ward

FOR those who aren't on social media, I've recently posted a video addressing some abuse and misinformation being peddled about my council campaign.

I'm running a positive campaign and have knocked on thousands of doors to speak directly with community members. I'm not being "paid to campaign" that is a lie being spread online. I have actually been taking time off work to knock on doors.

There is also a suggestion that I live at home with my mum. The person spreading this lie is fully aware that my mother

has passed away; it's just beyond the pale.

Some right-wing keyboard warriors try to portray me as an inexperienced kid, but the truth is that I have worked as an adviser to the ACT Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Seniors, and Mental Health. I have spent hours trawling through briefs and budget papers and will hit the ground running if elected to Bass Coast Shire Council.

I'm asking voters to give me a chance. It's time for Gen Z to take just one of the nine seats at the table.

Mat Morgan, Candidate for Bunurong Ward

Don't have a problem with turbines

YOUR 'No Homes for Turbines' editorial piece in your October 1st edition seemed to me to be a journalistic rehash of Coalition posturing (replete with exclamation marks) with very little substance to back it up.

The article suggests that wind turbines are as threatening as mini coal/nuclear plants that will somehow compromise rural residential 'amenity' (loss of views/noise pollution) and the 'viability' of agricultural production.

Anyone who has travelled to places that take global warming seriously will have noticed wind and solar farms dotted all over the landscape, including inside town boundaries.

The article doesn't even begin to explain why wind turbines compromise agricultural output, or is it just a cover story for NIMBYism and/or sour grapes at not being invited to profitably host turbines?

And what is wrong with offering to buy the farms of objectors and sell them on to people who do not have a problem with them, as long as the price is fair?

The process of setting out wind farm development zones should be no secret to anyone. It has been in the can for years that South Gippsland is a prime wind resource area. Wind farms in this area are not new. Most people have got used to them and don't have a problem with them. Many regard them as aesthetically beautiful industrial sculptures that give us hope for the future.

Global warming is already happening and if we don't want to face the consequences of a climate change runaway, we need to get a rapid move on, especially after so much ideological obstruction and sabotage of plans to do something about it, which has already delayed matters by decades.

Even if we had already completed decarbonization of our economy yesterday, there is still a lot of climate disturbance momentum already in play that will continue long after we have stopped putting billions of tons of CO2 into the atmosphere every year.

Christopher Nagle, Grantville

Concerned about boat ramp cost blowout

I READ with interest your article on the new Mahers Landing Boat Ramp, 'Game changer for boaters at new Mahers Landing Ramp', in last week's Sentinel-Times.

Much lauded, this upgrade, which according to the large project board attached to the fence at the site for the duration of the build, was supposed to cost \$4.3 million and be completed early in 2024.

A further article on page 15 of the same edition, headed "last gasp for Inverloch boat ramp", quotes the final cost of the Mahers Landing project at \$5.8 million. This equates to a 34.88 per cent blow-out in the contracted price.

Further, given the project commenced on October 1, 2023, and at this stage, is still incomplete in view of the additional work still being undertaken, it appears to have run at least 30 per cent over the scheduled time frame.

At no point has there been any explanation for the massive blow-out in both the contracted time and cost. One could hardly blame the weather, as Inverloch is renowned for its wind and so far, we have had 185mls less than at this time last year.

With regard to the upgrade of the Inverloch boat ramp, the first article on page 15, quotes the upgrade costing \$1 million, whereas the second article refers to the closure of the current boat ramp to allow for the \$2 million upgrade!

All this, and the designers couldn't even include floating pontoons on either jetty, that rise and fall with the tide and allow boaters and fisherfolk, a dry platform to embark on.

In view of the above scenario, if I were a boater, I wouldn't be holding my breath that the upgraded Inverloch boat ramp will be open for action by Christmas, as projected. The mind boggles!

David Vance, Inverloch

Editor: According to the Engage Bass Coast website, the cost of constructing a new jetty at the existing boat ramp in Inverloch, plus reinstatement of the existing rock wall "is in the order of \$2 million". Of the \$1m and \$2m figures included in the Sentinel-Times, the \$1m figure was a typo. In relation to the total cost of the Mahers Landing boat ramp, trailer carpark and associated works, the Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos issued a media statement on September 30, quoting a project cost of \$5.45m whereas the Engage Bass Coast website quotes \$5.8m. At least some of the increased cost of the Mahers Landing project could be attributed to changes made to the design and delays in reaching an agreement on the funding arrangements.

A question of engagement with traditional owners

THIS is the season for surveying our future municipal leaders. We found we weren't the only group tapping into the thoughts and values of candidates for our two Councils.

The Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group sent a seven-question survey to all candidates and had a 64 per cent response rate. The questions sought endorsement for many activities that both Councils already do, or have under consideration, and the purpose was partly to see if new candidates were willing to continue and advance these commitments.

We asked questions about support for Welcomes to Country and Acknowledgements of Country; about their knowledge of local Aboriginal history and their willingness to learn more; their interest in undertaking cultural awareness training; their support for Council's engagement with NAIDOC Week, National Reconciliation Week and other local cultural events; their support for Council appointing a First Nations Advisory Committee and a First Nations Community Development



Youngsters Harvey and Ava, visiting the family holiday house from Eltham, take a run through the lavender garden on Churchill Island.

Officer; and support for Council developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

A RAP addresses such issues as First Nations employment, staff and councillor cultural awareness, cultural safety and procurement.

Of the 25 responses we received from 39 candidates, 19 of them were in full or considerable support of all questions. Whilst the questions were posed as Yes/No responses, for speed of response at this busy time, several provided comments on some questions.

Sitting Councillors were more aware of existing arrangements and previous discussions, and in some instances, qualified their responses.

For example, South Gippsland Councillors, Nathan Hersey, Jenni Keerie and Sarah Gilligan were in support of all or most themes but all added to the question of a RAP as they had engaged with Indigenous groups who would prefer a different, negotiated approach.

Nathan Hersey also drew attention to budgetary considerations and wanted to know more detail before committing to a yes/no answer on some questions. He and Scott Rae drew our attention to activities that South Gippsland Council was already doing. Nathan, for example, mentioned that in 2024 Council broke new ground by holding a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony to mark the beginning of the Council sitting year.

Several candidates; David Rooks, Jon Temby and Glenda Minty (all Bass Coast) and Jenni Keerie and Sarah Gilligan made important points about the Advisory Committee needing to have a clear mandate from and consist of, First Nations people, and be clear in its objectives.

Don Hill (SG) said he would welcome stronger dialogue with Indigenous groups. Nikole Schellekens (BC) said that Indigenous voices are central in discussions about land management, environmental stewardship and local decision-making.

Almost every one of the positive responders claimed that they knew very little about local Aboriginal history, but they were willing to learn.

Six candidates were either totally or partially opposed to our questions. Kathleen Murray (SG) sent four links to YouTube but didn't answer any questions. Michael Poore (SG) said no to all questions. Rochelle Halstead and John Trigt (both BC) were opposed to the questions regarding a First Nations Advisory Committee, Community Development Officer or RAP.

Scott Rae said he hadn't read the questions and critiqued the Reconciliation Group's presentation to Council last year. John Schelling didn't respond to any

questions but provided a statement of his belief in equality and seeking to treat people as he wanted to be treated.

There were no replies from 14 people. Brad Snell (SG) didn't provide contact details to the Victorian Electoral Commission so we couldn't contact him. Don Hill sent a text with positive responses but not to the whole set of questions.

Those in substantial or full support of the range of measures signalling First Nations recognition and respect were, in Bass Coast: Caitlyn Robertson, Prudence Scholtes, Brian Robinson, Mat Morgan, Leticia Laing, Marnie Chadwick, Tracey Bell, David Rooks, Tim O'Brien, Jon Temby, Glenda Minty, Nikole Schellekens. In South Gippsland, they were: Sarah Gilligan, Nathan Hersey, Bron Beach, Jenni Keerie, Rosemary Cousin and Aaron Taylor.

Marg Lynn, Secretary, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group

Divisive tactics won't build Nyora

CAMPAIGNING that attempts to divide our community, based on where our residents call home, is not needed. Councillors have an important role to represent the whole of their ward and furthermore work for the whole Shire. It's certainly not an easy task.

Recent claims that this Council is not focused on the future of Nyora, simply put, is misleading.

A targeted planning workshop involving all Councillors and Council senior staff has occurred and progress on the Nyora Development Strategy is happening. The rezoning of land has occurred. Council sought and was awarded grant funding to investigate development contribution options and funding is allocated in the 2023/24 budget to undertake the necessary review for future land changes.

Land acquisitions for community and council services will need to happen, including for early years education. I have advocated for Industrial Zoned Land to be made available for future economic growth and I also support a new road around the town centre.

Yes, a lot more money will need to be invested to significantly improve Nyora, anyone can see that. Nyora is set to receive a significant spend of Council's Budget over the future years and that spend needs to be done right – something I certainly support and encourage.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Deputy Mayor, Candidate for Strzelecki Ward

Weekend traffic reality check for shire

FROM your scathing editorial highlighting the ineptitude of Bass Coast Shire in the October 1 edition of the Sentinel-Times there was one short paragraph that gave me a warm glow. They (the Shire?) have called for a \$1 million to design "an alternative freight route" through Wonthaggi.

The good news is that they don't have to spend a cent. The route already exists. It's called the Bass Highway. The problem seems to be that no-one has the will or the good sense to get Regional Roads Victoria to build the missing section between Korumburra Road and Kirrak Road.

This would make a huge difference to Wonthaggi's already congested domestic roads. As all the vehicles that regard Wonthaggi as an impediment to a good journey and not a destination will be able to bypass the city centre. The road reserve is there already. So, who's holding up the process? Perhaps our new councillors will have a little more vision and a lot fewer daydreams.

Neville Drummond, Inverloch

MPs wave off seawall

OUR local member of parliament, Jordan Crugnale, and her minister have now made it clear that they will not permit any form of seawall to be constructed to save the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club building. (Sentinel-Times page 6, 01/10/2024)

Those who know the Inverloch surf beach precinct will agree it is unlikely that surf club building will survive another storm surge event like that which we witnessed a few weeks ago. Everyone can see that sand nourishment on its own is ineffective against storm surge events.

So now that Jordan and her minister have confirmed that retreat is the only option that they will consider, it is beholden on them, along with Bass Coast Shire Council, to explain what their retreat timeline is, and what plans - if any - they have for a future surf lifesaving club building in Inverloch.

Kevin Griffin, Inverloch

What use are the signs?

WHILE the lone 'clay-headed' hoon can legally drive at 40km/h along McBride Avenue, could the relevant authorities inform the rest of us just how we can reverse safely from the kerb?

Secondly... do the 20km/h signs at pedestrian crossings reassure us that we, as pedestrians, can confidently proceed without being skittled?

These two signs reek of moronic crenism.

John Hennessy, Inverloch

Local issues only for council

I WAS wondering how major political parties influence Local Council agendas. I have been made aware it is not just lobby groups, but political parties that instruct their members how to vote. This is done with direct communication to members. One such example is on my Facebook page "Darrell Silva".

The result of this action is that Council becomes divided and end up focusing on state and federal issues rather than what the needs of the local community.

The Local Government Act 2020 (v 021, 2024): Part 2 describes the roles and powers of a council and includes items around community consultation requirements and acting for the best interests of the community.

If elected to council, I will advocate that the prioritisation remains on local issues.

Darrell Silva, Candidate for Island Ward

BASS COAST SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTION 2024

BRETT TESSARI BUNURONG WARD

Lives in: Wonthaggi

Why are you running for council?

I am running for council for a couple reasons, one I haven't completed everything the community wants to get done before I finish and two, we are facing really tough times, there is going to be Bass Coasters doing it tough, we need someone there with a little common sense and someone that will fight for the community. I think I have that respect from everyone to encourage me to go on.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Financial hardship, housing and the threat to our coastline through erosion. Financial hardship will affect everyone because there will be less disposable income to spend in our shops, cafes and restaurants; lack of housing is a national issue and Bass Coast is not protected from that; and the effects of erosion on our coastline threatens homes, infrastructure and people's lives.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

No, I wouldn't. Briefings are where councillors in a safe space get the information needed to make decisions in front of camera. It is a place where staff communicate with councillors, where councillors discuss issues and can openly ask for more information without fear or risk of ridicule. If briefings went live, then more decisions would be forced into closed council meetings.

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

Engage with your councillors, when prompted on social media to fill in questionnaires, do so, take the request for communications serious. Councillors are very approachable, we are the form of government that is the most accessible to community members, use those options.



CAITLYN ROBERTSON BUNURONG WARD

Lives in: Inverloch

Why are you running for council?

I love living, working and raising my daughter here in Inverloch but we need better roads, more maternal and child health services, and more access to quality, affordable childcare. I am running for council to ensure our community gets the healthcare, childcare and safe roads we deserve.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Roads: We need safe, well-maintained roads here on the Bass Coast. We have been putting up with constant potholes and unsafe roads for too long. Council needs to invest the time, effort, and funding to improve the condition of our roads.

Maternal and child health services: Families need more support in the early years of their child's life. Maternal and child health services delivered by council play a vital role in linking families in with the services they need but they aren't enough – and if I'm elected these services will be urgently improved.

Coastal Erosion: We know that coastal erosion is a huge problem that is threatening our beautiful coastline. We need a comprehensive plan that commits local and state government to find a solution together to save the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

I support all council meetings being livestreamed.

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

It's important for all major areas on the Bass Coast to have a voice in council decision making. Inverloch currently does not have representation on council – which is part of the reason I'm running. If elected I will personally ensure Inverloch and every other part of Bunurong Ward is listened to and has their voice heard in decision making.



LES LARKE BUNURONG WARD

Lives in: Wonthaggi

Why are you running for council?

To ratepayers and residents. I thought it was important to outline my vision for the future of Bass Coast Shire Council. Council exists to service the needs of the community in an effective and efficient way, and this fundamental is so often overlooked. The best interests of ratepayers and residents should always be at the forefront in the decision-making processes and this includes being mindful of costs at all times. It would be my privilege to represent our community in the next term.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

My view as a Certified Practicing Accountant, is that rates and garbage charges should be frozen for twelve months to drive transformation of Council's finances and provide cost of living relief. Similarly, a complete review of the capital expenditure program and ten-year long term financial plan is necessary, with particular emphasis on advocacy programs for health including disability services and positive ageing, education, roads and footpaths, and coastal management to protect our environment, properties and infrastructure.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes, subject to exclusion of commercial in confidence sessions.

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

Excellent communication and engagement are essential, and it is imperative for Council to clearly communicate all proposals and decisions in a way that people understand and, by a large majority, support.



BRIAN ROBINSON BUNURONG WARD

Why are you running for council?

The council has lost its way and the trust of the community by focusing on issues outside its remit and neglecting local service delivery.



EDDIE HALAIJIAN BUNURONG WARD

Why are you running for council?

After 15 years in Inverloch and Wonthaggi, I've seen how key issues like infrastructure and transparency have been ignored, and how residents' voices are not being heard. As an independent candidate with 25 years of leadership across multiple industries, I'm free from political pressures. My focus is on delivering practical, common-sense solutions for Bunurong Ward – cutting red tape and making sure your concerns shape every council decision.



What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Infrastructure: Our roads and footpaths are deteriorating, creating safety risks for the community. Fixing these is essential for our safety and mobility.
2. Coastal Erosion: Our beaches, key to both local tourism and our way of life, and the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club are under threat. I'll push for immediate action to protect them.
3. Transparency: Residents deserve to know how their money is being spent and what decisions are made behind closed doors. I'll ensure clear communication and full accountability.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Absolutely. Livestreaming ensures council accountability and keeps residents informed on decisions that affect their lives. While there's a small risk of councillors "grandstanding," the benefits of transparency far outweigh the risks.

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

Regular forums, surveys, and livestreamed meetings will give residents a stronger voice. As an independent, I'll push for both digital and in-person options, ensuring council decisions reflect the true needs of our community.



LETICIA LAING BUNURONG WARD

Lives in: Wonthaggi

Why are you running for council?

I believe in giving back to my community. Whether it's through volunteering or using my legal skills I want to fight for what my community deserves: more funding for better facilities and action on a range of environmental and town growth challenges.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Securing funding to support facilities and infrastructure will be a major issue but I'm up for the fight and advocating for funding across all levels of government. For example, our regional aquatic facility in Wonthaggi is old and rundown. The community deserves a new regional pool. For too long, has funding gone to the Island when it should come this way.

Inverloch is experiencing significant growth and pressures with few plans for infrastructure or streetscape upgrades. Inverloch needs attention to revitalise its activity centre.

Coastal erosion: Now that the State has released the Cape-to-Cape Resilience Plan for public consultation, we need to fight for a commitment to deliver the full plan to protect Inverloch's beautiful beaches.



Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

I support live streaming of Ordinary Council Meetings, not briefings.

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

I have consistently attended as many community events, meetings and catch-ups as possible. If elected, I will continue this work and include coffee with a councillor sessions to learn more about what the community needs and how I can help.

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD BY POST.

**BALLOT PAPERS WILL BE
MAILED OUT FROM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7
OVER FOUR DAYS**

BASS COAST SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTION 2024

MAT MORGAN BUNURONG WARD

Why are you running for council?

We have an ageing population that relies on young people to service the local economy, yet working-age people are leaving Bass Coast in droves. Young people need a councillor who speaks to them.

I also bring professional experience working in the office of the ACT Minister for Seniors, Mental Health and Corrections. I've spent days pouring over budget briefs, policy documents, you name it; I've done it. I know how to get things done, and I know my way around a budget.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Footpaths are the most common issue raised with me while doorknocking. I've spoken to people with mobility issues who can't leave their homes because they no longer drive and have no safe way into town. Council spends a tiny proportion of the budget on footpaths compared to other LGAs.
2. Our precious coastal environment and the housing crisis don't need to be at odds. I'll fight to bring the Cape Paterson boundary back and protect our wildlife corridors whilst committing to sustainable, affordable housing where it's needed, close to jobs, schools and public transport.
3. The McBride Ave campus. I've been running a survey asking people what they would like to see happen at the campus. I'm enjoying hearing everyone's ideas. To bring any of them to fruition, a council that isn't afraid of lobbying in Spring St is required.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

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

Livestreams, citizen assemblies, active consultation, doorknocking, let's do it all! I'm also very active and easy to contact on social media.

DARRELL SILVA ISLAND WARD

Why are you running for council?

Many in the community I speak with are frustrated that Council decisions don't reflect their needs. This frustration is reflected in the 2024 Local Government Survey. The recommended focus for Bass Coast is to "improve transparency and communication around its decision making and consultation processes".

The results of the survey and feedback to me from the community have prompted me to action.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Issues rated lowest in the survey by residents of Bass Coast:

- Create policies and actions that improve transparency and communication around decision making.
- Prioritise community services rather than political party agendas when spending ratepayer's money.
- Ensure performance measures of Bass Coast are focused on value for money for ratepayers.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes, with the exception of confidential content. The live streaming provides greater understanding of the decision-making process and clarity to ratepayers of the arguments for/against.

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

Better inclusion in decision making starts with councillors setting Community Consultation Policies that reflect the following:

- Allow any and all participants who want to be involved in Community Consultation to do so.
- Ability to extend or conduct additional consultation if the initial consultation is insufficient.
- Councillors are involved (where possible) in the design of the questions and the approval of processes.
- Ensure that adequate sample sizes are used to validate any findings or recommendations
- Councillors have much more prescriptive involvement in the design of community consultation processes.



MEG EDWARDS BUNURONG WARD

Why are you running for council?

To change the direction of council from an ideological one to one that serves and delivers for our community with a back-to-basics approach.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Getting Back to Basics: Core infrastructure and service needs provided effectively that benefit the whole community. Local roads, balanced development, prompt decisions and processes, sporting and recreation facilities (including aquatic), good lighting/streetcape and signage (that assists in community safety and our town's unique characters), footpaths, accessibility to public and private buildings.

Taking Action - Getting things done, transparency and communication: Transparency of all information (except rare exceptions with reasons provided) should be publicly available including briefings to Councillors. This will improve communications, build trust and get things done so that people can get on with their lives and council delivering value for ratepayer money and outcomes.

Protecting our Coast: Urgently implementing hard engineering to protect the Inverloch Surf Beach and Life Saving Club: critical for our environment, tourists, residents and economy.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?



PRUDENCE SCHOLTES BUNURONG WARD

Lives in: Wonthaggi

Why are you running for council?

I fought to remove the retrospective Environment Audit Overlay placed on over 600 properties on behalf of landowners. I stood up because I care about our community and felt that this injustice needed immediate action. The problems we encountered with dealing with Council have driven me to put my hand up to bring change again.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Communication. Governance regulations on how the organisation communicates with residents needs to be revised. The Wonthaggi debacle is partly due to someone, sometime, repeatedly failing to pass on vital information within the organisation and with the public. We bore the brunt of these failings. So much of the angst and negativity towards the current Council group could be avoided by increasing communication strategies and frequency within the Council and the public.
2. Financial Management: Inflation and State Government reductions in funds given to Councils are going to make significant dents in Council funds. We must prioritise maximum return on our investments and avoid vague or 'idealistic' planning.
3. Big picture planning. Planning for over 5000 new blocks of residential land in Wonthaggi began nearly 20 years ago. Providing social services to cater for the population growth should be included and funded in planning schemes.



Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

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

Let me count the ways.... Chat with a Councilor/Mayor opportunities, frequent updates on what Council is currently working on so residents can provide feedback in real time. Council meetings need to be located in a space that can accommodate more people in the gallery for a start.

JOHN TRIGT ISLAND WARD

Lives in: Surf Beach

Why are you running for council?

I believe that the Bass Coast ratepayers need strong independent representation in council.



What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Council to commit to the freeze of the current township boundaries, stop any push to rezone sensitive coastal areas for large scale tourism developments and repeal or revisit the Bass Coast council BURT policy approved last year.
2. Council to commit to the government rate cap and make sure all future garbage charges are no more than CPI increase and have council focus its efforts on its core responsibilities Rates, Roads, and Rubbish, not on State or Federal matters.
3. Island ward concerns. Make an immediately start on rezoning of the Carnival site and Hilton Chadwick Reserve and start seeking funding from Federal and State government to develop the Cowes recreational site for an Aquatic Centre and Willow sporting hub.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes, I would strongly support livestreaming of council briefing sessions.

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

By improving consultation, bringing back monthly engagement meetings with ratepayers. If I am elected, I will have monthly meetings with ratepayers at Cowes Berninnett Centre.

DAVID ROOKS ISLAND WARD

Why are you running for council?



I care for our community and I'm enthusiastic to continue providing experienced and strategic leadership as an Island Ward Councillor for the betterment of all. More information at david-rooks.webnode.page

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Our community wishes to keep our island home a special place to live and visit, as such, I will...
1. Continue to protect and enhance our natural environment. Council is tackling this through our 2018 Biolinks plan, our 2023 Urban Forest Strategy, 2024 establishment of our Environmental fund, and by strengthening our coastal protection policy this term. Council can further improve these initiatives with greater funding.
2. Remain steadfast on maintaining our town boundaries from further residential development. Council can achieve this through completion of the Distinctive Areas and Landscape process.
3. Ensure appropriate residential development takes place in the different areas of the Bass Coast. The following pieces of work have worked towards supporting this area: The 2024 Neighbourhood Character Study, 2024 Housing Strategy and the 2024 Residential Canopy Cover Improvement Strategy. Next up we must complete the Residential Character Framework and statutory implementation.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

I think that some of the discussions could be livestreamed.

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

By getting involved. Council seeks feedback from the community on all decisions it makes. We need an engaged community to provide feedback with all Councils community consultation.

REFER TO THE SENTINEL-TIMES OCTOBER 1 EDITION FOR SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE CANDIDATES

MARNIE CHADWICK ISLAND WARD



Lives in: Wimbledon Heights

Why are you running for council?

I have lived here since I was young, and my family has continuously been involved in the local community. I deeply care about Phillip Island and its residents. I am dedicated to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Island, preserving its past, protecting its natural surroundings and coastline, and backing the community. I am a fulltime resident, sole mother to two neurodiverse tweens. Advocating for neurodiverse understanding, and inclusion, are also important to me.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Building a solid foundation of transparency and accountability between the Council and community is crucial. Facilitating healthy in-person community meetings can serve as a crucial avenue for addressing local concerns, promoting discussions, and initiating collaborative efforts towards positive change.
2. Moving forward with the 80 acres recreation reserve (Hilton Chadwick Reserve) ensuring rezoning from farming to recreation for perpetuity and creating a new timeline so that work can get started for our youth and families now, not 20 years!
3. Protecting the unique coastline of Phillip Island. Due to climate change and the foreshore, it is especially important that the Shire ensures sensitive, secure planning, commitment and sustainability for the future.

I would love to see the future Counsellors and Community working together helping to ensure a brighter more sustainable future.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes I support this, I also believe that transcripts should be provided.

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

Council meetings to be held throughout Bass Coast. Incorporate question time again. Residents need to be included in the decision-making processes.

RON BAUER ISLAND WARD



Why are you running for council?

I want to be re-elected so that I can continue to serve the Phillip Island community. The Island has different needs to the mainland. We are a tourist destination as well as a residential area. We have 14,000 people living here. It's balancing the needs of the Island's residents against tourism. We need Island ward councillors that will stand up for our island. Remember, Phillip Island brings in most of the rates, we deserve better from the Shire.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Rezone and begin to build the recreation reserve in Cowes. Pick up the red bin (land fill) every week from Christmas to Australia Day, workable parking solutions, lobby Government to introduce meaningful erosion measures.

I could go on...

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes, to a point. As in every organisation there are times when business in confidence must be carried out in closed session. But even now many items are being voted on in camera could be debated in the open council meetings.

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

A more inclusive question time where the questioner can ask a follow up question on notice, better engagement sessions whether in person or by electronic means. Send out a questionnaire with the quarterly rate notices.

A vote for me is a vote for our Island.

**DEADLINE: RETURN YOUR
BALLOT PAPERS BY 6PM ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25**

TIM O'BRIEN ISLAND WARD



Why are you running for council?

I'm a resident, and like other residents I have an expectation of Council to reflect what the community wants, to act on the things important to that community, and not be driven by its own agenda. As a candidate, I bring fresh ideas, capability, a willingness to listen and broad experience having worked in media and an executive role in a large NGO (working closely with Government). I will work for the benefit of Phillip Island and the Bass Coast Region.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. New ovals/facilities for Phillip Island Football Netball club. The land is there, the club has waited nearly 40 years for promised new facilities.
2. Coastal erosion impacting Silverleaves (and elsewhere) must be a priority, keeping DEECA and the State Government on the hook. The 'East Cowes' shoreline has been subject to decades of mismanagement due in part to ignorance and in equal part to "kicking the can down the road".
3. General rates cap, a fairer deal and better support for our farmers, and a rejection of inappropriate development in the farm zone.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes. I strongly believe in transparency and in an informed constituency. However, there may be matters arising that require in camera discussion – due to sensitivities around disclosure, or confidentiality, where there may be risk to privacy or potential prejudice.

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

Council can start by putting more effort into consultation and in better understanding community thinking. Much of the consultation comes in the way of community briefings at the end of a decision-making process, with the decision having been made. BURT is arguably a case in point, and the Cowes Streetscape Master Plan – each has hallmarks of being answers to questions no-one asked.

TRACEY BELL ISLAND WARD



Why are you running for council?

I deeply care about the kind of world we will leave for our children. My son and I are proud to call Millowl our home, where we live, work and learn together. We're actively involved in sports and other activities which fuel my passion for fostering a strong, vibrant community and achieving the best outcomes for our Island.

We need a Council that embraces change, responds to our needs, and prioritises our community's immediate concerns.

I am running as a candidate because our growing community deserves better delivery of the basics. I value honesty, transparency, and accountability.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Youth engagement: creating opportunities for our young people to participate, contribute, and thrive.
2. Sustainable development: balancing environmental responsibility with economic opportunity; advocating against urban development beyond current town boundaries.
3. Responsible tourism: protecting our natural and cultural heritage for generations to come. Collaborate with businesses and community to transform PI into an eco-tourism destination.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

In principle yes, but I'm mindful that there are issues that may require confidentiality.

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

We need engagement strategies that suit all demographics. Open meetings or forums are probably preferred by older people, while online surveys or chats will ensure the youth engage as well. Face-to-face forums and good old-fashioned market research, where officers roam public spaces, are also key. At voting time, think about who you are voting for and check that the person you are electing lives locally and is active in the community.

BRIAN O'FARRELL WESTERN PORT WARD



Lives in: Corinella

Why are you running for council?

For too long there has been dissatisfaction with high rates, services received and overall direction of Council. As a retired CPA and consultant, with senior experience in local government, I am uniquely qualified to represent the community and help change Council for the better.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Get the fundamentals right – Council must become more effective at delivering the core services that affect liveability and amenity of our communities – roads, footpaths, connected trails, disabled access, rubbish and recreation facilities.
2. Financial accountability – Bass Coast manages over \$1B in assets, and this year will spend \$80M delivering around 100 different services and \$24M in capital works. This significant budget demands rigorous financial oversight to ensure it is spent wisely.
3. Common sense and transparency – perceived lack of transparency has led to distrust and disillusionment with Council decisions despite its best efforts to engage with the community. This perception needs to change so the public voice is heard and respected in Council deliberations and subsequent decisions.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

No, I prefer to have high level minutes published following the sessions as these are more easily communicated to residents. Councillors can receive questions and requests for more information rather than requiring residents to spend a day online watching the stream.

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

Community panels complement existing community engagement forums to improve the conversation between Council and the community. These can generate common sense contributions (does it pass the pub test?) and ensure the public voice is heard and respected in Council deliberations and subsequent decisions.

GLENDY MINTY WESTERN PORT WARD



Lives in: North Wonthaggi

Why are you running for council?

I noticed a distinct lack of council action 'on the ground' and my door knocking has greatly reinforced my feelings a new direction is needed. I live in the growth area of, North Wonthaggi. I understand Dalyston, San Remo and Grantville are all growing rapidly too, all apparently without proper consideration to their needs. My skills developed in community groups, a passion for planning and listening, and a can-do attitude for change will help me find solutions before problems become catastrophes.

What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Both getting the best value for rate dollars and being responsive to community needs while fostering resilience are important. Strategic planning for the approaching climate change events and rapid population growth is even more important. Reducing impacts on the natural environment and agriculture while still catering for business, tourism and livability is vital. Community driven planning schemes correctly implemented and policed benefit us all.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes, why shouldn't we have the ability to hear what officers are telling councilors too. Secrecy breeds anger and frustration.

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

A Citizens Advisory Committee to Council could turn around the current, unsuccessful, ad hoc community consultation. It would not make decisions but would provide alternative viewpoints and solutions. Why waste the vast pool of expertise within our community that is currently largely untapped. This way council consultation would start with community voices. Council is after all; a servant of the people and the peoples' say must be heard.

JAN THOMPSON WESTERN PORT WARD

Why are you running for council?

After hearing discontent amongst residents about the direction the Council was heading and with encouragement from peers in the local community, I decided to nominate and be a voice and advocate for our community.



What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Get back to basics – We need to focus on services and maintain infrastructure. From potholes, lack of footpaths and inadequate hard rubbish disposal, our community is being let down.
2. Economic Responsibility and Transparency – We all expect to pay rates so our Council can provide the basic amenities. What we do not want is costly infrastructure that appeals to some but does not address the needs of the majority. Stop wasteful spending and set clear and responsible targets within our budget framework. Improve transparency by involving community engagement in decisions.
3. Housing – The three fundamentals for every human being are adequate food, access to health and a roof over their head. We are experiencing a housing disaster. There are too few affordable dwellings to buy or rent. Council can shine a light by encouraging pods in backyards, tiny houses, and mobile housing. We need to do better on all levels of Government.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

For critical issues I would support live streaming of Council briefing sessions. However, a transcript would suffice for all briefings.

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

Representatives from a diverse background to advise by way of panels, consultations, and meetings. A tabling of important high-level minutes made to the public. To allow feedback from ratepayers before decisions are made by Councillors.

NIKOLE SCHELLEKENS WESTERN PORT WARD

Lives in: Bass

Why are you running for council?

I am running for council to engage with our communities, expand vital services, and support our farmers and those who care for the land. I am passionate about fostering strong connections, enhancing local infrastructure, and ensuring sustainable growth that protects our environment, promotes rural living, and strengthens the well-being of residents across Bass Coast.



What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

The three most pressing issues for Bass Coast Shire Council are managing population growth while maintaining essential services, protecting the environment from overdevelopment, and supporting sustainable agriculture. Addressing these challenges requires careful planning to balance community needs, preserve natural landscapes, and ensure long-term prosperity for residents, businesses, and farmers alike.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

Yes, I would support livestreaming of council briefing sessions. Livestreaming enhances transparency, encourages community engagement, and provides residents with greater access to the decision-making process. It allows for greater accountability and ensures that the community remains informed about the discussions and developments that shape the future of the Bass Coast Shire.

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

The community can be better included in council decision-making by expanding public consultations through town hall meetings, surveys, and advisory committees. Simply having information online and expecting engagement isn't enough – many residents need more accessible ways to participate. As a social worker, I understand the importance of face-to-face interaction and inclusive strategies to ensure decisions reflect the diverse needs of our community.

JON TEMBY WESTERN PORT WARD

Lives in: West Creek

Why are you running for council?

I'm a committed environmentalist with a background in the corporate world. I have experience in farming, teaching, the arts, risk management for multinational companies and running my own OHS consulting business. I believe my professional and community experience and skills equip me to deal with the challenges facing our council and to be a strong independent advocate for the Western Port Ward.



What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

1. Protect nature, especially the Western Port Woodlands. Despite great efforts by Landcare and many residents, Bass Coast is one of the most cleared shires in Australia. Our new environment fund is a great start. Perhaps the first purchase could be the old Holden Proving Ground.
2. Increase open space for passive recreation. The young families moving into our new estates shouldn't have to get into the car to go for a picnic, fly a kite or let the dog off for a run.
3. Improve public transport and community connections in small townships across Bass Coast. Council must ensure developers meet all their contractual obligations and ensure that the State Government responds to resident needs.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

No. Making all meetings public would not lead to good decision making. Councillors sometimes need to receive confidential background information from the officers, including commercial-in-confidence information. They also need to have free and frank discussions away from the public gaze. Transparency regarding minutes and voting should be public.

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

Reinstate the monthly forum for community groups to address councillors on important issues.

ROCHELLE HALSTEAD WESTERN PORT WARD

Why are you running for council?

Having served my first term as a Bass Coast Councillor and as Deputy Mayor since 2022 I've built relationships, gained an intimate understanding of the organisation, its plans, policies and strategies. I know how to drive the system for on the ground outcomes that our community is desperate to see. Not the big expensive ticket items but the basic everyday needs, sporting facilities, parks and gardens, roads, bridges, libraries, family and community general services, garbage collection, animal management and planning.



What are the three most important issues ahead for council?

Fiscal financial management has to be a priority. A \$33 million arts and culture centre was an over-the-top commitment for a small regional town with a budget of \$105 million. While grand and wonderful, we have a long list of historical legacies that must be addressed, and does not appear to be offering the same community involvement as the more modest previous centre. Council should provide full details on its management and budget, ensuring it meets the needs of both tourists and local arts groups and art lovers.

Phillip Island Road is critical. Every high season we have gridlock and know that the first stage of this project is in San Remo.

Governance. It is my belief that the governance rules have hampered Councillors' ability to engage with the community causing a lack of transparency and resulting in an erosion of trust and ultimately a lack of civic pride. I hope the new council will foster respectful, transparent debate, embracing diverse views with a commitment to seeking the best decisions to create a strong, resilient and prosperous Bass Coast Community.

Would you support livestreaming of council briefing sessions?

If this matter is decided through a democratic process and an expressed community desire, I would support it.

*Final question left off due to space

BALLOT PACKS MAILED FOR BASS AND SOUTH GIPPSLAND

VOTERS enrolled in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shire Council elections should check the mail for their ballot packs.

The voters' packs are being posted on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 7, 8, 9 and 10 this week.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel is encouraging people to vote as early as possible.

"This election is postal, so it's important to complete and return your ballot material as soon as possible to make sure your vote counts," Mr Bluemmel said.

The fine for not voting is \$99.

Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the Bass Coast election office at Old Post Office, 74 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi or the South Gippsland election office in Smith Street, Leongatha by 6 pm Friday, October 25.

Voters who haven't received their ballot pack by Tuesday, October 15 should go to vec.vic.gov.au to complete an online replacement ballot pack form.

Candidates who have nominated for the election are listed in the ballot packs and on the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website at vec.vic.gov.au. If candidates have provided them, there will also be candidate photos and statements in the packs, and answers to the candidate questionnaire online.

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled for this election at 4pm Wednesday, August 7.

MEET YOUR COUNCIL CANDIDATE

A SERIES of meet the candidates' forums will be held online next week for each ward in the Shire of South Gippsland.

Having followed the progression of council campaigns across other shires, independent candidate for the federal seat of Monash, Deb Leonard will run the series of forums next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

Deb Leonard said she noticed there had not been much opportunity for community members in South Gippsland to hear from their candidates in a formal setting or ask questions in a public forum.

"I feel it is so important to encourage community engagement at all levels of politics and facilitate connection between community and decision makers," said Ms Leonard.

The Strezlecki Ward forum will be held on Monday, October 14, the Tarwin Valley Ward Tuesday, October 15 and Coastal Prom Ward, Wednesday, October 17 all from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Each candidate will give a short minute presentation of their vision and plans for council followed by an opportunity for audience members to ask questions.

The forum will also be recorded for those that cannot attend.

Although a candidate for the federal election Deb Leonard says this will not be a campaign event and council candidates attending the forum are in no way endorsing her for the federal election.

Registrations can be made at tinyurl.com/2nbe85ha

Ms Leonard can be contacted on 0437 180 962 with any queries.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ELECTION?

Head into your local election offices located at:
Bass Coast election office at Old Post Office, 74 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi.
South Gippsland election office in Smith Street, Leongatha.

HAVE QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES?

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for candidate information

Shane Warne saves lives

Premier Jacinta Allan last week announced a grant of \$400,000 to the Shane Warne Legacy to deliver additional medical grade machines that can complete free four-minute heart health checks at the Melbourne Cricket Ground during the Boxing Day Test, following the success of the campaign last summer.

Australian cricketer and leg-spin bowler, Shane Warne, suffered a fatal heart attack in 2022, aged 52. The Shane Warne Legacy honours his life by raising awareness about cardiovascular health.

Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death and impacts one in six people Australia wide. Cardiometabolic disease, such as heart disorders, diabetes, obesity and chronic kidney disease, impacts many Victorians but early detection can help save lives.

"With hundreds of thousands of people travelling from right around Victoria to attend the Boxing Day Test, it's a great opportunity to measure heart health," Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh said.

"I'm proud that our government is supporting the Shane Warne Legacy to provide these checks at the MCG this summer."

Victorians can access preventative heart health checks at their GP, but the Shane Warne Legacy is making it easier for cricket fans to get a free checkup.

Last year, more than 33,000 people received a free Shane Warne Legacy Heart Health Check.

Radiology transition at Bass Coast Health

BASS Coast Health (BCH) has officially transitioned to its new radiology provider, Imaging Associates, which commenced providing imaging services at Wonthaggi Hospital on October 8. This partnership represents a significant milestone in enhancing radiology services for the Bass Coast community and aligns with BCH's strategic objectives for the region.

A key highlight of this transition is the installation of a state-of-the-art, low-dose, cardiac-capable CT scanner. Installation of this advanced equipment is currently underway from October 8th to 18th. During this 10-day period, CT services will be temporarily unavailable at Wonthaggi Hospital. Medical clinics and healthcare providers across the region have been notified in advance of this disruption, with detailed plans in place to manage patient needs and ensure minimal impact on care.

In preparation for the transition, BCH has worked closely with Ambulance Victoria to ensure paramedics are fully briefed and have the necessary clinical support. This assists paramedics to determine the most appropriate hospital destination for patients requiring CT scans during the installation period. If necessary, patients will be redirected to other hospitals equipped with CT scanning facilities, prioritising patient outcomes and timely care throughout the transition.

There is expected to be little to no disruption to other radiology services. Ultrasound, MRI, and intra-operative imaging will continue as normal, ensuring critical diagnostic services remain available to the community. X-ray services will also be maintained through the



A new state of the art CT machine will be installed at Wonthaggi Hospital this week, with CT services unavailable for 10 days.

use of a mobile X-ray unit, which has been set up in the mammography room at Wonthaggi Hospital to ensure uninterrupted access to essential imaging.

To further support patient care during this period, Breast Screen Victoria's mobile screening van will be on-site at Wonthaggi Hospital from October 14th to 23rd. This mobile unit will perform 100 breast screens during this time, covering the services typically provided in the hospital's mammography room. Women aged 40 and above can book their appointments by calling 13 20 50 or visiting breastscreen.org.au. This continuity of care ensures that vital screening services, particularly

those related to early breast cancer detection, will continue without delay.

BCH CEO, Jan Child, acknowledged the short period of service disruption but welcomed the enhanced radiology service that the partnership with Imaging Associates will bring.

"We appreciate everyone's patience during the transition and are pleased to welcome the Imaging Associates team. These enhancements will greatly benefit the Bass Coast community," Ms Child said.

"Our priority remains ensuring the best health outcomes for our community, and we have planned meticulously to make this

transition as smooth as possible."

Imaging Associates is committed to further upgrading radiology services at Wonthaggi Hospital. As part of their long-term plans for the service, Imaging Associates plan to upgrade MRI and mammography services. These upgrades are aligned with BCH's strategic vision to expand access to high-quality imaging and ensuring the community benefits from the latest advancements in radiology.

By investing in cutting-edge equipment and technology, Imaging Associates will help BCH deliver world-class diagnostic services that meet the evolving healthcare needs of the Bass Coast region.



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For bookings call 03 5644 2050 or visit imagingassociates.net.au





Auxiliary brings barista coffee and more food options to Phillip Island Health Hub

STAFF and consumers at Phillip Island Health Hub at Cowes now have access to barista made coffee and a fridge full of food on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (9am - 1pm).

The Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary donated \$14,500 for the purchase of a coffee cart through fundraising efforts including horse racing days, raffles and trivia nights, which means staff and members of the public can purchase beverages or a snack.

Next to the coffee cart, in the Hub reception area, there is also a vending fridge with a variety of healthy drinks and food. Together, the cart and fridge provide a convenient selection of coffee and food options for patients, families and staff.



Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary Outgoing President Lyn Wadeson cuts the ribbon to open the coffee cart at the Phillip Island Health Hub at Cowes, with barista Sue Gale.

Local clinic helps bladder cancer patients

PEOPLE from across South Gippsland are appreciating a local service that helps them to control their bladder cancer close to home.

Gippsland Southern Health Service's Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) clinic at the Korumburra hospital is the only one of its type in South Gippsland and means bladder cancer patients don't have to travel to Melbourne for care.

Wonthaggi's Trevor Luke is one of the local residents to benefit from the Korumburra program and has been receiving treatment for the past five weeks.

Mr Luke, 71, successfully underwent surgery with urologist Mr Owen Niall and is now getting weekly BCG treatment.

"It has been good," he said.

"The procedure is pretty easy; you want to go for a wee all the time but apart from that I don't have any other side effects."

Mr Luke was diagnosed with bladder cancer about three months ago after noticing blood in his urine.

"I only saw it once and then went and had it checked," he said.

"It all happened fairly quickly but we caught it at a good



GSHS' Urology Continence Nurse Practitioner Dianne Jones with patient Trevor, who is receiving cancer treatment without the travel to Melbourne.

time, so we have a positive outlook."

The former Bass Coast Shire grader driver and maintenance supervisor appreciates being able to do the follow-up care in his home region.

"One of the best parts is that I don't have to worry about driving to Melbourne," he said.

He is completing a six-week introductory program and may return for a maintenance course in coming months.

GSHS' Urology Continence Nurse Practitioner Dianne Jones coordinates the inpatient weekly treatment for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer.

Ms Jones, who has been

with GSHS since 2005 and endorsed as a nurse practitioner from 2018, established the BCG clinic at Korumburra in 2020 and recently presented details about the clinic to GSHS's advanced practice committee.

The service is supporting up to 20 people from across the region, including Wonthaggi, Cowes, Tarwin Lower and Inverloch.

"Patients are very appreciative about not having to go to Melbourne weekly as they would have had to had this clinic not been initiated," Ms Jones said.

The clinic is based in Korumburra infusion centre and runs on Tuesdays under the direction of the Ms Jones in collaboration with the referring urologist. People are referred to the service by the urologist.

BCG is an immunotherapy otherwise known as inactivative form of tuberculosis. Ms Jones said the treatment was discovered by scientists who found there was less incidence of bladder cancer in cadavers who had tuberculosis. A vial of the bacteria is instilled into the client's bladder, creating an immune response to eradicate the cancer.

Learn how to save lives this Shocktober

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) has launched its life-saving annual campaign Shocktober, which calls on the South Gippsland community to learn the three simple steps to improve cardiac arrest survival rates – Call, Push, Shock.

Around 21 Victorians suffer a cardiac arrest every day and only one in 10 survive, which is why it's crucial that people know what to do.

Bystander intervention has the greatest impact on improving someone's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest – for every minute that CPR is delayed, survival decreases by 10 per cent.

Shocktober is a month-long cardiac arrest awareness campaign to highlight the importance of learning CPR and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

AV Regional Director Gippsland Ross Salathiel said you don't have to be a paramedic to be a life saver – it's as easy as calling Triple Zero (000), pushing hard and fast in the middle of the person's chest and if available, using an AED to deliver a shock.

"Every minute matters in a cardiac arrest and when a patient receives CPR and a shock from an AED before paramedics arrive, their chance of survival more than doubles," he said.

"Last year, paramedics responded to a record 7830 cardiac arrest patients but there was also a record amount of bystander intervention."

"Anyone can perform CPR and use an AED – you don't need training or to be qualified."

"If someone is in cardiac arrest and an AED is available, simply open it and follow the instructions."

AV will be out and about hosting community engagement sessions across the region.

Last October, AV organised 340 Shocktober events which reached more than 6700 Victorians.

While Victoria has the best cardiac arrest survival rates in Australia, and among the best in the world, Ross said there's more to be done and we need your help.

"There are a number of things you can do to help contribute to better cardiac arrest survival rates in Victoria," he said.

"I encourage everyone to sign up as a GoodSAM responder – it's a smartphone app that connects patients in cardiac arrest with members of the community who are willing to start CPR in the critical minutes before paramedics arrive."

"We have around 16,000 GoodSAM responders across the state, but we always need more."

"You don't have to be first aid qualified, you just have to be willing to perform hands-only CPR and be over 18 years old."

For more information about Shocktober, the GoodSAM app and how to perform CPR and use an AED, visit ambulance.vic.gov.au/shocktober.

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Blood Drive rolls into Wonthaggi

GOT a bit of time next month? Time to give blood and change lives? One in three people in Wonthaggi will need blood, and they need people like you to give it.

The Mobile Blook Donor Centre is rolling into town from October 29 to November 1. Tuesday, October 29 11.15am – 6.15pm. Wednesday, October 30 & Thursday, October 31, 9am – 6.15pm. Friday, November 1, 7.30am – 3.15pm.

Don't forget to pre-book your spot at lifefblood.com.au, on the app or on 13 14 95.

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Maternity services ready to grow

GIPPSLAND Southern Health Service (GSHS) is ready to grow its maternity services and is encouraging more local women to use their local facilities.

The number of women giving birth at GSHS has dropped over recent years, but Director of Nursing and Midwifery at Leongatha, Kylie Ashton, says the family-friendly GSHS facilities offer many advantages.

"We're dedicated to providing exceptional maternity care, blending advanced facilities with specialised, compassionate staff to offer a family-centred approach throughout your pregnancy, birthing, and early parenting journey," Ms Ashton said.

Families having their children at GSHS are appreciating the experience, including Jayde Robinson and Corey Gilding who recently welcomed Kayce James to the world, joining his big brother Dean, 4, and sister Kensie, 2.

"Our pregnancy and birthing experience have been truly wonderful – one of the best in the region," they said.

"The midwives have been



Jayde Robinson and Corey Gilding with Kayce James.

caring, supportive, and respectful of all our choices. We feel incredibly fortunate to have had such a dedicated team, always ready to meet our needs and make this journey positive."

In the past financial year there were 148 births at GSHS, significantly below previous heights of around 200 a year.

Ms Ashton said the changes were influenced by the changing local demographic, but some local women could be travelling out of the region because they

didn't know about Leongatha's maternity capacity.

"We want everyone in our region, from Inverloch to Koo Wee Rup to Loch to Poowong to know we have a beautiful low-risk maternity model," she said.

"We have a vibrant midwifery workforce and a focused leadership team that is dedicated to delivering gold standard, low-risk maternity care and we'd like more local women to use the service."

The midwifery department

is adopting a new leadership model and will soon appoint an ongoing midwifery nursing unit manager.

One of the unique features of the services is its focus on being family friendly.

"We encourage partners to be present right through birth and the post-natal period," she said. "It's a family journey."

The unit is recognised as a Level 3 maternity capability and Level 2 newborn capability. The collaborative team includes midwives, lactation consultants, GP obstetricians, theatre staff, and allied health professionals working together to deliver comprehensive care.

The hospital has two birthing suites with ensuites and therapeutic water baths for labour, ensuring both comfort and safety, and there is nearby theatre access for caesareans and aesthetic support for epidurals. GSHS's postnatal rooms are equipped with large ensuites, corner baths, and inbuilt baby baths.

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact GSHS on 5667 5555.

Prom Health welcomes Osteopath Belle Cocksedge back to Foster



Belle Cocksedge joins Xavier and Laura at Prom Health in an exciting addition to the team, offering osteopathy.

Belle is also a dedicated member of the Fish Creek Football Club, where she has worked as a sports trainer for several years. Her family has deep roots in the South Gippsland community – her mother is a long-standing nurse at the Foster Medical Centre, and her family owns a dairy farm in Yanakie. Belle returns to Foster with her

fiancé Tom and their golden retriever, Wally.

Prom Health's newly renovated allied health clinic in Foster, which opened in May 2023, is owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Xavier Grech and Laura Malady. Their goal was to create a welcoming, professional space for both patients and practitioners.

"This is an exciting new chapter for us. We're expanding the clinic to better serve the health needs of the South Gippsland community. The two of us can only do so much – many hands make light work," said Xavier.

In addition to osteopathy, Prom Health offers services in Traditional Chinese Medicine/Acupuncture and Strength and Conditioning exercise programs, all housed within their fully equipped rehab gym. Osteopathy, which focuses on treating the body's musculoskeletal system, is similar to physiotherapy and is ideal for treating a range of conditions, from sports injuries to chronic pain.

For more information about Prom Health's services or to book an appointment with Belle or any of their practitioners, visit their website or contact the clinic directly at promhealth.au or call 5959 1900.

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[See our website or call us for more details.](#)

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A fun day was had by Wonthaggi RSL members and Young Veterans at Wonthaggi Gun Club. C02_4124

Staying connected and social is the key

IT MAY have rained Sunday morning (October 6), but the skies cleared as the Young Veterans from Melbourne arrived at Wonthaggi Gun Club for a special collaboration event between Wonthaggi RSL and Young Veterans South East Melbourne.

Ten practice shots under careful guidance by Wonthaggi Gun Club members, was followed by a 20-round competition with prizes awarded at the end.

The event saw eight visitors to the club with several club members also members of the RSL or veterans themselves.

The event is one of many that are hosted locally and further afield by Wonthaggi RSL as part of RSL Active, and separately by Young Veterans. Inverloch RSL also have a great array of RSL Active events, several in collaboration with Wonthaggi.

"A lot of our members here today, are ex-army," Wonthaggi RSL President Dan Lucas explained.

"A few navy also joined in, and like Andy, some choose not to shoot but come out for the day to be a part of it."

"There is a social aspect to all our events. A key factor for veteran mental health

is getting active and social to stimulate your mental health."

The sentiment is shared by Stuart Couch from Young Veterans and the Vice President of Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL.

"Young Veterans host targeted group activities that bring veterans and their families together, a lynchpin to help veterans integrate back into society," Stuart said.

"You have a common bond, and friendships are formed."

Young Veterans was founded by brothers, Chris and Scott May, along with their friend Sven Thompson, veterans of Afghanistan and/or Iraq. After Chris was severely injured during deployment, he faced challenges adjusting to civilian life. Seeing many of their friends struggling as well, they decided to take action.

"There was little to no post-service support," Stuart continued, reflecting on his transition and that of most service personnel. "I was out in 28 days."

"You lose your sense of community," Young Veteran South East Melbourne chapter coordinator Mathew Keene added, noting veterans often leave

their mates behind when they are discharged.

"We want to break down the barriers of re-integration, bringing together like-minded groups in a comfortable environment. The social connections, the mateship; love getting people out and about."

"We're here shooting today, next week Werribee Zoo, an American BBQ Social Day with Veterans for Fishing – where we'll learn to cook, there are surfing events at Anglesea and UrbnSurf, fishing tournaments – there's so many ideas that come up, even this morning on the way down, a new group of veterans who hadn't met before, they were exchanging ideas."

"Having the Young Veterans Bus means veterans can rock up, jump on and have an enjoyable day."

And whilst today's event was hosted by Wonthaggi RSL Active, the veterans are keen to spread the word about staying active and connected for mental health.

"We understand not every veteran wants to become an RSL member, or be affiliated with the RSL, but we are so much more, we have the resources if veterans need support or assistance, and

you don't even need to be a member to join in a number of our events, just a veteran or emergency service personnel," Dan explained.

And whilst Stuart was more than delighted to point out that RSL Active started after Young Veterans, Dan was quick to note that Wonthaggi is the largest regional RSL Active.

The duo also remarked that veterans should not give up on RSLs if they'd previously had a bad experience in the past.

"Younger veterans are the custodians of the RSLs, they are the spirit of the ANZACS."

"A lot is changing."

Wonthaggi RSL Active events include Archery (December 8), Monthly Walk (Fourth Thursday of the month at 9.30am), Morning Tea (Third Thursday of the month at 10am), Inverloch-Wonthaggi Clay Target Challenge and numerous other events. Pop into Wonthaggi RSL for more details.

For a full list of Veterans' Health Week (and October events) across Victoria head to dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/work-and-social-life-programs/veterans-health-week/veterans-health-week-2024/victoria-event-calendar.

Veterans' Health Week highlights ongoing support services

LEONGATHA RSL is holding an excursion to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne on October 16 to mark Veterans' Health Week, with the welfare of veterans and their families an important focus throughout the year and veteran support services always available.

Veterans' Health Week runs from October 13-20, with the theme 'Keep Connected'.

The Cranbourne Botanic Gardens was chosen as an ideal location for Veterans' Health Week, promoting a sense of wellbeing and peace.

The excursion, titled 'Nourish & Collect, a Healthy Living Experience' is free, with the RSL shouting lunch.

A free walking tour, and a tourist 'train' trip around the gardens have been organised, with the RSL picking up the tab for those booked on the 'train'.

At the time of writing, there were only a couple of 'train' seats left.

There is no obligation to take a walking tour or 'train' trip.

A bus leaves Leongatha RSL at 9.30am, with people required to book their seat by calling the RSL on 5662 2747, and those wanting to come encouraged to RSVP by October 9.

Anyone requiring special dietary needs should advise the RSL.

Call Wendy Wyhoon on 0407 863 477 or the RSL for further information.

All veterans are encouraged to take up the opportunities available through the RSL, whether they need support or just want to socialise.

For those interested in support services, welfare officers are available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at Leongatha RSL and people are encouraged to call the RSL on 5662 2747.

Welfare officers are happy to see them there or at the Leongatha RSL hub if preferred.

Pensions advocates are available at the Leongatha RSL hub on Thursdays and offer assistance with

anything to do with DVA, service pensions, gold cards, white cards and eligibility.

Call the RSL to make an appointment.

Support is always available and visits to veterans can be arranged.

Leongatha RSL also runs welfare lunches monthly.

While there is a strong focus in the media on the World Wars and Vietnam War on occasions such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, Leongatha RSL secretary Vivian Carroll stressed veterans of campaigns such as Iraq and Afghanistan along with those who served on peacekeeping missions mustn't be forgotten.

Many are suffering as a result of their service, whether psychologically or physically, and that can spark issues such as substance abuse, homelessness and dealing with the challenges of a return to civilian life that have always confronted many veterans.

While some of those more recent veterans have already

been embraced by Leongatha RSL, Vivian said those in charge would love to welcome more.

She has long been involved in veteran welfare, her passion driven by the World War II service of her grandfather and her father's Vietnam War service, having witnessed the ongoing impact of the conflict on her dad.

RSL Victoria is there to provide assistance and support to past and present service personnel and their families.

You do not have to be a member of the RSL to receive assistance from RSL Victoria; any current or former member of the Australian Defence Force, our allies, or a dependent of those in either group can access support.

That support is wide-ranging, catering to the specific needs of individuals, including empowering veterans to develop their social networks, the Veteran Employment Program, Financial Welfare initiatives and mental health support.

Shining a light on Inverloch RSL

AS VETERANS Health Week kicks off, Inverloch RSL is ramping up its efforts to connect with veterans through a series of RSL Active events tailored to reach more veterans in the region.

For Health Week they will be featuring Professor Peter Hudson who will describe new biotechnology products to improve cancer treatments. This will be held at 10am at the Inverloch RSL Hall.

Recognising that traditional hall-based events may not suit everyone, the RSL is shifting its focus to more flexible and accessible options for local and visiting veterans, and their families.

Among the upcoming initiatives are morning coffee meetups, which will run throughout summer. These informal gatherings are designed to connect with local veterans as well as visiting veterans, and their families, who frequent Inverloch during the holiday season. Working alongside local businesses and neighbouring sub-branches, everyone is welcome to join.

As the warmer months approach, Inverloch RSL will also be hosting regular evening beach walks, beginning at 5.30pm. These walks provide a relaxed environment for veterans to socialise while enjoying the coastal scenery. Following the walks, participants will have the option to return to the RSL for a casual barbecue.

As published in the September 17 edition, when the Sentinel-Times sat down with Inverloch RSL committee members, the team are maintaining momentum in their advocacy efforts following the release of the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

On October 17, President Ross Gabb will be attending the RSL State

Presidents Forum to discuss improvements in communication policies. Earlier this year, Inverloch RSL successfully passed a Policy Remit at the State Conference aimed at enhancing communication strategies to better reach veterans and their families.

"This isn't a membership drive," secretary Lindsay Guerin emphasised.

"It's about improving how we communicate with veterans – making sure they know we're here for them and their families, whether they're looking for support, camaraderie, or simply a place to connect."

In a show of respect for those who served in Afghanistan, the RSL will hold a short service on Friday, October 11 at 9am at the Inverloch Cenotaph. The ceremony will commemorate Operation SLIPPER, the Australian Defence Force's mission in Afghanistan. While there is no set date to recognise broader Middle East operations, October 11 has been designated by the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the Afghanistan operations. Veterans, their families and members of the public are welcome to join the service.

Inverloch RSL has an array of members ready and able to assist, whether it's advocacy support for pensions and compensation, guidance towards available mental health support services specifically designed for veterans and their families, or simply a coffee and a chat, with no obligation to be a member, the gents and ladies are ready to help you. Remember, you don't have to go at it alone.

For more information on upcoming events at Inverloch reach out to the RSL directly or visit the Inverloch RSL Facebook page.

Veteran Support Services

SUPPORT Services for Veterans and their families.

Active is taking place.

RSL Victoria Veteran Support:

Veteran Central - rslvic.com.au/veteran-support/veteran-central/

Compensation Support/Advocacy – Contact Inverloch RSL (

0400 825 386) or Leongatha RSL (5662 2012)

Veterans Employment Program (rslvic.com.au/veteran-support/veterans-employment-program/veterans-employment-program-opportunities)

Financial Welfare (rslvic.com.au/veteran-services/military-compensation-advocacy/financial-welfare)

Soldier On (1300 620 380 | soldieron.org.au):

Assists ADF personnel, veterans and their families, with meaningful employment, a sense of purpose and a connection to community.



What to do when you feel overwhelmed

With Jason Crestani,
Psychologist

WITH Mental Health Month, local Bass Coast Psychologist Jason Crestani has taken the opportunity to explore what to do when we feel overwhelmed at work or at home.

"While this time of year brings the happy anticipation of warmer weather and holidays," Jason said, "it also brings competing priorities for the end of the year and of course, Christmas."

When you're swamped by your to-do list or your emotions, everything may seem too much to handle, which affects your emotional well-being. We can feel stuck, unable to move forward, and sometimes even hopeless.

"The cup is filled to the brim with water. Every task, worry, or challenge you face is another drop of water added to the cup. When there's too much water, it's saying hello to overwhelm."

Overwhelm is a natural response to the high demands placed on us, not a reflection of our capabilities or strength. Understanding these overwhelming feelings can help find relief and regain a sense of balance.

Jason consults with many clients both privately and under the NDIS. Many are families trying to balance it all with some sense of control.

1. Stop and breathe

When you feel overwhelmed, pause for a moment. Take deep, slow breaths. This simple action can help calm your mind and body.



In addition to therapy,
Bass Coast Psychologist
Jason Crestani offers
assessments such as
ASD and ADHD, IQ and
educational.

2. Break tasks into smaller steps

If you have a big task, break it down into smaller, more manageable steps to make it feel less overwhelming.

3. Practice mindfulness or meditate

Engage in mindfulness exercises or meditation to help bring your focus back to the present and reduce feelings of overwhelm. A good time is before bed to assist in calmness for restful sleep.

4. Make a "no" list

Identify things you can say no to. This list can help you prioritise and reduce the number of tasks or commitments you have. It's about learning how to defend your time and prioritise what matters to you.

5. Delegate tasks

If you have too much on your plate, see if there are tasks you can hand off to

someone else. Sharing the load can be a huge relief. People pleasers find this difficult, but often others are happy to help if they can understand the need and see a defined role for them.

6. Be kind with yourself

Remind yourself that it's okay to feel this way. Treat yourself with the same gentleness and understanding you'd offer a good friend.

7. Journal your thoughts

Writing down what you're feeling and thinking can help clear your mind and organise your thoughts. Journaling can help kick-start your creativity.

8. Prioritise sleep

Make sure you have a regular sleep routine and a comfortable environment for good-quality sleep.

9. Focus on what you can control

Concentrate on the things you have power over and try to let go of worries about things you can't control. More control over your emotions is the key to dealing with feeling overwhelmed.

10. Include activity

Physical activity is a great stress reliever. Mindful walking, a dance break, or any type of movement that feels good to you will provide an extra boost of feel-good emotions to combat overwhelm and stress.

Jason Crestani with Inspired Honey Psychology offers assessments such as ASD and ADHD, IQ and educational. To make an appointment for assessments or therapy call 0425 764 733 or visit inspiredhoney.com



Data reveals people struggle for years

PEOPLE are grappling with high levels of distress and emerging mental health issues for up to ten years before reaching out for support, a major Beyond Blue survey has found.

Australia's 2024 Mental Health and Wellbeing Check, undertaken by Australian National University's Social Research Centre on behalf of Beyond Blue, is a representative survey that gives a reliable pulse check on the current state of mental health and wellbeing in Australia.

Researchers surveyed more than 5000 people around the country about the common causes of distress they've experienced in the past year and how they have supported their mental health.

This year, almost half (49 per cent) of those who sought professional mental health support said they had waited until they were "very distressed" or "extremely distressed" before they reached out, compared to 30 per cent who were moderately distressed.

Some people waited up to ten years before seeking support.

The top barriers to taking action included waitlists, affordability of treatment and people thinking their problem wasn't serious enough to seek support.

Shame is also getting worse – 22 per cent of people say they aren't getting professional mental health support because they feel ashamed, up from 13 per cent two years ago.

"The main reasons people don't seek support are well known – it can be expensive and the waitlists are long. What's important about this survey is that it's telling us mental health literacy and increasing feelings of shame are barriers too," Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman said.

"Feeling unsure about when to seek support seems to be causing as many delays in help-seeking as long waitlists," Ms Harman said.

"Increasingly, life feels more stressful and unpredictable. People are dealing with compounding and mounting pressures. They're strung out but muddling through. The pressures people face can

often snowball to have a real and negative impact on our mental health and wellbeing.

"This data tells us that people are delaying asking for support or waiting until they are in severe distress. Beyond Blue is working to change this with our free, effective mental health support options. It's never too late and it's never too early to contact us."

The release of key survey findings coincides with the start of World Mental Health Month.

This is the second Australia's Mental Health and Wellbeing Check undertaken since it started in 2022, when cost of living pressures began to climb.

Nearly half of all respondents – 46 per cent – named financial pressure as a key factor in their distress.

Housing affordability and personal relationship challenges were also identified as stress factors by 34 per cent of respondents.

Just over a quarter of respondents who reported that they'd experienced a mental health challenge in the past 12 months did not seek any support for their mental health.

"Mental health issues, or experiences of situational distress, are easier to manage when we get onto them early, before they snowball," Ms Harman said.

"We want people to know that you don't need to be struggling for years before your problems are worth addressing – you don't have to be at crisis point to benefit from support."

"Feeling constantly overwhelmed or worried, prolonged feelings of being flat or stuck, or having trouble sleeping are some of the signs you to look out for."

"Our message this World Mental Health Month is that when it comes to your mental health, don't wait until things really get on top of you. Let people know how you're feeling or check in with someone you've noticed changes in. The earlier the better. You're not alone."

"Beyond Blue offers free, 24/7 support right around Australia. There's the Beyond Blue Support Service, which offers support by phone, webchat and email, and there's our online community forums."

If you need support, talk to a GP, health professional or contact:

- SANE Australia on 1800 18 SANE (7263) or sane.org.
- Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36 or beyondblue.org.au.
- Lifeline on 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au.
- Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467 or suicidecallbackservice.org.au.
- MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978 or mensline.org.au.
- headspace on 1800 650 890 or headspace.org.au.
- Kids' Helpline on 1800 551 800 or kidshelpline.com.au.
- SuicideLine Victoria 1300 651 251, suicideline.org.au

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Jason Crestani, your local Psychologist!

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Venus Bay's Mark Radley is determined to reduce the loss of wildlife on local roads. A21_4124

Action to cut wildlife loss in Venus Bay

A SPIKE in local wildlife killed on the roads prompted Venus Bay resident Mark Radley to act, having signs made to urge drivers to slow down, and there has been a rapid uptake of the signs in the community.

Having confirmed the signs are allowed to be displayed on fences, Mark had 100 made, selling them within two days, demonstrating how passionate many in the area are about reducing wildlife deaths.

"I became really frustrated by the number of dead wombats on the side of the road," he said of what compelled him to help alter driver behaviour and give wildlife a better chance of survival.

Wombats are particularly susceptible to being hit by vehicles, with Mark saying about one a week is killed in Venus Bay alone.

He stressed that it takes two years from conception for a wombat joey to leave its mother.

While some of orphaned joeys are saved by good samaritans and looked after by wildlife carers, many are lost.

Wombats face the added devastation of mange, a painful condition that is ultimately fatal if not treated in time.

Community members became aware of Mark's campaign for change through the Tarwin Lower/Venus Bay Facebook page, and he said that is the best place to visit to order signs, with more to be produced.

"Our local wildlife is dying for you to slow down," one of the signs says, imploring people to "drive to keep our nature alive".

"They just wanted to get home, too," the other states, calling on people to slow down.

Both signs provide the Wildlife Victoria number to call if you come upon injured wildlife, that being 8400 7300.

Peter Sheers of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower's Maria Vogt will display Mark's messages to drivers, having bought signs.

"The signs are a fabulous idea," Maria said, believing they will prompt drivers to be mindful of wildlife.

"We don't want people to become complacent like in other parts of Australia, like Tasmania where there is so much road kill," she added.

Peter stressed that many drivers don't slow down at night, treating the speed limit as the minimum speed rather than driving to the conditions and boosting their chances of not hitting animals on the road.

He is confident the signs will have a positive impact on driver behaviour.

Mark is delighted by the response his initiative has received, saying the community is taking charge of the destiny of its wildlife.

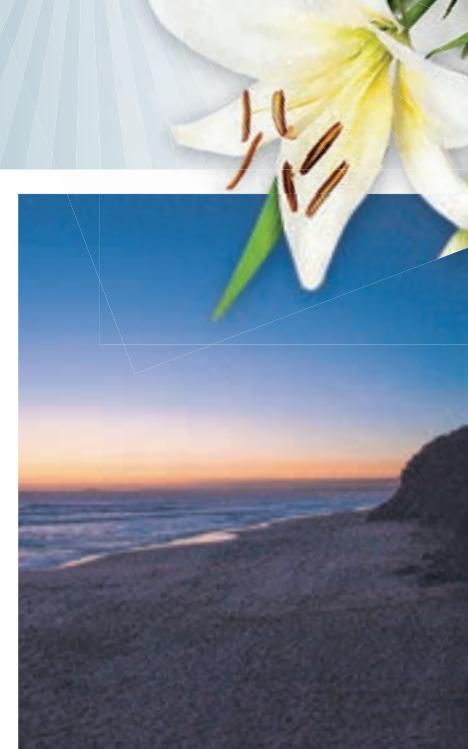
Funeral Planning



Rex Sapungan makes sure his stencil is precisely placed on the stone as he prepares for the inscription process. A07_3323



Full memorials in single and double can be arranged with pre-engraved memorials also popular.



Why pre-arrange your funeral?

IT MAY sound morbid, but pre-arrangement is an important way to record your wishes as to how you would like your funeral to be conducted. Do you have beloved songs you wish to be played, or maybe a preference for a particular coloured casket? A favourite native or flower you wish to be remembered by? Maybe as your family and friends say their final goodbye you would like your humorous personality to shine with a surprise rendition of "Another One Bites the Dust" by Queen.

It can be devastating for family and close friends to cope with the death of a loved one, whilst trying to sift through 100s of photos and select the best songs for the moment.

It's therapeutic yes, but what if they miss one thing, what if they wonder, did you really love that song, or perhaps hate it? There will always be the classic go-tos for a funeral, but there is also something to be said for those that are a reflection of the individual.

In planning a funeral, for a loved one, a few years back, this scribe went through exactly that. I didn't know what my uncle's favourite song was, we knew the type of music, but he had hundreds of CD's, we selected what we thought he would have liked, and whilst everyone said it was a wonderful service, was it really what he would have wanted?

In laying out his music, I put together my own Spotify list, my funeral. Whilst hoping not to go anywhere anytime soon, it gave me peace of mind – it's unlikely my better half would select any of those songs. Years of my life were spent dancing around vacuuming to 3 Doors Down, Follow the Sun by Xavier Rudd brings back memories of driving with the window down around Sicily – the only English song on the radio, but by goodness, it was a hit! Love of Candle in the Wind by Elton John.

For some, we live our lives besides those we have loved for a long time, for others, there is life before they stepped into it, and they may not know about the special moments that came before, which to others may hold special memories.

In my uncle's case, his late wife's family were completely unaware of 40 years prior to them coming in – the years spent racing or owning dingos, his love of rescue dogs and the many cars.

So, whether those wishes are recorded with a funeral home, or if you're not quite ready to take that step, and you write down some thoughts on a piece of paper and share it with those you trust, you might just be saving them the what if, and more importantly, it'll be exactly how you want to be remembered.



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assembled a dedicated team intent on providing excellent service.

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Co-owner and Barry's wife Rose is an active part of the business, ensuring clients receive exactly what they desire in terms of inscriptions.

That includes a wide range of available fonts and designs.

Rose uses a computer to achieve the desired look, enabling her to ensure it meets expectations, then sends her designs to a machine known as a 'plotter' that prints a stencil of those designs.

Monumental Fixers' Rex Sapungan and Randy Ermino, who were trained by Barry, use the stencils to guide the creation of the

desired inscriptions, first carefully measuring to ensure correct placement on the stone.

Garnet sand blasting is used to engrave the inscriptions into the granite.

After further preparation of the stone, 23 carat gold leaf is applied to ensure lettering and images stand out in a visually appealing fashion, with cuttlefish backbone the ideal material to give the stone a final buff.

Barry Wakley Sculptors and Monumental Masons specialise in unique granite monuments for any budget, and can discuss pre-arranged engravings and monuments for those looking to organise ahead of time.

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"Memorials of Distinction"

Funeral Planning

Everything in one place

Writing down your life story is the best gift you can give

TAKE the guess-work of planning a funeral. Get a book and write down your life story.

There are plenty of resources on the market, from a humble lined exercise book or a little black Moleskin (why not indulge?) to beautifully crafted legacy books specifically designed for family after your death. There has never been a better gift to those you love than writing down your story.

Imagine your loved ones, heart-heavy with grief, rifling through boxes and cupboards – old photos, school certificates, maybe that one postcard you sent from a faraway place – trying to piece together the details of a life well-lived.

Imagine, instead, a book, neatly bound, with your handwriting threading through its pages. The moments that made you are already there, waiting, offering them comfort, guiding them through the

maze of memory with your voice as their compass.

When you document your life story, you control the narrative. You get to highlight the moments that mattered to you most – your achievements, milestones, and personal anecdotes that capture the essence of who you are. It's also a chance to share values, lessons learned, and even family history that might otherwise be lost to time.

It's a map, drawn by your own hand, of a life uniquely lived.

Whether you choose to write in a simple notebook or invest in a beautifully designed legacy journal, the impact remains the same. Your loved ones will have something tangible to hold on to, to read through when they want to remember your voice, your humour, or the wisdom you've gathered over the years, and you take the guess-work out when the funeral home asks, so tell us about....?

A family-owned funeral service putting people before profit

HARWOOD Funerals is a proudly independent, family-owned funeral home serving South Gippsland and beyond, with branches in Korumburra, Traralgon, and Pakenham.

With over 32 years of experience in the funeral industry, Julie Harwood leads the business, having transitioned from nursing to funeral direction – a natural progression for someone passionate about helping people through the most difficult moments of their lives.

Understanding the personalised approach and nurturing touch that supports families above and beyond, Julie's deep experience includes playing a key role in the development of White Lady Funerals.

Now, alongside her husband, son, daughter, and a dedicated team of 14, Julie operates Harwood Funerals with a clear mission: to provide affordable, personal funeral services that help grieving families without adding financial strain. The Harwood's believe in helping the local community by offering viable alternatives to the expensive options from large corporate funeral



Julie Harwood and her son, Robin, are here for you when it matters most.

companies.

The family dynamic at Harwood Funerals is evident in every aspect of the business. Harwood's operations manager has worked alongside Julie for 25 years and been with the Harwood's team since incorporation, and two brothers work among the staff, fostering a close-knit environment where all team members are fully briefed to ensure seamless care and

dignity for every family.

Harwood Funerals offers a wide range of services, from all-female funeral arrangements to covering every religion, culture and circumstance. Whether it's helping families through a week or several weeks of grief and arrangements, Julie and her team are committed to providing compassionate, tailored support and free advice.

Available 24/7, with their Korumburra office open by appointment seven days a week, Harwood Funerals is always there when you need them. They handle everything in-house, ensuring the highest standard of care without outsourcing any aspect of the process.

Harwood Funerals truly puts people before profit, making a real difference when it matters most.



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- It is a legal means of reducing your asset base. Pre-Paid Funerals are not classed as an asset by Centrelink, therefore you may find your benefits increase.
- Can be an important part of financial restructuring if you are downsizing. And an extension to your will.
- You get what YOU want. We can record as many of your wishes as you choose, right down to the music you would like played. Take the guesswork out of the equation for your family.
- Pre-Paid Funeral plans can be paid off over 12, 24 or 36 months, with a 30% deposit up front.
- Planning ahead greatly reduces the emotional and financial burden on your family.
- Get it fixed. Get on with living. Planning ahead makes sense.



Harwood Funerals, family owned and operated, are now servicing Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

For assistance on pre-paying your funeral or planning a funeral for a loved one contact **Julie Harwood 0405 669 532**

ME0079

Funeral Planning

Perhaps it's time to tell your story

The Great Questions List by StoryCorps Legacy

IF WRITING your story down isn't for you, then perhaps recording it might be the option. Whether with an interviewer or alone, there are plenty of subjects, questions and topics you can cover, to help you kick start we've pulled together a selection of questions from StoryCorps who are committed to the idea that everyone has an important story to tell and everyone's story matters.

Life

- What was one of the happiest moments of your life? The saddest?
- Who has been the biggest influence on you?
- How has your life been different than you imagined it would be?
- Do you have any regrets?
- What are you the proudest of in your life?

Growing Up

- Tell me about the community where you grew up.
- What were you like as a child?
- What did you do for fun when you were young?
- Did you ever get into trouble? What was the worst thing you did?
- Did you have a nickname?
- What is one of your favourite



Photo: Freepik.

- stories from your youth?
- What were your parents like?
- Who were your favourite relatives?
- What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs?

Love

- When did you first fall in love?
- How did you propose?
- What were the best times? The most difficult times?
- What have you learned from your relationships?

Spirituality

- Can you tell me about your religious/spiritual beliefs? What formed them?
- How have your beliefs changed during your life?
- What was the most profound spiritual moment of your life?

School

- Did you enjoy school?
- What kind of student were you?
- How would your classmates remember you?
- What are your best/worst memories of school?
- Tell me about a teacher or teachers who had a particularly strong influence on your life.

Parenthood

- Can you describe the moment when you saw your child for the first time?

- Do you have any favourite stories about your kids?
- Do you remember any songs that you used to sing to your child/children? Can you sing them now?
- What are your dreams for your children?

Work

- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- Tell me about how you got into your line of work.
- What lessons has your work life taught you?
- If you could do anything now, what would you do? Why?

War

- Were you in the military?
- Did you go to war?
- How did war change you?
- What lessons did you learn from this time in your life?

Final Days

- What is most important to you at this time of life?
- Do you have any last wishes?

Leaving A Legacy

- What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?
- Is there anything you've never told me that you'd like to tell me today?
- What advice would you pass on to those who come after you?
- How do you want to be remembered?

The app to help with grieving and bereavement

DISCOVER how to help someone through grief with the MyGrief app.

Developed by Grief Australia, the MyGrief app draws on the latest research and decades of clinical expertise, providing vital information, tools, and strategies to assist grieving Australians.

The app offers guidance to family and friends, showing them how to effectively support a loved one during their grief. While grief is a universal experience, everyone navigates it differently. By answering a few simple questions, the MyGrief app tailors its recommendations, offering personalised strategies that can make a real difference.

Launching the app back in November 2019, Christopher Hall, Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement's Chief Executive, emphasised that the app is designed to be user-friendly, using simple language to support and guide users.

"For most people, with the support of family and friends and with their own internal support, they manage the grieving process quite effectively. But in some cases, for example where grieving individuals don't have a close personal support network, they may benefit greatly from accessing more formal or professional support. The MyGrief App will help by guiding those people to know when to seek it and how to access it," Hall said.

Jointly funded by Gandel Philanthropy and the Jack Brockhoff Foundation, the MyGrief App is available for free on Android and Apple devices.

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ME0082

What's on this Festival of Seniors?

BASS COAST

Men's Shed Open Day

Tuesday, October 8, 9.30am – 11.30am
Phillip Island Men's Shed

CrossFit L.I.F.E Class

October 9 & 11, 7am
CrossFit Bass Coast, 1D Elkin Crt, Wonthaggi

Connect, Celebrate and Discover U3A

Thursday, October 10, 4.30pm – 6.30pm
239 White Road, Wonthaggi

Senior Week Film Screening

Friday, October 11, AM Screening: 11.30am,
PM Screening: 2pm - Wonthaggi Library

Senior Week Book Chat

Wednesday, October 16, 2.30pm – 3.30pm
Wonthaggi Library

Come and Try Croquet

Thursday, October 17, 10am – 2pm
Wonthaggi Croquet Club, 41 Wentworth Rd

Victorian State Concert Orchestra

Sunday, October 20, 2pm
Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

Upcycled Planters

Monday, October 21, 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Corinella and District Community Centre

History is alive and well

Tuesday, October 22, 10am – 11.30am
Friday, October 25, 1.30pm – 3pm
Tuesday, October 29, 10am – 11.30am
Wonthaggi and District Historical Society
Wonthaggi Railway Station Museum

Introduction to BorrowBox

Wednesday, October 23, 2pm – 3pm
Wonthaggi Library

The Memoir Experience

Thursday, October 24, 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Bass Coast Writers, 16 A'Beckett St, Inverloch

Beginner Ukulele Lessons

Every Monday through Oct. and Nov, 11am
Warrawee Seniors Club, Inverloch

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

Chair Yoga

Tuesday October 8, 10am to 11am
Milpara Community House

Hooves to Heart – A morning with horses

Tuesday, October 8 and Tuesday, October 22, 10am to 11.30am
The Horse Within Equine Assisted Therapy,
240 Loch-Poowong Road, Loch

Seniors Month Luncheon

Thursday, October 10, 1pm
Milpara Community House

Seniors Week Entertainment

Friday, October 11, 1pm to 3pm
Leongatha Senior Citizens Centre

Gigong

Tuesday, October 15, 10am to 11am
Milpara Community House

Seniors U3A Prom Coast Performing Arts Concert Singalong

Wednesday, October 23, 10am to 12.30pm
Foster War Memorial Arts Centre

2024 Seniors Month Lunch

Monday, October 28, 12pm
Mirboo North Hotel

Tai Chi for Arthritis

Every Wednesday through October, 10.30am to 11.30am
Milpara Community House

Free public transport

Sunday, October 6 – Sunday, October 13
More info: seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/free-travel

**Please note some events require pre-registration or booking. Visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/healthy-ageing or southgippsland.vic.gov.au/senior-month for individual event information.*

An evening of Fed to Red Birds



Friends of Inverloch Library present an evening with Rijn Collins this Friday at 6pm. Photo: Shannon Sexton.

GET ready for an exciting evening at the Inverloch Library this Friday (October 11 at 6pm), as award-winning author Rijn Collins, known for her short stories and debut novel *Fed to Red Birds*, brings her captivating journey and storytelling to life.

In anticipation of the evening, the *Sentinel-Times* delved into the story behind the story with Rijn.

What was the inspiration behind this book?

It began as a short story that just wouldn't let go. I needed to know what happened to Elva, my protagonist, beyond the scope of a short story. It was originally set in Melbourne, then Prague; it took time to find its feet. In theme, I wanted to explore the hold obsession can have on people, and the dark place in the mind it occupies. When I did a month-long writing residency in far-northern Iceland, I was entranced by the heavy snow, the descending darkness, and the total isolation. I loved every moment. And I realised that was where Elva belonged, and my story with it. I'm deeply interested in exploring isolation and its effect on identity and intimacy, and Iceland was the perfect place to do so.

My heritage is Irish, but I did an ancestry DNA test after writing *Fed to Red Birds*, and it turns out I actually do have Nordic blood, via Iceland and Norway. Needless to say, I loved this discovery!

How long was the process from initial idea to publication?

That's such a difficult question! Do I count from its origins as a short story, or from the original draft set

in Prague? I love the stage where anything is possible for your character and their journey, and they're forming on the page right in front of you. I feel it physically: my fingertips tingle. I call this stage 'coughing up the story bones', and seeing where they land.

When I realised the novel belonged in Iceland, it really began to flow. I'd say it took about three years to get it ready to submit to publishers, and I was very fortunate to get an immediate offer from Simon and Schuster. I signed in 2019, but then came COVID...the publication date was March 2023. Publishing a first novel is intense, but a global pandemic added whole new levels of intensity.

How was this process in comparison to writing award-winning short stories?

After ten years as a short story writer, it was challenging to change form. I was accustomed to hitting limits of 1000 or 2000 words, stripping stories back, so I had

to learn how to expertly and effectively weave in more. It took some time to find my system, but now I know how to approach the process, and it's been so useful for my second novel.

Did any of the characters surprise you?

They took me by surprise with a sex scene at one point! I hadn't realised that was where the scene was leading, but Elva and Remy made it very clear, believe me. I was reminded of writing advice from the wonderful Carmen Maria Machado, who said 'Give your characters a roll in the hay now and then. They work hard; they deserve it.'

What is your favourite moment in the book?

I have great tenderness for the scenes between Elva and Grace, her mentor and boss. When they meet for Grace's birthday in Café Babalu, and Elva hands her an Australian fire opal, the warmth and love between them is so beautiful to me that I almost forget I wrote it.

The character Grace is

based on my auntie, and *Fed to Red Birds* is dedicated to her. Grace had a holiday home in Harmers Haven, and we'd visit several times a year in my childhood, including trips to Inverloch. Being invited to talk about my writing in the area Grace loved so much, feels like a blessing.

What do you hope readers take away from *Fed to Red Birds*?

Elva is flawed – as we all are, really. I would love for readers to see flaws (in characters, in partners, in themselves) as not always something to hide, shy away from, or apologise for. It's these imperfections that make us human, and when we muster our bravery and are honest about them, it can allow us to connect. So much of my writing revolves around the inextricably linked concepts of identity and intimacy. I would like readers to see that owning the dark places in our minds can lead to a greater understanding of ourselves and others and that this alchemy can be beautiful.

What does the future hold for Rijn Collins?

I'm deep in my second novel. It's set in Melbourne's west and is urban gothic shot through with feminist fire, with rotting wood and creaking corners, and regeneration flowering darkly among it all.

An Evening with Rijn Collins, Inverloch Library, Friday, October 11 at 6pm.

Bookings are essential – head to trybooking.com/events/landing/1291894 or call 5674 1169 to secure your ticket. Tickets are \$15 and include light refreshments.

How to be a... Trumpeter

EVER wanted to blow your own trumpet?

Nineteen-year-old Noah Robertson from Inverloch not only plays a mighty fine trumpet but can deliver a spine-tingling version of the Last Post from the cornet as well.

Taking up the trumpet at the tender age of nine Noah has been carefully coached and mentored by the Wonthaggi Citizens Band.

"I started by being taught how to make a sound on a brass instrument," says Noah.

"Then I was taught a few basic notes and simple tunes."

Noah was part of a group of six learners taken on by the Wonthaggi Citizens Band, all under fifteen years of age with no previous music experience.

"We were all young," said Noah.

The small learner's group formed a youth band before graduating to the Junior Band and then the full Wonthaggi Citizens Band performing for Carols by Candlelight, the Inverloch Jazz Festival and Korumburra Busker's Festival.

Noah is examined each year by the Australian Music



Noah Robertson accomplished trumpeter and cornet player. B24_4124

Examinations Board, reaching level seven and studying music for his Higher School Certificate.

Aiming for level eight and entrance to the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Noah is practising hard for an audition with the University of Melbourne in just two months.

Noah teaches beginner trumpet and advises anyone wanting to learn the trumpet or cornet to reach out to a citizen's band and take on a mentor.

"Practice at home and practice with a band," said Noah.

Mindful of neighbours and family Noah practices behind closed doors with a trumpet mute.

Noah also plays with the Bass College school band and has performed with the Leongatha and Wonthaggi theatrical groups.

"I've played in Seussical the Musical, Into the Woods, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Next year the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group plans to stage The Addams Family musical.

During the school holidays, Noah travelled to New

Zealand with the Victorian State Youth Band and hopes to tour Tonga next year.

Asked to choose between the trumpet and cornet, Noah favours the cornet.

"The cornet has a lovely, lyrical sound."

Noah played cornet for this year's Anzac Day commemoration and wreath laying service at the Inverloch cenotaph.

"It was my first time playing at a public commemoration service," explained Noah.

With the roar of RAAF Pilatus PC-21 trainers flying overhead and naval cadets standing to attention at each corner of the cenotaph, Noah Robertson's rendition of the Last Post was breathtaking.

Noah is keen to pursue a career in music, teaching and playing music for movies.

You can hear Noah Robertson with the Wonthaggi Citizens Band and Wonthaggi Youth Brass at their annual concert in the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on October 12.

Bookings can be made through basscoastculturalvenues.com/live-at-wonthaggi-union.



Artist Jenny Peterson busy working away in her studio.

Let your imagination soar

OPEN Studios Latrobe is a great opportunity for visitors to spend a relaxing weekend wandering through the studios of Latrobe Valley artists and Galleries while they show and demonstrate their artistic talent.

This year this creative event will be held over the weekend of October 26 and 27, and once again will show the best of our artists with demonstrations and displays throughout the Latrobe Valley, including Arc Yinnar, and artists in their own studios.

The towns involved are Moe, Tanjil South, Morwell, Traralgon, Yinnar and Boolarra.

This will be the ninth Open Studios Latrobe event for Moartz and it will be a great weekend with our artists bringing their art to the public.

The artist run space ARC Yinnar will have resident artists and visiting artists demonstrating different techniques. There will also be two new exhibitions to see at ARC and The Matchbox Gallery in Yinnar will have plenty on show as well.

There will be some new artists involved in Open Studios Latrobe and some favourite artists returning after taking a break. The artists work in a wide variety of mediums including, printmaking, airbrush, watercolour, acrylics, photography, textiles, drawing, pottery and more.

The visitors can start their self-guided tour at any studio and keep an eye out for the orange flags to easily direct them to the studios. For only \$5 per person (children free) visitors can go to all the studios over the whole weekend.

Moartz is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year so help celebrate by visiting the artists at Open Studios Latrobe in October.

An online version of the information poster and map can be found at moartz.com/events-news.

If you need more information contact Sharon Anderson and Jenny Peterson at openstudiosmoartz@gmail.com. Stay up to date on Instagram [openstudioslatrobe](https://www.instagram.com/openstudioslatrobe) and Facebook Open Studios Latrobe.

OPEN STUDIOS LATROBE 2024

Self-guided Tour of Artist Studios in Latrobe Valley

**October 26 and 27
10am – 4pm**

www.moartz.com/events-news
for directions.

openstudiosmoartz@gmail.com



South Gippsland raised Jacqueline Dinan's latest release is a children's book that openly tackles the issue of parental incarceration. Co-authored by Andrew Krakouer (second from right).

Leongatha-born writer releases new picture book

ACCLAIMED Australian Rules Footballer Andrew Krakouer and former foster carer Jacqueline Dinan have collaborated with illustrator Paul Seden to create *My Dad's Gone Away*, a ground-breaking picture book, published by Magabala Books, that is designed to support children who have a parent incarcerated.

My Dad's Gone Away is the first children's picture book of its kind in Australia – bravely addressing the often-taboo topic of parental incarceration. Despite the fact that two in five prisoners have one or more dependent children, there has been a notable lack of resources available for young readers grappling with this reality.

Krakouer, who has lived through his father's imprisonment and his own time in prison, believes this book is long overdue. Reflecting on the book's significance: "The simple and visually relatable story of *My Dad's Gone Away* would have been an invaluable resource for my family during my father's imprisonment and later, for my own children and partner during my own time in prison. This book is decades overdue."

Krakouer was thirteen when his father, a pioneering footballer, was sentenced to eight years in prison. As a distinguished Australian Rules Footballer, Andrew has

achieved numerous accolades and played in an AFL grand final team before his career was interrupted in 2008 by his own incarceration. At the time, his daughters were nine and seven. Andrew's partner, Barbara Garrett, was also a primary-aged child when her father was imprisoned.

My Dad's Gone Away is crafted to spark important conversations between children and trusted adults, and also to build empathy for children with other lived experiences. It provides a gentle way for children to process their feelings of missing an incarcerated parent, while also navigating the stigma and social marginalisation that can come with it. The book offers a supportive framework for understanding these complex emotions.

Leongatha born and Melbourne based author, Jacqueline Dinan, a former accredited foster carer, who provided respite for children with incarcerated parents, emphasised the book's potential impact: "As a former foster carer, I believe this book will help children find their voice and express their concerns to family members, carers, caseworkers, teachers, coaches, friends, counsellors, or medical professionals. This dialogue can help validate and address their feelings."

The book follows Tarah,

a primary-aged girl, and highlights the importance of communication and resilience. While the subject matter can be sad, the book gently takes readers along the journey with Tarah, including her making new friendships and finding support in nature with her dog.

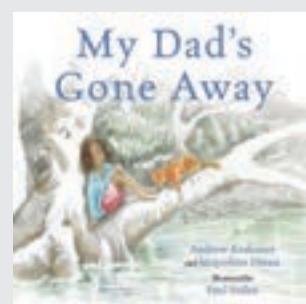
Beautifully illustrated by Paul Seden, the book's use of colour and black and white enhances the reader experience, focusing the story on Tarah's feelings and experiences.

"Being in the justice system is a reality for many individuals and families in Australia today," said Magabala Publisher Rachel Bin Salleh.

"This truth is rarely talked about outside of these circles. How do you begin a conversation with a child of an incarcerated parent, without the legacy of shame that children inherit?"

"*My Dad's Gone Away* is a story for children as well as adults. It is a compassionate resource that will guide adults who don't know where to start and children who don't know how to feel. Andrew's brave decision to share his experiences, Jacqueline's patience for storytelling and Paul's incredible and sensitive images will ensure children and families won't feel so lost and alone during some of the toughest moments of their lives."

Available now in bookstores and online.



Relationships and how they shape us

THE Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proud to present "Touch", a romantic and touching story that spans several decades and continents, from acclaimed Icelandic director, Baltasar Kormákur.



One of the most compelling themes explored in "Touch" is the profound nature of human connections. The film follows Kristófer, an elderly widower, as he embarks on a journey across continents to reconnect with his first love, Miko. This poignant narrative delves into the complexities of love, memory, and the impact of time on relationships. As Kristófer navigates his early-onset dementia, the film poignantly captures the fading memories alongside those that remain strikingly vivid. Through his quest, the audience is invited to reflect on the significance of relationships and how they shape our identities and experiences throughout our lives.

Character development and performances play a crucial role in bringing the themes of "Touch" to life. Egill Ólafsson delivers a standout performance as Kristófer, showcasing a remarkable blend of vulnerability and strength as he grapples with his past and present. His character resonates with audiences, offering a relatable portrayal of loss and longing. Additionally, Kóki, who plays Miko, brings a dynamic energy to her role, instilling her character with grace, compassion, and resilience. Together, their performances create an emotional depth that reinforces the film's exploration of love and connection, making it a memorable viewing experience.

Baltasar Kormákur's direction and the film's cinematography further enhance the storytelling in "Touch". The film is beautifully shot across various locations, including Iceland, England, and Japan, capturing the essence of each setting while emphasising the emotional journey of the characters. Kormákur's ability to convey a low-key urgency, driven by the ticking clock of Kristófer's diagnosis, adds an element of tension that propels the narrative forward. The visual storytelling, combined with Kormákur's adept direction, creates a rich tapestry of emotions that resonates with audiences, making "Touch" a heartfelt and engaging romantic drama.

Screening at 10.45am, Sunday, October 13 at Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. BCFFG member's entry free, with general public welcome at usual box office prices.

To find out more, visit the website: basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com/current-season, and follow the links to the film.

The Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proudly sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire.

Bass Coast Fine Film Group

**10.45am SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER
TOUCH**

A romantic and touching story from Icelandic director, Baltasar Kormákur, that spans several decades and continents. "Touch" follows one man's emotional journey to find his first love who disappeared 50 years ago, before his time runs out.

General public welcome. Members Free Entry!

**@ WONTHAGGI UNION CINEMA
96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.**

Check the website for more info:
basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com

The Great Witch Hunt returns

IT'S the month of Halloween, which means it's time for the Great Witch Hunt!

This year there are 65 witches on display in businesses right across the Bass Coast Shire, so grab a \$5 ticket to start the hunt. This event is hosted annually by the Grantville Business and Community Association (GBCA) – a volunteer run not-for-profit with all funds raised returned back into the community.

Vice-president Neroli Heffer said the aim of the event is to showcase local businesses and encourage participants to explore the Bass Coast area and support local.

"Purchase your ticket online or collect a printed copy from a Visitor Information Centre in Inverloch, Newhaven, at Artspace in Wonthaggi or from Maru Koala and Animal Park in Grantville," Neroli explained.

"Once you have your ticket start hunting – use the map to locate each witch and write down the unique identification code, then return your completed ticket to any of the above or email it back."

Find 20 witches in three different towns and go into the draw to win a range of great prizes, including family accommodation for two nights at the Kilcunda Oceanview Holiday Park, or keep hunting and find 60 witches to automatically enter a second bonus draw!

"Not only does this event showcase local businesses, but it's great for all ages and it's always exciting to see what the witches get up to each year! We have some very creative business owners who have lots of fun moving the witches around their business," said Neroli.

To participate, purchase your ticket online now at visitgrantville.com.au/news-events/the-great-witch-hunt and start hunting.

Plan paves the way forward at FWMAC

The much-anticipated strategic plan for the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre (FWMAC) was endorsed at the September Community Asset Committee (CAC) meeting.

The CAC have worked with Michelle Harris, from Gippsport Community Solutions, to get the plan to the final version through several consultation initiatives, such as a survey, many informal conversations, and a formal community workshop.

"We are thrilled to see the result of the planning process. Thanks to the community for providing rich information for Michelle to document a clear pathway, that is sure to improve our cherished facility in a variety of ways. By working in partnership with the South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC), and the community we represent, the future looks bright," said Paul Greenhalgh, FWMAC President.

"As a group of volunteers, we are mindful of the responsibility we have as temporary custodians of the Centre. Before we submit the plan to our councillors later this year, we ask that people please take a look at the plan, and provide feedback if something significant has been missed," added Robert Paragreen, Treasurer and Caretaker.

"Our vision for the Centre is for it to be central meeting



The Foster War Memorial Arts Centre Committee would like your feedback on the strategic plan. Back row, from left: Robert Paragreen, Peter Clyne, Emma McKay, Shane Doherty, Paul Greenhalgh. Front: Tanya Pell, Judy Barnard, Jenni Munro, Heather Bligh.

place for the Foster and District communities where performing arts, events, commemoration and local groups are supported to have the ideal experience, and the facility is sustainably managed and enhanced over time," noted Shane Doherty, Vice President

"We now have clear goals and an implementation plan to guide our work. If anyone wishes to join us on the journey, Tania Pell is setting up a working group to help the CAC deliver what's required," concluded Emma Mackay, Secretary.

The Centre, which is also known as the Foster Hall to many community members, was constructed in 1966 and it still serves as the gathering place for weddings, celebrations, concerts, theatrical, music and dance performances, funerals, meetings, sporting events and much more.

The FWMAC CAC would like to acknowledge Gippsport Community Solutions for coordinating the strategic planning process. The committee also acknowledges the South Gippsland Shire

Council for providing the majority of funding through the Community Grants Program and other key contributors, the Foster RSL and the Foster Arts Music and Drama Association.

The plan can be found by emailing the secretary on fwmac1@gmail.com or scanning the QR code below. Feedback on the plan please to Paul Greenhalgh 0427 093 058 or paul.greenhalgh@sghs.com.au. Should anyone want to help out please contact Paul too.



Wonthaggi Citizens Band members Susan Marinus, Alicia Fox, Emerald Johnson, Violet Jolly and April Jolly with Band President Michael Kershaw. B30_4124

Annual concert full of surprises

A NIGHT of surprisingly good music is guaranteed at this year's annual concert for the Wonthaggi Citizens Band on Saturday, October 12.

Musical director and band conductor Craig Marinus never fails to impress.

A Junior Band comprising students from Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Kongwak primary schools will kick off the show at the new time of 7.30pm.

The full thirty-five-piece Wonthaggi Citizens Band and impressive Youth Band follow.

Versatile percussionist Susan Marinus said the program will feature some favourites and many new pieces from a wide variety of music.

Established in 1910 the Wonthaggi Citizens Band has twice been national champions.

Queen of the drums, xylophone and glockenspiel Susan Marinus explained that past members have graduated to careers as teachers and joined the armed forces.

New musical selections the band has been working on include U2's 'A Beautiful Day', 'Golden Age of Dixieland' and Dolly Parton's hit song 'Nine To Five', along with 'You Can't Stop The Beat' from Hairspray and a much-loved slow-motion tribute to 'Chariots of Fire' featuring band veteran Don Edwards.

The ten-member school group



Wonthaggi Citizens Band cornet players Emerald Johnson and Alicia Fox with percussionist Susan Marinus. B32_4124

conducted by Natalie Meadows will play 'Londonderry Air', 'Pulsar' and the theme from 'How to Train Your Dragon'.

The twenty-strong Youth Band conducted by Nick Beale takes in students from Wonthaggi Primary School, Korumburra Secondary College, Bass Coast College, Newhaven College and Foster Secondary College.

The full band will present 'Bunyip Blues' and 'Nessun Dorma' arranged by Cameron Sanders and featuring guest artist Tom Green.

Tom Green will also sing selections from Chess, Lord of the Dance, Love Never Dies and a

medley of popular classics including 'It's a Beautiful Day' and 'MacArthur Park'.

Conductor Craig Marinus has surprised audiences in the past appearing as Elvis, the Indian from the Village People and a pirate, this year will be no different.

New members are always welcome said Susan Marinus, aged from seven to eighty.

For more information look for the Wonthaggi Citizens Band on Facebook, email wonniecitizensband@gmail.com or phone Fiona on 0407 299 738.

For concert bookings go to basscoastculturalvenues.com

WONTHAGGI CITIZENS' BAND ANNUAL CONCERT
WONTHAGGI CITIZENS' BAND
TOM GREEN | YOUTH BAND
12 OCT 2024 7.30 PM



From middle-class bogan to Inverloch inspiration

DIAGNOSED with Parkinson's disease aged sixty-three Glenys Armstrong was never going to let the grass grow under her feet.

"You just move on," said Glenys.

One of fifty-five women chosen to tell their personal story in a global edition of '55 Faces' Glenys Armstrong takes us from her role as an aerobics instructor in the ABC Television series Middle Class Bogan and Chi Ball on Channel 31, to living with Parkinson's disease.

55 Faces is a global collection of stories from inspiring women around the world collected by author Michelle Gardiner.

Michelle is co-founder and director of the Aspire Series which includes Aspire Société, Aspire Summit and 55 Faces which is now in its third edition.

Sharing a love of dance, yoga, cooking, people, arts and culture Michelle Gardiner and Glenys Armstrong were always going to be a good fit.

Michelle was delighted when Glenys said yes to being a part of '55 Faces'.

Michelle Gardiner noted we all deserve to feel good about ourselves, a sentiment shared by Glenys Armstrong.

"We need to tell the stories of lessons we have learned in life," said Glenys.

"Stories handed down from generation to generation."

Glenys Armstrong started aerobics classes in her early twenties, but the instructor told her she had two left feet. Glenys remembered crying and feeling humiliated.

Undaunted Glenys decided to go out and teach aerobics herself supported by a partner who believed no one should be treated like Glenys was.

Women contributing to 55 Faces come from Africa, Europe, Asia, the United States, Canada and Australia.

"Initially I was very shy about writing," said Glenys.

Encouraged by a neighbour Glenys eventually made a start and soon had her story told in just over one thousand words.

Michelle Gardiner hopes to have the latest edition of 55 Faces available as a hardcover book through Amazon by January next year.

Teaching aerobics has been



Television aerobics instructor Glenys Armstrong and soon to be published author. B27_4124

Glenys Armstrong's life including appearances on television.

"Channel 31 keeps repeating the same five episodes of Chi Ball," laughed Glenys.

She now feels she has the confidence to write an entire novel by herself.

"Your whole world changes with an adverse medical condition."

Determined to keep teaching aerobics Glenys scaled back her classes from twenty-seven to fourteen classes a week, conducting group exercise sessions at the Warrawee Seniors' Club in Inverloch, Leongatha YMCA, and Leongatha Community House.

"If you change the way you think it's not so bad."

Inspired by people in their nineties regularly joining her exercise classes Glenys recently welcomed a group of teenagers to a fancy-dress class at the Warrawee Seniors' Club during a wet day on the school holidays.

"They came with their grandmother," said Glenys.

"The teenagers really loved it."

Glenys also conducts chair-based classes for people with disabilities or mobility issues such as Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

"I probably had Parkinson's for fifteen years before it was diagnosed."

To book a place in one of Glenys' classes send an email to crazylovezumba@me.com or go to the Warrawee Seniors' Facebook page, [sgsplash.ymca.org.au/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/sgsplash.ymca.org.au/) or leongathacommunityhouse.org.au

55 Faces and the Aspire Series can be found at theaspireseries.com/work-with-me-2



WONTHAGGI BINGO

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★ LUCKY NUMBER JACKPOT





Jo Nel of Mandurah in W.A. watching the Tour of Gippsland at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit. B54_4124



Sandra Newell from Sydney with Rodney and Rachel Lovett from Bathurst watching the Tour of Gippsland at Phillip Island. B51_4124



Isabella Newell from Sydney and Charlotte Lovett of Bathurst enjoying the Tour of Gippsland at Phillip Island. B50_4124



Rio, Pam and Jake awaiting Rio's heat at Smith's Beach for the Rip Curl Gromsearch. Z03_4124



James Hand of Tailem Bend in S.A. with Luke Wight of Adelaide enjoying Stage 1 of the Tour of Gippsland at Phillip Island. B55_4124



Ava Wilson and Shaun Butterfield of Adelaide supporting the Tour of Gippsland at Phillip Island. B56_4124



Maddison Taylor and Maya Dominice of Brisbane at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit for the Tour of Gippsland. B57_4124



Launceston cycling coach Janelle Smith with U19 Connor Howard and his father Steve Howard at Phillip Island for the Tour of Gippsland. B58_4124



Tully and Andrew Schweitzer from Brisbane following the Tour of Gippsland at Phillip Island. B59_4124

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends around town, at the Tour of Gippsland, Rip Curl Gromsearch Phillip Island presented by Bass Coast Shire Council and Grantville 'Western Port Ward' candidates forum.



Vinnies Korumburra volunteers Michael Chesterfield, Bernadette Mclean and Keryn Flenley with Korumburra Store Manager Michelle Sims. B10_3824

Sentinel-Times

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John Sonnett and Barb Stewart from Kurnell with Rob Carsons from The Gurdies at the Grantville Bass Coast local government candidate's forum. B60_4124



Sue McLeish and Ann Brown from Coronet Bay at the Bass Coast local government candidate's forum in Grantville. B61_4124



Glenda (council candidate) and Ted Minty with Gail Huitema from Grantville at the Bass Coast local government candidate's forum for the Western Port ward. B62_4124



MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

IT IS almost a year since our move to Korumburra Community Hub. People are becoming familiar with the building, and it is getting busier with constant use of the many spaces and rooms available. If you haven't come in yet, please visit the Korumburra Historical Society, MyLi Library and Milpara Community House here at the

Hub. Remember that we at Milpara have a Services Australia office, with Centrelink services and assistance with all government forms, applications and related matters. We also run the Emergency Foodbank, and St Vincent de Paul are here two days a week, to assist in a non-judgmental environment.

The school holiday break is

almost over and we are ready for our Term 4 to kick off!

There is still time to sign up for any of our many courses and activities, so please go to our website and have a look through the new program – milparacommunityhouse.org.au/term-program

Please get in touch, we're happy to help.

We are also interested in any suggestions of what interests you, what can we do to engage with the whole community. Let us know your ideas!



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra **PH: (03) 5655 2524** www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

SPRING term is off and running, and we are open again for you to enjoy all the activities and groups that we have on offer.

This week is very busy. Are you are having questions or problems while being a renter and want to know how you stand in respect of your tenants' rights? Well, you can get legal advice from the qualified lawyers at Gippsland Community Legal Service which is brought to you by Housing Matters Bass Coast. Booking

in for a session is essential so ring us at Mitchell House, WNC. This service is available from 3pm to 4pm every second Thursday of the month, so it's on this week Thursday 10.

The Parkinson's Peer Support Group also meet this week on Friday 1pm to 2.30pm. This neurological disorder has a complex range of symptoms unique to each individual. Living with Parkinson's can be very isolating and challenging for individuals and their families and while it is a deeply

personal experience it need not be done alone. To enrol contact Fight Parkinson's Vic. on 1800 644 189. Note that this group meet on the second Friday of the month.

Don't forget the Wonthaggi Food Collective is at Mitchell House on Saturday from 11am to 1pm. It is a local group who buy food in bulk and distribute it at a low mark up to their members. Stockists and other information are available from Michael Nugent. Contact him by phone 0416 039 933 or by

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

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

LEONGATHA Community House is looking forward to our new weekend Monthly Friendship Group starting this Saturday, October 12 at 10am. This is a chance for those looking to meet new people or catch up with old friends. Everybody is welcome and we look forward to meeting you. The group is informal and will decide on activities they may like to do moving forward. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. There is a small cost of a \$3 donation towards our running costs.

Are you needing help with

your mobile phone, laptop or tablet? Monday Tech Time from 9.15-10.15am is a great weekly drop-in session to help problem solve with all your portable devices. No bookings necessary just drop in with your device and David can assist you with any questions or issues.

Our Carer's Week Gratitude Lunch is on Friday, October 18 from 11am-1pm with guest speakers, Monica Pat-tinson, Community Engagement Officer from Gather My Crew, and Iris Gaillard, Events Support Coordinator from Latrobe Community Health

Service who run various Carer activities and events across South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires. This event is free, and bookings are encouraged for catering purposes.

Our Women's Self Defence starts this evening and it is not too late for newcomers to join in. The group is fun, inclusive and suitable for all ages from 12+. Come along and learn new skills, get fit, and kick and punch the equipment provided. Call to book.

Chair Based Yoga is also starting this evening here at Leongatha Community House at 4.30pm with just a couple

of places left in the class. Call to book.

We are looking forward to the return of Hatha Yoga at 9.30am, and Meditation at 10.45am, with Pat Warburton who is returning this term after a trip away, on Wednesdays starting tomorrow. Call to book as place are limited.

Please call to book on 5662 3962 or email info.leongathacommunityhouse.org.au.



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

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

BCAL is proud to announce it has again been shortlisted for a Learn Local Award, this time in the category of Victorian Learn Local Innovation Award.

BCAL worked closely with Coldon Homes and Capeview Building Products to understand the unique needs of their staff. They developed an intensive course called Communication Skills for Industry which integrates professional development in leadership with workplace foundation skills.

In a supportive environment, workers developed skills in reading, writing, measurement, preparing emails, workplace policies and procedures, and how to conduct performance appraisals using

clear and professional communications. A positive learning mindset was highlighted.

The Learn Local Awards recognise excellence and innovation in the Adult, Community and Further Education (pre-TAFE) sector. The winners will be announced on Friday, October 25.

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit bcal.vic.edu.au or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

Volunteers and members welcomed new local helpers to the garden last week: a hive of honeybees. Carefully placed at the rear of the garden, in a protective enclosure, the bees will roam away for

the garden, as well as helping pollinate what's nearby.

Beekeeper garden members, Joe and Sue, saw the potential for the garden to house a hive thanks to the abundance of bee food on hand.

Native and honeybees have always been drawn to the garden, along with other useful pollinators, such as hover flies and butterflies.

Having a hive on site adds interest for members and gardeners while providing a boost for garden harvests of fruit, veggies and herbs.

To learn more about the garden's activities contact tgordon@westnet.com.au or BCAL on 5672 3115. You can also drop in on Thursdays between 10am and noon for a tour and chat to volunteers.

WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

Last Saturday, ten of the Woodies members gathered for a maintenance working bee at the workshops.

Activities included cleaning the dust extractor ducts to ensure efficiency and health and safety.

They also performed maintenance on the workshop equipment, including tuning the machinery to keep it in precise condition.

For more information, visit wonthaggewoodcrafters.com.au or visit the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi **PH: (03) 5672 3115** www.bcal.vic.edu.au



French baguettes

By Meg Viney

THIS is so easy you may stop buying baguettes

Ingredients

- 1 tbs yeast
- 2 cups warm water
- Pinch sugar
- 2 tsp salt
- 2 cups of white bread flour
- Cornmeal for sprinkling

Method

Dissolve 1 tablespoon yeast in 2 cups warm water with a pinch of sugar. Add to food processor.

Mix in 2 tsp salt and 2 cups white bread flour.

Mix for a few minutes on a low speed. You need a silky dough, so if it is a bit sticky add a little more flour until you have a silky dough.

Sprinkle some cornmeal onto a greased tray, and shape the bread into long baguette shapes, then sprinkle a little more cornmeal over.

Place in a warm place (if it is a cool day, boil a kettle and put water in a bowl on the lower shelf of the oven. Bread needs steam when cooking, so leave it there.)

When risen, remove whilst you preheat the oven to 200, then cook for about 25 minutes, until golden and making a hollow sound when tapped.

Turn out onto a wire rack.

Photo: Sergio Arze on Unsplash.

• FAITH FACTOR

Faith pleases God

**By Ps Peter Muir,
Grace Chapel, Archies Creek**

FAITH pleases God is what I read into Hebrew 11:6. When I taught grade 5/6 Religious Education, I had a phrase I used to say to the class, "if you want to please God this is what you do". I want my life to display faith daily and not just rely on my own understanding.

Janice and I were in Malaysia two weeks ago, looking for our hotel. We had done all the routine preparations. One particular night it was getting dark, only a mud map on our phone and a receipt to say we had paid in full from the Australian booking agency, but no phone number that was any good because no one answered. We began to wonder if the whole hotel thing was a scheme.

I have a simple prayer for times like this, "God, now is a good time to show up if you could please."

Well, he did, he sent a man on a motorbike and a family in a people mover with local knowledge and phone reception. All our needs were taken care of thanks to these people. The day after we were informed that what happened to us wasn't the norm.

God wants us to rely on him to solve challenges in so many ways. What is the need for God if we try to handle everything without him. I had an expectation that he would solve our dilemma but didn't know how. It all worked out and once again this showed us that God is more than just casually interested in our daily affairs. I have to say I would rather be the head than the tail in life, but if faith pleases God then we will always have to display our trust in him, if we don't then is it really faith?



Occasional showers didn't deter would be purchasers of one of the five Phillip Island 'The Block' homes from their appointed property viewing at the weekend ahead of auction day in a month's time.

Auction and price intrigue looms for The Block

THE Block houses are officially on the market, and with the rumoured auction day little more than a month away, private viewings with prospective buyers have already started.

Last weekend several of the local real estate agents held viewings by appointment only and on Saturday afternoon, members of the trades and suppliers who had worked on the Justice Road site, with their families, came together for a walk-through to see the near completion of their handiwork.

It was altogether an impressive sight we are told with valued tradies taking the opportunity to catch up with The Blockheads, most of whom were on site, attending to some final touch-ups but generally enjoying what was very much a social occasion.

The local real estate agents involved in the promotion and auctions, expected to be held on Saturday after the Melbourne Cup Weekend, November 9 have already been named and the properties have now appeared on domain.com.au.

They are as follows:

- Kristina Walters, O'Brien Real Estate Judith Wright selling Maddy and Charlotte's House Number 1, ideally located close to the front of the property. The pitch begins: "Discover the pinnacle of coastal living with this stunning luxury residence in Cowes, Phillip Island. Ideal for discerning investors, this property offers exceptional value through its elegant design and prime location." More at domain.com.au.

- Yvette Tancheff, Ray White Phillip Island, selling Courtney and Grant's House Number 2 featuring several winning rooms. The pitch: "At its heart is the entertainer's kitchen, featuring high-raked ceilings, a sculptural curved feature wall, and stunning Khalo Dekton stone benchtops. Equipped with premium Asko appliances including a five-in-one cooker, Bluetooth-connected induction hob, built-in coffee machine, two integrated dishwashers, and a Zip tap this space is ideal for culinary excellence."

- Aaron Hill, Ray White Sunbury Pty Ltd, selling Ricky and Haydn's House 3 with the big Shelley 'Crusher' fishing boat out front. The pitch: "Welcome to House 3 on The Block by Ricky and Haydn, where luxury, style, and comfort come together to offer an unparalleled

living experience. Designed by award-winning architect Julian Brenchley, this mid-century-inspired home on a 1116 sqm (approximately) property features a coastal palette of cool whites, concrete, curves, and timber details throughout."

- Greg Price, Alex Scott & Staff Phillip Island selling Kylie and Brad's House 4, arguably in the best location for privacy, and with its controversial direct access to the tennis court. The pitch: "Nestled within one of Australia's most exclusive gated communities, this property delivers the perfect blend of privacy and convenience. Enjoy expansive grounds and a peaceful setting, creating a sanctuary away from the hustle of everyday life."

- Jaime Morris, Stockdale & Leggo Phillip Island/San Remo, selling Kristian and Mimi's House 5 featuring its 'imaginative children's bedroom' and more stylish rooms. The pitch: "This is the largest home featured on The Block 2024 season. The expansive residence sits on a generous lot, offering resort-style living and exceptional versatility for the whole family. With meticulously designed interiors and elegant finishes, it delivers a level of sophistication rarely seen on Phillip Island."

Much of the talk around The Block site on the weekend surrounded online chat and articles about what the individual houses might sell for at auction or if indeed, one of the cashed-up regulars including the Lambo Guy Adrian Portelli or Danny Wallis, even a new investor might see the value of buying the lot to set up a unique resort and spa.

Certainly, the common recreation and leisure facilities at the centre of the property including pool, day spa, tennis court and more would lend themselves to that.

It's no secret that the original 'Island Cove Villas' site was purchased by Channel 9's production company for close to \$9 million and it has been estimated that the replacement cost of the five houses on The Block would be somewhere well north of \$1 million, so the range price being suggested of between \$1.7m and \$1.8m could be well below even conservative value.

What will the houses ultimately go for? That's anyone's guess but our tip is that an investor might swoop in and buy the lot at a considerable profit for the hard-working Blockheads.



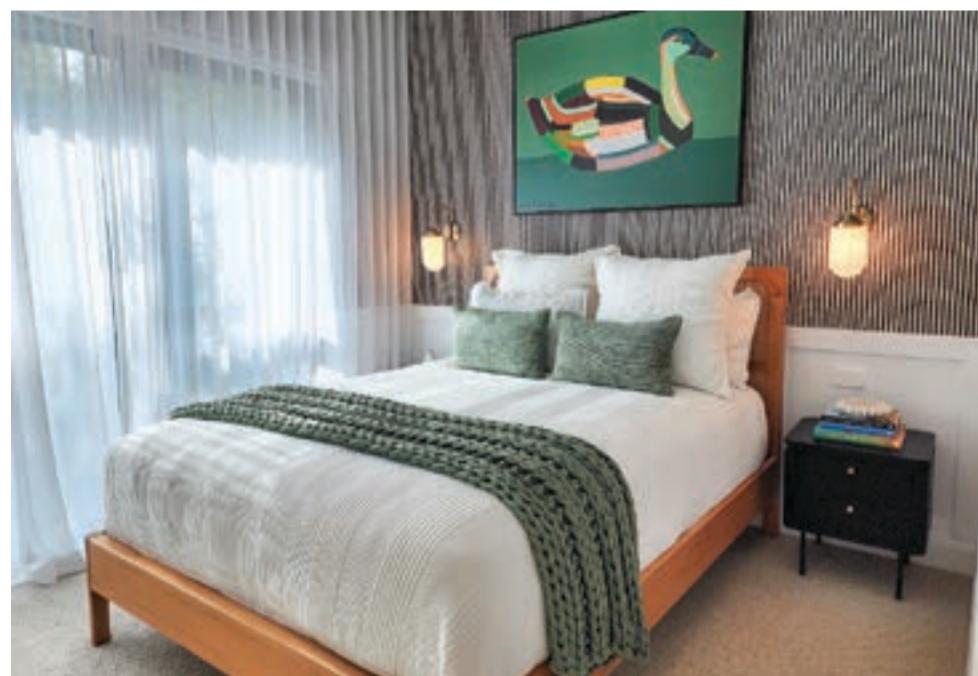
Mayor Clare Le Serve with Mimi and Kristian in the kitchen of House 5 during a recent sneak peak. C11_4124



The children's room of House 4.



Coordinated tapware runs throughout House 5.



The guest bedroom of Maddy and Charlotte's House 1. C12_4124

87 Shingler Road, Inverloch

Auction:

Sat, Nov. 2 at 11am onsite

- 6.3 acres • Atrium style residence
- Elevated location, magnificent water views
- Shedding and carport, well fenced
- "Off grid" solar and batteries with backup generator
- Natural bush and easy to maintain garden

Inspection strictly appointment only



Phelan & Henderson & Co

For further information contact Simon Henderson 0428 740 750



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2920 Grand Ridge Road, **Hallston**

EOI Closing Thurs. Nov. 7 at 4pm

Agent Elders

Don Olden 0417 805 312

Ben Townsend 0400 594 487

'Amberdowns'

Outstanding Dairy and Mixed Farming Property
324 Acres/131.16ha (approx.)
Plus 15 Acres (approx.)
unused government road lease

ELDERS Rural Services are pleased to offer 'Amberdowns' to the market.

'Amberdowns' is considered by many locals as one of the finest properties in the renowned Hallston district. 'Amberdowns' has a proven history of reliable dairy farming or would make a magnificent beef or mixed farming property. Superbly located just 17 kilometres from Leongatha and 13 kilometres from Mirboo North on the picturesque Grand Ridge Road. 'Amberdowns' has five titles surrounded by a commanding road frontage. This highly productive farm has a rare and unique balance of approx. 50 per cent red soil and 50 per cent grey (bluegum) soil types.

There is a 23 swingover herringbone dairy that has cup removers and an auto feed system. The dairy is centrally positioned on the property with the main laneways extending both east and west to minimise stock movement. These laneways service all 50 paddocks. Water security is a key factor in any farming property. 'Amberdowns' boasts a virtually drought proof water supply. Three main dams with a total 89 megalitre water licence are all interconnected and supply water to all 56 troughs throughout the farm. With a reliable 40 inch plus annual rainfall. 'Amberdowns' enjoys water security beyond most other farming properties.

Shedding consists of a large machinery and/or hay shed plus there is an excellent calf rearing shed.

The house features three bedrooms, two living areas and is set in a lovely lawn and garden surround.

'Amberdowns' is superbly sheltered by extensive treed plantations and with a state forest along the southern boundary livestock are well protected from the elements.

Consistently milking around 220-240 cows 'Amberdowns' is well positioned close to the regional saleyards at Koonwarra and the Saputo Milk Factory at Leongatha.

'Amberdowns' is an outstanding highly productive dairy/beef/mixed farming property with lifestyle attributes rarely seen in an agricultural property.



Real Estate

Over 40 years' experience

eldersrealestate.com.au



Korumburra 1535m²
Stunning Family Home
 • 4-bed, 3-bath stylish home, double block



Strzelecki 137 Acres
Charming Beef Cattle Farm
 • All weather tracks to 18 paddocks
 • 4-bed, 2-bath brick home
 • Undercover yards, crush & weigh station

Web ID: 300P138403 **\$1.95 Million**



Mt Eccles 78.5 Acres
Discover Your Rural Retreat
 • Undulating land ideal for livestock
 • Water is plentiful with several dams
 • Spacious 3-bed, 1-bath home

Web ID: 300P162508 **\$1.25 Million**



Foster 360 Acres
Ocean Frontage Property
 • Heavy carrying flats & undulating land
 • 23 swing over herringbone
 • Extensive central laneway system

Web ID: 300P154149 **\$3.78 Million**



Elders Korumburra
 11 Commercial Street
 Ph 5658 1894

DON OLDEN
 Licensed Estate Agent
 0417 805 312

BEN TOWNSEND
 Sales Consultant
 0400 594 487

SHARON TURTON
 Sales Consultant
 0447 604 796

HELEN ARRESTIA
 Sales Support
 03 5662 3523

NATALIE RES
 Property Manager
 0439 383 091

Elders Leongatha
 37 Bair Street
 Ph 5662 3523



A blend of modern design and sustainable features

THIS meticulously presented property offers the perfect low-maintenance coastal escape. Situated on an approx. 583m² block, just 200 metres from Ned Neale's lookout and the dog-friendly beach, and 800 metres from the local coffee shop and Surf Club. Enjoy the very best of beachside living with convenience right at your doorstep. The striking architectural design showcases a blend of 'Sharpline' Colorbond and Victorian Ash shiplap cladding, beautifully complemented by low-maintenance coastal gardens. The outdoor space has been thoughtfully crafted for year-round enjoyment, including a fully enclosed Merbau deck, firepit, and a private, secure rear garden perfect for entertaining or simply relaxing in every season.

Step inside to a bright, airy interior defined by a neutral colour palette, extensive glazing, and a northern orientation that bathes the home in natural light. The open-plan living area seamlessly flows onto the outdoor entertaining space, while the kitchen boasts premium finishes such as Caesarstone countertops, Bosch appliances and earth-toned soft close cabinetry, perfectly paired with timber flooring and open shelving.

Zoned reverse cycle air conditioning and electric fireplace ensure the perfect temperature inside. The master bedroom adjoins a luxuriously appointed bathroom that features a large walk-in shower, Blackbutt vanity, underfloor heating, and a heated towel rail. A central skylight fills the space with natural light, creating a spa-like atmosphere. The home also includes a well-appointed laundry/utility room with built-in storage and a separate W.C.

The lined and insulated garage includes a storage area that doubles as a games room or home gym, with parking space for multiple vehicles or a boat. Designed with sustainability in mind, the property features a 10kW solar system, 14kW battery storage (full house backup), solar hot water, and three-phase power ready for future EV quick charging. Bore and tank water with a filtration system for peace of mind and water security, and a heated outdoor shower for rinsing off after the beach.

Whether you're looking for a permanent coastal residence or the ultimate beachside retreat, this immaculate home offers the ideal combination of modern living, convenience, and easy maintenance.



2 | 1 | 4 583m²

19 Beach Parade, **Sandy Point**
For Sale \$915,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
 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



DOLLAR



- Approx. 3.4 acres gently undulating
- Choice of building sites STCA
- Northerly aspect, shelter trees
- Power connected

\$380,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

KORUMBURRA



- Exceptionally built B/V home in quiet court by well known local builder
- 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 living, 2 car on 920m² block & spacious rear yard
- New fully appointed kitchen with Caesar stone benchtops & Belfast sink
- Smeg induction cooktop/ovens and Smeg rangehood
- Beautifully updated, modern & light filled with natural gas heating & RC/AC
- 20 panel solar system with storage capacity, solar & electric hot water

\$695,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

AGNES



- 23 productive acres
- Updated classic home - 4BRs
- Well fenced, ample shedding
- Disused converted dairy with yards, race

\$985,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

FOSTER



- Luxury residence on 1ha
- Eco friendly features incl. double glazing, solar
- Home office or fourth bedroom
- Double gge, workshop with power

\$1,185,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

MEENIYAN



- 24ha/60 acres (approx.) Grazing in productive South Gippsland
- Ideal beef fattening or dairy turnout block
- Flat to undulating, exceptional soil, with hay/silage paddocks
- A warm sheltered block, lovely established trees and great views
- Good stockyards with crush & small water tank
- Good fencing (3) paddocks & fully fenced grass paddock laneway

\$745,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

STONY CREEK



- Cedar ranch style on approx. 1.2ha
- Open plan living room - exposed beams, raked ceiling
- Decking to enjoy the rural outlook
- LU garage / workshop, fenced

\$770,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



Architectural masterpiece with cultivated gardens and coastal charm

THIS stunning, architecturally designed home is an oasis of luxury and creativity, set within beautifully cultivated gardens just 100 metres from the beach in Grantville. Blending modern design with natural beauty, this unique three-storey home is the perfect retreat for those seeking style, comfort, and coastal living.

The moment you step onto the full-length deck, you'll be captivated by the panoramic sunset views, perfect for unwinding with a drink by the Chiminea. Inside, the expansive living area features custom-built cabinetry, warm gas fireplace, and floor-to-ceiling windows, creating a bright yet cosy atmosphere.

The adjacent dining area, complete with a built-in nine-seat dining table, seamlessly connects to a sleek kitchen featuring granite benchtops, a dual sink, and modern, functional finishes – perfect for hosting and daily living.

The home's thoughtful design continues with angular rooms that offer both style and versatility, including a guest room or office that suits various needs. The master bedroom serves as a private retreat, complete with its own vanity and ensuite. Two additional bedrooms share a chic black, white, and timber-accented bathroom, all designed with contemporary elegance in mind.

Under the stairs, you'll find

cleverly hidden laundry facilities, and as you continue through this remarkable home, you'll pass the striking entrance that welcomes every visitor with sophistication. Downstairs, an art studio and wine cooler await creative moments, while sliding doors open out to a serene courtyard where nature meets relaxation.

At the rear, the garden transforms into a private sanctuary with an outdoor bathroom, perfect for washing down up after a day at the beach. The BBQ area is surrounded by greenery, offering the perfect backdrop for outdoor entertaining. The garage and woodworking workshop complete the home, ideal for hobbyists or creatives.

Prime location for coastal and rural living situated just 300 metres from the dual highway, this home provides easy access to the M1 for quick trips north or south to Phillip Island. The area is set for future growth, with a Coles supermarket arriving within 18 months. Enjoy the best of both worlds with local wineries, Fig & The Bay café, and scenic shoreline walks nearby – modern convenience combined with rural coastal charm. Relax with a glass of wine in hand as the sun sets over this picturesque landscape.

A rare opportunity to own a home that combines luxury, creativity, and tranquillity – this is coastal living at its finest.

4 | 2 | 2

9 Deep Creek Street, **Grantville**
For Sale \$895,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Angus Hall 0466 326 487
Hayley Stephenson 0427 799 554

Investors take note

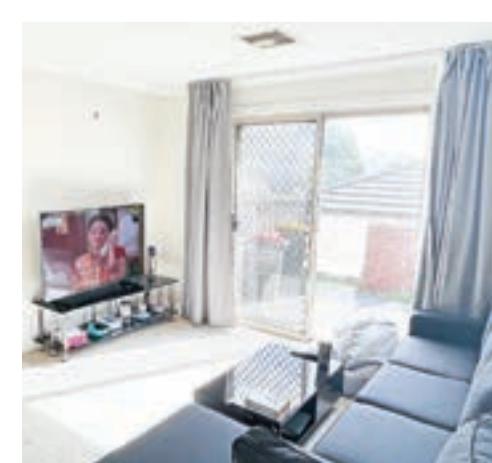
AN EXCEPTIONAL buy here!!! Now available, a modern unit in the centre of town now awaiting a new owner.

A great investment with a reliable, long-term tenant (lease until May 2025) paying \$360 per week. Within a cluster of six, the unit comprises two bedrooms with built-in robes, tiled entry and kitchen, carpet to lounge and bedrooms, ducted reverse cycle heating and air conditioning and kitchen with quality appliances including electric wall oven and gas hotplate and bathroom with separate bath and shower.

Car accommodation is a single brick garage with an automatic door. This unit is extremely well presented and is a credit to the current tenant. Located within an easy flat walk to the medical centre, main street and all town amenities.

2 | 1 | 1 | 151m²

Unit 5, 49 Guys Rd, **Korumburra**
For Sale \$390,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Scott McKenzie 0427 5552 898



LEONGATHA



60 Chamberlain Drive

- 4 bed, 2 bath, BV home on over half an acre
- Established plants and trees
- Surrounded by premium properties

\$769,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



12 Queen Street

- Prime Position
- Flat 876m² block
- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom

\$525,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

CORINELLA



1 Kilburn Street

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, double carport
- Generous 1025m² block
- Investment potential - room to grow!

\$670,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



43 Cameron Street

- Wonderful cottage
- Large allotment
- Renovators delight

\$449,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



17a Eccles Way

- Low maintenance living, secure backyard
- 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car, light filled living space
- Undercover outdoor space

\$595,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



Coming Soon

- 8,075m² block (2 acres)
- Run down 3 bedroom cottage
- Private treed setting

Expressions of Interest Invited

Contact: Korumburra Office

CORINELLA



31 Smythe Street

- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage
- Modern family home
- Great location

\$750,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



75 Nelson Street

- 3 large bedrooms
- Corner block
- Great shedding

\$595,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

FOSTER



1 Coopers Road

- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 car
- Architecturally designed, corner allotment
- Open views to trees across the township

\$895,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



21 Mine Road

- Mixed Use Zoning
- Leased at \$350 per week
- Reliable Long Term Tenant

\$350,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

GRANTVILLE



58 Brazier Street

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage
- Perfect blend of comfort and convenience
- Set to boom - First home or investment

\$620,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



1 Matthew Street

- Southside gem
- Corner allotment
- 3 bedrooms

Sold for \$499,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



3 Ritchie Street

- Character filled in convenient location
- 4 bed, 2 bath, 1 carport, est. gardens
- Country cottage with open plan living

\$795,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



Units 1-4, 8 Ruddville Avenue

- 3x1 bedroom and 1x2 bedroom
- Returning \$800pw (7.2%)
- Instant income

\$575,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

GRANTVILLE



82 Grantville-Glen Alvie Road

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, double carport
- Charming 3 bedroom home
- Situated close to the amenities of Grantville

\$570,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



33 Parkes Street

- Complete renovations
- 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms
- Brick construction

Sold for \$522,000

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

Hayley Stephenson 0427 799 554
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



Solid results continue for dairy industry

A NEW report has found Victorian dairy farm profits in 2023-24 were above the long-term average for the fifth consecutive year.

The 2023-2024 Dairy Farm Monitor is an annual survey tracking 80 dairy farm businesses statewide.

In 2023-2024, average profit was strong at \$629,000 or \$2.64 per kilograms of milk solids.

The varied seasonal conditions across the state for 2023-24 influenced performance and costs among the regions.

Average milk price fell slightly to \$9.64 per kilogram milk solids – a one per cent decrease on the previous year's very high price – while total costs for the 2023-24 period remained stable.

Agriculture Victoria Farm Business Economists Program Manager, Claire Waterman said: "Dairy Farm Monitor participants produced more milk across the state and increased homegrown feed production for their herds, despite some challenges including dry seasonal conditions in the South West and a slightly lower milk price than last year."

"We thank the Dairy Farm Monitor project participants for their dedicated support to this initiative, providing such valuable information to industry and government."

Dairy Farm Monitor is a partnership with Dairy Australia, collecting and analysing financial and production data from dryland and irrigated dairy farms in south-western Victoria, Gippsland and northern Victoria.

Dairy Australia General Manager Research and Innovation, Greg Jarman said the Dairy Farm Monitor Project provides vital insight into the factors affecting the profitability and sustainability of dairy farms.

"The data and insights gained from the project assist farmers and service providers in decision making and support Dairy Australia and the Victorian Government by providing independent and reliable information to inform investment and resource allocation to priority areas," Mr Jarman said.

"This ensures we maintain our focus on the projects and activities that will have the greatest impact on the long-term profitability and sustainability of the dairy industry."

The 80 project participants represented a distribution of farm size, feeding systems and herd sizes.

There were approximately 2768 dairy farm businesses in Victoria that produced 5.3 billion litres or 63 per cent of Australia's national milk production in 2023-24.

The 2023-24 Dairy Farm Monitor report is available on the Agriculture Victoria website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/about/agriculture-in-victoria/dairy-farm-monitor-project

ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS

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(Formerly Vassil Electronics)
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KESTLE HARVESTERS

- Bulk Silage Grass, Maize and Wholecrop (2 x Claas Jaguars and 2 x JCB Loaders)
- Mower Conditioner/Auto Swathers
- Solid and Liquid Effluent spreading
- 21 Tonne Excavator with Buckets and Log Grab

Contact - David 0428 515 349 - Reece 0499 113 522

Australia to host World Jersey Conference in 2025

AUSTRALIAN Jersey cows will be showcased to a global audience next year with the 2025 World Jersey Conference being launched last week in the United States.

The World Jersey Cattle Bureau opened the conference at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin, with up to 100 farmers from across the globe expected to make the trip Down Under in April 2025.

The conference is already generating strong interest with more than 2000 views of the launch video in the first few hours.

Australia will be hosting the conference for the first time since 2011. It will start in Melbourne on April 6 and finish at the Royal Sydney Show Jersey judging on April 21.

International guests from Europe, North and South America, New Zealand and Asia are expected to join local Jersey farmers on the tour.

Speaking at the World Dairy Expo, Jersey Australia general manager Glen Barrett said hosting the tour was a great opportunity to showcase the Australian Jersey cow and build on strong global marketing over the past three years, including a site at the World Dairy Expo.

"The campaign has had a very positive impact and we have seen that interest in our Jersey cows at World Dairy Expo this year, including a number of animals in the ring and in Jersey sales sired by Australian bulls," Mr Barrett said.



Premium sponsor Genetics Australia's export manager Rob Derksen, Jersey Australia general manager Glen Barrett and Jersey Australia board member and promotions chair Jane Sykes launch the 2025 World Jersey Conference at World Dairy Expo in Madison Wisconsin.

"It's important to capitalise on that work and bring global breeders to Australia and show the strength of our Jersey cows and our local industry."

An itinerary has been developed and will take visitors through Victoria's dairy regions and the NSW south coast, including the Central Gippsland Jersey Autumn Fair.

"They will visit some of our premier herds, including

Master Breeder herds and the number one Jersey merit herd along with some newer herds who will be showcased for the first time," Mr Barrett said.

"This is a celebration of Australian Jersey cows, with a strong focus on Australian cow families and sires."

The conference was last held here in 2011 when Australia stepped in after the tsunami hit original host Japan. It had been planned to

return to Australia in 2021 but was deferred because of COVID-19. This year the conference is in Denmark and it was held in Guatemala in 2023 and in Kenya and Rwanda in 2022.

Domestically, Jersey numbers have been increasing year-on-year and Jerseys now account for more than 15 per cent of the national herd, up from 10.5 per cent 15 years ago.

Mr Barrett predicted that interest in local Jersey cows would spike after the conference. "Bringing international Jersey breeders here to see first-hand the high-quality cattle we're breeding from high-quality Australian bulls will definitely benefit our local industry," he said.

"The conference rotates around the world and we think we have the best Jersey cows in the world so we wanted to showcase them. There is certainly a growing market for Australian Jersey heifers and Australian genetics and this will be a great opportunity for Australian businesses to support the event and promote their Jersey genetics and products to the world."

The World Jersey Cattle Bureau represents Jersey breeders, and their organisations, around the world. There are five world regions of the Bureau - Africa, Asia/Oceania, Europe, Latin America and North America. World conferences have been held since 1949.

A local committee is being formed to support the conference tour planning.

ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF
Est. 1886

36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480

Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA

David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
Mitch Cochrane	0438 078 000	Brian Vuillermi	0429 436 040

LEONGATHA

Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390

WARRAGUL

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	Tina Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

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	Tina Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

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Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA

Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320
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WONTHAGGI

Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244
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LEONGATHA

Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299
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MELBOURNE LAND

Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Tony Giles	0407 528 192
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COWES

Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Dan Huther	0418 334 801
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VENUS BAY

Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252	Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
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PAKENHAM

Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472
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GRANTVILLE

Brian Silver	0407 347 509	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822
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INVERLOCH

Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472
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BERWICK

Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898
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LANG LANG

Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898
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KOO WEE RUP

Michelle Lunney	0457 120 277	Michelle Lunney	0457 120 277
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SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE



Contribute to research during Frogtober

MELBOURNE Water will partner with other Victorian Catchment Management Authorities this October to launch a statewide initiative encouraging citizen scientists to record and submit frog calls using the Frog Census app.

"Usually, we tell people to disengage from technology while they're enjoying the natural environment, but during 'Frogtober', we want them to take their phone to their local creek or waterway and use the app to help us collect valuable environmental data," Jane Petch said.

Ms Petch is a freshwater ecologist employed at Melbourne Water as a Waterwatch coordinator.

The Frog Census app was launched by Melbourne Water in 2016 and has been downloaded nearly 8000 times, with an average of 1700 frog call submissions made each year.

The Frog Census app collects research-grade data, with each frog call submitted analysed by an ecologist before being added to a statewide database.

"The data we gather via the Frog Census app inform Melbourne Water's decisions about waterways and environment projects. We are so grateful to our community of citizen scientists for being our eyes and ears in the field

As an 'indicator species', frogs are crucial to understanding how healthy the

and helping us collect far more data on the state of our frog populations than would otherwise be possible," Ms Petch said.

Melbourne Water is one of 10 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) in Victoria responsible for delivering land, water and biodiversity programs.

This is the first year the CMAs have joined forces on a statewide effort to capture frog calls.

The annual Frog Census was initiated in 2001 and has historically focused on recording frog calls in metro Melbourne during four key months of April, August, October and November when frogs are most active.

"Frogs can be found all over Melbourne and regional Victoria and can be heard calling from where water is found in bushland, parks and gardens, and urban areas," Ms Petch said.

"Before the launch of the app, people would record frog calls using a cassette recorder and post them into Melbourne Water for manual collation. Now, people tap a button using the app to record, and location data will accurately locate where the call was heard."

As an 'indicator species', frogs are crucial to understanding how healthy the

environment is.

They are sensitive to environmental changes in water and land and are an important part of the food chain.

They provide food for larger prey such as birds and fish, are predators of insects, and have eradicated millions of pests.

Ms Petch said frog populations are under threat and many species are disappearing.

"Collecting frog data allows us to take action when species are threatened and hopefully reverse the decline through targeted conservation efforts like revegetation or water quality improvement," she said.

In metro Melbourne, there are 16 species of frogs, from the Eastern Common Froglet, which is heard all year around Melbourne, to the vulnerable Growling Grass Frog species primarily found in Western metropolitan Melbourne.

"Participating in the Frog Census will enable people to identify the frog species in their local area and foster a stronger connection to the environment," Ms Petch said.

You do not need to be a frog expert to participate – download the free Frog Census app and get recording.



Get involved in important environmental research by downloading the free Frog Census app.



One of the vulnerable Growling Grass Frogs.

Matthew George Young Stockman announced

THE winner of the Matthew George Young Stockman Award for 2024 was announced at the Royal Melbourne Show Agriculture Hub at 7pm on Friday, October 4.

Interviews, video and photo opportunities will be available to media representatives.

The Ballarat Foundation was proud to announce the winner of the Matthew George Young Stockman Award for 2024 at the Royal Melbourne Show Agriculture Hub on Friday, October 4 as Matt Cooney.

Matt, 25, from Lemnos, Victoria, has over a decade of experience showing livestock. Recently, he made the bold decision to leave his full-time job in telecommunications to focus entirely on his passion for livestock. Matt has since launched his own livestock business, Cann Valley Cattle Co & Consultancy, which has quickly made its mark on the industry.

The Award, facilitated by the Ballarat Foundation, provides an opportunity for young breeders, aged 21 to 30 years, to undertake a study tour of beef cattle breeding programs, developments and practices. As well, they act as ambassadors for the beef cattle industry in Australia.

Sixteen young industry leaders have been rewarded with the award since 2009.

For more information on the award visit bit.ly/3zLzpBM.

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Jason Fry
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Michael Foote
0427 162 370
Livestock Manager



Hayden Hanratty
0429 181 672



Joshua Chiavaroli
0407 029 255



Dean Foat
0488 732 181

ELDERS RURAL SERVICES

11 Commercial St, Korumburra 3950

Ph: (03) 5658 1894

dg_korumburra@elders.com.au

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Lachie Bowman 0408 871 388
John McAinch 0428 514 393

BULLS FOR SALE

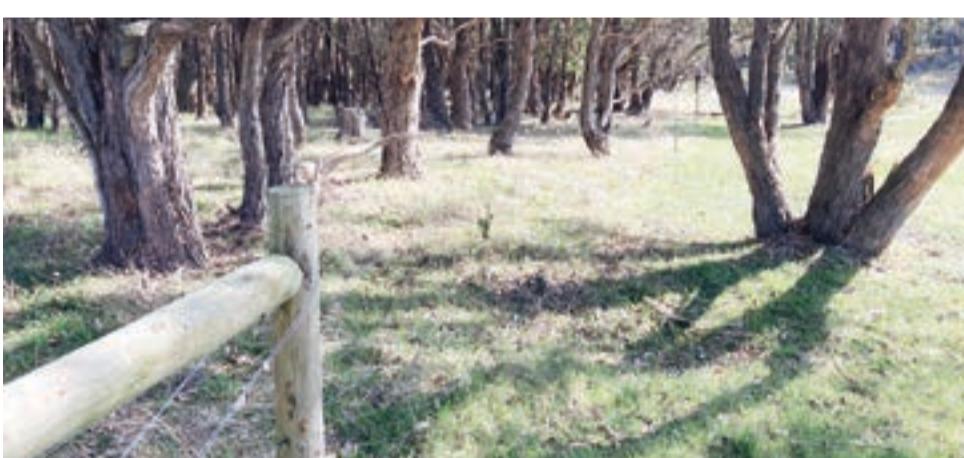
3 Poll Hereford bulls, 2 year old, extremely quiet, **\$2500 + \$250 GST**
2 Highland bulls, 3 year old, pure bred and quiet, **\$3000 + \$300 GST**

DAIRY HEIFERS FOR SALE

14 Holstein Heifers, Al Bred, Springing to Jersey bull, **\$1800 + \$180 GST**

Contact: ALEX DIXON 0409 581 935

LIVESTOCK, REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE



Fencing at a Bass Coast property protects stream frontage and nature corridor.

Protect our waterways from the source

THE Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways grant program is open for applications to new participants throughout the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

Unlike a great many urban waterways, rural headwater streams and smaller creeks are often on private property.

This means landholders play a crucial role in protecting the health of waterways.

By replanting vegetation, controlling weeds and putting in fencing to exclude livestock, the streamside landholders make an invaluable contribution to preserving the ecological balance of waterways.

Janette and Andrew own a grazing property in Almurga with frontage to

the Bass River and integrated water management has been a key feature in the development of their property.

By managing the flow of the surface water which drains into the waterway, they have improved the condition of the stream frontage and reduced risk of sediment or nutrients flowing into the river.

So far, they have planted 3500 native shrubs with species that thrive in wet ground conditions.

With fencing and planting, they have created a network of wildlife that links bushland areas with swamps, cultivating and conserving trees and planting paddocks with a wider seed variety to improve soil health.

Works to protect headwater streams and small



MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre 

Outstanding yarding of store cattle

By SGSSA

AGENTS yarded 5825 head at last Thursday's VLE Leongatha store sale in a yarding you could only describe as outstanding and a credit to the vendors and breeders.

There were some large feature lines of single vendor grown steers and weaners with plenty of weight and breeding to match.

A large group of feedlot buyers along with local graziers all competed strongly on all grades in a market that was dearer than expected due to the large volume with prices being fully firm for the steers and firm to a little easier on the heifers.

Xbred and dairy types also held up well with good support shown with rates in line with previous sales.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024

A Walker 18 Angus	664kg	\$4.05	\$2690	
J MacLachlan 30 Angus	604kg	\$4.16	\$2510	
J MacLachlan 15 Angus	573kg	\$4.13	\$2370	
G Murray 20 Angus	566kg	\$3.79	\$2150	
H Mawhinney 13 Angus	532kg	\$4.04	\$2150	
Mt Arrarat 20 BB	586kg	\$4.00	\$2340	
SF & EL Davey 32 Angus	511kg	\$4.07	\$2080	
K, P & R Hourigan 15 Hereford	493kg	\$3.67	\$1810	
J MacLachlan 17 Angus	492kg	\$4.55	\$2240	
Wallaby Downs 15 Angus	485kg	\$4.04	\$1960	
EJ, GG, MG & R Bates 24 Angus	471kg	\$4.09	\$1930	
GG Churchill & D Sly 12 Angus	471kg	\$3.86	\$1820	
RJ & PJ Derham 15 Hereford	468kg	\$3.84	\$1800	
Wallaby Downs 16 Angus	464kg	\$3.92	\$1820	
H Mawhinney 12 Angus	458kg	\$3.97	\$1820	
P & J Fleming 15 Angus	454kg	\$4.05	\$1840	
Wallaby Downs 18 Angus	453kg	\$3.95	\$1790	
D Fussell 12 Angus	447kg	\$4.11	\$1840	
EJ, GG, MG & R Bates 22 Angus	442kg	\$4.36	\$1930	
Wallaby Downs 34 Angus	440kg	\$3.86	\$1700	
Brewis & Woodhouse 15 Angus	440kg	\$3.86	\$1700	
Wallaby Downs 18 Hereford	439kg	\$3.57	\$1570	
D Hurley 22 Angus	435kg	\$4.18	\$1810	
Allen Ag Services 20 Angus	425kg	\$4.00	\$1700	
Eddington Holdings 30 Angus	420kg	\$4.30	\$1810	
Black Range Angus 23 Angus	419kg	\$4.00	\$1680	
P Evans 17 Angus	415kg	\$3.87	\$1610	
GS & J Tuckett 15 Angus	408kg	\$3.87	\$1580	
H Mawhinney 15 Angus	406kg	\$3.91	\$1590	
H Gerrard 25 Angus	406kg	\$4.11	\$1670	
T Ball 15 Angus	401kg	\$3.86	\$1550	
D C McGrath 20 Angus	400kg	\$4.00	\$1600	
V & DL Vickers 13 BB	400kg	\$3.87	\$1550	
JAD Farms 18 Angus	391kg	\$3.93	\$1540	
Wallaby Downs 13 Hereford	389kg	\$3.47	\$1350	
EJ & VM White 23 Angus	388kg	\$4.07	\$1580	
Allen Ag Services 22 Angus	387kg	\$4.13	\$1600	
Hartay Family 25 Angus	380kg	\$4.28	\$1630	
RJ Mackenzie 19 Hereford	376kg	\$3.84	\$1410	
Brewis & Woodhouse 16 Angus	368kg	\$3.17	\$1170	
H Gerrard 46 Angus	368kg	\$4.23	\$1560	
Gem-Brae Ag 35 Angus	368kg	\$3.80	\$1400	
B & S Phillips 20 Angus	365kg	\$3.97	\$1450	
EJ, GG, MG & R Bates 20 Angus	363kg	\$4.21	\$1530	
Allen AG Services 20 Angus	361kg	\$4.12	\$1490	
R Whitehead 12 Angus	358kg	\$3.35	\$1200	
Delaney Family Trust 25 Angus	357kg	\$5.35	\$1910	
L Barrett 12 Angus	356kg	\$4.01	\$1430	
Hartay Family 25 Angus	352kg	\$4.23	\$1490	
R Kirton 20 Angus	344kg	\$4.62	\$1590	
Wiltara Farms 29 Angus	342kg	\$3.74	\$1280	
P McDonnell 22 Angus	342kg	\$4.18	\$1430	
Allan Ag Services 29 Angus	341kg	\$4.10	\$1400	
Wiltshaw Farming 10 Angus	341kg	\$3.66	\$1250	
K Farley 18 Char	329kg	\$3.76	\$1240	
H Gerrard 24 Angus	327kg	\$4.43	\$1450	

Heifers

Karasi Parj 13 Angus	493kg	\$3.44	\$1700	
S & S Storr 15 BB	430kg	\$3.34	\$1440	
D Fussell 14 Angus	428kg	\$3.38	\$1450	
G Jones 11 Hereford	418kg	\$3.20	\$1340	
D Hurley 19 Angus	415kg	\$3.78	\$1570	
GJ Andrew 16 S/Horn	414kg	\$3.47	\$1440	
IK & JM Bo 20 SP	373kg	\$3.40	\$1270	
P Evans 13 Angus	370kg	\$3.45	\$1280	
EJ, GG, MG & R Bates 20 Angus	369kg	\$3.36	\$1240	
CA & JR Moore 15 Hereford	357kg	\$3.22	\$1150	
Gem-Brae Ag 20 Angus	355kg	\$3.23	\$1150	
EJ, GG, MG & R Bates 24 Angus	343kg	\$3.35	\$1150	
A & J Gerrard 23 Angus	343kg	\$3.64	\$1250	
Gem-Brae Ag 20 Angus	342kg	\$3.53	\$1210	
K Sim & Sons 19 Angus	335kg	\$3.40	\$1140	
D Hurley 16 Angus	326kg	\$3.83	\$1250	
A & J Gerrard 25 Angus	315kg	\$3.33	\$1050	
C & S Tayler 23 Angus X	312kg	\$3.20	\$1000	

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, September 30, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x	.....	\$16 to \$55	
Friesian Bulls	.....	\$28 to \$76	
Friesian Heifers	.....	\$40 to \$45	
Beef Bulls	.....	\$30 to \$220	
Beef Heifers	.....	\$20 to \$85	
Number of Calves: 390			
Number purchased to rear: 95			



Foster's Mylah and Zayda Angwin, Oscar Griffin of Welshpool and Melbourne's Kit and Raf Cowell enjoy Thursday's Store Sale, a first for the city pair. A05_4124



Baw Baw Livestock auctioneer Jayden Ferrari in action during Thursday's Busy Leongatha Store Sale. A04_4124

Booming Store Sale in Leongatha



Drovers Kayla Hardy and Tynel O'Dwyer take a momentary pause during their busy day at Leongatha Saleyards on Thursday. A07_4124

LEONGATHA Saleyards was full of buyers and sellers on Thursday, along with curious onlookers such as Melbourne-based youngsters Kit and Raf Cowell checking out their first Store Sale.

They had plenty to see with just under 6000 head of cattle available.

Quality was high and prices strong.

Baw Baw Livestock has settled in well at the Leongatha Saleyards after the closure of Pakenham, having many pens to sell on Thursday.

Auctioneer Jayden Ferrari summed up the general high quality of animals available.

"The quality of cattle is very good across the yarding, so the main yarding of steers and even your straight line of heifers," he said.

"The season in South and East Gippsland has been ticking along pretty well, so the cattle have presented very

well, especially for the feedlot competition."

He noted there were plenty of cattle with weight in them, ideally suited to feedlot buyers.

Jayden was pleased with the prices achieved.

"Some of the big black steers are still making well in excess of \$4 a kilo," he observed.

Underlining that point, a pen of 25 steers from M. Brown, averaging 478 kilos, achieved \$1970 a head at an impressive \$4.12 per kilo.

Jake Follett, who farms in Poowong and Lang Lang, running Gembrae Ag in Nyora, had young son Max for company at Thursday's sale.

Jake sold 35 Angus steers weighing in the 350 to 360 kilo bracket and was pleased with the \$1400 per head price, while awaiting the sale of some heifers.

As for Kit and Raf, they relished meeting the cattle and observing their antics.

Developing a growing workforce for the future



Dairy farmers Graeme and Andrea Barlow are focused on learning and development for their employees as they see growth on their Gippsland farm.

Staff have also participated in the Rearing Healthy Calves program, a hoof trimming course and Pastures for Profit – all of which have been successful.

These programs have helped improve staff skills and increased their knowledge in managing calves and more effective hoof care practices.

Increased expertise means better overall animal welfare and operational efficiency on the farm.

Graeme and Andrea see upskilling staff as a positive step forward in futureproofing their business.

"It's really good growing the business – knowing that with all the training you've put

your staff through, gives you the confidence that even when you're not there, the job will get done," says Andrea.

"Especially with our son, Jayden. He's put a lot into the business, and we have a lot of confidence in him managing the business going forward."

Andrea highly recommends putting staff through these courses and developing their skills – it's a win-win for both employers and employees.

"They get a lot out of it," Andrea said.

Graeme adds that undertaking training has also given their employees the confidence to push themselves a bit further and take on more. This, in turn, provides more opportunities to make sound decisions right across the farm business.

"Everything's evolving – the dairy industry is changing every year. So, it's good to stay on top of what's going on," Graeme said.

To find out more about how Dairy Australia provides support with employing and managing people, and building skills for successful careers in dairy farming, visit dairyaustralia.com.au/people.



Marge, the rains are here, but it hasn't stopped the snakes

Days of sunshine and warmer weather are bringing an increase in snake sightings across the region, with residents urged to stay alert.

"Snake season is rapidly approaching," Dr Will Hume, Inverloch Animal Doc said.

"Often unfortunately the first thing we notice are dead snakes on the road to alert us to the fact that snakes are waking up from their winter slumbers."

"In our region, the two species of concern are copperhead snakes and tiger snakes. Copperheads will cause a pet to get quite ill,

and still require treatment, but are rarely lethal in cats and dogs. Tiger snakes are much more venomous and untreated bites are often fatal."

When presented with a pet that's been potentially bitten by a snake there are two specific tests Inverloch Animal Doc run that will tell them how likely a snake envenomation is.

"We measure the animal's coagulation (the ability for blood to clot) and we measure an enzyme called CK or creatinine kinase, an enzyme expressed when muscle breakdown is occurring. Usually,

these two tests give us enough information to decide whether or not to proceed with administering antivenene."

Prevention is much easier, as treatment is risky and expensive.

"These days there are professional groups who train dogs to avoid snakes. This is effective but controversial as it usually involves using real live snakes and electronic collars," Dr Will explained.

"The Victorian Government requires dog owners to have their dogs checked by a vet prior to undertaking snake avoidance training. We have seen many dog

owners – especially people with valuable working dogs operating in snakey areas – requesting certification for this type of training over the past few years.

"People interested in snake avoidance training should be thorough when researching a snake avoidance trainer and ensuring that they employ professional dog trainers and snake handlers, and check that they have a strong animal welfare policy."

And whilst wet weather may have us thinking we are still safe, make sure you keep an eye on your footing.



Copperhead in Bass Coast.

VLE LEONGATHA STORE SALE 3500 CATTLE 3500

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Castello Farms P/L, Thorpdale (NUTRIEN)

Annual Draft

93 Angus/Sim steers, 13-15 mths, Hicks blood, Weaned 1/6/24, Booster 5in1, B12 & Drenched, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Markarna Park, Flinders (NUTRIEN)

35 Angus steers, 16-20 mths

A/c S Jackson & S Collins, Kilmany (NUTRIEN)

27 Angus steers, 18 mths

A/c S Walsh, Seaspray (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 18-24 mths

A/c Melaleuca Past, Ruby (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 15-16 mths

A/c M & K Prosser, Loch (NUTRIEN)

14 Speckle Park steers, 2 yo

A/c Missen Farming, Willung (NUTRIEN)

12 Angus steers, 2 yo

A/c K & L Holmes, Boolarra (NUTRIEN)

12 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths

A/c S & J Miller, Tinamba (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus steers, 18 mths, GF & ABF

A/c T & JA Christensen, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

10 BB steers, 14-16 mths, NE Accred, 3x5in1, VQ

A/c C Puyol & A Chibber, Poowong (SEJ)

8 Angus & Charolais X steers, 22 mths

A/c R & L Whittaker, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)

7 Angus steers, 20 mths

A/c Behmer Pastoral, Pound Creek (NUTRIEN)

6 Angus steers, 18 mths

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c G. Abrahamson, Ryanston (PHC)

40 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths, "Leawood" & "Black Spur Angus" blood

A/c Markarna Park, Flinders (NUTRIEN)

35 Angus heifers, 16-20 mths

A/c Castello Farms P/L, Thorpdale (NUTRIEN)

Annual Draft

15 Angus/Sim heifers, 13-15 mths, Hicks blood, weaned 1/6/24, Booster 5in1, B12 & Drenched, VB, GF & ABF

A/c T & JA Christensen, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

10 BB heifers, 14-16 mths, NE Accred, 3x5in1, VQ

A/c K & L Holmes, Boolarra (NUTRIEN)

9 Hereford heifers, 18-20 mths

A/c Behmer Pastoral, Pound Creek (NUTRIEN)

6 Angus heifers, 18 mths

A/c Missen Farming, Willung (NUTRIEN)

4 Angus heifers, 2yo

ANGUS WEANERS

A/c B Hinson, Hazelwood Nth (NUTRIEN)

80 Angus strs, 12-18 mths

80 Angus heifers, 12-18 mths

Innesdale & Leawood blood, NE Accred

2 (heifers only) & Easy Dose, AI bred to top sires, Baldrige Command & Texas Iceman, backed up by Mawarra MWGQ385

A/c Spring Valley, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers

20 Angus heifers

12-13 mths

A/c R, H & P Thompson, Fish Creek (NUTRIEN)

25 Angus heifers, 12-13 mths, Sired By Ronly

15 Speckle Park heifers, 12-13 mths, Sired by Napoleon, AI Bred, 7in1 Vacc. & Cydectin Drenched 12/9, All Trace Mineral Bolus 19/3/24

A/c DS & A O'Brien, "Gouranelar" Swifts Creek (NUTRIEN)

30 BB steers, 10-12 mths, Innesdale blood, VB, NE ACCRED, GF & ABF

A/c A & A Missen, Woodside (NUTRIEN)

25 Angus steers, 12-14 mths

A/c I & R Hengstberger, Dumbalk (NUTRIEN)

25 Angus steers, 12-13 mths

A/c D&L White, Ferndale (SEJ)

24 Angus heifer weaners, 10 mths, VB, NE Accred, weaned

A/c M & M Standfield, Fish Creek

20 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned, VB, GF & ABF, Cydectin, Multi-min & 5in1 18/8/24, By top Dunoon bulls

A/c Backman Contracting, Valencia Creek (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 12 mths

A/c O'Loughlin Farms, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus strs, 12 mths, Kunuma blood & NE Accred

A/c Bulleondurra, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 12-13 mths

A/c P & A Chisholm, Archies Creek (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 11-12 mths, By Merlewood Stud Bulls, NE Accred

A/c M Cummins & A, G & H Little (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus mixed sex, 12 mths

A/c MD Gordon, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus mixed sex calves, 7-8 mths, By Wattlewood Stud Bulls

A/c S Conway, Traralgon (NUTRIEN)

19 Angus steers, 11-12 mths, By Latrobe Park & Bowman Bulls, Drenched Cattlemax & Swish Lice Treatment 10/8, weaned

A/c R Holt, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers, 12 mths

A/c Angel's Run, Meeniyani (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers, 11-12 mths

A/c A & A Gray, Devon North (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus heifers, 12 mths

A/c R & L Whittaker, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus steers, 10 mths

A/c V Sanders, Hazelwood Nth (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus steers, 10 mths

A/c K & S Hutchinson, Koonwarra (NUTRIEN)

10 AA/Devon steers, 12 mths

A/c C Goff, Sale (NUTRIEN)

9 Angus heifers, 10 mths

COLOURED WEANERS

A/c Whelan's Run, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

40 Hereford steers

40 Hereford heifers

10-12 mths

A/c Ds & A O'Brien, "Gouranelar" Swifts Creek (NUTRIEN)

60 Hereford steers, 10-12 mths, Mawarra blood, VB, NE Accred, GF & ABF

A/c B Hinson, Hazelwood Nth (NUTRIEN)

15 Charo steers, 12-18 mths

15 Charo heifers, 12-18 mths

Innesdale & Leawood blood, NE Accred

A/c Tablelands Pastoral, Boisdale (PHC)

20 Hereford steers weaners, 9-10 mths, Mawarra blood, weaned

A/c Wiabuna P/L, Woolamai (NUTRIEN)

20 Speckled Park, mixed sex calves, 10 mths

A/c E McPherson, Hedley (PHC)

20 Speckle X yearling mixed sexes, 12-14 mths

A/c S Mackenzie, Buffalo (SEJ)

5 Poll Hereford X steers, 12 mths

9 Poll Hereford X steers, 12 mths

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c Kyle Custom Build, Bena (SEJ)

45 Angus/Friesian & Hereford/Friesian X steers, 12/16 mths

A/c Waterside Operations, Waratah Bay (NUTRIEN)

25 Angus X steers, 18 mths, Treated Promax Pour On & Multimin 16/9

A/c T & JA Christensen, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

20 BB mixed sex, 14-16 mths, NE Accred, 3x5in1, VQ

A/c M & R Coleman, Maffra (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus Friesian X steers, 2yo

A/c Wiabuna P/L, Woolamai (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus Friesian X heifers, 10-14 mths

A/c Clark Dairies, Glen Alvie (NUTRIEN)

20 Speckle Park/Friesian X mixed sex calves, 9-11 mths, bucket reared

A/c Jelbart Dairy, Leongatha Sth (NUTRIEN)

40 Friesian heifers, 14 mths

A/c D Joyce, Outram (NUTRIEN)

12 Friesian steers, 2yo

COWS & CALVES

A/c L & S Marriott, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)

3 x 6 Poll Hereford cows & calves



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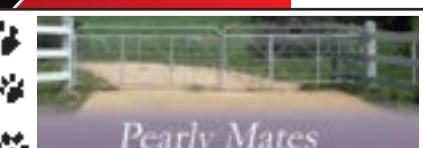
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Bruce was President of Rotary in 1995-1996 and was a Paul Harris Fellow. Bruce will be sadly missed. We send our sincere condolences to wife Sheila and his family. Vale Bruce Campbell.



HANLEY, Sadie:

Wonthaggi Power Football, Netball Club, would like to express our sincere condolences to the Hanley family, on the recent passing of Sadie Hanley, aged 100 years.

Sadie was a lifelong member of the club, and was appointed our No. 1 Member in 2023.

She will be missed by all who knew her.

R.I.P. Sadie.

MURPHY, James Harry 'Mick':
15.12.1936 - 28.09.2024.
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Brother of Shirley Watt, and Jack (dec.).
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DEATHS

MURPHY, James Harry (Mick):
16.12.1936 - 28.09.2024.

Passed away peacefully at Wonthaggi Hospital.
Son of Jim (dec.) and Ciss (dec.) Murphy.
Brother of Shirley and Jack (dec.).
Rest in peace after a long battle.

Your loving sister Shirley and family.

MURPHY, James Harry (Mick):
15.12.1936 - 28.09.2024.

Passed away at Wonthaggi Hospital.
Time cannot steal from us all memories that we hold within our hearts.
Resting now with his mum and dad.
Loved brother of Shirley and Jim (dec.), uncle of Debbie, Allan, Lyn and Chris and their families.

SUMMERFIELD, Ian George:
29.08.1938 - 27.09.2024.

Passed away peacefully.
Dearly loved and loving husband of Joy.
Respected father of Susan (dec.), Peter, Paul, Kristine, Karen, and all their families.
As per Ian's wishes he will be privately cremated.

DEATHS

WILLIAMS (Dunbar), Shirley Joan:
02.11.1933 - 01.10.2024.

Loved and respected sister-in-law of Gerald (dec.) and Irene, auntie to Kymme, Glenn, Brett, and families.
Always a smile, laughter and a joke, devoted to family, friends and the community.

Condolences to Vicki, Alan, Craig, Dale and families.

YOUNG, Graham Duncan:

Passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family at Armitage House, Wonthaggi on October 6, 2024.
Beloved husband and soul mate of Lois for 64 years.

Devoted father, father-in-law and treasured Pop of Craig and Fiona, Tameka and Alastair, Mitchell, Chloe and Jhai, Kallan, Lucy, Alexandra, Georgia and Myles; Faye and Kevin, Nick, Bec, Charlie, Alby and Edi, Breeana and Evan and Josh; Maree and David, Thomas and Keely and Jordan and Tara.

Please visit handley funeralservices.com.au for funeral details.

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FUNERALS

MURPHY:

The Funeral Service for Mr. James Harry (Mick) Murphy will be held at the graveside, Wonthaggi Cemetery on Thursday October 10, 2024, commencing at 2:30pm.

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BEREAVEMENT THANKS

HANLEY, Sarah (Sadie):

25.12.1923 - 18.09.2024.

Thank you for your presence at Mum's recent funeral, the flowers and kind thoughts expressed to family members.

The Hanley family.

IN MEMORIAM

BASTEN, Anna:

02.10.2004.
20 years now.

The world was a better place with you here.

We miss you, even though you still watch over us.

Thank you so much to our community for all the help given to us, and those who attend her earthly resting place, whoever you are.

Special thanks to Val (RIP), we know it can't be you anymore.

-- Joe and children, Thomas, Erica and twins Olivia and Sonia.

McRAE, Barry:

08.10.2015.

I thought of you today, but that is nothing new.

I thought about you yesterday, and days before that too.

I think of you in silence, I often speak your name.

All I have are memories, and your picture in a frame.

Your memory is a keepsake from which I'll never part.

God has you in his arms, I have you in my heart.

-- Kristine, Anthony, Belinda Janelle, Lauren, and forever family.

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NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 181(5)(B) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 (VICTORIA)

TAKE NOTICE that the Bass Coast Shire Council of 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi, Victoria, 3995, in accordance with Section 181 of the Local Government Act 1989 (Victoria), intends on or after 5 November 2024, to sell or transfer to itself, ALL THAT piece of land described in Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 527915K, being more particularly described in Certificate of Title Volume 10986, Folio 371, being the land situated at 4203 Bass Highway, Dalyston, Victoria, 3992.

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Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

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All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

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South Coast FM, a local community radio station based in Wonthaggi, is looking for a part-time bookkeeper to assist in all areas of day-to-day financial operations.

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We are looking for someone with 2-3 years experience in a small office environment, and a Cert IV in Accounting or equivalent. Experience with Reckon an advantage.

Queries and applications to
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Applications close at 9am on
Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

Senior Project Manager – Major Projects



South Gippsland Water is launching our 2040 Vision and Strategy, guiding us toward our vision to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations. To progress this vision, we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to fill this role.

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Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

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Applications Close: Monday, October 28, 2024 at 5pm

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/>
and follow the instructions to sign up for job alerts.



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Germano shakes up farmer advocacy one last time

MIRBOO North vegetable grower and sheep and beef producer, Emma Germano, wasn't making up the numbers when she was elected as the Victorian Farmers Federation's first woman president in 30 years.

She's already challenged many of the practices and conventions of the peak farming organisation in the state, so it wasn't a great surprise to see the VFF give notice it intends to resign from the National Farmers Federation unless significant reforms are made to policy development, advocacy and the costs of affiliation.

Speaking on ABC Country Hour last week, after sending the VFF's letter of resignation, in 12 months' time, to the NFF the previous Thursday, Ms Germano explained why.

Key among the issues is the \$220,000 in fees they pay to the NFF and the fact that while the fees were scaled back to \$40,000 while the VFF restructured its finances, its voting rights at the NFF were suspended.

The lack of notice and organisation around the recent protest in Canberra didn't help either.

ABC Country Hour presenter Warwick Long asked Ms Germano: "What did it take to get to this?"

"To put it really simply, and you know, the letter has now been made public, essentially that we sent to the NFF, we're saying this has been an unfair system for some time. It no longer serves the VFF essentially paying the lion's share of national advocacy, and it's not fair on our members," Ms Germano said.

"It's not fair on us as an organisation. We've raised it in many forums, looking for some meaningful change, and that hasn't happened.

"And ultimately, we're trying to set up the future board and appreciate that nominations have been called for. We're trying to set a future board up with some choices. And of course, everybody knows that we're in court with ADF, on the basis of whether or not, when we started talking about the unfairness, whether or not it constituted proper notice. And I just don't want the VFF in that same position in 12 months' time."

Nominations are now open for the positions of VFF President, VFF Vice-President, UDV President, Livestock Group President, Livestock Group Vice President and members of the Livestock Commodity Council, closing on October 11 with voting open on November 25, 2024 until December 6, 2024.



Some of the attendees at Sunday's mange information session in Venus Bay after learning how to install a burrow flap, with South Gippsland Landcare Network's Kirby Leary and Simonne Fleming of Rescue to Release. A23_4124

Help in fight against mange

AN INFORMATION session on tackling mange in wombats, held on Sunday at Venus Bay Community Centre proved successful, with those in charge confident it will deliver a much-needed boost to volunteer numbers, enabling more wombats to be treated.

About 25 attendees learned about different approaches to treating the condition that is caused by mange mites rather than a disease.

With mange fatal if not treated in time, the aim is to save as many affected individuals as possible, reducing the spread of mange through the wombat population and to koalas.

South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) organised Sunday's event, with project officer Kirby

Leary explaining its involvement in a project to tackle mange that arose through the South Gippsland Landcare Fund.

"Wildlife carers are seeing an increase in mange conditions in koalas and koalas get mange transfer from wombats, so the way for most people to be able to help is to treat wombats," Kirby said.

"We found we need more volunteers doing a small thing, which may be treating wombats or reporting sightings to Mange Management Victoria, so we put together this workshop."

SGLN reached out to Mange Management, which invited Simonne Fleming of Wonthaggi-based Rescue to Release to run the Venus Bay

session, something she was happy to volunteer her time to do.

She gives such presentations periodically in various locations but encourages those interested in getting started as a wildlife volunteer to contact relevant organisations directly.

Those keen to help in the fight against mange are urged to visit mangemanagement.org.au to learn more about how they can help or donate and can contact Mange Management by emailing info@mangemanagement.org.au or calling 0431 600 125.

Wildlife Victoria also needs volunteers and people are encouraged to visit wildlifevictoria.org.au to learn more and to register for their chosen role, with the organisation providing

training.

The website also offers the chance to make a donation.

Simonne established Rescue to Release last year to support wildlife volunteers around Bass Coast, explaining such volunteers can face significant expenses.

Costs include fuel, equipment and caring expenses such as feed.

Equipment includes cages, poles, and trail cameras.

Rescue to Release has equipment to help locate animals such as mange-affected wombats or an injured kangaroo, as well as lost dogs.

The organisation doesn't receive regular funding with donations welcome through rescuetorelease.org.au

Public Notice

Consultation for the development of Environment Plans



Beach Energy (Beach) currently supplies natural gas from offshore Victoria to the local market through existing infrastructure, including pipelines and onshore production facilities.

Beach is inviting consultation with relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by proposed activities under Environment Plans (EP) for further natural gas development activities.

Drilling EP

As part of its commitment to ongoing local gas production, Beach is proposing to undertake a further phase of drilling operations offshore Victoria. Consultation for activities under the Offshore Gas Victoria (OGV) Drilling and P&A Program EP (Drilling EP) began in June 2023. Beach has now reduced the scope of the activity to be carried out under the Drilling EP.

The original proposal to drill up to 11 wells in the Otway and Bass basins will be modified to a maximum of 5 wells in the Otway Basin only in Commonwealth Waters offshore Port Campbell.

Beach has previously consulted on the Drilling EP from June 2023 to February 2024 and is now carrying out supplementary consultation up to and including 9 December 2024.



For information regarding consultation, please see NOSPEMA's Brochure titled 'Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans', at consultation.nospema.gov.au

Well Completions and Interventions EP

At the commencement of consultation for the OGV Project in June 2023, Beach advised further EPs may be required for activities to complete and connect wells successfully drilled.

Beach is now conducting consultation with relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by proposed activities under a Well Completions, Well Interventions and Plugging and Abandonment Activities EP (Well Completions and Interventions EP).

These activities would enable future connection of new gas wells to existing infrastructure, maintain the option to plug and abandon an existing suspended well subject to a further assessment of its viability and enable activities to re-enter up to two existing wells to improve performance.

The Well Completions and Interventions EP consultation is open now and will be conducted up to and including 14 February 2025.

We encourage you to access Beach's additional resources, maps, and project details about the environment plans, which can be accessed via the QR code. We also invite you to contact us if you wish to discuss other consultation options or are seeking further information.

Well Completions and Interventions EP



Consultation dates and information

Online consultation hub	engage.beachenergy.com.au Engage Beach, includes information in different formats including maps; diagrams; photos; questions and answers; detailed information sheets.
Dedicated culturally sensitive First Nations online information sessions (webinars)	Tuesday 12 November, 2.15pm to 3pm (AEDT) Wednesday 13 November, 6pm to 6.45pm (AEDT) Please contact us to register for a webinar.
Open online information sessions (webinars)	Tuesday 12 November, 6pm to 6.45pm (AEDT) Wednesday 13 November, 2.15pm to 3pm (AEDT) Please contact us to register for a webinar.

Environment that may be affected (EMBA)

The maps in this notice show the largest geographic area where operational activities under the Drilling EP or the Well Completions and Interventions EP could potentially have a direct or indirect environmental impact under worst-case scenarios.

Within the EMBA, the environment values and sensitivities are defined, potential impacts are assessed, and control measures are developed to mitigate impacts.

The EMBA is divided into an operational area for activities defined in the EPs, and a planning area where emergency response plans must be ready for activation in the unlikely event of an accident.

Invitation to consult with Beach

Beach invites consultation with persons and organisations whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by the activities described in the EPs outlined in this notice.

Consultation is an important part of developing EPs as its purpose is to ensure that potential impacts have been identified and appropriate measures adopted as a result of the consultations.

P 1800 797 011

E community@beachenergy.com.au

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READ MORE



From Green Gully Brewing in Coglan Road Phillip Island, Luke Smith was happy to talk up his extensive line-up of brews.



Bridget from Germany puts out some of the in-season asparagus from Thriving Foods Farm of Iona at Saturday's Churchill Market.

Bumper holiday crowd boost Saturday's Churchill Island Market

THERE was a bumper holiday produce market at Churchill Island last Saturday with a big crowd rolling through and a great array of stallholders.

With the stunning scenery of the Churchill Island Farm and Western Port Bay providing the backdrop and Eric Collier of Venus Bay the soundtrack, it would be hard to imagine a better way to spend a Saturday morning while picking up your weekly shop of veggies, fruit, eggs and bread.

The fine array of fresh produce and boutique-style products included a liberal sprinkling of locally made beer, olive oil, honey, wine, bread, sauces and more was just what the doctor (and the cook) ordered with plenty of ready-to-eat food and drink going down a treat while the rain stayed away.

Regional Farmers Market organiser Melissa Burge couldn't have been happier with the turnout of people, the great mix of produce and the weather that held fine until the market was almost done.

"It's become an event that people really look forward to on the first Saturday of each month and the setting here on Churchill Island is pretty hard to beat," said Melissa.



There was the flavour of Thailand from the Drouin Thai restaurant, a popular eatery in the town for 10 years with Thasinee Techamahasaranon selling a new line in stir-fry sauce under the Golden Sabai brand.



Two dads sharing the load were Island locals Glenn and Andre with Marla and Cedar at the Churchill Market on Saturday.



David of Gembrook was back at the Churchill Market again with a fine array of potato varieties. He's here every month, happy to talk about the attributes of Gippsland Gol (creamy, great roasting and mash), Blue Moon (very good roasted and boiled), and White Star (boil and roast). But there are no Nicola potatoes until later in the year (a popular, naturally low GI-rated potato, with a yellow buttery flesh).



Musician Eric Collier of Venus Bay, a regular at the Inverloch Inlet Hotel of a Sunday night, was playing covers for the Churchill Island Market on Saturday.



Alex of Essendon chats with Luke Smith of Green Gully Brewing on Phillip Island and tastes a few of the brews that have been developed over the last seven or eight years.



Visitors to the Churchill Island Market Ethan and Ruby admitted to sneaking in Luna the Jack Russell.



The next Churchill Island Market will be held Melbourne Cup Weekend on Saturday, November 2.

Around the bay

The AFL Grand Final has been run and won, local football is all over and even the September school holidays are over.

The early spring weather has been horrible and the opportunity to get out for a fish have been non-existent so to say customers are frustrated is an understatement, especially with the very small windows producing plenty of fish.

Almost all of the hooks on the walls in the shop are now full of this season's stock with even more variety than last year. We have way too many new items to mention but has increased our stock plastics with our new wall of plastics holding well over 100 different types and more to come, we now carry more reels, more rods, new brands of hooks, lures and have increased the size of our tool wall and the list goes on. We have our loyalty program up and running, re-designing some new merch and our bumper stickers, and after many years of visitors to the area asking about rod/reel hire we have worked out a program to suit them. All we need now is the sunny, calm weather.

For those who don't live local, it has been very frustrating because, with the exception of one weekend in the last month or more, the windows for fishing have been very small. This is great if you live local, beside the water and basically have the boat hooked up ready for when the wind drops or is blowing the same direction as the tide and can sneak out for a quick fish. When you live some time away from the water you need to look at a much longer period of fine weather to make it worthwhile hooking the boat on and spending the fuel money to get here. This is made even worse when you check out your social media and see all the fish being caught.

The season so far has taken a step back 10 years, back to the very good calamari fishing in August, jig colours of reds, oranges and pinks, mutton bird winds that blow for days and days in a row, and September snapper fishing with very limited opportunity but very good fish, no tiny pinkies but quality table sized ones. It's like our season is having a retro round and stepping back into the past. On a positive, looking back through diaries when we get this type of start we get an extended run, especially with the snapper fishing well up to Christmas with the bigger fish.

Snapper reports: while we have seen a few genuine

With Jim's Bait and Tackle

20bers, the quality of the smaller ones has been excellent. We are getting the reports as usual, for this time of the year, from the top end of the bay but plenty from further down towards Rhyll.

A pattern that did come out of last weekend, the snapper was good in the deeper water early but once there was a lot of boat traffic the fish pushed into the shallower areas around the popular deep spots. Baits haven't changed with squid and pilchards accounting for the majority of the reports.

Calamari have been excellent this season, especially compared to last year where they didn't really show up at all. The size and the numbers have been good from all types of fishing which is very handy with all the wind we have had making boating difficult. The bad weather has made it difficult at times with all the weed around, but you just need to persevere a bit and it will happen.

Whiting reports were scattered over the last month with the weather not allowing you to get to where you need to be or simply just not able to get to your favourite whiting spot. It's also snapper time and many have headed out looking for them and not bothered with the whiting.

A little over a week ago we, like many, heard the tragic news that a young local had sadly taken his own life, knowing him as a customer it still just doesn't seem right even saying it. Our thoughts go out to his family and close friends and while nothing can change what has happened, it's important to keep the memories and that's exactly what we will be doing in remembering a customer that was always up for a chat, polite and friendly.

It's also important to remember that you just don't know what others are going through, you might take the grumpy person behind the counter as rude or not interested, but there could be something far more serious happening, and that works both ways, the person serving behind the counter to their customers, something to think about before you jump on social media to vent.

There are always many questions that will never be answered in these situations, and you might be surprised when one of your good friends is going through serious mental struggles, we all have an obligation to sometimes just listen more closely.

• Lifeline 13 11 14

Val embarks on 10th Great Cycle Challenge

WONTHAGGI's Val Bartley will be participating in her 10th Great Cycle Challenge through the month of October.

Supporting vital research for childhood cancers and diseases since its inception in 2013, the Great Cycle Challenge has become one of the biggest cycling events in Australia.

Cyclists from all over the country set a personal goal for themselves to ride throughout October and raise funds along the way.

The funds raised go directly to the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) in Sydney, which has around 160 world-leading medical scientists and research students working to accelerate research and give children the opportunity to enjoy happy and healthy lives.

In Australia, three children die of cancer every week.

The funds contribute to major research breakthroughs and deliver better treatment for children, slowing the statistics.

CMRI is partnered with Pro-Can, which has developed the world's largest database of cancer information to enhance worldwide clinical treatment.

This provides a step forward for cancer diagnosis and treatment worldwide.

With her husband Mike, Val was invited to see the CMRI a few years ago thanks to her contribution to the Great Cycle Challenge.

"They've got banks and banks of computers, and they get samples from all the different kinds of cancers and the cures that work best and put it into the database. This is available to doctors all over the world – it's fabulous," Val said.

This is the second year that Val will complete the Great Cycle Challenge in Wonthaggi.

You may see her on her circuits that take her from her home in Parklane Holiday Park up



Wonthaggi's Val Bartley is doing her 10th Great Cycle Challenge through the month October, raising essential funds for the Children's Medical Research Institute. Tk01_4124

towards Bunnings, along White Road into South Dudley and through the wetlands.

She has been rapt with the support from her neighbours.

"I put a flyer in everyone's letterbox and I've received a few donations already. It's a good way for me to have the opportunity to meet everyone too. I'm doing a raffle to create a bit of interest," she said.

Each year, they pick a virtual destination, which is where Val would end up if she did the ride all in one go.

She went from Albury to Flinders Street Station in the first year.

Since then, she's done the painted silos in Brimm, Cowra, the Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, and Maryborough – this year is Euroa.

As this will likely be Val's last challenge, she is aiming to ride 340 kilometres and raise \$3000, bringing her 10-year legacy to

5000 kilometres and \$25,000 raised.

Val and Mike started cycling in 2015, the same year as Val's first Great Cycle Challenge.

"We always had dogs and used to walk, but we decided to take up cycling when we didn't have dogs anymore. Mike had an old Kmart bike, and we discovered our love of riding in February 2015. We bought our first mountain bikes, and I saw the Great Cycle Challenge on Facebook," Val said.

"I just loved riding, so I decided to go into it that first year. It's been a fabulous thing to do for a great cause."

To support Val's ride, head to the Great Cycle Challenge website and find her donation page at greatcyclechallenge.com.au/riders/ValerieBartley.

At the time of writing, Val had raised \$351 and ridden 69.3 kilometres.

Rennie places second in local surf comp

PETERTON (Noosaville, QLD), 13.96. Second: Samuel Lowe (Thirroul, NSW), 11.17.

U18 girls: First: Ruby Berry (Margaret River, WA), 10.73. Second: Isla Huppertz (Bilinga, QLD), 8.84.

U16 boys: First: Max McGillivray (Evans Head, NSW), 13.83. Second: Lachlan Arghyros (Kingcliff, NSW), 13.80.

U16 girls: First: Lani Cairncross (Kiama Downs, NSW), 12.60. Second: Savannah Rielly (Dicky Beach, QLD), 8.00.

U14 boys: First: Locana Cullen (Avalon Beach, NSW), 12.23. Second: Harvey Colivas

(Collaroy, NSW), 9.37.

U14 girls: First: Mali Adam (Crescent Head, NSW), 10.47. Second: Scarlett Rennie (Cape Woolamai, VIC), 6.87.

All in all, the final day of the Rip Curl GromSearch Phillip Island event was as action packed and exciting as it gets with plenty of close calls and excellent performances.

As an added bonus, the top four competitors in the U14 and U16 divisions will be awarded wildcards into the Rip Curl GromSearch National Final, to be held at URBNSURF Sydney on October 21 this year.

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 8	WEDNESDAY	October 9	THURSDAY	October 10	FRIDAY	October 11	SATURDAY	October 12	SUNDAY	October 13	MONDAY	October 14
4.21am	4.54am	5.30am	6.11am	6.56am	12.27am	1.15am	2.00am	2.56am	3.46am	4.36am	5.27am	6.15am	
1.65m	1.64m	1.60m	1.53m	1.53m	0.38m	0.43m	0.48m	0.48m	0.53m	0.58m	0.63m	0.70m	
10.05am	10.39am	11.12am	11.45am	11.45am	7.47am	8.48am	9.49am	9.49am	10.40am	11.41am	12.42pm	1.43pm	
0.61m	0.64m	0.67m	1.45m	1.41m	0.75m	1.35m	0.78m	0.78m	0.80m	0.82m	0.84m	0.87m	
4.08pm	4.41pm	5.14pm	5.48pm	5.48pm	7.00pm	7.45pm	8.30pm	8.30pm	9.15pm	10.00pm	10.45pm	11.30pm	
1.47m	1.45m	1.41m	1.37m	1.37m	0.80m	0.75m	0.70m	0.70m	0.72m	0.75m	0.78m	0.80m	
10.11pm	10.43pm	11.14pm	11.46pm	11.46pm	12.07am	1.05am	1.45am	1.45am	2.25am	3.05am	3.45am	4.25am	
0.30m	0.31m	0.32m	0.34m	0.34m	0.38m	0.43m	0.48m	0.48m	0.50m	0.53m	0.58m	0.63m	

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au

WONTHAGGI TABLE TENNIS

TEAM Yellow's Luke and his lavender bat in full flourish pays homage to springtime Wonthaggi. That paddle would not be out of place at a garden show attracting botanists and bees. A little science and a whole lot of sting. Luke's backhand flick is as sweet as his lickicious Kilcunda ice creams.

Yellow def Blue 8 - 3

Sport can be so cruel.

Team Brown's David triumphed in a rock and roll slapfest over Rocketballs Donohue. The third set went 21 to 19. The scorer could barely hold on as the ball fizzed around like a mosh pit. This set time travelled to the previous millennium's rules where 21 was once the target score. The world's greatest abacus, owned by 15th Century Luca Pacioli, the godfather of double entry bookkeeping and a man who couldn't sleep if his debits didn't match his credits, would have caught fire trying to keep up. Then David survived another marathon against Funcle Mark winning 14 to 12 in the fifth. And despite David's two epic wins, Team Brown lost. Hold the violins, this is sport.

White def Brown 6 - 5

Team Green's Sven, Andy and Michael continued merrily on their winning ways against a gallant Team Black. If Andy and Sven ever coordinate their doubles play, the rest of the competition will bring out the violins. The Funeral March is not so rock and roll.

Green def Black 8 - 3

Ladder: Green 20, White 16, Yellow 12, Black 8, Brown 8 and Blue 8.

Leading Players: Sven 18, Justin 17, David 15 and Mark 14.

AM&DTA TENNIS

ROUND 1 of the new season started this week with questionable weather. Only one match was completed with the other teams at their venues but unable to finish.

Section 1 Results: Inverloch v Koonwarra - WASH OUT, Leongatha 6.37 defeated Westernport Red 2.21, Westernport White v Korumburra WASH OUT.

Ladder: Leongatha 8, Koonwarra 5, Korumburra 5, Westernport White 5 and Westernport Red 2.

Section 2 Results: Outtrim v Leongatha - WASH OUT, Korumburra v Baromi - WASH OUT.

Ladder: Korumburra 6.5, Outtrim 5.5, Leongatha 5.5 and Baromi 4.5.

RIVERSIDE TENNIS

SECTION 1/2 Doubles: Warragul Blue 1 - 11 - partial w/o - Neerim District 0 - 6, Warragul White 1 - 20 - partial w/o - Drouin Gold 2 - 18, Moe 2 - 17 - partial w/o - Drouin Maroon 2 - 18, Trafalgar 1 - 21 - partial w/o - Poowong 3 - 23, Hallora - Bye

Ladder: Poowong, Warragul Blue, Drouin Gold, Drouin Maroon, Moe, Hallora, Warragul White, Neerim District, Trafalgar

Section 1 Singles: Drouin Gold 0 - 0 - 11 - partial w/o - Moe White 1 - 3 - 21, Drouin Maroon 0 - 0 - 12 - partial w/o - Trafalgar 1 - 2 - 18, Drouin White 0 - 0 - 10 - partial w/o - Moe Red 1 - 4 - 27, Moe Blue - Bye

Ladder: Moe Red, Moe White, Trafalgar, Moe Blue, Drouin Maroon, Drouin Gold, Drouin White

Section 2 Singles: Neerim District 1 - 10 - partial w/o - Trafalgar 1 - 15, Warragul 1 - 15 - partial w/o - Drouin Gold 0 - 4, Drouin Maroon 0 - 12 - partial w/o - Moe 2 - 16.

Ladder: Moe, Warragul, Trafalgar, Neerim District, Drouin Gold, Drouin Maroon

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

OCTOBER 1 at Wonthaggi RSL:
Master point winners: First: Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour 64.81. Second: Ruth Stevenson and Denise Allitt 63.02. Third: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 53.65. Fourth: Nev and Phil Chapman 51.04. Fifth: Ruth Harvey and Sue Edwards 48.96.

October 4 at Inverloch Angling Club:
North/South point winners: First: easy winners John Quayle and Matti Shub 62.50. Second: Lois Dwyer and Peter Campbell 51.19. Third: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 50.89.

East/West point winners: First: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 60.42. Second: Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka 56.25. Third: Sue Edwards and Ruth Harvey 54.17.



Sophie Marr, Lucinda Stewart, Lucie Fityus, Alli Anderson, Amelie Sanders and Rachael Wales (Team Ara). B06_4124

Phillip Island hosts AusCycling Tour

By Bruce Wardley

THE ROAR of motorbikes and supercars at the Phillip Island GP circuit gave way to three days of cycling for the AusCycling national road series Tour of Gippsland.

Over one hundred and fifty entrants across four categories lined up in the under-19 and elite categories for men and women.

International riders competed against world and national medallists for the prestigious Australia's National Road Series championship crown.

Team Bridgelane director sportif and former Tour of Gippsland winner Pat Shaw said this year's field was the strongest lineup she has seen all year.

"This was the best women's field we've seen in the national road series," said Shaw.

"Especially the depth of the under-19s, there is a lot of great talent around."

"Emily Watts who won last year has come back with a good team led by Katelyn Nicholson who was second on the general classification last year and joined the team off the back of that result."

"Katelyn comes into the race as the national road series leader and a strong time triallist."

Melbourne's Lucy Stewart returned for Team ARA/Skip Capital fresh off signing for the feeder team to Australia's only World Tour team, Liv Al-Ula Jayco.

Elite men's cyclist Teram Bridgelane was looking to Phillip Island to confirm his stranglehold on the series.

Teammates Alastair Christie-Johnston and USA-born Graeme Frisbie were tied on equal points at the top of the table with teammate Bentley Niquet-Olden sitting third.

Pat Shaw believes events like the Tour of Gippsland are important for identifying talent.

"It's not that long ago that



U19 men's race winner Jameson Key (Van D'am Racing) accepting the yellow jersey at Phillip Island. B04_4124



U19 men's podium finish at Phillip Island (1st) Jameson Key (Van D'am Racing), (2nd) Jonas Shelverton (Team BridgeLane) and (3rd) Alex Hewes (Rudyco Cycling Team). B07_4124



U19 women's podium finish at Phillip Island (1st) Emma Ochoa (99Bikes Race Team) (2nd) Ava Wilson (Butterfields Racing Team) and (3rd) Ava Schmidtke (Butterfields Racing Team). B10_4124



Friday's Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls winners were Laurie Culph, Mary Spooner, Barb Culph and Jos Kemper.



Raff Merante (3), Sue Wright (2), Marianne Scales (L) and Tony Heppleston (S) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group weekly winners.

BREAKAWAY

THE days just get better and better – the bowlers are getting better as well.

The winners on Monday were Helen Gladstone and Peter Grenville with a respectful score of +24.

What a day of bowling was had by all on Friday.

Those who attended had a great day and it was noted that by Christmas everyone will need bigger clothes because of the afternoon tea supplied by the ladies.

The winners with +18 were Marj Ford, Ken Webb and Les Stanbury – well done.

See you on Monday at 1pm at the Cape Paterson Community Centre.

INVERLOCH

THE club, on Tuesday, October 1, hosted an interclub Midweek Pennant practice match for both the Division 1 team, against Corinella, and in Division 2 team, against Leongatha.

Inverloch managed to defeat Corinella over 21 ends by 17 shots with the rink scores being, rink two (Richard Cove) 15/15, rink 3 (Carol Hughes) 26/15 and rink four (Bill Selby) 19/13.

The Division 2 team didn't fare as well as they were beaten over 17 ends by Leongatha and going down by six shots.

The rink scores were, rink five (Laurel Lee) 14/10, rink six (Veronica Muir) 13/23 and rink seven (John Duthie) 13/13.

Well done to both divisions and clubs – the practice is invaluable.

Midweek (Tuesday) Pennant starts on Tuesday, October 15, at venues yet to be determined.

The weather for Thursday's social bowls at Inverloch was warm and sunny and one out-of-the-box.

While the attendance was a little depleted due to other functions taking place in the town, a field of 26 competed for the honours over two games each of 10 ends scored by wins, ends won and shots up if needed.

Well, shots up were indeed needed as two teams won both of their games and both finished on 31 points.

The runners-up, with 31 points and three shots up was the team of Bill Selby (skip), George Scott (third), Shirley Turton (second) and Veronica Muir (lead).

Winners on the day, with 31 points, but finishing six shots up

were Reg Varty (skip), Jon Justin (third) and Ted Lee (lead). The Club thanks the match committee representatives Jill Kennedy and Terry Seaward for their management of the day.

A reminder that as daylight savings time kicked in last Sunday (October 6) the registration conditions have changed for social bowls, names will now be required by 11am and play will start at 12.30pm sharp.

A further reminder to all Midweek and Saturday pennant players that there is a pie night set down for Thursday, October 10, starting at 5.30pm EDST.

Just short of 60 people attended the club on Friday, October 4, where the club's membership draw took with the jackpot standing at \$180.

Membership number 104 was randomly drawn and as Brian Humphris wasn't in the clubhouse, the next draw, on Friday, October 18, will see the jackpot increase to \$200.

First pick of the prize table went to member number 147, Beryl Millman, otherwise known as B2 at the club.

The major lucky envelope winners were Joan McStravick and Greg Nugent while the Leongatha RSL dinner voucher went to Veronica Muir.

The club wishes to thank the volunteers on the night Judy Parker (tickets), Terry and Lorraine Seaward, Terry Orford (kitchen), Di and Craig Selby (bar) and the emcees for the evening, Bob Plowright and Bill Massier.

With a \$200 jackpot on offer for the next membership draw, to be held on Friday, October 18, come along, enjoy the hospitality and make an evening of it.

Next Friday, October 11 will be the Club's dinner evening which is already filling fast.

Get yourself a table and come and enjoy yourselves and be entertained by your emcees Neil Everitt and Reg Varty.

There are more birthday chocolates, door prizes and the biggest spinning wheel in town upon which the fate of a dozen or so meat packs will be decided.

The club looks forward to seeing you there.

Back to the bowls front, it was pleasing to see Inverloch's own Lorraine Dowson competing in the Ladies Country Carnival fours event at both Kerang Golf and CluBarham.

The temperature over the day was bordering on hot and as there



Marj Ford, Ken Webb and Les Stanbury were the Friday Breakaway Bowls winners.



Winners of the Thursday social bowls at Inverloch last week were, from left, Reg Varty, Ted Lee and Jon Justin.



Helen Gladstone and Peter Grenville were the Monday Breakaway Bowls winners with a respectful score of +24.

with a score of 16 shots up.

The Naba award, which is a cap from The Wonthaggi Club, went to the Wally Leijen team from Wonthaggi.

Thursday saw a fine day to greet a good number of bowlers for a pleasant morning.

Friday coaching is going well with the weather on the improve.

Saturday saw the annual match for the Bunurong Shield against Inverloch, at Wonthaggi this year.

Next year, it will be at Inverloch.

Unfortunately, the weather proved to be the winner, with one end not completed.

Wonthaggi will hold the shield for the next 12 months, as it won it last year.

Caroline Donohue and Denise Silver teamed up with Sue Smith and Mel Fisk to go down by one shot in the State Fours semi-finals at Bendigo on Sunday morning.

Bowls this week: Wednesday social bowls at 12.30 pm, Thursday social bowls at 10am and Friday coaching at 10am.

On Saturday, Pennant starts.

On Friday night, the club will have its Pennant Pie Night from 5.30 pm.

It's a good chance to share in the Friday night raffles with meat trays, plus other prizes to win.

The members' draw is at 6pm this week and \$70 is well worth winning.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another good week at the club.

Wednesday saw the Turkey Triples played on a fine day, with a slight breeze.

Once again, the club had a full house, with both greens in full colour, with all the different uniforms.

There were no teams that were four-game winners, which shows the quality of the teams competing on the day.

The winners were a team from Phillip Island, Daryl White, Lindsey Meredith and Peter Forrest with a score of three wins and 34 shots up.

The runners-up were a team from Korumburra.

They were Robin Provan, John McVeigh and Shane O'Loughlin with a score of three wins and 27 shots up.

The best game went to the Dave Hoffman team from Phillip Island

ONCE again, this has been another fun and enjoyable week of bowling with a total of 51 players enjoying each other's company.

Tuesday's winners with a plus 20 winning two games were Lia Smith, Gwen Clancy and Jeannie Slocombe.

Runners up on plus seven, also winning two games, were Teresa Ireland, Ken Peterson, Steve Rosendale and Philip Fowler. Friday's winners with a plus 19 were Barb Culph, Mary Spooner, Laurie Culph and Jos Kemper.

Runners up on plus 10 with one win only were Teresa Ireland, Carol Thorpe and John Rook.

A reminder that the annual general meeting is on October 18.

All members are encouraged to attend and the Triples to be held on October 22.

Make sure you have put your name down to play.

MIDWEEK GROUP

LANG Lang was the meeting point this week for the weekly challenge.

The bowlers were greeted by John and Bev while Vern and David arranged the teams.

When the bowlers went outside to begin play, they walked out into summer in October.

The temperature over the day was bordering on hot and as there

FOSTER

ON Saturday, a good field of 27 golfers took to a beautifully kept course to play in the men's Monthly Medal.

Leigh Roberts (11) took home the medal along with the A Grade trophy with 82 strokes and 71 net, as well as nearest to pin on the sixth.

Not far behind and taking home the B Grade trophy was Bernie Esser (20) with 74 net.

Trent Price (11) was the generous trophy donor and finished the day with 71 to take the first ball down the line.

Lloyd McKenzie (11) won a ball down the line with 74 net, as well as nearest to pin on the 15th.

He also won the putting with 27 putts.

Tony Vanin (4) won the Scratch event on a three-way countback from Leigh and Trent with 82 off the stick.

John Stone (21) and Mick Connellan (20) won the last two balls down the line with 75 net.

The remaining nearest to pins for the day went to Garry Cayzar (fourth), John Pruyin (13th) and John Stone (17th).

The increasing sunshine has been bringing a lot of people out on the course and seeing the fields for the competitions increasing.

On Thursday, there were 23 players with captain Leigh Roberts (12) continuing his great form and securing victory with a very healthy 37 points.

Scores for the day were very strong with the four down-the-line balls going to players with scores of 36 and 35 points.

Justin Dubignon (16) and Tony Vanin (5) each had 36 while Mick Connellan (20) and Steve Barnes (15) both had 35. Nearest to pins went to Peter Dight on the sixth and Tony Vanin who was lucky to take home the prize on the 15th after Leigh's tee shot ended up just millimetres outside of Tony's marker.

On Wednesday, there were nine players in attendance with Josie Parisi the generous trophy donor.

Shirley Cook (31) was the winner on a glorious spring day with a well-made 35 points.

She also took home nearest to pin on the sixth.

Barb Britten (20) claimed the ball down the line with 34 points while Jack and Peter enjoyed some delicious sponge by winning the raffle.

On Tuesday, 18 players took to the course with Peter Dight (9) having an exceptional round and shooting a score less than his age and winning with 41 points.

Steve Barnes (16) started off his good week and won the first ball down the line with 38 points, while Ryan Williams (7) and Neil Coates (21) both had 36 points.

Ryan Williams was nearest to pin on the fourth and Larry Giddy on the 15th.

The country week members enjoyed three glorious days of golfing on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Chris Buckland managed to halve his first match before injuring his hand and not being able to play any more matches for the week.

Jye Kruyer finished the week with two wins and two narrow losses, while Aaron Morris played three matches and was competitive in all but couldn't quite get across the line for a win.

On the ladies side of the draw, the South Gippsland squad finished second on the ladder after narrowly going down to the winners (South Western) on their home courses.



Woorayl Golf Club's A Grade winner Heather Sullivan and Monthly Medallist Linda Forrester.

Beth Curram spent the three days as a caddy for Kylie Collins, who won one of her four matches and took two of the losses to the 18th hole.

Congratulations to all the members and keep up the good golf.

Chicken run this week was played across the back nine.

There were 28 entrants for the week with Gary Phelan (25) coming up trumps with 21 points.

John Danckert (11) birdied the 15th along his way to 19 points and won a ball down the line.

Remaining balls down the line went to Bernie Esser (19) with 20 points, while Sam Davies (25) and Travis Manne (13) both had 18 points.

This week at the club, the golfers are back playing Stableford rounds on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as well as chicken run throughout the week on the front nine.

On Saturday, there is a three-person Ambrose with the trophies being donated by Graeme Watkins.

The member's draw on Friday night was not won again so it will jackpot to a whopping \$1100 next week.

Remember you need to be in the clubrooms to have a chance of winning.

With the warmer months coming, it is becoming increasingly more important to book your table ahead of time, so make sure you call the club on 5682 2272 to book your next dining experience.

Swing hard and aim it straight. The Caddy.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, October 1. Stableford: 37 players.

A Grade: Billy Wrigley (8) 38 points. B Grade: Murray Webb (27) 38 points.

NTPs: first John Solly, seventh Craig Kerr, 10th Billy Wrigley and 13th David Enbom.

Thursday, October 3:

Stableford: 22 players.

A Grade: Steve Duffield (15) 40. B Grade: Wayne Knights (19) 36 points. NTPs: first Shayne Harland, 10th Chris McConnell and 13th Steve Duffield.

Saturday, October 5:

Monthly Medal: 43 players.

Sponsor: Greg Jones and Ian Gibson. Monthly Medal winner: Tim Fowles (16) 66 net.

A Grade: Tim Fowles (16) 66 net. B Grade: Grant Williams (19) 67 net.

Scratch winner: Shayne Harland (6) 76 off the stick.

NTPs: first Ray Ludenia, 10th Peter Cosson and 13th Peter Cosson.

Ladies

THE weather was ideal on Wednesday for the Doris Chambers Foursomes qualifying round.

Well done to Aliesha Wrigley and Lynette McIvor, who were the



Aliesha Wrigley and Lynette McIvor were the winners of Korumburra's qualifying round of the Doris Chambers Foursomes event last week.

(16) with +3. B Grade runner up: Philip Edwards (15) with +3 on a countback.

NTP 14th: John Moor at 166cm.

NTP 16th: Trevor Bowler at 165cm. NTP second shot fifth: Doug Cleemann at 282cm.

Saturday, October 5: Open Stableford.

Twenty-five members played in the Saturday Open Stableford event.

A Grade winner: Tanya Starkey (36) with 35 points. A Grade runner up: Colin Bear (16) with 33 points.

Ladies

THIRTY-ONE women played last week.

Thirteen opted for the Stableford event, and 18 competed in the October Monthly Medal, the last round of the prestigious McMicking Plate.

As is the norm, the women who compete on a Wednesday wait for the Saturday players to enter their scores to finalise the winner of the Monthly Medal.

Debbie Miller is in a prime position finishing with 101/27 74 net.

Maxine Eabry also had a very respectable 77 net.

Balls down the line were awarded to Maxine Eabry and Wendy Brown 77 net, Dot Stubbs 79, Lynne Adamson, Jo Miles and Bev Reinhard 81, and Joc Howson 82 net.

Marg Griffiths (37) finished with 33 points to win the Stableford event.

Lyn Shaw, Sue Woods, Jo McNaughton and Maryanne Gartner all earned a ball down the line with the next-best score.

Nearest the pin on the fifth was won by Nan Meagher.

Life member Pat Pease won the nine-hole event from five other competitors with 18 points.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, October 1: Stableford.

A Grade: N. Bickerton (10) 34 points c/b. B Grade: J. Kus (21) 40 points. DTL: P. Woodall, S. Duff 34, C. James 33 and Tom Traill 32 c/b. NTP: fourth M. Woodall, sixth C. James and 16th N. Bickerton. Birdies: fourth Tom Traill and E. Beveridge, and sixth C. James.

Saturday, October 5: Stroke.

A Grade: T. Whitelaw (11) 69. B Grade: D. Jerram (18) 71.

DTL: P. Woodall 70, P. Smart, P. Draper and M. Payne 71.

NTP: fourth R. Scurlock, sixth J. Hughes, 13th P. Woodall and 16th T. Baker.

Birdies: fourth T. Whitelaw and 13th B. Bradshaw.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: October 3, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Bruce Betts 39.

Runner up: Ian McNish 39.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024 | 61

Ball sweep: Gino Hennequin 36, Graeme Crawford 33 and Roger Kilpatrick 33 C/B.

Results: October 3, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Secondo Tiziani 17.

Runner up: Bill Howard 16.

Ball sweep: Blake Cornelis 15, Ken Cuman 14 and Paul Cornelis 12.

Results: October 5, S.R. 72.

Competition: Stroke Monthly Medal and putting.

A Grade: Mark Tiziani 74. B Grade: Doug Putt 69. C Grade: Hamish Burns 67 (Monthly Medal). BDTL to 75 C/B.

Ball sweep: Jim Jordan 71, Alan Jones 73, Paul Cornelis 74, Ray Hender 74, Frank Loughran 74, Secondo Tiziani 74, Bill Howard 74 and Alan Cubbon 75 C/B.

NTPs: Keith Risout second, not claimed fourth, Frank Huber pro pin eighth, Brad Pinal 13th and Simon O'Halloran money hole 17th. Putting: Bill Howard 28 putts.

Ladies

WHAT a difference some sunshine makes.

Wednesday was a perfect day for golf and 19 ladies were enjoying every minute of it.

The event was the October Monthly Medal and a missed put here and a lucky chip in was the difference between who won the medal.

Marg Johnson, with a chip in birdie two on the fourth, won the medal by one shot with 87(15)72 net from C Grade winner Heather Wintle 115(42)73 net with another great score.

The B Grade winner was Kaylene Hodgetts 105(28)77 net.

Marg also won scratch 87, putting 27 puts, and NTP fourth (second shot) with her chip in.

BDL went to Catherine Bolding 74, Bev Sloan 78, Marion Walker 79, Betty Bowmar 80 and Marg Ryan 80.

WOORAYL Ladies

ON Wednesday, the October Monthly Medal was played, which was sponsored by Kath, Emma and Kelvin Smith.

On a beautiful sunny day, nine ladies contested a stroke event and counting putts.

The Monthly Medal winner and B Grade winner was Linda Forrester 71 net. The A Grade winner was Heather Sullivan 79 net. BDL went to Dee Walters 75 net and Ann Poole 81 net. NTP on eighth was Ann Poole, 11th Linda Forrester and 17th Heather Sullivan.

Ann Poole had a birdie on the eighth and also won the putting with 30 putts.

Gobblers went to Linda Forrester 15th, Ann Poole eighth, Heather Sullivan eighth and Sherill Winkler seventh.



Be sure to register your team for the 2024 Summer Go Fives Competition.

Gear up for Go Fives with the Knights

LEONGATHA Knights Football Club's Summer Go Fives Competition is back for another exciting eight weeks.

The five-a-side competition will kick off on October 23 and 24 at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Leongatha.

The U14 girls, women's, and mixed social teams will play on Wednesdays, and the U12 mixed, U14 mixed, and mixed competitive teams will play on Thursdays.

This year, the club is introducing an U10s competition due to increased interest from junior players.

Last year, the competition had its most successful year with 213 participants and additional comps introduced across multiple age groups.

"Participation increased significantly last year," Knights' junior development coordinator Bethany Milkins said.

"It's a fun, social way for us to end our

season. It's low commitment, which is more appealing for those who didn't play during the season and just want to have a run. We have some great family teams getting involved and it's just a really nice atmosphere."

The cost is \$50 for junior players and \$60 for senior players.

The U14 girls' competition has been subsidised and will cost players \$30.

Interested teams are encouraged to register at www.gofootball.com.au/play/Pick-your-location/Leongatha-Knights-FC.

However, individuals are still welcome to register their interest – there are plenty of teams looking for players.

Individuals are asked to email their interest to lkfc.juniordevelopment@gmail.com.

Get your team together and enjoy the summer of soccer just before Christmas.



The Go Fives Summer Competition will kick off on October 23 and 24.



NETBALL COACHING APPLICATIONS OPEN!

Stony Creek is seeking Netball Coaches for the 2025 season.

A, B, C & D GRADES
U17s, U15s, U13s & U11s

EMAIL APPLICATION TO: SECRETARY@STONYCREEKFNC.COM

Closing Date: Tuesday, October 22 at 5pm

If you are an experienced coach or new to coaching, our club would love to hear from you!

For more information contact: Lauren Rawson on 0439 206 180 or Mark LePage on 0459 839 111

STONY CREEK MILESTONE GAME PRESENTATIONS



Stony Creek's 100 club game milestones were recorded by Jai Bright, Brad Renden and John Phillips.



Hayley Phillips and Kaila Hutchinson played 100 club games for Stony Creek.



Ryan McKnight played his 400th club game for Stony Creek this season.



Stony Creek's Cam Stone, Tom Stone and Hayden Funnell played 150 club games.



The 250 club game milestone for Stony Creek was achieved by Kelsie Schelling and Rebecca Browne.



Troy Sinclair played his 200th club game at Stony Creek.

STONY CREEK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT



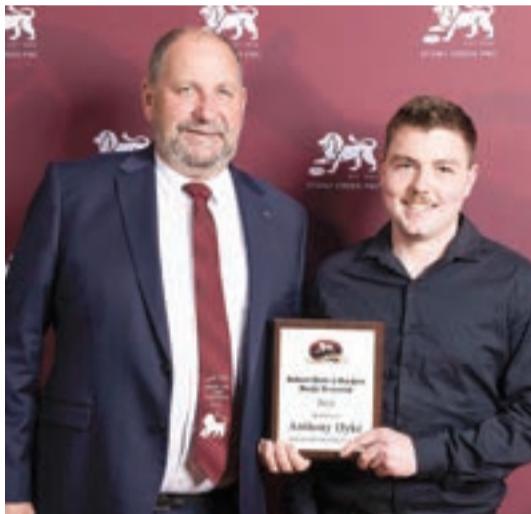
ON FRIDAY, September 20, the Stony Creek Football Netball Club celebrated season 2024 for their Annual Vote Count and Presentation Night. With well over 130 club supports in the room, it was a great night for all. As the club reflected on an incredible season, the members have shown dedication, hard work and heart throughout this season. To the club's supporters, volunteers and sponsors; the club thanks you for your unwavering support. It has lifted us, from the sidelines to the clubhouse, your enthusiasm has fueled our drive and spirit.



Best Club Person – Alan Sinclair Memorial Award: Steve Sinclair pictured with Award winner Jenna Zuidema.



B Grade Premiership Team (from left): Coralee Hogan, Erin Hogton, Hannah Potter, Brad Hutchinson, Cindy McKnight (captain), Sandra Dyke, Kayla Byrnes (coach), Kaila Hutchinson, Hayley Phillips, Kelsie Schelling, Jess Brown, Claire Vagg.



Robert & Margery Burge Memorial Award: Greg Burge presenting the award to winner Tony Dyke.



Reserves (from left): Mitchell Rowe (Most Determined), Jayden Battersby (Most Improved), Nick Svenson (equal Best & Fairest), Bryce Rawson (coach), Ryan McKnight (equal Best & Fairest), Tyson Davies (Most Consistent), George Batten (Best Team Man). Absent: Rory Harrington (runner-up Best & Fairest).



Seniors. Back (from left): Cam Stone (Best & Fairest), Chris Verboon (coach), Aiden Simmons (Most Determined), Hayden Bull (Coach's Award). Front: Cody Loughridge (Best Team Man), Tom Stone (Most Consistent). Absent: Darcy Atkins (runner-up Best & Fairest).



C Grade (from left): Taylor Mitchell (Best & Fairest & Players Player), Kaitlin Funnell (Coach), Sandra Dyke (Runner Up Best & Fairest), Brooke Whiteside (Coach's Award)



Life Membership was awarded to Faye Pratt. This award was presented to her son Gav Maisie. From left, John Schelling, Di Schelling, Gav Maisie and Kim Byrnes.



D Grade (from left): Rahni Mann (coach), Paige Barry (runner-up Best & Fairest), Sam Dyke (equal Best & Fairest), Corinne Hoddinott (equal Best & Fairest and Players Player), Kayla Byrnes (Best in Finals), Shantal Johnston (Coach's Award).



A Grade (from left): Jenna Zuidema (assistant coach), Kelly Johnston (team manager), Jeanette Brown (coach and Best & Fairest), Rahni Mann (runner-up Best & Fairest and Players Player), Rebecca Browne (Leadership Award).



B Grade (from left): Cindy McKnight (Players Player), Claire Vagg (runner-up Best & Fairest and Best in Finals), Kayla Byrnes (coach), Jess Brown (Best & Fairest), Hayley Phillips (Most Improved).

MIRBOO NORTH FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT



Mirboo North's Senior award winners.



Mirboo North's B Grade award winners Ashlee Hilliar and Jessie Holland.

Tigers recognise top club people

by Rover

MIRBOO North Football Netball Club held its annual senior presentation night at its Walter J Tuck Tigerland headquarters on Saturday night.

Brian McCormack was Master of Ceremonies for the fully catered evening, where a large, buoyant crowd was in attendance.

Club president Andy McCarthy thanked the club's sponsors for their strong ongoing financial support and volunteers were recognised across a vast range of services throughout the year.

The first-year president also spoke positively about the future of the club, following a challenging season where – for the first time in a long, long time – there were no Mirboo North footy or netball teams playing on Mid Gippsland grand final day at the Meeniyana Recreation Reserve.

It was a different story in the Central Gippsland Junior Football League competition where Mirboo North's U12 footballers won the 2024 premiership.

Janine Alexander, Matt Snell and Leanne Taylor received Mirboo North Football Netball Club (MNFNC) life memberships, while Jasan Hysen was awarded Volunteer of the Year 2024.

The Recognition of Outstanding Service Award was accepted by Tahlia McCormack.

MNFNC's junior presentation night took place the previous evening.



Mirboo North's C Grade side Belinda Alexander, Maleigha Wallace, Sophie McGrath, Chelsea Loh, Talei Falkingham, Aleisha Kerr and Alexis Andrews.



Kirsty Richardson, Ali Snell, Suzanne Thompson, Bonnie Collins, Bridget Rush, Stacey Harriage, Carolyn Movchan, Kelly McCarthy and Beth Lilley from Mirboo North's D Grade team.



Tahlia McCormack and Jasan Hysen accepted Mirboo North's Recognition of Outstanding Service Award and Volunteer of the Year 2024 respectively.



Mirboo North's A Grade included Marley Wallace, Emily Taylor, Sienna Cheffers, Emma Evans, Chloe Hogg and Maddi Knowles.



Leanne Taylor was awarded a life membership from the Mirboo North Football Netball Club.



Matt Snell presents Janine Alexander with her life membership for the Mirboo North Football Netball Club.

Get involved in veterans' cricket

HAVE you thought about getting back into cricket?

There are veterans playing and enjoying cricket each Sunday in this area, playing in Over 50s, Over 60s and Over 70s teams.

There are also midweek games and a competition for ladies over 40 who love the game and want to play.

You don't have to have been a star in your heyday to get a game.

Players who haven't played for 30, 40 or 50 years are now donning the whites again and enjoying the camaraderie on and off the field.

Veterans Cricket Victoria (VCV) is about blokes in their 50s, 60s, 70s and even their 80s who just love cricket, the outdoors and want to stay fit and healthy.

It's about playing with your mates, reliving old times and most of all, enjoying the fellowship and camaraderie of the local community cricket club.

Cricket for veterans is the big growth market for Australian sport.

For some, there's even the chance of higher honours.

Each year Victorians compete against the best of the best from around Australia – including former Shield and Test cricketers – at the National O50s, O60s and O70s Championships.

The ultimate is Australian selection, a Baggy Green and an Ashes tour, to compete for the Platinum, Grey or Silver Ashes.

VCV players have toured to all parts of the cricketing world, besides Europe and the UK, cricketers have toured USA, Canada, West Indies, South America, China, Japan, South Africa, New Zealand, Pacific Islands and even Iceland.

Come along and join in. You will be made welcome at any of the clubs that are part of the VCV fraternity. The playing rules are tailored for veterans, the cricket is relaxed, and the camaraderie is contagious. Talent is secondary to fun and friendship and celebrating the spirit of cricket.

To find a local team in your age group, contact Jim Armstrong on 0417 535 453 or jimda22@gmail.com. Otherwise, head to the Veterans Cricket Victoria website www.veteranscricketvictoria.org.au.

Victorian veteran squad selected

EIGHT Gippsland cricketers were chosen to represent Victoria at the National Championships to be held in Canberra.

Selections were made from veteran over 55 teams from across the state.

From the Gippsland Goannas, the players selected for Division 1 were Brenton Howe, Rodney Jones, Graeme Rankin and Geoff Wells, as well as Anthony Wilkes from South East Veterans.

In Division 2, the Gippsland representatives are Geoff Kinnish from the Goannas, Col Parnall from South East Veterans, and Gary Sauvarin from the Leongatha South Gippsland Vets and the Imperials.

The squads will compete in the first week of December.



South Gippsland Women's Country week team: Faye Le Page (caddy), Merryn Dear (caddy), Beth Curram (caddy), Andrea Thorson, Chloe Wilson, Rebecca Thomas, Elly Berryman, Rena Casey, Merissa Cessna, Kasey Thorson (caddy), Sue Hoskin (team manager), Kylie Collin's, Kaye Dumbleton (caddy), and Susan Straw (caddy).

South Gippsland women score at country week golf

SOUTH Gippsland country week golf hit off in perfect conditions on the beautiful Bellarine Peninsula with match winning performances by the South Gippsland women.

Assisted by sponsorship from Ray White Real Estate, Haymes Paints, Area Specialist South Gippsland and Wrig's Coatings local teams played against the rest of the country Victorian districts.

The South Gippsland men were in the top division playing at 13th Beach and The Sands, the women were in Division 2 and played at Clifton Springs, Curlewis and The Sands.

South Gippsland women finished winning the most number of matches but not the highest point score.

Almost winning their whole division the women lost very narrowly to the eventual winner "South Western" 4/3.

The men unfortunately did not win a game but won several matches against considerably more experienced opposition.



Country week men's team Michael Thomas (player), Ian Balfour (assistant manager), Chris Buckland, Aaron Morris, Isaac Batty, Wayne Kennedy, Steve Bromby (captain), Jy Kruger, Mat Wrigley, Roay Fleming (manager), and Jack Jacobsen.

Round one cricket washout standard procedure

YOU can practically bet on it that there'll be rain on the first Saturday in October.

And right on cue, the rain arrived in the western end of the Leongatha and District Cricket Association at about 1pm just as Phillip Island was getting set to take the field against Korumburra.

But it wasn't to be. A lot of games started in A and B Grade but none reached any sort of a conclusion as the mid-afternoon rain settled in.

The best Phillip Island could do last week was a well-attended training run at the nets beside a forlorn looking Cowes oval, which after the pressure of a busy football season on newly laid grass will not be ready for play for months.

There's been talk that the ground was sown with the wrong sort of grass, but that's a discussion for another day.

Phillip Island coach Daniel Mock said the club was looking forward to a new season with a new-look A Grade lineup keen to be competitive again after success in 2023-24.



Phillip Island's Daniel Mock and Max Royal looking forward to another strong showing in 2024-25.

SCOREBOARD



Local Cricket... 131 years strong

Hartley Wells
Betta
Leongatha
www.hartleywells.com
Phone: 5662 2930

LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Jesse Giardina (Town) 53* ; Josh Trease (Nerrena) 4/22

A2: Josh Toner (Foster) 49 ; Cooper Newman (Inverloch) 4/8

B1: Andrew Finlayson (Phillip Island) 38 ; Ryan Clark (Nerrena) 3/20

B2: Samuel Vagg (Imperials) 41 ; Viraj Peiris (Nyora) 1/5

C1: ALL GAMES CANCELLED

C2: ALL GAMES CANCELLED

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

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

Inverloch 0/38 v Club

Inverloch – 1st INNINGS: B Debono 11*, D Harris 20*. Bowling: J Williamson 0/4, S Roche 0/5, S Tessari 0/18, B Evans 0/9. Match abandoned.

Korumburra v Phillip Island 5/157

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: T Asurumuni 36, T Blackwell 28, A Finlayson 38, T Hornsby 30*, A Brayley 1, S Sirirathnage 0, Fill-in 3*. Bowling: Fill-in 0/20, A Damon 0/17, Fill-in 1/15, S McKinnon 0/37, O Maskell 0/22, G Edwards 3/29, Fill-in 0/13. Match abandoned.

MDU 6/62 v Nerrena

MDU – 1st INNINGS: T Zukovskis 8, T Sinclair 10, W Prosser 3, C Hoober 14*, C Fisher 2, G Webster 2, D Zuidema 5, R Henry 0*. Bowling: W Croatto 0/12, R Clark 3/20, M Croatto 0/5, C Dougherty 0/4, T Harris 1/4, D Symmons 1/10. Match abandoned.

OMK – BYE

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

Foster 2/52 v Kilcunda-Bass

Foster – 1st INNINGS: B Davy 5, J Pilkington 25, B Busuttil 12*, A Pattie 10*. Bowling: R Duff 1/14, S Tapscott 0/16, A Bedford 0/9, R Brown 1/13. Match abandoned.

Imperials 3/95 v Glen Alvie

Imperials – 1st INNINGS: A Meyer 4, R McLennan 27, S Vagg 41, A Curnow 5*, J Forrester 13*. Bowling: L McRae 0/33, A Luke 1/7, N Brown 1/22, H Smith 1/32. Match abandoned.

Koonwarra L/RSL 2/62 v Nyora

Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS: G Boxall 28*, A Boxall 20, N Grimes 0, G Matthies 1*. Bowling: R White 0/18, M Lynch 0/18, V Peiris 1/5, L Brock 0/18. Match abandoned.

Town - BYE



Fish Creek Football Netball Club Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, November 15

Fish Creek Hotel - Oberon Room
6pm for a meal, AGM starts 7pm
To be followed by a committee meeting

Business to be conducted:

End of year Reports
Election of Committee Members
Please email for nomination forms
fcfncsecretary@gmail.com

All Welcome

Visit our website:
sgst.com.au



Unfortunately, the first season of cricket didn't last long as rain forced most matches to be abandoned but Kilcunda-Bass still managed to make the most of it! Ns13_4124

Rain dampens season starter

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

INCLEMENT weather caused all B1 matches to be abandoned early on Saturday.

Inverloch managed to play 17 overs against Wonthaggi Club before calling it quits.

Playing at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve, the home team won the toss and chose to bat.

Captain Brett Debono and David Harris opened Inverloch's batting, making 11 and 20 not out respectively.

The game was called off at 0/38.

Thirty-six overs were played by Korumburra and Phillip Island at the Poowong Recreation Reserve.

Phillip Island won the toss and went into bat.

Captain Andrew Finlayson top scored with 38 runs.

Tharidu Asurumuni and Tony Hornsby also made 36 and 30 runs respectively.

For Korumburra, George Edwards made a strong start to the season, claiming 3/29.

The game was washed out after Phillip Island had reached 5/157.

The match between MDU and Nerrena was also abandoned after 27.3 overs.

MDU hosted Nerrena, and the Red Caps won the toss and sent MDU into bat.

MDU made a steady start with Craig Hoober top scoring with 14 not out.

Troy Clark bowled well for Nerrena, taking 3/20.

Tyson Harris and Damien Symmons were single wicket takers.

MDU's score was 6/62 by the time weather impacted the match.

OMK had the bye in round one.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

ALL matches in B2 were called off due to wet weather conditions on Saturday.

Nineteen overs were played

between Kilcunda-Bass and Foster at the Bass Recreation Reserve.

The home team won the toss and chose to bowl.

Foster's opening batsman Jake Pilkington top scored with 25 runs before a catch from Vijai Kumar Gopal saw him dismissed.

Captain Brandon Busuttil and Andrew Pattie were not out when the match was abandoned.

They had made 12 and 10 runs respectively.

Wickets were claimed by Kilcunda-Bass bowlers Ronan Duff and Ryan Brown.

Kilcunda-Bass made 2/52.

Also playing at the Bass Recreation Reserve on oval two, Glen Alvie and the Imperials managed 17 overs.

The Imperials won the toss and chose to bat.

Andrew Meyer and Rowan McLennan opened the batting for the Imperials, and Meyer made four runs before he was bowled by Archie Luke.

Samuel Vagg was sent in,

and he and McLennan went on to make 41 and 27 runs respectively.

Wickets were also claimed by Ned Brown and Harvey Smith.

Alan Curnow and James Forrester were not out when the game was called.

The Imperials made 3/95.

Koonwarra L/RSL and Nyora set out to challenge each other at Wonthaggi's McManon Reserve.

Nyora chose the bowl, and Koonwarra L/RSL's opening batsmen Glenn and Ashley Boxall started strong with 28 and 20 runs respectively.

Glenn was not out when the match was abandoned, and Ashley was run out by Keith Linford.

Nyora bowler Viraj Peiris dismissed Nigel Grimes for a duck, and Glenn Matthies finished the day off with one not out.

Koonwarra L/RSL made 2/62.

Leongatha Town had the bye.



Matthew Donohue assesses whether to make a run.
Ns08_4124



Kilcunda-Bass' Chris Peckett delivers his first ball for the match. Ns07_4124

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 2
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

A GRADE, Division 1

Koonwarra L/RSL v Phillip Island

LEONGATHA TURF

Ian Salmon

Club v OMK

WONTAGGI TURF

Ozzie Williams

Town v Imperials

SCORPION PARK 1

Ashley Stride

Korumburra v Nerrena

KORUMBURRA

Ken Scrimshaw

A Grade, Division 2

MDU v Glen Alvie

MEENIYAN

Shane Moore

Kilcunda-Bass v Nyora

BASS 1

Glenn Plymin

Inverloch v Foster

INVERLOCH TURF

Brad Phillips

B GRADE, Division 1

Nerrena v Korumburra

NERRENA

Les White

OMK v Inverloch

OUTTRIM

Michael Thomas

Phillip Island v MDU

COWES

Steven Williamson

Club - BYE

B GRADE, Division 2

Imperials v Town

EAST CAMPUS

Neil Graham

Foster v Koonwarra L/RSL

FOSTER GC

Michael Ryan

Nyora v Kilcunda-Bass

NYORA

Graham Wightman

Glen Alvie - BYE

C GRADE, Division 1

OMK v Club

DIGGER PARK

Geoff Parkinson

Korumburra v Kilcunda-Bass

POOWONG

Geoff Wyatt

Phillip Island v Town

RHYLL

TBA

Nerrena - BYE

C GRADE, Division 2

Nyora v Korumburra

BASS 2

TBA

Glen Alvie v MDU

GLEN ALVIE

TBA

Koonwarra L/RSL v OMK

LEONGATHA VEL.

Tyson Tootel

Inverloch v Phillip Island

INVERLOCH FG

TBA

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective
umpires can contactGeoff Wyatt 0413 081 136
or Doug Pell 0404 301 333

Opening bowler George McCausland sends one down for Phillip Island. Ns06_4124

Weekend washout for cricket

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

LIGHTNING and driving rain across Bass Coast and South Gippsland Friday night left the opening rounds of cricket in a shambles. Cricket matches were decided on a ground-to-ground basis from as early as Friday afternoon.

Leongatha and District Cricket Association President John Schelling said they couldn't get a game finished.

"All sides co-operated as best they could by swapping grounds," said John.

Some matches were moved to alternate venues and all C Grade matches were cancelled.

All A1 games were started but were eventually called off as rain increased throughout the afternoon.

Leongatha Town managed to flex its muscle early at the Outtrim Recreation Reserve, making 1/109 before the match against OMK was abandoned.

Electing to bat first, Town's Ron Abeysinghe and captain Jesse Giardina started strong with 30 and 53 runs respectively. OMK bowler Jacob Lamers claimed Abeysinghe's wicket at 1/72 and Giardina was not out.

Dulaj Lakshitha Mendis Polwaththa Gallage made 18 runs and was also not out. The game was called after 23 overs.

Just nine overs were played out between Phillip Island and Korumburra at the Newhaven Recreation Reserve.

Phillip Island won the toss and sent Korumburra in to bat first. Opening batsmen Tom Crocker and Andy Millar made six and 13 not out before they were forced to abandon the match.

The Imperials hosted Wontaggi Club at Leongatha's East Campus and managed 21 overs before the game was washed out. The home side chose to send Club in to bat first.

Club's top scorer was Jake Thomas with 38 not out.

Ryan Thomas was 19 not out, and opening batsmen Mitch Thomas and Lochlan McLean contributed to the scoreboard with 11 and 14 runs respectively.

Imperial's bowler Isaac Bolge claimed 2/37 and vice-captain Lachie Wright took one wicket.



Korumburra keep pace to secure the first runs. Ns03_4124

Club finished up with a score of 3/91.

Nerrena had Koonwarra L/RSL bowled out at 10/99 before the match was abandoned.

Playing at Leongatha's velodrome, Nerrena won the toss and elected to bowl.

Koonwarra L/RSL had a slow start but looked to turn it around with captain James Rushton making 20 runs. However, wickets continued to fall to Nerrena bowlers Archie Gannon and Timothy Wightman. Jason Kennedy top-scored for the Cougars with 26 not out.

Josh Trease was Nerrena's top bowler of the day, taking 4/22 and wiping out the bottom of Koonwarra L/RSL's batting order.

Nerrena opened its innings, but Jack Curtis was bowled for a duck by Nick Arnup, caught by Kennedy. Loc Roberts and captain Tom Cameron made two and 14 not out respectively.

Nerrena had made 1/18 and the game was washed out after three overs.

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

ALL three A2 matches were washed out due to Saturday's weather.

Inverloch had Nyora bowled out 10/109 but did not have the opportunity to start its innings before the game was abandoned.

Playing at the Nyora Recreation Reserve, Inverloch won the toss and chose to bowl.

Nyora had a slow start to

the innings with wickets falling at the hands of Inverloch bowler Harry Butcher.

Butcher claimed 3/35.

Midway through the innings, Nyora's Varinder Virk top-scored with 29 runs.

Aaron Kaddatz contributed 15 runs and 14 runs were made by captain Jake Henry.

Cooper Newman was Inverloch's top bowler for the day, taking out 4/8 and dismissing the bottom of Nyora's batting order.

At the Foster Cricket Ground, Foster made a dominant start against MDU but the game was called after 32 overs. MDU won the toss and chose to bowl.

Foster's opening partnership of Mitchell Jones and captain Josh Toner made 43 and 49 runs respectively before their wickets fell to MDU vice-captain Mitch McGrath.

Vice-captain Jake Best and Ollie Rook were not out when the game was called and had made 18 and four runs respectively. Foster made 2/116.

The match between Glen Alvie and Kilcunda Bass only lasted 14.4 overs before it was washed out.

Playing at the Dalyston Recreation Reserve, Glen Alvie won the toss and elected to bat.

Matthew Donohue and Matthew Dakin made 13 and 10 respectively and were not out.

Archie Moore was bowled by Chris Peckett after he'd made four runs. Glen Alvie ended the day with 1/37.

A GRADE

DIVISION 1

Town 1/109 v OMK

Town	1st INNINGS
Jesse Giardina not out	53*
DLMP Gallage not out	18*
Ron Abeysinghe c: E Lamers b: J Lamers	30
Extras (6w, 1nb, 1lb)	8
Total 1 / 109 (23 Overs)	
Bowling: E Lamers 6-0-31-0, R Williams 6-1-17-0 (2w), J Lamers 4-0-19-1 (2w), P Dell 5-0-27-0, N Auddino 2-0-14-0 (2w, 1nb)	
Match abandoned.	

Korumburra 0/26 v Phillip Island

Korumburra	1st INNINGS
Tom Crocker not out	6*
Andy Millar not out	13*
Extras (5w, 2nb)	7
Total 0 / 26 (9 Overs)	
Bowling: M Royal 5-0-13-0, G McCausland 3-0-13-0 (1w, 2nb), C Keerthisinghe 1-1-0-0	
Match abandoned.	

Club 3/91 v Imperials

Club	1st INNINGS
Mitch Thomas c: T Williams b: L Wright	11
Lochlan McLean c: K McGrath b: I. Bolge	14
Ryan Thomas not out	19*
Joel Brann c: G Sauvarin b: I. Bolge	2
Jake Thomas not out	38*
Extras (5w, 2nb)	7
Total 3 / 91 (21 Overs)	
Bowling: L Wright 5-0-21-1 (2w), I Bolge 8-0-37-2 (2nb), A Williams 5-1-19-0, T Sauvarin 2-0-11-0 (3w), N Eddy 1-0-3-0	
Match abandoned.	

Koonwarra L/RSL 99 v Nerrena 1/18

Koonwarra L/RSL	1st INNINGS
Anthony Hunt b: J Trease	3
Mitchell Scrimshaw c: D Berryman b: J Hoy	5
James Rushton c: T Cameron b: A Gannon	20
Callum Buckland c: ? b: A Gannon	13
Harry Scrimshaw lbw: T Wightman	10
Isuru Darshana b: T Wightman	6
Jason Kennedy not out	26*
Brad Anderson lbw: M Clark	9
Nick Arnup b: J Trease	2
William Cashin b: J Trease	0
Blake Smith b: J Trease	0
Extras (4w, 1nb)	5
Total 10 / 99 (39 Overs)	
Bowling: J Trease 8-2-22-4 (1nb), J Hoy 7-1-15-1, T Wightman 8-3-11-2 (2w), A Gannon 8-2-25-2 (2w), M Clark 4-1-12-1, D Berryman 4-1-14-0	
Nerrena – 1st INNINGS	
Jack Curtis c: ? b: N Arnup	2
Loc Roberts not out	2*
Thomas Cameron not out	14*
Extras (2w)	2
Total 1 / 18 (3 Overs)	
Bowling: N Arnup 2-0-11-1 (1w), B Smith 1-0-7-0 (1w)	
Match abandoned.	

A GRADE

DIVISION 2

Nyora 109 v Inverloch

Nyora	1st INNINGS

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Mr Victoria title for Dalyston bodybuilder



THE COVETED ICN Victoria natural bodybuilder of the year title has been won by Dalyston personal trainer Luke Hynes.

A bodybuilder for twenty years Hynes secured four titles over the weekend including overall bodybuilding champion and over-thirties champion.

Five hundred bodybuilders competed at Sydenham in Melbourne's western suburbs for a shot at the ICN overall title.

"I've been dieting for six months to prepare for this competition," said Luke.

The champion bodybuilder's high protein diet includes chicken, rice and egg whites.

One hundred and seventy-eight centimetres tall, tipping the scales at seventy-eight kilograms Luke Hynes describes his physique as conditioned and well proportioned.

"It's my most successful year to date," said Luke.

Luke uses a split exercise program featuring resistance weight training.

Thanking his fiancé Sarah, parents Wayne and Connie from Cape Paterson and friend and employer Jake Wright of Voyage Fitness, Luke said the overall title win had been a long-time ambition.

"My parents have been a massive influence and support helping me along the way."

"Aaron Curtis is a friend as well as my coach," said Luke.

"Voyage Fitness is like my second home."

Sisters Amy and Prayer have also provided strong support for their brother.

LEFT: Natural bodybuilder of the year Luke Hynes.

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